



## Key Outcomes

UNCLASSIFIED External

<b>Title:</b>	Digital Architecture Reference Group – Key Outcomes		
<b>Issue date:</b>	8 May 2019		
<b>Venue:</b>	ATO Melbourne – 747 Collins St, Docklands		
<b>Event date:</b>	3 April 2019	<b>Start:</b> 9:30am	<b>Finish:</b> 3:00pm

<b>Chair:</b>	Paul Dwyer Rohan Walder	<b>Facilitator:</b>	Paul Dwyer
<b>Contact</b>	Sonia Lark	<b>Contact phone:</b>	02 47257460

<b>Attendees: names/section</b>	<p>ATO:</p> <p>Chair: Paul Dwyer – Director, Digital Wholesale Services (DWS) Michael Ferris – Director, Digital Wholesale Services (DWS) Michael Wade – Director, Application Architecture &amp; Design Hoshedar Elavia – Director, Digital Communication &amp; Identity Services Paul Stasinowsky – Digital Communication &amp; Identity Services Kylie Johnston – Director, Digital Partnership Office Sonia Lark – Digital Partnership Office Julie Sen – Digital Partnership Office</p> <p>Industry:</p> <p>Co-Chair: Rohan Walder - ABSIA Koustubh Bandyopadhyay - CBA Darin Carter - Sage Karl Farrand - TaxLab Rick Harvey - Layer Security Kevin Johnson - Reckon Andrew E. Smith - MYOB Ross Stuart - SuperChoice</p>
<b>Apologies: name/section</b>	<p>Michael Rowell – AC, Digital Wholesale Services (DWS) Claire Miller – Director, Digital Communication &amp; Identity Services Martin Mane - Director, Digital Partnership Office Carl Belle - Xero</p>

David Delaney - ANZ one path  
David Field - Ozedi  
Helena Bone - MessageXchange  
Sandeep Gopalan - GovReports  
Jack Wee - Catsoft

**Next meeting**      30 July 2019

## Agenda item: 1 – Welcome and introductions

Co-chairs Paul Dwyer and Rohan Walder welcomed the group, and the members were introduced.

The co-chairs will review and confirm whether eInvoicing DSPs and interagency representation are required in future DARG meetings.

No action items were carried over from the previous DARG meeting on 16 August 2018.

The draft DARG Charter was also presented to the members; any feedback from members should be sent to [DPO@ato.gov.au](mailto:DPO@ato.gov.au).

## Agenda item: 2 – SBR2 Roadmap

Paul Dwyer provided an overview of the eCommerce platform roadmap and identified three key operational priorities in preparation of Tax Time 2019:

1. Stuck Batches
2. Unexpected component failures
3. Leverage Cloud capabilities & Scale

The Co-chair also focused on three strategic areas as part of this agenda item which included:

1. Increasing Batch Record Size
2. Proactive Business Solutions to meet ATO's Future Growth
3. Reducing the imposition on adopting and conforming to the current Channel Ecosystem

A discussion occurred around the experience in the current eCommerce platform within the group members. It was mentioned that, moving forward, the ATO will ensure to develop the right services, in the right channels, in the right ways. There was acknowledgment from the ATO regarding the effort and time required by DSPs to transition to the PROD 2 platform. In the future, this experience will not be replicated.

Kylie Johnson collected feedback from the group in relation to the current transition strategy.

Future discussions may be set up to create a framework to determine which services should sit with the API REST solution.

## Agenda item: 3 – ATO Digital Services Modernisation (ADSM) Request for Information (RFI)

Paul Dwyer provided an overview about what the ADSM program is and discussed two key areas of consideration:

1. Digital Services Gateway

## Agenda item: 3 – ATO Digital Services Modernisation (ADSM) Request for Information (RFI)

- a. Provide new light-touch and lightweight messaging standards
  - b. Service real time, digital event single transactions
2. Digital Reporting Channel
- a. Continue to provide existing services
  - b. Provide backwards compatibility

The driver for ADSM was the capability to delivery increasing load and not impact services.

The ATO is currently reviewing all RFIs received, and there is no commitment for Request for Quote (RFQ) or Request for Tender (RFT) at the moment. A summary of the communications and timeline to date was presented to the group.

## Agenda item: 4 – Direction of Technology

Michael Wade provided an overview of the drivers to move towards technological innovation to provide meaningful user experience. Michael Wade presented a conceptual digital decoupling to support bimodal which consisted of:

- An outer API layer with API priority determined by service demand from Software Developers
- An inner API layer which are platform based and priority is determined by operational needs.

This conceptual model has a number of positive features for software developers and the ATO including independence for software developers and the protection of core services for the ATO.

An open discussion occurred between the ATO and industry representatives regarding insights into current technology and emerging trends. The discussion included the following topics:

### Exception Management

- DSPs led a discussion on their expectations of what they need from a service e.g. an exception list provides more value than a complete client list.
- Ongoing consultation with industry representatives will need to occur to ensure that the ATO is aware of the evolving needs of DSPs.
- The ATO must build services that provide high level of value e.g. the provision of a delta.

### Security of REST

- There was a broader discussion around the viability of using a JSON/REST service as opposed to a messaging service like ebMS3. Further investigation into this matter was welcomed by the members.
- How secure are REST messages
- What kind of security occurs along the supply chain
- Stressing the importance of end-to-end encryption
- Single entry point for government

### Data brokers

- The ATO has been approached by a number of DSPs looking to build or connect to ATO services to offer their clients types of 'Proof of income' services. At this stage the ATO is not progressing these actions, however it will remain in scope for future investment.

## Agenda item: 4 – Direction of Technology

- There are current limitations within legislation and ATO policy that would require significant investment to ensure the services and actions remain aligned, for example:
  - Under Division 355 of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953* the ATO is prohibited from disclosing information about the tax affairs of a particular entity where the entity is not considered a covered entity (e.g. registered tax agent or BAS agent) even if consent is provided.
  - The ATO provides digital services to the community for the primary purpose of assisting entities and their registered agents to meet their taxation and superannuation obligations. These new services are NOT explicitly for the purposes of meeting taxation and superannuation obligations.
  - There are currently no links or entry points for third parties other than registered agents to access taxpayer information. In the future expansions to myGovID and Relationship and Authorisation Manager (RAM) may provide this ability.

### Agile transformation

- Michael Ferris outlined the Digital Wholesale Services’s agile transformation journey to the group, emphasizing positive changes that DSPs will begin to see such as a faster turnaround of external documentation, at a higher quality and with better alignment to test data.
- The ATO is applying SAFe methodology, with program increments occurring in three month cycles.

### Delivery of service specifications

- Members expressed concern over the delivery of specifications and the timeframe for implementation.

Action item:	Due date:	Responsibility:
20190403_01	Tuesday 30 July 2019	Kylie Johnston
DPO will initiate discussions internally regarding PVT requirements.		

## Agenda item: 5 – DARG Focus Group

Paul Dwyer opened the segment for summaries on two current focus groups:

### Improving the test environment

Mike Ferris gave a summary of the journey to implement improvements for the test environment such as:

- Improving conformance test cases by setting
  - Realistic data
  - End to end scenarios with single credential
- Updates to the Business Implementation Guide (BIG)
  - More detailed descriptions of the business use of the service to provide a greater context for the use of the service.
  - Format changes to simplify the document
- Increasing automated testing in all environments

An insight into future plans are:

- Dev/Op practices to improve delivery turn around
  - Continuous build could mean smaller and faster delivery to EVTE.

- DSP gateway to improve the interaction between the ATO and DSP's
  - Access to information and feedback in order to reduce delivery and testing timelines.
  - Larger repository of test cases to consume as optional test to assist in verifying quality of delivery.
- Improved tooling to assist;
  - Creation and aging of test data
  - Generate test cases to be consumed by specific DSP's

Members expressed concern about the provision of a stubbed EVTE environment. DSPs were also in agreement regarding the monthly EVTE downtime; by having the downtime on a weekday during business hours it affects DSPs and their clients. Suggestions were made to having the downtime outside of business hours or on weekends.

In relation to Product Verification Testing (PVT), the group agreed that the ATO requires an excessive amount of testing in order to be whitelisted for services. A review should occur to align to the DSP's testing conformance in EVTE.

Sonia Lark noted that there will be a transfer of ownership for this focus group from the Strategic Working Group to the DARG.

Business Implementation Guide (BIG) review

An overview was provided regarding the purpose of the BIG review and proposed changes identified including:

- Update to the purpose statement
- Removal of duplicate information
- Intent to move some content to a common BIG

Members are keen to find out why the changes had occurred regarding signing of messages in the BIG prior to publication.

<b>Action item:</b> 20190403_02	<b>Due date:</b> Tuesday 30 July 2019	<b>Responsibility:</b> Mike Ferris
Mike Ferris will look into changing the monthly EVTE downtime schedule.		
<b>Action item:</b> 20190403_03	<b>Due date:</b> Tuesday 30 July 2019	<b>Responsibility:</b> DPO
DPO will seek details about changes with the Business Implementation Guide (BIG) before it was published, and if consultation with DSPs occurred.		
<b>Action item:</b> 20190403_04	<b>Due date:</b> Tuesday 30 July 2019	<b>Responsibility:</b> Paul Dwyer
Paul Dwyer will investigate how and when the ATO can provide early access to draft documentation for DSPs.		

**Agenda item: 6 – Machine to Machine Credentials**

Paul Stasinowsky and Hoshedar Elavia gave an overview of the new Machine to Machine credential, why the current AUSkey will be replaced, the expected client authentication model and overall impacts for DSPs and their clients.

## Agenda item: 6 – Machine to Machine Credentials

Members mentioned that auto-renewal functionality is a high priority for developers, who would like to have it released in the near future. Paul Stasinowsky mentioned a proactive communications plan will be beneficial to ensure credentials will not expire.

Concerns were raised by DSP members of desktop solutions around the impact that the machine to machine credential will have on their users, and if there was a way to mitigate this risk.

## Agenda item: 7 – Other items

Kylie Johnston confirmed that the IBM eBMs3 client is no longer available to new developers or to anyone consuming STP or Superannuation services.

- Light morning tea and lunch were provided.