

**Frequently Asked Questions on Managed File Transfer (MFT)**

**Version 1.0**

**February 2017**

**Document version and change control**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Version no. | Date applicable | Change log |
| 1.0 | February 2017 | Initial publication |

Contents

[MFT – Frequently Asked Questions 3](#_Toc474131511)

[MFT Go-live 3](#_Toc474131512)

[IP Whitelist and Public Keys 3](#_Toc474131513)

[Naming Conventions 4](#_Toc474131514)

[Sending and Receiving Files 4](#_Toc474131515)

[Points of Contact 6](#_Toc474131516)

MFT – Frequently Asked Questions

If your question is not answered below, please do not hesitate to contact the Bank.

In the event of queries related to transmission arrangements queries, the primary point of contact will be the Chief Data Office division of the Bank, via email to BOE\_MFT@bankofengland.co.uk

MFT Go-live

1. The hosts are not accessible over the internet. Do you have any calendar date for the setup of https portal / MFT?

The Bank currently expects the Test and Live MFT environments to be ready for reporter on-boarding by H1 2017.

1. The MFT platform is a web based portal. Is there a piece of Bank developed software that can be downloaded in order to execute uploads / downloads on a reporter’s machine?

The MFT solution is a commercial product that includes SFTP services and HTTPS portal services sharing the same backend data platform. In the short term we will not be switching on the HTTPS portal. None of the platform is based upon bespoke BoE development.

1. Do you have documents to share about the https portal business requirement document?

No, but these will be issued in the future.

IP Whitelist and Public Keys

1. Can a subnet with a mask be used for the IP whitelist?

No, we require specific host IP addresses and not IP ranges. These can be the same or different for UAT and live depending on your infrastructure.

1. Are the public keys and passwords fixed?

No, the public keys will expire annually. The Bank’s stance regarding passwords is not confirmed at this time but they will be subject to expiration. The process for expiration is also yet to be confirmed, however, we are keen to avoid all reporters’ passwords and public keys expiring simultaneously. We will issue firm guidance on this in the future.

Naming Conventions

1. Are there standard outbound naming conventions available?

Naming conventions will be supplied on a per submission type basis as these will vary dependent up submission type.

1. In the case of a .csv file being delivered, does the naming convention of the .csv file differ depending on the type of .csv file?

Naming conventions will be supplied on a per submission type basis however, the metadata will be different depending on that submission type.

Sending and Receiving Files

1. Can we get an Application Programming Interface (API) instead of .txt/.csv files on an SFTP server?

As it stands the SFTP method of machine-to-machine transfer will be the only one the Bank is implementing. API has not been entirely discounted; however, it is not currently in scope of the project.

1. In the event of issues (Bank side or reporter side) what is the alternative to MFT file submission?

Alternative submission methods will be dependent upon the type of submission and will be addressed at this level rather than in the main MFT documentation.

1. Can multiple files be downloaded / uploaded per day?

The system can process multiple files being uploaded or downloaded per day. Responses via the MFT platform with be dependent upon the submission type and the downstream system used to process that data.

1. How are amendments and corrections submitted?

It should be done in the same way you submitted your first submission so via SFTP.

1. For how long will submission files be archived?

All source files will be archived permanently but will not be available to reporters.

1. If a non-supported file (e.g. data.zip) is uploaded, when it is deleted?

It will be deleted at a scheduled time.

1. Does the system prevent the upload of files larger than 20MB?

No, the Bank of England has not restricted the file size of the inbound files, which can be much larger than the 20MB limits imposed by email.

1. When an .xml file has been submitted, how do the .csv and .txt response files relate to it?

There will be metadata in the filename and a reference in the file content.

1. How long do we need to wait for a response after submitting a file?

This is entirely dependent upon the submission type and whether responses are to be generated. This information will be supplied separately on a per submission type basis.

1. Are .part files converted to .xml?

No. Any extension other than those allowed on the platform will be ignored by the solution and purged after a set period of time.

1. What happens after I have submitted a file?

This is dependent upon the submission type however in all cases the files will be processed by appropriate downstream systems at the Bank of England.

1. Can we manually download files?

Yes, if you use the manual download over SFTP process as described in the documentation in Section 8.

1. Can the Bank upload the response files to our servers?

No, the same method is in place for all firms meaning you must manually collect the response files from the Bank as per the instructions document.

Points of Contact

1. Who is the production contact in BOE?

This will continue to be the Chief Data Office which can be contacted directly using email address BOE\_MFT@bankofengland.co.uk.

1. What is the purpose of the user setup email addresses?

Information relating to the MFT account will be sent to these email addresses. It is required as part of the user configuration and needs to be unique to each submission type and environment.