FIS

FACILITY INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Rev. 20130304

C-Cure 800 Systems Merge
Guidelines and Best Practices

Overview

The FIS merge service takes two C-Cure 800/8000 systems and combines them together to create a single system. At the start of the process, one system is designated the master or "Base" system; the other the "Source" system. The Source objects and personnel are layered on top of the Base.

Details

At the start of the process, a C-Cure backup is made of both systems. Any changes to the database made after the backups are made will not be reflected in the merged system. It is best to minimize changes, and if changes are required, to record them for later manual entry in the merged system.

The backups are restored to development systems for processing. Non-personnel data is extracted from Source and added to Base. Base objects are not changed. Source object names that already exist in Base are renamed to <old name>$<n>, where n is the lowest number required to make the name unique. Base object_ids are renumbered so that all references are still valid and don't overlap Source.

At this point, Base contains the Base personnel (with original person_ids), Base objects (controllers, doors, inputs, groups, clearances, etc.) unchanged, and Source objects with relocated object_ids. Base does not have Source personnel, operators, and related data such as personnel views, import jobs/templates, and privileges. Since the Base IDs are unchanged, the Base Journal and Audit Trail are still compatible. The Source Journal and Audit Trail are only available on the Source system.

In next step, personnel and card records are exported from both Base and Source and loaded into an external database for processing. The goal is to prepare an import file of Source persons to add/update in Base. The method used to match records depends on how the systems are configured. Often, only Source records with a card assigned are merged. Card number can be used as the match field for this case. Otherwise a unique identifier such as employee # is used. If no match field exists, some records might be duplicated on the merged system and require manual cleanup.

Transactions that modify existing Base records just add clearances to each record. When records are added, all specified fields from Source are added to Base.

Finally, a C-Cure backup of the merged system is restored on the customer production system.

Preparation and Best Practices

1. Before doing the merge, both the Base and Source databases should be cleaned up. Some of the things to do:
    a. Delete any obsolete/unused panels, doors, clearances, groups, time specs, etc.
    b. Delete any obsolete/inactive personnel records
2. Identify objects with duplicate names and rename them. This is especially important for clearances.
3. Determine if any Source personnel fields need to be added to Base. If possible, rename fields so field to be moved from Source to Base have the same name.
4. Populate personnel enumerated fields (pull-down fields) on Base contain all values populated in those fields on Source for each field to be moved.
5. Identify any Source personnel records to exclude from the merge.
6. The 800 is limited to 40 clearances per person. If the merge will result in persons having more than 40, some will need to be removed or consolidated. If possible this consolidation should be done prior to the merge.
7. Since the merged system will contain more clearances and persons, care should be taken regarding controller memory usage, especially for apCs. Some hardware might need to be upgraded.
8. Identify Source controllers and doors to exclude from the merge.
9. The C-Cure license for the merged system often must be updated to reflect the new system size. The new license should be in hand prior to restoring the merged backup.
10. System updates on both Base and Source should be kept to a minimum after the backup are made for the merge. If any door, clearances, personnel, etc. need to be added, try to do this prior to making the backups. Since some changes might be necessary for continued operations, they should be tracked carefully for later manual entry.