



DARG focus group: Conformance and Assurance Outcomes

UNCLASSIFIED External
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Title:	DARG focus group – Conformance and Assurance - Final outcomes v1.0		
Issue date:	9 th October, 2018		
Lead:	David Van Dijk	Contact:	DARG@ato.gov.au
Members of the focus group	as at 23/11/2017 the membership was listed as:		
	Digital service providers (DSPs)		
	Alistair Gibson (SuperChoice);	Lex Edmonds (MicroTax)	
	Andrew D. Smith (MYOB);	Manas Sardar (MessageXchange)	
	Brett Reed (e-Payday);	Mike Behling (MYOB)	
	Deanne Windsor (Pendragon);	Nagaraj (Raj) Veerachettiar (GovReports)	
	Kevin Johnson (Reckon)	Saiful Larry (Sage)	
	ATO		
	Andrew Gibson	Hasan Huseyin	
	Anne Soe	Ian Smith	
	Cameron Everitt	Martin Kenseley	
	David Van Dijk	Michael Karavas	
	Gary Anderson	Nicola Sellick	
	Gerardine Burke	Paul Dwyer	
	Greg Northey	Tim de Haan	
Next meeting	None scheduled		
References	https://softwaredevelopers.ato.gov.au/TWG_TFG_ConformanceAssurance2017		

Outcomes:

- A [requirements document](#) produced by the focus group was recommended by the DARG to the ATO.
- A communications artefact for the industry "[Current and Future State](#) (PDF)" was recommended by the DARG to the ATO.
- A [solution design document](#) was recommended by the DARG to the ATO executive on 19th April, 2018.
- When/if the development proceeds:
 - a) Tech representatives from ATO projects and initiatives will advise projects on how to submit to the ATO's program any required assurance scenarios/tests
 - b) Further DSP focus groups may be convened as required.
- Development of the solution is dependent on ATO executive approval.

Detail

This technical focus group was formed to allow ATO to evaluate and establish a project for improvements in the testing of eCommerce services.

The goals of the focus group in regard to conformance and assurance testing were to:

- recommend an agreed level of service or processes required
- identify gaps needing to be addressed to achieve that level of service
- set priorities
- document the above as a recommendations paper for endorsement by the TWG
- validate the ATO preferred solution.

This group was governed by the ATO-DSP Architecture Reference Group (DARG) after it was commissioned by the [Technical Working Group on 12 October 2017](#).

The Group met via Teleconference on many occasions between November 2017 and May 2018, and reported back to the DARG with progress updates..

A recommendations paper was delivered to the TWG, as “[SBR Conformance and Assurance Testing Requirements \(PDF\)](#)” (23 Nov 2017) and subsequently was accepted as a DARG recommendation to the ATO.

A communications artefact, “[Conformance and Assurance Testing – Current and future state \(PDF\)](#)” was recommended to the ATO as an as an artefact for distribution (dependent upon ATO approval of the solution) in April 2018

A draft of the solution, “[SBR Conformance Assurance Testing Proposed Design DRAFT v0.5 \(PDF\)](#)” was tabled to the DARG 11th April 2018.

The solution design was recommended by the DARG to the ATO executive on 19th April, 2018.

Development of the solution is dependent on ATO executive approval.

When/if an “assurance capability” is deployed (or commences development), then ATO projects (such as STP) will be able to recommend any business assurance scenarios/tests.

If developed, ATO technical leads in projects and initiatives would assist to advise projects on how to submit to the ATO’s program any required new or changed assurance scenarios/tests.

The focus group was closed by the secretariat of the DARG on 9th October 2018, as the goals of the group had been completed. Further focus groups may be convened if necessary.

Further information will be posted on this [DARG DSP focus group page](#) and advised via [DPO communication channels](#).

The ATO appreciates the expertise and generosity of time of Digital Service Providers in partnering with us in the development of digital solutions for Tax and Superannuation systems.