SAFESEANET TECHNICAL ASPECTS

SSN User Naming Convention and User Management – Update Status

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	The aim of this document is to review required harmonisation actions relating to the previously agreed common naming convention, and to propose further changes in the XML protocol to remove inconsistencies in attribute definitions relating to user identification in XML RG v2.07 and further facilitate SSN integration in EMSA's Identification Management System (IdM).
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 4
Related documents	SSN 17/6/4 – New user naming convention in SSN

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At SSN workshop 17 (May 2012), EMSA presented the new user naming convention in SSN (doc. 17/6/4). The purpose of the document was to inform the SSN group of the latest EMSA developments concerning:

- the harmonisation of user authentication, and;
- the introduction and adoption of a common naming convention, in order to ease the identification of users accessing more than one application hosted at EMSA (following the adoption of the Identification Management System (IdM) and Single-Sign-On (SSO)).

Some of the maritime applications hosted at EMSA (e.g. CSN, LRIT and THETIS) have already been integrated with IdM and SSO, and SSN will be the next.

The purpose of this document is to:

a. ensure that existing SSN users are compliant with the naming convention (agreed at SSN17);

b. remove few inconsistencies detected in attribute definitions in XML RG v2.07 (concerning user identification), and;

c. harmonise rules and definitions within the current SSN framework, and within other applications hosted by EMSA that have already been integrated in IdM.

2. CURRENT STATUS – ISSUES IDENTIFIED

2.1. UserID harmonisation with the user naming convention

An assessment of the main issues that affect the compliance of the existing SSN UserId's with the agreed naming convention has been carried out. The following issues were identified:

a. **Issue of length< than 7 characters: 137** UserId's are affected (Table 1).

Member State	Number of Users
BE	10
DK	6
ES	3
EU	5
FI	14
UK	16
GR	3
IS	62
MT	2
NO	4
PT	3
RO	5
SE	4
Total	**137**

Table 1 – UserId's with < 7 chars

b. **Issue invalid characters: 76** UserId's are affected (Table 2).

Member State	Number of Users
BE	1
BG	3
CY	1
DE	1
DK	1
ES	2
EU	2
FI	3
FR	1
UK	20
GR	3
IE	1
IS	19
IT	1
LT	3
LV	1
MT	1
NO	1
PL	2
PT	1
RO	1
SE	5
SI	2
Total	**76**

Table 2 - Invalid characters

The most common invalid characters used are as follows:

- The slash character (/), e.g. 24/7.

- The white space character ( ).

- Special characters or characters with diacritics (e.g. Óáöæ).

2.2. Removing inconsistencies in attribute definitions within the XML Reference Guide and alignment with IdM rules

a. Attributes length

For consistency, in the current SSN XML RG, where the "From", "To" and "SSNUserID" attributes do not have the same length characteristics (see table 4 below), an amendment in the length of these attributes is needed in order to achieve proper alignment with IdM rules and the other applications hosted by EMSA.

It should be noted that, if the proposal is aaccepted, the common naming convention will be amended accordingly.

b. User management (siblings)

Following industry best practices on security/user management, in IdM (and also in CSN, LRIT and THETIS), users with identical permission levels (siblings) are not allowed to manage other users with the same permissions. Therefore, for example, an NCA_Admin cannot create/manage another NCA_Admin.

In SSN, this sibling possibility is still available, in that an NCA_Admin may create/manage other NCA_Admin.

In order to ease the IdM integration, and to align SSN with CSN, LRIT and THETIS, the same rule for preventing siblings should be applied to SSN.

c. Missing information in users details

For the integration with IdM, the same rules should apply to all user details descriptions. In IdM, the user details required are first name, last name, phone, fax and e-mail. In SSN, only the provision of phone and fax details is mandatory.

Member State	First name	Last name	E-mail
BE		4	
BG		2	
DE		1	
DK	5	7	5
FI	1	2	30
UK		1	26
GR	44	106	98
IS	1	4	1
IT			1
MT		1	
NO		1	
PL		1	
PT		2	
RO	4	4	4
SE		4	2
SI	1	2	1
Total	**61**	**148**	**179**

Table 3 – Missing SSN user details (First name, Last name and e-mail)

3.   PROPOSALS

3.1.   UserID harmonisation with the user naming convention

a.   For UserIDs with invalid characters the proposal is the following:

- Slash (/) to be **replaced with hyphen** (−). e.g. 24/7 becomes **24-7**

- White space ( ) to be **replaced with underscore** (_)

- Comma (,) to be **replaced with dot** (.)

- Characters with diacritics are **replaced according to a mapping list,** e.g. (ó) becomes (o), and are always subject to MS NCA confirmation.

a.   For UserIDs with less than 7 characters:

Most of these issues will be solved by prefixing the UserID with the MS country code. For the remaining users, the MS NCA will be contacted by EMSA to agree on the way forward.

The action/time plan for resolving the issues in a and b above is as follows:

- Deadline: 15 December 2013

- EMSA will contact the NCAs and agree on a date/time and on how the change will be carried out (by NCA admin, or with the support of EMSA).

3.2.   Removing inconsistencies in attribute definitions within the XML Reference Guide and alignment with IdM rules

a.   Attributes length:

The proposal is to restrict "SSNUserID," "From" and "To" attributes to a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 32 characters. This will allow harmonisation within the XML RG and facilitate the integration with IdM. Table 4 identifies the changes.

SSN XML page	Attribute name	Type	Len	Description and general rules	Message(s) that the attribute is included
270	From	Text	~~3-15~~ **7-32**	The UserID of the originator of the message (as defined in SafeSeaNet). Best practice for the field is to include the reference identification of the originator of the data included in the message.	ALL messages
294	To	Text	~~3-15~~ **7-32**	The reference identification of the recipient of the message ('SSN')	All messages
293	SSNUser ID	Text	~~3-32~~ **7**-32	The SSN unique user Identifier.	MS2SSN_IncidentDetail_Not SSN2MS_IncidentDetail_Res

Table 4 – Extract from SSN XML RG 2.07

It is proposed that these changes should be made in SSN V3, and that the Draft XML for SSN V3 should be amended accordingly.

b.   User management and siblings

From the moment that SSN is integrated with IdM, EMSA (SSN Admin) will become responsible for creating/managing users that have been defined as National Competent Authority Administrators (MS_NCA_Admin). The proposal is to apply this change during the 3rd quarter of 2014.

c.   Missing information

MS NCAs will be requested to provide the missing information (either first name, last name, email) in order to allow a swift integration of SSN with IdM. The action/time plan for resolving the issue is as follows:

- Deadline: 31 March 2013

- EMSA will identify all users with missing information, and will send the list to the respective SSN NCAs. The SSN NCA will provide the required information to EMSA in order that SSN can be updated accordingly.

EMSA will provide a report to each MS NCA every 6 months with identified issues and proposed actions.

4.   ACTION REQUIRED

Member States are invited to:

➢   approve the proposals and timing presented, and;

➢   ensure that the EMSA User Naming Convention is enforced at national level.