CASE STUDY: FILE CLONER

The Client: A UK Big 6 Energy Retailer

The Project: Bulk Change of Agent/Data Migration

Provide parallel receipt of industry messages between existing and new agent to ensure the data migration exercise was carried out in a controlled manner without adversely impacting the daily operations of the retailer and other market participants thereby protecting the integrity of Settlements and the rest of the energy market.

Why File Cloner?

For its ability to seamlessly manage the data handover process from the old agent service provider to the new agent service provider. It allows parallel receipt of data until the new agent has the requisite portfolio of data built up before switching off the old agents' receipt of data.

What is it?

File Cloner works in a similar way to the cc field in an email. File Cloner allows Data Transfer Network Users to send copies of data flows to a secondary destination which might be a different site or simply a different area of the business.

Normal Data Transfer Network processing takes each flow and delivers it to the specified destination. File Cloner is the facility to deliver a duplicate copy of the delivered flow to a second destination.

Where can it best be used?

File Cloner can be used either:

- on a permanent basis e.g. where key data flows need to be processed by multiple agents or multiple parts of a business for instance for the provision of Disaster Recovery support across multiple datacenters or

- on a temporary basis to enable parallel running for instance during change of agent, migration of business from one MPID to another, migrations between IT platforms or even to provide Supplier of last resort services.

Testimony: Utiliteam' s Steve Peters

"During the data migration project that we were helping to manage, the ElectraLink File Cloner was invaluable in the following two ways:

As the Migration Project did not deploy the standard Industry Change of Agent (CoA) process, large weekly migration drops were able to be refreshed prior to "Cutover" by eavesdropping upon BAU (CoS Gain/CoS Loss & Meter Works) traffic between the Supplier and the old service provider.

Eavesdropping upon the BAU traffic gave confidence to the new service provider that they were fully aware of all in-flight transactions prior to "Cutover".

If we were managing a similar Project again, we would have no hesitation in recommending the deployment of the ElectraLink File Cloner service."

ABOUT ELECTRALINK

Thought leaders, innovators and with a proven track record as facilitators in making things happen, ElectraLink was created in 1998 to provide an independent, secure and low cost service to transfer data between the players operating in the deregulated UK electricity industry.

The company operates a state-of-the-art data transfer service which underpins customer switching, meter interoperability and other business processes critical to a competitive energy market. ElectraLink has subsequently diversified successfully into providing gas data transfer and services to support the codes governing the operation of the gas and electricity markets. In 2012 the company was granted permission by its users to provide data analytics and benchmarking on the market data processed by its data transfer network.

We are the only people who do what we do. A truly independent organisation owned by the UK's Electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), ElectraLink has a unique capability to provide energy market data transfer and analytics as we're connected to, and sit at the heart of, the UK energy industry.

For more information, contact: Helpdesk@electralink.co.uk