



To SDL Subcommittee **Date** November 11, 2021

From Scott L. Smith **Reference** 21-999/SMA-252 lth
smitty@sae-itc.org
tel +1 443-221-8372

Subject Meeting Announcement
Software Distribution and Loading (SDL) Subcommittee

Co-Chairmen Ted Patmore, Delta Air Lines
Chris Kuske, Teledyne Controls

When January 5, 2022

Meeting Times	US Pacific	US Eastern	Central European
Start	0800	1100	1700
Adjourn	1000	1300	1900

Host This meeting will be 100% virtual. Details to be provided to those who register.

Instruction Please notify ARINC Industry Activities of your intention to attend by registering online at: <http://www.aviation-ia.com/events/>.

The meeting is open to all interested parties. Individuals requesting time on the agenda should contact Scott Smith. Any material to be circulated prior to the meeting should be submitted via e-mail to Scott Smith by **January 1, 2022**.

A detailed agenda will be provided one week prior to the meeting.

Activity Scope The SDL Subcommittee's objective is to develop standards for software distribution and loading. This includes the continued development of high-speed data loaders, high-density storage media, and loading protocols. The SDL Subcommittee prepares and updates standards with definitions for file format, media type, part numbering, distribution, and terminology.

This subcommittee also defines the interfaces between the software data loader and the target hardware. The SDL Subcommittee sets standard formats for Loadable Software Parts (LSPs) so the requirements of configuration management of LSPs may be accomplished.

**Meeting
Objectives**

ARINC Project Paper 8XX: *Target Hardware Design Guidance*

The SDL will continue the development of a new AEEC Project Paper intended to provide design guidance for aircraft components to maximize the potential of modern multicore processors and hardware architecture. See Attachment 1 for more information about APIM 21-003.

Supplement 4 to ARINC 615A: *Software Data Loader Using Ethernet Interface*

The SDL will continue work to add guidance material to ARINC 615A to define best practices about concurrent (parallel) loading to one or more aircraft component targets. See Attachment 2 for more information about APIM 21-004.

Draft APIM: *Airline Software Management Systems*

The SDL will continue discussion of airline software distribution systems and in particular, eEnablement. Provisions for security, safety, and interoperability will be discussed. This project will draw technical material from work produced by APIM 16-015A and ARINC Project Paper 851.

Any other SDL related inputs, comments, or questions should be sent to Scott Smith at smitty@sae-itc.org.

cc

SAI Subcommittee

Attachment 1

ARINC Project Initiation/Modification (APIM)

- 1.0 Name of Proposed Project** **APIM #: 21-003**
ARINC Report 8XX: System Level Guidance for Data Loading Aircraft Components
New standard defining LRU dataloading targets with a focus on behavior, robustness and performance and common challenges
- 1.1 Name of Originator and/or Organization**
Carsten Schweigert, TechSAT GmbH
- 2.0 Subcommittee Assignment and Project Support**
- 2.1 Suggested AEEC Group and Chairman**
Software Distribution and Loading (SDL) Subcommittee
Ted Patmore / Chris Kuske
- 2.2 Support for the Activity (to be expanded)**
Airlines: Delta Air Lines, KLM
Airframe Manufacturers: Boeing, Airbus
Suppliers: TechSAT GmbH, Teledyne Controls, AIT, MBS, Collins Aerospace, GE Aviation, Astronics, Honeywell, Safran, Aero Instruments
Others: TBD
- 2.3 Commitment for Drafting and Meeting Participation (to be expanded)**
Airlines: Delta Air Lines, KLM
Airframe Manufacturers: Boeing, Airbus
Suppliers: TechSAT GmbH, Teledyne Controls, AIT, MBS, Collins Aerospace, GE Aviation, Astronics, Honeywell, Safran, Aero Instruments
Others: TBD
- 2.4 Recommended Coordination with Other Groups**
Liaise and interface with ARINC groups concerned with functional needs/constraints for
- databases,
 - complex platforms as required.
- 3.0 Project Scope (why and when standard is needed)**
This project intends to provide guidance for the implementation of dataloading functions on LRU targets.
Existing, certified targets will not require updates by this standard. The document is focused on improving new target development, as well as design refreshes where commercially and technically appropriate.
Lack of common guidance and commonly formulated design considerations for dealing with typical challenges such as implementing short loading, parallel loading, cross-loading or loading of more complex platforms often create challenges resulting in

- unexpected operational behavior,
- not fully realized performance and violation of expected load times,
- corrupted or inconsistent states of installation,
- as well as inability to reload/recover LRUs after upload failures.

As this function resides within the target LRUs subject to airborne certification processes, incorrect behavior is very costly to correct, and timelines for correction are long, as compared to errata within a dataloader which can be often corrected swiftly.

As an additional opportunity, relevant guidance on target design considerations for integrity check target data security recommendations can be integrated as required.

Scope Targets

- Cost-savings: Common patterns - Description of expected characteristic for commonly encountered performance, robustness and predictability goals intends to enable significant cost-savings for next-generation LRU target loader designs and implementations.
- Reducing incorrect failure behaviors: system-level behavior for common load failures – allowing checklists during design process.
- Performance: optimized load times due to commonly known design tradeoffs.

3.1

Description

ARINC dataloading standards have been implemented and matured well at protocol level between LRUs and airborne and portable data loading systems.

But the behavior as well as performance is largely driven by the conceptual design of the LRU target. Recommended and expected methods for performance/load time enhancements include implementation

- Short loading
- Cross loading
- Parallel loading/cross-loading
- Semantic behavior for software location IDs for software upgrades or replacement and subsequent LSAP config reporting
- Security enhancements
-

This project aims to provide system-level guidance for recommended behavior, tradeoffs and pitfalls to consider when implementing target loaders implementing ARINC protocols for loading ARINC 665 (and ARINC 615) LSAPs.

As a more detailed example, guidance and expected behavior is intended to enable robust design decisions for short loads with regards to

- structuring of the loads,
- and installation/update behavior within the target platform
- ability to replace partially corrupted loads during short loads by subsequent short or full loads as applicable and adequate LRU config management and reporting
- ... for distinctly different loads types such as operating software loads, simple LRU applications, complex LRU applications as well as databases and other loads.

For large software loads, respective design considerations for packaging/partitioning and transfer mechanisms such as parallel loads and crossload are to be included.

Regarding robustness, recommended techniques and behaviors for dealing with load failures (compatibility, memory space, integrity) will be described for design consideration.

3.2 Planned usage of the Envisioned Specification

Note: New airplane programs must be confirmed by manufacturer prior to completing this section.

New aircraft developments planned to use this specification	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Airbus: (aircraft & date)	
Boeing: (aircraft & date)	
Other: (manufacturer, aircraft & date)	
Modification/retrofit requirement	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specify: (aircraft & date)	
Needed for airframe manufacturer or airline project	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specify: (aircraft & date)	
Mandate/regulatory requirement	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Program and date: (program & date)	
Is the activity defining/changing an infrastructure standard?	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Specify (e.g., ARINC 429)	
When is the ARINC standard required?	
_____ (month/year)_____	
What is driving this date? _____ (state reason)_____	
Are 18 months (min) available for standardization work?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>
If NO please specify solution: _____	
Are Patent(s) involved?	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES please describe, identify patent holder: _____	

3.3 Issues to be Worked

The considered topics for design guidance include

Attachment 2

ARINC Project Initiation/Modification (APIM)

- 1.0 Name of Proposed Project** **APIM: 21-004**
This APIM proposes development of the following document:
Supplement 4 to ARINC Report 615A: *Software Data Loader Using Ethernet Interface*
Developing guidance and clarification for methods of concurrent software data loading to multiple targets.
- 1.1 Name of Originator and/or Organization**
Ted Patmore, Delta Air Lines
- 2.0 Subcommittee Assignment and Project Support**
- 2.1 Suggested AEEC Group and Chairman**
Software Distribution and Loading (SDL) Subcommittee
Co-Chairman: Chris Kuske, Teledyne Controls
Co-Chairman: Ted Patmore, Delta Air Lines
- 2.2 Support for the Activity (as verified)**
Airlines: Delta, KLM, FedEx
Airframe Manufacturers: Airbus, Boeing
Suppliers: Honeywell, TechSAT, Safran, Teledyne Controls, mbs Electronics, AIT, Collins Aerospace, Safran, Aero Instruments, Honeywell, GE Aviation
Others:
- 2.3 Commitment for Drafting and Meeting Participation**
Airlines: Delta, KLM, FedEx
Airframe Manufacturers: Airbus, Boeing
Suppliers: Honeywell, TechSAT, Safran, Teledyne Controls, mbs Electronics, AIT, Collins Aerospace, Safran, Aero Instruments, Honeywell, GE Aviation
Others:
- 2.4 Recommended Coordination with Other Groups**
TBD
- 3.0 Project Scope (why and when standard is needed)**
- 3.1 Description**
ARINC 615A defines the standard protocol for loading software to aircraft systems and components. Software loading is performed by communication to specific components (IP load targets).
Many modern system components are organized within an Integrated Modular Avionics (IMA) architecture, where several functions, are contained within one cage or cabinet of computing modules, capable of supporting numerous applications. In many cases, each application is a separate load target, with its

independent ARINC 615A IP address, which may require that all applications must be loaded sequentially, one at a time.

This APIM proposes to standardize parallel loading capability to ARINC 615A, thus decreasing the time needed to load a complete IMA cabinet, other LRUs that contain multiple load targets, or systems that have multiple ARINC 615A load targets accessible by one common ARINC 615A ethernet bus or ARINC 615A over AFDX bus.

Typically, within ARINC 615A, multiple loads to targets that each have unique IP addresses may be implemented using concurrent threads. The loader may keep track of each occurring load event by mapping each target IP within the Trivial File Transfer Protocol (TFTP) software.

Another option possible in ARINC 615A is to use the Port Option which allows the load Target Hardware to have unique IDs by initiating communication with unique target control port numbers. This can be used for multiple load targets where each target has the same IP address, but different port numbers.

An additional option known as multicast may be considered by the SDL WG. This would be used in cases where many software load targets are required to be loaded with the same software.

In summary two, or possibly three types of concurrent software data loading should be clarified:

- Multiple software load targets where each target has a unique IP address.
- Multiple software load targets where each target has the same IP address, but uses a different port number.
- Optional addition of multicast loading method for multiple targets all requiring the same software loaded. (This will be investigated by the WG to form a vision of future use cases).

Another current issue to be worked with the current ARINC 615A document is that there are errata to be incorporated in Section 5 identified that need to be corrected.

3.2 Planned usage of the Envisioned Specification

Note: New airplane programs must be confirmed by manufacturer prior to completing this section.

New aircraft developments planned to use this specification yes no

 Airbus: (aircraft & date)

 Boeing: (aircraft & date)

 Other: (manufacturer, aircraft & date)

Modification/retrofit requirement yes no

 Specify: (aircraft & date)

Needed for airframe manufacturer or airline project yes no

 Specify: (aircraft & date)

Mandate/regulatory requirement yes no

 Program and date: (program & date)

Is the activity defining/changing an infrastructure standard? yes no

 Specify (e.g., ARINC 429)

When is the ARINC standard required? _____

What is driving this date? _____ (state reason) _____

Are 18 months (min) available for standardization work? yes no

 If NO please specify solution: _____

Are Patent(s) involved? yes no

 If YES please describe, identify patent holder: _____

3.3 Issues to be Worked

(Describe the major issues to be addressed.)

- Research known load targets that can benefit from parallel loading
 - (IMA Cabinets and other systems)
- Research and consolidate known probable use cases to determine a unified solution.
- Choose best approach to implement concurrent multiple data path communications based on unified solution requirements.
- Define and outline software protocol modifications required to utilize ARINC 615A
- Maintain backwards compatibility with current ARINC 615A functions.
- Determine if there are two or more methods of concurrent target loading currently in use.
- Review and incorporate errata and editorial into document

3.4 Security Scope

Is Cyber Security Impacted (if yes, check box(es) below) yes no

 Aircraft Control Domain yes no

 Airline Information Services Domain yes no

 PAX Information and Entertainment Systems yes no

 Other _____ yes no

(Discuss the level of cyber security guidance needed, the specific topics to be covered, and whether these topics are covered elsewhere by reference, e.g., ICAO Documents, RTCA/EUROCAE Standards, existing ARINC Standards, or if they need to be defined by a new or revised ARINC Standard.)

4.0 Benefits

4.1 Basic benefits

Operational enhancements yes no

For equipment standards:

(a) Is this a hardware characteristic? yes no

(b) Is this a software characteristic? yes no

(c) Interchangeable interface definition? yes no

(d) Interchangeable function definition? yes no
 If not fully interchangeable, please explain: Backwards Compatible to Single Path of ARINC 615A
 Is this a software interface and protocol standard? yes no
 Specify: Software Loading Protocol
 Product offered by more than one supplier yes no
 Identify: Data Loading Equipment Suppliers

4.2 Specific project benefits (Describe overall project benefits)

4.2.1 Benefits for Airlines

Significant Reduction in ground time required to load software to multiple targets

4.2.2 Benefits for Airframe Manufacturers

Increased efficiency in maintainability in terms of reduced aircraft ground maintenance time.

4.2.3 Benefits for Avionics Equipment Suppliers

Improved software loading time requirements of product.

5.0 Documents to be Produced and Date of Expected Result

The document produced will be Supplement 4 to ARINC Report 615A: *Software Data Loader Using Ethernet Interface*

5.1 Meetings and Expected Document Completion

The following table identifies the number of meetings and proposed meeting days needed to produce the documents described above.

Activity	Mtgs	Mtg-Days (Total)	Expected Start Date	Expected Completion Date
<i>ARINC 615A-4</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2 hours per mtg (48 hours total)</i>	<i>June 2021</i>	<i>April 2023</i>

Please note the number of meetings, the number of meeting days, and the frequency of web conferences to be supported by the IA Staff.

6.0 Comments

The SDL Subcommittee has other APIMs in-work. Work on all projects are done in parallel.

The SDL has monthly web conferences to discuss and modify their assigned projects.

6.1 Expiration Date for the APIM

April 2024

***Completed forms should be submitted to Paul Prisaznuk (pjp@sae-itc.org)
 AEEC Executive Secretary & Program Director***