TLP: GREEN

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS TESTING ON ACCEPTANCE

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About TLS

What is TLS?

Transport Layer Security (TLS) is an encryption protocol that has been designed to ensure secure communication between web browsers and servers. It is currently used in almost all apps. Many IP-based protocols, such as HTTPS, SMTP, POP3 and FTP, support TLS. This helps to ensure secure data transfer.

For what is TLS used in the energy sector?

TLS (currently version 1.2) is used in the energy sector to securely exchange data between the systems of market parties (local systems) and the central systems operated by TenneT and EDSN.

More information about what TLS is and how it works is presented in the online information session called 'Introduction TLS 1.3'.
This can be accessed via the SharePoint of MFFBAS: 20230530 Information session TLS 1.3 - 16 May 2023 v.1.1 - English.pdf

End dual phase on the acceptance environment

Our IP addresses will change for the implementation of TLS 1.3. How can we get them white-listed on time at EDSN/TenneT?

Via the regular process. By contacting the service desk of EDSN or TenneT.
EDSN by sending an e-mail with request to: servicedesk@edsn.nl
TenneT by sending an e-mail with request to: tennetccc@tennet.eu

During which period will the acceptance environment exclusively support TLS 1.3?

The acceptance environment will be converted to TLS 1.3 only between 22 January and 1 February for all participating systems. The presentation mentions which systems are taking part and when conversion is expected. Presentation online information session TLS 1.3 testing on acceptance environment 18 January 2024.pdf

There is also an MMC-hub for TQF. Is that the same MMC-hub mentioned here?

Yes, there are two separate versions of the MMC-hub. In principle, it is the same version of the MMC-hub but the installations and configuration are different because they operate separately.

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Until when will 1.2 remain available at CPS? I have mentioned this a couple of times. Will we also receive formal feedback/documentation about this?

The ALV MFF has decided that the dual phase (TLS 1.2 and 1.3) will run until 31 March 2024 at the latest. TLS 1.2 will then be phased out on all systems. A phase-out plan will be compiled for this.

Why is the MMC-hub from 1-2 and not like the general period from 31-3?

For most systems, the dual phase for the acceptance environment will end on 1 February. It is only possible to connect using TLS 1.3. An end date of 31 March 2024 has been set for the production environment. This will give parties an extra opportunity to test TLS 1.3 readiness when it suits them.

How can we test scenarios via the MMC-hub where another market role is the initiator of a notification? Does TenneT support these tests?

In principle, this will be supported because the IT Carrier will establish the connection with TLS. Naturally, the IT Carrier must support TLS1.3.

We still run TenneT CPS via an old Office version due to certificates. Via a VPN and POP. I do not entirely understand TLS 1.3 in this. Or is this a "new" CPS?

It is the same CPS; however, it has been upgraded.

Do you also monitor if there is already TLS 1.3 traffic in PRD? Or does that only happen on ACC environments?

For some of the systems managed by EDSN, it is possible to see if messages are being sent via TLS 1.3. This is NOT actively monitored. If necessary, more information about this can be obtained by sending an information request containing the EAN codes to servicedesk@edsn.nl. In general, it is advised to test TLS 1.3 readiness with the acceptance environments, because they will normally only communicate with TLS 1.3 as of 1 February.

What are all the URLs?

The presentation for the online information session contains all participating systems and, wherever necessary, the required URLs. Presentation online information session TLS 1.3 testing on acceptance environment 18 January 2024.pdf

We have discovered that our Microsoft version does not (yet) support TLS 1.3; will an extension be offered for this?

If Microsoft does not support TLS 1.3, we advise switching to a version that actually does this or to use a proxy as a solution.

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Our organisation does not expect to be ready on time for the switch to TLS 1.3 - what should we do?

If your organisation has not switched to TLS 1.3 before 31 March 2024, we ask you to send an e-mail to projecten@mffbas.nl, which mentions the following details:

- Which systems are involved?
- What is the cause/reason for not switching on time?
- Which actions have been taken to realise the switch to TLS 1.3?
- When do you expect to be TLS 1.3 ready?

The project team will then consider this when deciding to definitively phase out TLS 1.2.

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