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DNAConnect® Customer Communication: Risk Assessment Regarding .fsa/.hid File-Tampering

A disclosure was recently published outlining a vulnerability related to tampering of current .fsa and .hid files commonly used across forensic DNA instrumentation and analysis software.

DNAConnect® establishes its trust boundary when a file is received by the DNAConnect® Data Loader. Once ingested, DNAConnect® preserves the original instrument-generated .fsa and .cmf data unmodified in a dedicated table and records every subsequent change to profile data or metadata in a detailed, administrator-reconstructable audit trail. DNAConnect® also provides controls designed to preserve data integrity and identify changes occurring after ingestion.

DNAConnect® does not execute uploaded forensic data files—including CMF, FSA, EPG, GeneMarker®/GeneMapper™, and Thermo Fisher/ANDE artifacts—as executable code and is therefore not exposed to a code-execution attack via forensic file upload. CMF imports are parsed with protection against XML External Entity (XXE) attacks. Access to uploaded data is controlled through authentication methods and Case Set-scoped authorization.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I stop using DNAConnect®?

No. Customers should evaluate and ensure their organization's established quality assurance, cybersecurity, and evidence management procedures are robust and preclude/detect security breaches and evidence tampering.

Do I need a DNAConnect® software update?

No. SNA International will notify customers directly if that assessment changes.

Does DNAConnect® modify .fsa files?

No. DNAConnect® stores .fsa files as part of supported laboratory workflows. It does not edit, manipulate, or analyze the electropherogram signal data those files contain.

Does DNAConnect® create or generate .fsa or .hid files?

No. Genetic analyzers and their data collection software generate .fsa and .hid files. DNAConnect® manages laboratory workflow and information; it is not involved in generating instrument data files.

Please contact us at DNAConnect@sna-intl.com with any questions.