

# Network Device Interpretation # 201923

## Challenge-Response for Authentication

**Status:**  *Active*  *Inactive*

**Date:** 10-Dec-2019

**End of proposed Transition Period (to be updated after TR2TD process):** 10-Dec-2019

**Type of Change:**  Immediate application  Minor change  Major change

**Type of Document:**  *Technical Decision*  *Technical Recommendation*

**Approved by:**  *Network iTC Interpretations Team*  *Network iTC*

**Affected Document(s):** *NDcPPv2.1*

**Affected Section(s):** *FCS\_SSHS\_EXT.1*

**Superseded Interpretation(s):** *None*

### Issue:

*Is it permissible to allow a Security Administrator to authenticate by a Challenge-Response method?*

*The Trusted Update process for this vendor requires an "all-powerful Administrator" and the vendor would like to further restrict access to this account.*

*There are two methods to access this Security Administrator account to perform Trusted Updates:*

- 1. Enter the password,*
- 2. Select to authenticate by Challenge-Response.*

*For the second option, the operator would request a challenge be generated by the TOE, the challenge value would then be communicated to authorized personnel of the vendor, who would enter the challenge value into an access-restricted tool to generate the response value. The authorized personnel of the vendor would then communicate the response value to the operator, who would then enter this response value into the TOE CLI to gain access to the Trusted Update service. No services are available to the operator until they have successfully either entered the Security Administrator password or the appropriate challenge-response value.*

### Resolution:

While a challenge-response based authentication could provide a sufficient level of security in general, NDcPP currently does not support the use of challenge-response based administrator authentication. In

case there is a need for support of such an authentication mechanism, a corresponding request should be addressed to the MINT.

**Rationale:**

*Provided in the Resolution section.*

**Further Action:**

*None*

**Action by Network iTC:**

*None*