

A-NZ Peppol Stakeholder Working Group - Attachments Focus Group

Meeting Summary - 11 August 2022

Item #	Outcomes
1	<p>Introduction Matt Lewis welcomed everyone to the group and acknowledged Traditional Owners in Australia and NZ.</p>
2	<p>Purpose & scope of focus group The purpose of this focus group is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote consistent support and management of attachments ● Help improve the end user experience with attachments ● Better understand the different capabilities across the network ● Feed improvements through to the broader Peppol network <p>The focus group will primarily solve issues related to invoices and will only look at other Peppol documents types as it relates to common issues. Data that already has a defined place within existing Peppol fields will be considered out of scope for the focus group. Added to the scope was a conversation on the topic of links versus attachments.</p> <p>It was noted that the Peppol BIS does not allow the Attachment to be a rendered elnvoice. This is based on considerations (from previous Peppol stakeholder group discussions) including potential risks, such as PDF and XML totals not matching, or problems / confusion over source of truth (client may trust PDF over XML). However, in the A-NZ context, attachments continue to play an important role, for example, change management purposes, or an attachment may include additional information such as marketing and customer support.</p> <p>Rounding and calculation issues were also mentioned, which is caused by different business processes for calculation, e.g. some calculate tax on line level while others calculate on invoice level. Some systems store GST inclusive price versus others use net prices. The group agreed that rounding and matching is out of scope for this group.</p> <p>The expected outcomes for the focus group include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Guidance on expectations for APs and/or BMS on supporting attachments (acknowledging BMS products may have limited capabilities) ● Guidance in relation to information stored in elnvoice message elements related to attachment(s) ● Classifications of datasets for attachments
3	<p>Common use cases Matt covered the common use cases that DSPANZ, ATO and MBIE drafted including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Duplication / rendering of elnvoice data (e.g. images and PDFs) ● Industry specific, where attachments are used to support required information, such as marketing, or regulatory requirements e.g. Better Bills Guideline

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting buyer's requirements / processing needs (e.g. proof of delivery, timesheets, contract information) <p>In the next meeting, the group will look to compare the Peppol standard with the identified use cases and determine whether the standard allows end users to send/receive what they need with attachments.</p>
4	<p>Capabilities to support attachments</p> <p>It is recognised that the ability to send and/or receive attachments differs between Access Points and BMS. While PDFs are the most commonly supported, images, spreadsheets and CSVs are also commonly sent. It was raised that a common issue for BMS is that they do not know what attachment is being sent when an end user drags and drops it.</p> <p>To better support the focus group's understanding of how attachments are currently used and handled, DSPANZ together with the ATO and MBIE will look to create a survey for different segments between now and the next meeting.</p> <p>The group discussed limitations on file size. In the ebMS3 / AS4 specification there is a threshold of 2GB but as of this meeting, no other limits had been identified.</p> <p>There was a discussion about a potential recommendation for Access Points to deliver attachments when they are received. While we could make the recommendation as good practice, what happens with the attachment once received by the BMS / end user is out of scope for Peppol.</p>
5	<p>Wrap up and next steps</p> <p>Throughout the meeting, the group raised the following as future discussions for the focus group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Service Providers currently handle attachments Identifying problems that are preventing uptake How to ensure an attachment doesn't contain a virus Limitations on file size (AP / BMS and Peppol specifications) <p>A placeholder for the next meeting has been issued for 29 August at 12.00pm AEST / 2.00pm NZST.</p>
6	<p>Meeting close</p>