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CEF eSignature DSS

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Service Offering Description

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APPROACH AND PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The present document is the Service Offering Description (SOD) of the DSS service of the Connecting Europe Facility's (CEF) eSignature building block. Key content includes an explanation of the roles and responsibilities and the process description of eSignature's DSS service.

This document is intended for service providers (e-signature implementers).

Glossary

The key terms used in this Service Offering Description are defined in the CEF Definitions section on the CEF Digital Single Web Portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Definitions>

The key acronyms used in this Service Offering Description are defined in the CEF Glossary on the CEF Digital Single Web Portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?spaceKey=CEFDIGITAL&title=CEF+Glossary>

1. INTRODUCTION

CEF eSignature helps public administrations and businesses to accelerate the creation and verification of electronic signatures. The deployment of solutions based on this building block in a Member State facilitates the mutual recognition and cross-border interoperability of electronic signatures, so that their legal value can be recognised in countries other than the country of origin of the signer.

1.1. Purpose of the service

DSS enables the creation, augmentation and validation of electronic signatures. More information can be found on the CEF portal at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=46992515>

A list of key terminology related to the CEF eSignature DSS is defined in the table below.

| Terminology | Definition |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| DSS | Digital Signature Services |
| QSCD | Qualified signature creation device |
| e-seal | Electronic seal |
| e-signature | Electronic signature |

Table 1 - CEF eSignature DSS Key Terminology

1.2. Users

The CEF eSignature DSS service is intended for the following type of users:

- Service Providers (e-signature implementers)

1.3. Scope

To minimize the risk of market distortion, DSS is provided as an open-source library and not as a ready-to-use tool.

In line, as a reference implementation, with:

- eIDAS Regulation (EU) No 910/2014, and with the eSignature Directive 1999/93/EC and Services Directive 2006/123/EU for legacy;
- Commission Implementing Decisions 2015/1506/EU and 2015/1505/EU;
- Commission Decisions CD 2011/130/EU and CD 2014/148/EU for legacy.

More information on the legal framework can be found on the CEF portal at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/What+is+the+legislation++eSignature>

1.4. Benefits

CEF eSignature's DSS open-source library delivers the following benefits to its users:

- **Open-source software under LGPL 2.1, a non-viral open source license;**
- **Written in Java, guaranteeing portability on numerous platforms;**
- **Interoperability of the e-signatures;**
- **Supports both e-signatures and e-seals;**
- **Validation of countersignatures and multiple signatures;**
- **A flexible library that can be:**
 - Reused in different topologies: in an applet, as a stand-alone application, server-based, or any combination;
 - Can be used in its entirety or on a module-by-module basis;
 - Adapted to numerous usages via configuration files or extension points.
- **Alignment with the eIDAS Regulation and related standards (see scope above);**
- **Supports EU standards on:**
 - Signature formats and packaging methods;
 - Signature validation procedures.
- **Validation relying on Member States' trusted lists:**
 - Status of trust service providers/trust service, compensation of information, path validation.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This section describes the main roles in CEF eSignature's DSS service and their responsibilities.

The following table summarises the split of roles and responsibilities between the different actors in CEF eSignature's DSS process in the form of a RACI matrix where:

- **Responsible (R):** indicates the entities that performs the process-step. Every process-step has at least one responsible entity. Responsibilities can also be shared.
- **Accountable (A):** indicates the entity that is ultimately accountable for the process-step. Every process-step has only one accountable entity.
- **Consulted (C):** indicates the entities that give feedback or are consulted during the process-step. This is a two-way process. Not every process-step has an entity that is being consulted.
- **Informed (I):** indicates the entities that need to be informed on the results of the process-step. This is a one-way process. Not every process-step has an entity that is being informed.

The process is described in detail in Section 3.

| Process/Service | Responsible Entity | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| | Service provider | CEF eSignature |
| Support and maintenance | I | A / R |
| Integration / reuse | A / R | C when required |

Table 2 – CEF eSignature DSS Roles and Responsibilities

2.1. Service Provider (e-Signature implementers)

Role: User of the DSS library

Responsibilities:

- Reuse DSS library and integrate it into e-signature implementation.

2.2. CEF Signature

Role: first-line support / maintenance of DSS library

Responsibilities:

- Assist service provider in the integration.
- Maintain DSS library based on requests from users and defined roadmap.

3. HOW TO USE THE SERVICE STEP BY STEP

This section describes the processes that are part of CEF eSignature's DSS service.

3.1. Step 1: Download DSS library

Purpose: Get the latest version of the DSS library

Actors:

- Service provider (e-signature implementer)

Process:

1. Go to:
<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Start+using+Digital+Signature+Services+%28DSS%29+-+Releases+and+Bitbucket>.
2. Download DSS.
3. In case of questions, ask for support on JIRA:
<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eSignature+Service+desk>

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The general terms and conditions of the CEF Building Blocks can be consulted in the Master Service Arrangement, available on the CEF Digital Single Web Portal:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Operations>

The terms and conditions specific to CEF eSignature's DSS service are described in the table below.

| Term / Condition | Description |
|--|---|
| Open-source software under LGPL 2.1 | https://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/lgpl-2.1.en.html |

Table 3 - CEF eSignature DSS Terms and Conditions

5. ANNEX

Not applicable

6. CONTACT INFORMATION

CEF eSignature Support Team

Support for DSS is provided through JIRA. Questions, issues or feature requests can be posted on:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/tracker/projects/DSS/summary>

For more information on the provided support, refer to:

<https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/eSignature+Service+desk>

For general question on the CEF eSignature building block:

CEF-ESIGNATURE-SUPPORT@ec.europa.eu