Impact Assessment to SoLR process of the November 2021 Release

Overview

- During the current crisis within the gas industry, we have been managing the Supplier of Last Resort (SoLR) process in UK Link. In what is a very challenging time for the industry, our primary obligation as CDSP is to ensure that we provide a robust and effective UK Link platform to manage core processes such as switching

- Last week the market environment changed considerably with an organisation withdrawing from the shipping market - this is having a significant impact, with c100,000 switches per day being required to support SoLR activity

- The November 2021 (N21) project includes changes that impact areas within UK Link that are critical to the SoLR process

- As market issues escalated, we undertook an Impact assessment (IA) into the potential risk that the N21 release poses to the current UK Link production service that is supporting the industry SOLR process

Recommendation

- **Our recommendation is that the N21 release should be wholly / partly delayed to 22nd & 23rd January 2022 to ensure that potential risks identified in the Impact Assessment do not materialise and lead to failure of the SoLR process at such a critical point in time**

- The key points from the IA are as follows:
  - Some changes have ‘common code’ components with the SoLR process, which introduces potential risk of service interruption
  - Some changes in the release have requirements for data cleansing activity which introduces a ‘system load’ risk that could affect SoLR processing volumes
  - Changes are being deployed to the file flow (MarketFlow) that supports the SoLR process
  - Any change to UK Link at this moment adds potential risk

- We recognise that a delay would have impacts to our customers and to code bodies - the recommendation is driven by the need to protect the current switching platform

- **There are three options for ChMC consideration:**
  1. **Deliver full scope as planned**
  2. **Delay full release to 22/23 January 2022**
  3. **Deliver some change in November and the rest in January**

Risk Factors taken into consideration

	Description	Risk	Prob	Impact
1	UK Link is providing a stable processing platform to support the SOLR process and deploying any production changes that have a direct or indirect impact introduces risk.	Extended outage to resolve release issues and potential impact to daily confirmation volumes being processed	L	H
2	Two of the changes proposed for the release have common code objects (Confirmation workflow and SPC/Contract workflow) that are impacted by the release that support the current SOLR process.	Code issues that require resolution post go-live and slow down or stop SOLR process	L	H
3	Data cleansing of historical data may take longer than planned introducing additional load to the system	Potential performance impact to BAU processing and reduction in daily confirmation volumes being processed	L	M
4	Technical and operational resource conflict between SoLR processing and November ’21 implementation	SoLR process may be impacted if post go-live issues encountered that divert resource or increase time to resolve to production issues	M	H
5	Introducing AMT Marketflow Changes into Production	Issues encountered with AMT changes and any AMT impacts may affect file flows	M	H
6	Number of BAU defects found in 5072 introduces risk of potential further issues	Testing may not have found all BAU defects and post go-live issues could be encountered	M	M

We’re expecting to process up to 100k Confirmations per day between now and Christmas based on current Supplier and Shipper failure events. This is in excess of “normal” volumes which are typically up 10k per day. The maximum number of transfers in a month was in April 2019 where an average of 17k switches were processed per day. We need to be ready on any given day to cater for 100k of inbound confirmations, D-2 processing to Gemini, and D confirmation effective day processing.

Bundling Options Considered

Risk Scoring mechanism for comparison reasons – the lower the score the lower risk

Option	Option	Further Mitigations	Risk 1	Risk 2	Risk 3	Risk 4	Risk 5	Risk 6	Risk Total
1	Full Release	N/A	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	12
2	4780C	N/A	Remains 2	Remains 2	Removed 0	Reduce 1	Remains 2	Removed 0	7
3	5142	Deployed on 5/11 – first usage on 6/11 or 8/11	Remains 2	Removed 0	Reduce 1	Reduce 1	Remains 2	Removed 0	6
4	4780C, 5142	Deployed on different dates	Remains 2	Remains 2	Reduce 1	Reduce 1	Remains 2	Removed 0	8
5	5142, 4941, 5007, 5072, 5180	Deployed on different dates	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	12
6	4941, 5007, 5072, 5180	N/A	Remains 2	Remains 2	Reduce 1	Remains 2	Removed 0	Remains 2	9
7	4780C, 4941, 5007, 5072, 5180	N/A	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	Remains 2	12

Note: XRN 4941 data cleanse is dependent upon completion of data cleanse for XRN 5142 so options 6 and 7 are not viable

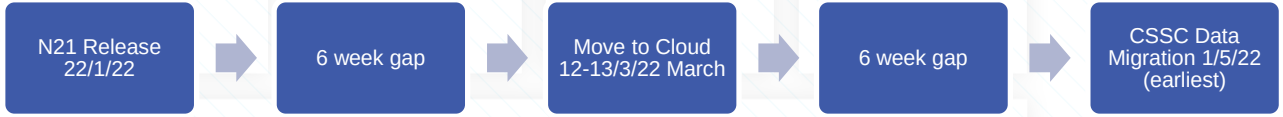
The viability of any mitigation options needs to be considered by customers

Available deployment options & dependencies

RAG represents level of risk to SoLR

		Option	Pros	Cons
R	1	Continue as planned to deploy the changes in November 21	• Meets customer expectations • Minimises change congestion	• Change to UKL at critical time for industry, introducing risk of service disruption
A /G	2	Deliver XRN5142 – (New Allowable Values for DCC Service Flag in DXI File From DCC) as planned in November but defer all other changes to January 2022	• Reduced likelihood of production issues post go-live • Enables delivery v SEC requirements	• Still represents change to UKL during a critical period • Unknown customer effort in potential de-coupling of code changes
G	3	Delay the implementation of the full release to the next available window – 22nd January 2022 (contingency 29th January); This uses the assumption that the M2C implementation is moved to early March in order to accommodate the SAP data migration approach.	• Gives time for industry situation to subside and any potential change related impacts/issues to be minimised • Reduced code de-coupling issue for customers	• Unknown industry landscape • Increased costs for customer project extensions

Assumed dependencies and planned deployment approach for 2022 dependent implementations.



Next Steps

- In the event of a ‘delay’ decision, the following next steps will be required:

    1. Notification to UNC (XRN 4941) REC (XRN4870c) and SEC (should XRN5142 be delayed)
    2. Confirmation of implementation and contingency dates, including outage notification
    3. Revised Change Pack issued with effective dates of changes
    4. Revised detailed plan of connectivity testing for MAMs of XRN4780C

- In the event a ‘defer’ decision on 25th October a further eChMC will need to be convened to hold a vote