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Announcement of Edition 2.0 and Edition 2.1 Conformance Testing Policy

The UCAIug IEC 61850 Test Procedure Working Group (TPWG) has been actively developing IEC 61850 Edition 2 Amendment 1 (a.k.a. Edition 2.1) conformance test procedures. Normal UCAIug policy would dictate that conformance testing for Edition 2.0 implementations would end January 2022 since IEC views Edition 2.1 as the current Edition 2.0 standard.

There were two important issues and discussions that occurred:

- Several users are in the process of actively requesting Edition 2.0 systems and a quick termination of Edition 2.0 conformance testing would jeopardize these systems and the investment of the users.
- During the development of these tests several changes were discovered between Edition 2 and Edition 2.1 that could potentially break interoperability within a mixed edition system.

Substantial effort has been invested into creating a whitepaper documenting these issues and their potential mitigations. This document is available to UCAIug members at: www.ucaiug.org under Testing/Shared Documents/ApplicationNotes/UCA Update on Edition Compatibility_Final_Draft.pdf.

The following policy attempts to address the needs of the industry while promoting the improvements in Edition 2.1.

The revised policy regarding Edition 2.0 and Edition 2.1 conformance testing follows.

Protecting Users: UCAIug Edition 2.0/2.1 Conformance Testing Policy

UCAIug will be adhering to the following policy (within the current process specified by the IEC 61850 QAP):

- Conformance testing of Edition 2.0 implementation, without testing Edition 2.1, shall be allowed until January 2024.
- UCAIug, Edition 2.1 conformance testing start no later than January 2022. The follow policy will start when Edition 2.1 conformance testing becomes mandatory (e.g. January 2024).
 - A vendor whose implementation has passed Edition 2.1 conformance may request that the implementation also be tested for Edition 2.0 conformance.
 - Should a new amendment to IEC 61850 be published, that amendment's conformance testing, will replace the Edition 2.1 testing if required by the amendment.

- When a new release of IEC 61850 occurs (e.g. Edition 3.0), this policy shall remain in place for the QAP minimum period of ten(10) years or until Edition 4.0 of IEC 61850 occurs (highly unlikely in the next ten years).

The result of this policy is that implementations will be able to be tested for Edition 2.0 conformance at least until 2028 or there have been two new releases of IEC 61850. The caveat is that those implementations must pass Edition 2.1+ conformance prior to being conformance testing for Edition 2.0. This is the preferred methodology to protect users and the industry moving into the future.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at: herb@ucaiug.com.

Sincerely,

Herbert Falk
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