BSP*link* AGENT NEWS

Welcome to the September 2013 Newsletter!

In this edition:

Strengthening Password Management

The following changes will be performed in the BSPlink application once this development is activated by the corresponding country BSP:

1. Users will be obligated to change their passwords after a period of 90 days from the last modification.

   * These 90 days will also re-start every time users reset their passwords or if it is reset on their behalf by the BSP.

2. Airline and BSP Main Users expire after **90 days** and their **Sub Users** **30 days** of inactivity.
For user types other than airline and BSP, both Main Users and sub user will be automatically deactivated after **90 days** of inactivity.

3. Users will **not be allowed to reuse** any of the **last four passwords** used.

   * Passwords must have a minimum length of 8 characters, and contain both numeric and alphabetic characters.

4. BSPlink sessions will automatically end after a **15 minutes** period of inactivity. After that, users will have to re-enter login and password.

5. Creation of a new self-service "Forgotten Password?" function.

6. Align the current users' blocking criteria after a series of unsuccessful logon attempts with PCI rules, by increasing the blocking period to **30 minutes** and the number of **unsuccessful attempts to six.**

7. Access to Unmasked PAN files

- DPC, Airlines (Local + Head Office) and third party users will always be able to download these outputs. However new access permissions are required, for Main Users to specify which individual Sub-Users (of any level) are authorized to download them (default=N). If not allowed, these files will simply not appear or be available for download by the Sub-Users.
- Outputs with unmasked PANs will be identified by file descriptor "mk", "ea" and "eb". These descriptors could be updated in the future upon IATA's request.

-'Standard' SFTP download accounts for airlines are created by their corresponding main users. Note that 'ea' and 'mk' files will be available for download through SFTP.

8. SFTP Password Management

SFTP passwords must contain **both** letters & numbers and have a minimal length of seven characters. A new control will be added in order to check that new users are always set with strong enough passwords.

9. Finally, as all the above changes have a great impact in the user experience; this development will have to be **activated on a country basis before taking effect**. A new parameter will be created for this purpose, available for the IATA BSPlink Central Team, so that all functionalities described above will take place per country only once activated. Once activated, there will be no way back to the previous situation.

Note that the next batch of implementations on Oct 14th will take place in:
BD,BE,BF,BJ,CG,CI,CM,CZ,FI,FJ,GA,GB,GH,ID,IE,II,IN, MA,ML,MN,MR,NE,NP,NZ,SK,SN,SY,TD,TG,TW.

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."[Abraham Lincoln]