

Parse & Correlate Consultation

Consultation on proposed uplift
to Parse & Correlate Software
components

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on proposals in relation to the provision of the Parse and Correlate Software.

SEC Section H11 requires the Smart DCC (DCC) to develop, maintain and provide support and assistance to DCC Users for the supply of computer software known as the Parse and Correlate Software.

In accordance with SEC Section H11.6 the DCC are required to consult with Users when proposing to develop any version of the Parse and Correlate Software.

Due to the approaching end of support of a Parse and Correlate software component, DCC is seeking views on uplifting the software component (Oracle Java) to a newer version.

1.1. Structure of this document

This document comprises of the following sections:

- Problem Statement.
- Proposals for the uplifting of Oracle Java.
- Summary of the questions asked in this consultation.
- Consultation Process.
- Next steps.

2. Problem Statement

The Parse and Correlate Software's Installation Document defines the software required to successfully install and run Parse and Correlate Software. Within this document, it is stated that the Parse and Correlate software requires an application server to operate the software and in turn, a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) is required to run the application server. The supported JVMs are Oracle Java 7 and OpenJDK and the DCC provided supporting reference Application Servers are for Oracle Java 7.

Oracle Java 7 is now considered to be an older version that has reached the end of its standard support period and is approaching the end of its extended support period. As a result of this, Oracle Java 7 is no longer updated with the latest security patches by Oracle.

Since Oracle Java 7 is no longer officially supported by Oracle (without extended support contract), many open source projects have dropped support for it.

As of July 2022, Oracle Java 7 extended support ends and if no action is taken, DCC will be proving the Parse and Correlate Software to Users using some unsupported underlying software components which adds risk for DCC and Users.

DCC is therefore consulting with DCC Users on the options for removing support for Oracle Java 7 and therefore re-baselining the definition of the software required to successfully install and run Parse and Correlate Software in the associated Installation Document provided to Users.

3. Planning for an Uplift of Oracle Java Version

3.1. Platform Change

Ensuring that all DCC provided software is operating using supported software is important to maintaining the security of the DCC Total System and DCC User Systems.

As **Oracle Java 7** is approaching end-of-life, DCC need to plan for an update to the DCC Parse and Correlate Software to support a newer version of Oracle Java in order to mitigate against any potential security and software development and maintenance risks and ensure that all software is capable of being updated with the latest security patches by their developers.

This issue has been discussed with Users informally as part of the DCC Design Release Forum (DRF) that occurred in May 2021. It was identified that including any Oracle Java version changes as part of the upcoming November 2021 SEC Release which was already built and in test was not practical as there was enough notice of the proposed change for all parties to successfully manage.

3.2. Proposal

DCC propose that following the release of Parse and Correlate Software as part of the November 2021 SEC Release, all future versions of the Parse & Correlate Software will be uplifted to **support a newer version of Oracle Java**. The new Oracle Java version to be supported will be **Oracle Java 8** and support will continue as is for **OpenJDK**.

This means that for releases of Parse & Correlate in 2022 onwards Users will need to ensure that their User environments that operate the Parse & Correlate Software can support a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) running an application server using **Oracle Java 8**.

It should be noted that the DCC is not proposing to mandate that Users implement the new version of the Parse and Correlate Software at the point that it is made available to Users. However, as a general principle the DCC does recommend to all Users that they install and use the latest version of the Parse and Correlate Software as soon as possible to ensure that all Users operate with the latest version including resolutions to all known issues.

Existing versions of Parse & Correlate Software will continue to run in User environments, but Users should note that DCC will not plan to implement any defects fixes to any previous Parse & Correlate Software versions in line with the current release management policy. New functionality and defect fixes will continue to **ONLY** be applied to the latest version of the Parse & Correlate Software.

Q1: Do you agree with the proposed uplift to support a newer version of Oracle Java? Please provide rationale for your views.

3.1. Implementation Approach

DCC propose delivering an updated new Oracle Java 8 version of Parse & Correlate Software as part of the June 2022 SEC Release.

As an alternative DCC could defer the uplift of java until the November '22 SEC Release. Users should note that this delivery date would be after the published extended support date of July

2022, resulting in the DCCs Parse and Correlate version continuing to operate on Oracle Java 7 for a period of 4 months outside of any official software support window.

Q2: Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach of uplifting as part of the June 2022 SEC Release? Please provide rationale for your views.

4. Summary of Consultation Questions

Number	Consultation Questions
Q1	Do you agree with the proposed uplift to support a newer version of Oracle Java? Please provide rationale for your views.
Q2	Do you agree with the proposed implementation approach of uplifting as part of the June 2022 SEC Release? Please provide rationale for your views.

5. Consultation Process

This consultation closes at 17:00 on 5 November 2021. Please email your response to consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

Consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation response to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to BEIS or the Authority, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If BEIS or the Authority receive a request for disclosure of the information we/they will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but we/they cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

If you have any questions in relation to this consultation, please contact regulation@smartdcc.co.uk.

6. Next Steps

Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will consider respondent's views and, subject to the consultation responses received, DCC will create and release a new version of the Parse and Correlate Software that updates the supported Oracle Java version that the DCCs Parse and Correlate software operates with.