

Archived Message Payload Retention



Archived Message Payload Retention

Scope of this discussion

- This discussion is focused on archived NEM B2M (CATS, NMID, MDMT), and NEM B2B (CUST, MRSR, MTRD, OWNP, OWNX, NPNX, SORD, OWN) payload retention
- AEMO is seeking to review the retention period across all Trans Groups, due to the increasing operational challenges from archive growth.

Situation

- B2M and B2B message payloads are currently archived as part of inbox and outbox processing.
- Participant inbound payloads are archived in `/Inbox_Archive`.
- AEMO and B2B recipient outbox payloads are archived in `/Archive` following participant ack of receipt.
- Inbox + outbox archived files are currently retained for **13 months**.
- Participants can obtain archived files through:
 - The FTP file share folder.
 - The Browser channel, e.g. Dayzip function in the MSATS Browser.
 - For API only participants the Browser is the only way to access these files.

Archived Message Payload Retention

Complication

- Archive volumes have grown materially and are continuing to increase.
 - Current inbox + outbox archive is approximately:
 - 300 million files.
 - 8.5TB currently in use.
 - growth is +1TB every 6 months.
 - If archive retention period continues at 13 months, The significant increase in the volume of files is becoming infeasible for AEMO to manage and support.
- Trans groups may not all have the same retention needs,
 - CATS/NMID transaction and reports provide a point-in-time representation of standing data held in the CATS database.
 - MDMT/MTRD transactions and reports relate to meter data and settlement information so may warrant longer retention.
 - SORDs relate to contractual obligations and have a 2 part Request/Response pattern so may warrant longer retention.
 - CUSTs have Life Support Request and Life Support Notification transaction types.

Archived Message Payload Retention

Complication

- AEMO has not identified an explicit requirement in the Rules/Procedures for 13 months of participant accessible archive.
 - There are, however, Rules expectations relating to retention of underlying metering data.
 - Distinction between:
 - Archived inbox/outbox message payload files.
 - Business data retained in market systems.
- Based on AEMOs current understanding, archived payloads are used by participants for:
 - Troubleshooting message exchange issues.
 - Dispute investigation.
 - Replaying transactions in participant test environments.
- In April-26 AEMO sought participant feedback on whether the 13 months archive period remains operationally necessary, or whether a shorter common period would meet market needs.

Feedback Received

Summary of participant feedback

- In April-26 AEMO proposed revising the period archived payloads are available to participants with feedback closing 22-May-26.
- Feedback received from 8 participants (4 FRMPs, 4 DNSPs).
- Feedback supported reducing the current inbox/outbox archive period.
- The strongest supported position was a 6 months retention period.
- Participants generally supported a common retention period across B2M and B2B Trans Groups.
- No feedback indicated that a blanket 13 months archive period must be retained.
- Main use cases identified were troubleshooting, disputes, reconciliation, testing/replay and audit support.
- Majority of respondents requested at least a 6 months lead time to change retention period. Only one respondent requested more than 6 months.

AEMO Position

AEMO intends to apply the following retention settings

Area	Retention Period
B2M Inbox archive files for all Trans Groups (CATS/NMID/MDMT)	6* months
B2M Outbox archive files for all Trans Groups (CATS/NMID/MDMT)	
B2B Inbox archive files for all Trans Groups (CUST/SORD/MRSR/MTRD/OWNX/SITE/NPNX)	
B2B Outbox archive files for all Trans Groups (CUST/SORD/MRSR/MTRD/OWNX/SITE/NPNX)	
Message metadata via B2B Browser > Transaction Log	6 months

- AEMO's view is a common 6 months period provides a simpler/consistent outcome rather than varying retention by Trans Group.
- This change is intended to balance participant operational needs with the increasing cost/challenges supporting of archive growth.

*AEMO may support separate regulatory/operational retention requirements outside participant access.

Notice Period & Implementation

Implementation approach

- As requested through participant feedback, AEMO is providing 6 months notice before implementing the change.
- Change is targeted for implementation in Feb-27 with the exact date TBC.
- AEMO will provide further implementation details through industry forums.

Participant actions

- Raise any material concerns with AEMO's proposal by 24-July-26 via nemreform@aemo.com.au

Channels for updates

- NEM Implementation Forum
- B2BWG
- ITWG
- Support Hub bulletin