

Meeting: 4th SSN / LRIT Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 23 October 2018

Agenda item: SSN User Configuration

Document number: SSN/LRIT 4.3.2

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	This document introduces a harmonised approach for the configuration of user accounts in SSN, and a proposal to simplify the User ID naming convention.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 6.
Related documents	SSN/LRIT 3.3.3: SSN and LRIT User Configuration SSN/LRIT 4.4.1: SSN Roadmap HLSG DM2 4.3: SSN version 4 HLSG DM3 4.4: Overview of on-going pilot projects

1 Background

According to the technical specifications for SSN v4 (approved by the HLSG in October 2016 - document HLSG DM2 4.3: SSN version 4), SSN v4 will be integrated with EMSA's new Common Management Console (CMC). The CMC includes a major upgrade of the Identity and Access Management system (IAM), which is responsible for managing user accounts in the SSN Ecosystem (including SSN). This new IAM system will allow for easier configuration of user accounts by applying a harmonised approach for all applications.

At its meeting in February 2018, the HLSG endorsed a revision of the Interface and Functionalities Control Document (IFCD), which simplifies the access right policies applied in SSN.

The schedule for the migration of SSN to the CMC was presented at the SSN/LRIT 3 meeting (SSN/LRIT 3.3.3: SSN and LRIT User Configuration), and this document provides an update to the schedule and introduces a proposal for simplifying the User ID naming convention.

2 The CMC and the new IAM system

The CMC enforces the access control policies for all users accessing the SSN Ecosystem applications, as well as for the management of all EMSA reference databases. It is implemented as a composite service, which includes the central locations, organisations, geo-references and ships databases, and the IAM.

The IAM will apply the same harmonised approach to the configuration of user accounts. In particular, in addition to its credentials (login, password) and personal information (names, contact details), each user account will be associated with:

- a unique organisation within its country. Organisations will be provided by the Central Organisations Database (COD). COD will replace the list of “authorities” currently used in SSN, and;
- one or several profiles, which will define user access rights. A profile may include access rights to several different applications, and the objective is to promote the use of integrated services. Once a user account has been assigned a profile, it will be given all the access rights corresponding to the profile (there will be no option to downgrade the access rights allocated to a user account). Profiles will be cumulative (i.e. a user account will be given the sum of access rights provided by its profiles).

The fax number will become optional, but the telephone number and email address will remain mandatory.

The IAM will also handle the configuration of the systems which connect to SSN, such as National SSN Systems. This will be addressed via “System User Accounts” which will replace the “Authorities” currently used in SSN.

The access right policies configured in the IAM will apply to end-users of the Central SSN System. The management and enforcement of access rights policies of end-users of National SSN Systems will remain the responsibility of the NCAs, and will continue to be addressed by the National SSN Systems.

For more information on user configuration in SSN v4, please refer to the document HLSG DM2 4.3 - SSN version 4, annex 1 – System Requirements Specifications

3 Access rights policies

The revised IFCD foresees four types of user profiles: National Competent Authorities, Member States’ authorities executing functions in the maritime domain, Ports and EMSA/EC/other EU bodies.

These user profiles will be incorporated in the IAM, and additional profiles will be included for the purpose of pilot projects (section 3.6 of the IFCD) and the exchange of information with third countries approved by the HLSG.

With respect to the National Competent Authorities, three distinct profiles will be handled by the IAM: persons working for the NCA, national SSN administrators and national SSN systems.

As regards authorities executing functions in the maritime domain and ports, two options are foreseen:

- Option 1, with 4 profiles, which offers the simplest approach for managing users, but offers less flexibility.
- Option 2, with 14 profiles, which offers more flexibility to configure access to viewing and providing SSN data, but brings more complexity.

The two options are described in the annex.

4 Schedule

The new IAM system will be released in October 2018, and it will replicate the current users’ configurations, so it should have no impact on current user access rights. The only difference will concern the user accounts’

organisations, which will be consolidated with the organisations currently configured in the SSN Ecosystem's applications (e.g. SSN, EODC, THETIS and IMS).

A user manual for national administrators will be made available on the EMSA website, and webinars will be arranged with all NCAs. However, no training sessions are foreseen for end-users, as they are not involved with user accounts' management, and will therefore have limited access to the IAM system.

The new access right policies introduced in section 3 will be enforced in a new release of SSN, which should be deployed by the beginning of 2019 (SSN v4.2). With this new release, all features related to the configuration of user accounts and authorities will be removed from SSN. All aspects of the management of user accounts and authorities will then be handled through the IAM and in the COD.

All user accounts will be migrated to the new access right policies, and the SSN NCAs will be requested to validate the new access right policies to be assigned to the user accounts.

5 Simplification of the User ID naming convention

In 2016, a User ID naming convention was incorporated in the SSN Security Guidelines. Since then, the MSS performs regular check on User IDs in order to ensure that the naming convention is being applied. Unfortunately, the procedure introduced a significant number of duplicated user accounts.

Considering its objective to promote integrated services, EMSA considers that it is preferable that all users have unique user accounts. It is therefore proposed that more flexibility should be given in the assignment of User IDs, and that the checks on User IDs by the MSS should be discontinued. The IAM system will continue applying the naming convention, but will not enforce it. The convention will only be applied by suggesting a User ID when a user account is created. Basic validation rules will nevertheless be applied, such as the control of the user ID's length (7 characters minimum and 25 characters maximum)

If the proposal above is accepted, the Security Guidelines will be updated accordingly.

6 Action Required

Member States are invited to note the information provided, and to:

- choose one of the options in section 3 regarding the user profiles, and;
- approve the proposal in section 5 regarding the simplification of the User ID naming convention.

Annex: Profile options for Member State SSN users

User profiles (option 1)	Description
SSN NCA	Views SSN information, provides incident reports, MRS and exemptions
National SSN system	Views SSN information, provides port calls with details, incident reports, MRS and exemptions
National SSN admin	Manages users
Maritime authority	Views SSN information, provides MRS reports and incident reports
Non VTMISS authority	Views SSN information
Port	Views SSN information limited to ships aiming or departing from the port, and provides incident reports
Port system	Views SSN information limited to ships aiming or departing from the port, provides port call data for the port and incident reports

User profiles (Option 2)	Description
SSN NCA	Views SSN information, provides incident reports, MRS and exemptions
National SSN system	Views SSN information, provides port calls with details, incident reports, MRS and exemptions
National SSN admin	Manages users
Mar Auth - Provide MRS	Provides MRS reports
Mar Auth - Provide IR	Provides incident reports
Mar Auth - View SSN info	Views voyages, ship positions, exemptions, organisations, locations, ships, etc. with the exception of detailed voyage data
Mar Auth - View Hazmat	Views voyages' details regarding dangerous and polluting goods
Mar Auth - View Security	Views voyages' details regarding the security notification
Mar Auth - View Waste	Views voyages' details regarding the waste and residues notification
Mar Auth - View Bunkers	Views voyages' details regarding the bunkers on board
Mar Auth - View MRS	Views MRS reports
Mar Auth - View IR	Views incident reports
Port	Views SSN information (voyages, incident reports, MRS, ship positions, exemptions, organisations, locations, ships), including detailed Hazmat and Bunkers data limited to ships aiming or departing from the port, and provides incident reports
Port – Provide IR	Provides incident reports
Port – View Security	Views voyages' details regarding the security notification limited to ships aiming or departing from the port
Port – View Waste	Views voyages' details regarding the waste and residues notification limited to ships aiming or departing from the port
Port system	Views SSN information including detailed voyage data limited to ships aiming or departing from the port, provides port call data for the port and incident reports