Transaction Corrections within Riposte based Horizon

The 'Old' Horizon system (pre HNGX) was based upon a product called Riposte. The basic architecture was that each counter had a local database known as a Message store. The data centre had a number of servers known as Correspondence servers, each instance of which managed a subset of the live branch estate.

Correspondence servers contained large Message stores which replicated to and from the set of counters that Correspondence server managed. Thus collectively the central Message stores would contain detail of all branch transactions.

The old Audit system harvested branch transaction data from the Correspondence servers giving it an audit trail of all branch transactions.

The replication process between the Correspondence server message stores and counter message stores was 2-way. So it was possible to inject messages into the central message stores and these would be transmitted to the relevant counter message store. This was the process that was used to effect the equivalent of transaction corrections in old Horizon.

Any such correction entered this was would be recorded with a node Id of the central correspondence server (> 32) and would be included in the standard branch audit trail. Thus they are readily identifiable. Though the same technique was used to transmit other data (e.g. Ref data, and real time banking messages) from the centre to branch.

Any such correction would have been subject of an OCP (Operational change process predating MSCs) Need to find examples of some old OCPs and some view on how often it happened – Steve Parker?

- This technique would typically be used as a last resort to resolve an operational problem
- POL would sign off any OCP so would be aware of how an issue was being resolved
- POL would be responsible for communication any such action with the Post Master

As mentioned above, if this technique was used to resolve an in branch issue, then providing we still hold the audit data for the period in question the 'corrected' data would be available in the branch audit trail.

Unlike the current Transaction Correction tool which restricts the types of corrections that can be made, it was previously possible to inject any sorts of messages into the branch transaction stream.

Alan Holmes

Based upon a conversation with Gareth Jenkins

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