External Connectivity Testing

All Gemini users are invited to participate in the **External Connectivity Testing** related to Gemini Re-Platforming, which will take place between **13th April and 8th May 2020.**

Successful connection to Gemini is critical for our users and we strongly encourage you to take part.

A short e-learning video will be available from Xoserve before the External Connectivity Testing window opens. We anticipate the resource commitment required by you during the testing window to be 1 – 2 hours.

If you would like to participate in External Connectivity Testing please email:

box.xoserve.gemini-replatform@xoserve.com

to register by 29th February 2020.

User connectivity to the Gemini Production system is not affected as part of this change.

The current User Trials environment accessed by external users for testing is impacted and will have a new URL. Participation in the External Connectivity Testing will allow users to ensure their access to the new test environment has been established and tested.

The primary objective of the External Connectivity Testing phase is to ensure connectivity via different routes ie. Citrix Receiver, client or Web Browser (into Citrix) has been tested.

Checklist

nationalgrid **XOserve**

To participate in External Connectivity Testing please email:

box.xoserve.geminire-platform@xoserve.com

by February 29th 2020

☐ **Ensure User ID and Password is known for:**
- ☐ **Citrix**
- ☐ **Gemini**

If you have any issues regarding your User ID or Password please contact your company Local Support Officer (LSO)

☐ **Please check that your service provider allows traffic for the following:**
- ☐ **URL (to be supplied after registering for ECT)**

Any other queries please get in touch:
Box.GasOps.BusinessC@nationalgrid.com

Gemini Change Programme

Gemini Re-Platforming Project

Programme Update
February 2020

Introduction to Gemini Re-Platforming

When Gemini was moved from the National Grid Data Centres to the Xoserve Data Centres, the life of the Gemini service was planned to be from June 2013 until June 2018, at which point the Gemini system would become unsupported on its current infrastructure.

National Grid did not foresee any industry or regulatory led change to warrant a replacement of Gemini in the near future. Continued vendor support could be achieved through re-platforming rather than replacement.

In 2018 National Grid took the decision to re-platform rather than replace the Gemini system.

What is Gemini Re-Platforming?

In order to continue to support the Gemini system, a number of components are being upgraded to ensure compatibility with the private cloud. This upgrade is required to:

- ensure application security
- meet industry best practices

While there are no functional changes to Gemini in relation to this change, users accessing the system should note the following changes:

- Citrix Receiver client being used by the industry to access Gemini is being upgraded from V6.5 to V7.15. Therefore it will be necessary either to upgrade the Citrix version or access via a web browser. The relevant URL will be supplied after registering to take part in External Connectivity Testing.

- To be compliant with the modern security standards, the **Transport Layer Security (TLS)** version is also being upgraded. TLS is an encryption protocol that protects data when it moves between computers *(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/email-security-standards/transport-layer-security-tls)*. This means the Gemini system will be compatible with TLS V1.2. TLS V1.0 is not being decommissioned at this stage.

- A benefit of the upgrade is that the **screen resolution manual change** will no longer be required. Post implementation, the display will detect the resolution required to match the device used for log in.

Extended System Outage

There will be an Extended System Outage on **Sunday 5th July 2020** to support implementation activities. The extended outage window is anticipated to be between **8 to 12 hours**. Details are as follows:

- Gemini Maintenance Window: 03:00 to 05:00

- Extended outage 05:00 to 13:00

- In the event of a rollback an additional outage will be required from 13:00 to 17:00

Implementation planning is currently underway. Any actions required from the external users to complete their system related activities and processes prior to the implementation day will be communicated nearer the time.

Gemini Application Functionality

The Gemini application functionality will remain exactly the same as it is now.

The only difference is the way users will log in via Citrix.