Grid Solutions
Grid Automation

RPV311   Product Advisory

Date: 21 Jan 2021   **Document No.:** F21-0102

Title: RPV311 Flash Player Plugin

Background:

Adobe Inc. announced obsolescence for its Flash Player plugin, effective from 12th January 2021. Several features of GE's RPV311, which operates via a web interface, make use of the plugin and thereby become inaccessible to customers.

GE has determined a new solution to enable the web services to be accessed, restoring full functionality. This requires actions to be taken by customers, covered in a supplementary procedure to accompany this advisory.

All existing and new users of the RPV311 digital fault recorder should treat implementation of the procedure as mandatory.

Note that the RPV311 system continues to perform its operational duties unaffected, and no recordings will be lost. The limitation until the procedure is implemented concerns manual access to data.

Affected Products:

This issue affects all Multifunctional Digital Fault Recorders of type RPV311 and RPV310.

Symptoms and Root Cause:

The obsolescence of the Flash Player plugin used with the Multifunctional Digital Fault Recorder RPV311 blocks the access to all web interfaces in the device. This affects web monitor, manual triggering, web configuration, and offline configuration services available via the ConfTool software.

All other features related to correct RPV311 operation remain fully functional. Unaffected functions include the following: the record acquisition system including communication with RA33x or sampled values subscription, GOOSE subscription, thresholds and triggering, record generation (fault, disturbance, continuous and steady state), Sequence of Events, PMU and WMU, DNP3/Modbus communication, impedance fault location, Traveling Wave Fault Location, and device management/monitoring using the DRmanager software.

When accessing the RPV311 using a web browser, functions related to web HMI, web configuration, and offline configuration cause error messages to be generated. A typical screenshot such as that shown results.
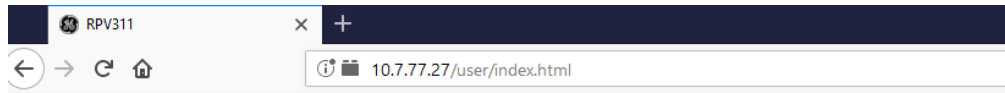

Figure 1 - Example of Flash Player not configured. Access to RPV311 web interface blocked.

The root cause analysis indicates that this issue is due to a security mechanism implemented in the latest Flash Player that after 12th January 2021 started to block access to all paths that are not allowed under a specific configuration file. This requires a security whitelisting procedure to be undertaken.

Recommendations:

For all customers, the recommendation is to implement the procedure titled "How to use Reason RPV311 Web Interface after Flash Player end-of-life," which outlines the steps to enable the necessary paths to unblock the web interface access to your devices and ConfTool software. You can find the procedure here:
https://www.gegridsolutions.com/products/support/application-note-rpv311-flashplayer.pdf

Expiry Date:

The expiry date for this product advisory is December 2023.

For further assistance:

If you need further assistance, please contact the Grid Automation Global Contact Center or your regional contact as mentioned below:

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