

香港交易所資訊服務有限公司

(香港交易及結算所有限公司全資附屬公司)

HKEX INFORMATION SERVICES LIMITED

(A wholly-owned subsidiary of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited)

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By Email

Our Ref: MDD/19/445

To: Direct Connection Issuer Information feed Service (“IIS”) Market Data Vendors (collectively “Clients”)

Copy: Indirect Connection IIS Market Data Vendors

Changes to IIS on Unifying Character Encoding and Strengthening Password Requirement

Please be informed that the following changes to IIS will come into effect in late Q2 / early Q3 2019:

1. Unify Character Encoding to Unicode

Character encoding in all IIS headline messages and attachments will be unified to Unicode. This is different than today that both Big5 and Unicode are used for Chinese character encoding.

In order to facilitate testing for this change, a canned data set will be provided in late May / early June 2019.

2. Strengthen Password Requirement

Password requirement of IIS will be strengthened. The table below summarises the existing and new password requirement:

Item	Existing Requirement	New Requirement
Length of password	At least 6 characters Maximum 20 characters	At least 16 characters Maximum 20 characters
Complexity of password	Alphanumeric	Must contain a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Upper case letter- Lower case letter- Number- Special character
Enforce password history	Not the same as any of the last 3 passwords	Not the same as any of the last 5 passwords

The implementation schedule of the mentioned changes is set out as follows:

Activity	Schedule	Remarks
Provision of Canned Data	Late May / Early June 2019	To be provided to Clients who have completed the Online Request Form via this link on or before 17 May 2019 (Friday)
Market Rehearsal (MR)	15 June 2019 (Saturday)	Please complete the Online Test Participation Form to provide us the contact information for mandatory MR via this link on or before 31 May 2019 (Friday); the new password for MR will be sent to the registered contact
Post Release Test (PRT)	Late Q2/ Early Q3 2019*	Please complete the Online Test Participation Form to provide us the contact information for mandatory PRT via this link on or before 21 June 2019 (Friday); the new password for PRT will be sent to the registered contact

* PRT schedule will be available after the completion of the MR

Test details and guidelines for the MR, PRT and production will be provided in early June 2019.

We enclose the following transmission specifications of IIS which have been updated to reflect the aforesaid changes. The changes are summarised in the change history and highlighted with “|” on the right margin in the documents for your easy reference:

- IIS Transmission Specification (version 3.6)
- IIS Transmission Specification (News Headline – version 2.3)

Clients should make the appropriate changes in their systems and ensure that all of the changes are accommodated in their systems before joining the MR.

Should you have any queries, please contact us at (852) 2211 6558 or send your questions to IVSupport@hkex.com.hk.

Arthur Yung
Vice President
Data Connectivity & Support, Market Data
Markets Division

Enclosures: 1) IIS Transmission Specification (version 3.6)
2) IIS Transmission Specification (News Headline – version 2.3)