

04 DEC '98 15:28 FROM

TO GRO

P.02/04

**Horizon Release Management****Memorandum**

To: Dave Miller  
John Wheeler  
Simon Rilot  
Dave Parnell  
Peter Jones  
Mike Coombs  
Terry Austin  
Peter Jeram

From: Andrew Simpkins  
Horizon Release Management  
3rd Floor, Terminal House  
52 Grosvenor Gardens  
LONDON SW1W 0AB

Telephone: GRO  
Fax: GRO

Date: 4th December 1998

Copy: John Meagher  
Phil Kennedy  
Bruce McNiven  
Jan Topham

**Horizon Testing and Programme Plan - Current Status**

This memo summarises progress made in the last week, the agreed next steps, and issues for management attention, and highlights the continuing uncertainty between ourselves and Pathway with regard to the testing plan.

**Progress this Week**

As you are aware Horizon, TIP and Pathway have carried out a comprehensive and detailed analysis this week of pinICLs arising from MOR3 and E2E (and outstanding faults from previous phases). We would like to thank Pete Jeram for his active support to this review. I attach a copy of the summary totals and of the full pinICL analysis pack. We are still awaiting feedback from Pathway on the status of some incidents and the pack will need further validation next week. A significant number of incidents have been cleared by Pathway in the 'MOT baseline' codeset which will be available next week, but these need to be confirmed by Horizon/TIP. The number and type of outstanding incidents is nevertheless a serious cause for concern in our view.

Horizon proposes to use the pack as a key control document with Pathway to monitor progress through the remaining testing work, to focus effort, and to provide a firm factual basis for decisions on starting MOT and release authorisation. The document will be centrally maintained and show comments from both Horizon and Pathway on status.

**Next Steps**

We have agreed the following steps with Pathway to take testing forward:

1. Horizon will provide staff to witness the EPOSS Final Pass in order to confirm the closure of faults
2. Horizon and TIP will undertake a planned series of tests, with Pathway support, between now and Christmas to provide an initial assessment of the 'MOT baseline' code, including the area of financial integrity of counter processes and reporting and to provide some initial proving of the revised Pathway/TIP interface processes. This will be done without prejudice to the Horizon proposal that further cycles of pre-proving will need to be run in the New Year prior to MOT

Joint Activity  
Starting Mon 14th.

clean test.  
or some  
parallel repair

04/12/98

Page 1 of 3

04 DEC '98 15:29 FROM

TO GRO

P.03/04

3. TIP will complete testing of their revised interface validation by 14<sup>th</sup> December, which will address problems experienced with item transaction modes
4. TIP staff will participate in the series of targetted tests being arranged with CAPS in the next fortnight in order to check some known BES problems
5. TIP staff will also carry out some checking of results from the TPS Final Pass in order to assess the quality of files being generated for the TIP interface
6. A pre-proving run of office migration processes with live reference data is being arranged for early January covering the new mapping tables, migration specific products, and the improved MiEcco tool.
7. Joint Test activity on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Testing Issues

Since tabling the paper on the 'Key Problem Area Analysis' at the Checkpoint meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November good progress has been made on most of the 9 areas identified. We will reissue this summary next week showing the current action points. Specific concerns that have been confirmed by the pinICL review include:

##### On the TIP interface

- End-of-Day markers - the system is not creating the correct, discrete daily files as per the TIP interface specification if, for whatever reason, the end-of-day process is not run in an outlet
- BES fallback processing - the outputs to TIP do not conform to the specification
- Inconsistencies between the transaction file totals and cash account - some of which may have been due to reference data mapping problems, and Pathway operational errors in the testing environment, but nevertheless have resulted in failed test conditions
- 'Lost' BES transactions on the transactions file
- Empty files being generated for non-automated offices

##### On the Counter

- The counter reports remain a cause for concern but we understand Pathway is focusing more resource on this area
- A number of incidents around stock unit balancing
- The system forces the user to produce 'mandatory reports' even when no relevant transactions have been entered

#### Other Issues

A number of other issues have been identified for resolution as follows:

- cash account balances - following a constructive joint meeting on the reasons for imbalances, Graeme Seedall has an action for POCL to define and agree additional business rules in the event that mapping problems give rise to imbalances in the cash account (which should only be an exceptional circumstance in live running)
- class 'B' reference data - the interface specification for the interim solution is still not agreed but POCL (Phil Kennedy) will be tabling a revised proposal early next week
- code baseline - given the number of changes which it is expected will have to be fast-tracked into the current MOT baseline we believe it will be highly desirable for Pathway to provide a fresh baseline build. We will need to understand the implications of this next build
- 'joint testing' processes - both parties have expressed a willingness to work more closely together on testing. POCL are continuing to take steps to improve their internal co-ordination across Horizon/TIP/HAPS/Reference Data but we need to understand and agree how we can best work with Pathway during the final stages of testing. We are

04 DEC '98 15:29 FROM

TO GRO

P.04/04

concerned, for example, that the 'quasi-live' Pathway support to Model Office around the TIP interface was not as effective as that provided by the systems staff supporting End-to-End. Further and urgent discussion is needed in this area.

#### Impact on Plan

Horizon have tabled a proposed plan for testing based on their current assessment of the time it will take to 'pre-prove' the Pathway solution to a standard that will give sponsors confidence to enter MOT. We do not have however an understanding of Pathway's prognosis for fault clearances which would help inform this assessment nor an alternative proposal from them as to how this confidence could be achieved in a faster timescale. As we have demonstrated this week we are willing to put our resources and efforts into any reasonable activity which will assist Pathway, and POCL, in driving to a successful conclusion of testing. Our position remains, however, that based on the nature of the business processes involved we need to see clear evidence of, firstly, a stable accounting and reconciliation position in the outlet followed, secondly, by the transfer of accurate data across the TIP/HAPS/BES and Reference Data interfaces. This does not prevent us carrying out some of these activities in parallel but there is a fundamental logic in the need for this two step approach which we believe is demonstrated by the testing experience to date. We still therefore propose to work to the plan discussed with Pathway last week while remaining willing to discuss proposals from Pathway which might realistically accelerate progress.

There is an urgent need for us to agree the testing plan, especially in the light of the need to report to Ministers next week and to have a clear plan to propose with BA/CAPS.

Andrew Simpkins  
Horizon Release Management

04/12/98

Page 3 of 3

\*\* TOTAL PAGE.04 \*\*

04/12 '98 16:03

TX/RX NO. 1786

P04