

Device Authentication System

What is the device authentication system?

DTG Testing's Device Authentication System (DAS) provides a simple, cost-effective and industry-approved mechanism for manufacturers to offer catch-up players such as BBC iPlayer, ITV Player and 4oD on their Freeview HD products¹. DAS enables Freeview HD set-top boxes, digital televisions and digital recorders to identify themselves for internet-based catch-up players. It satisfies the requirements of content owners by verifying that relevant content is only released to a receiver with access to a UK broadcast signal.

60m

60 million. Total Freeview receivers sold in the UK

145m

145 million. A record number of monthly requests for BBC iPlayer programmes

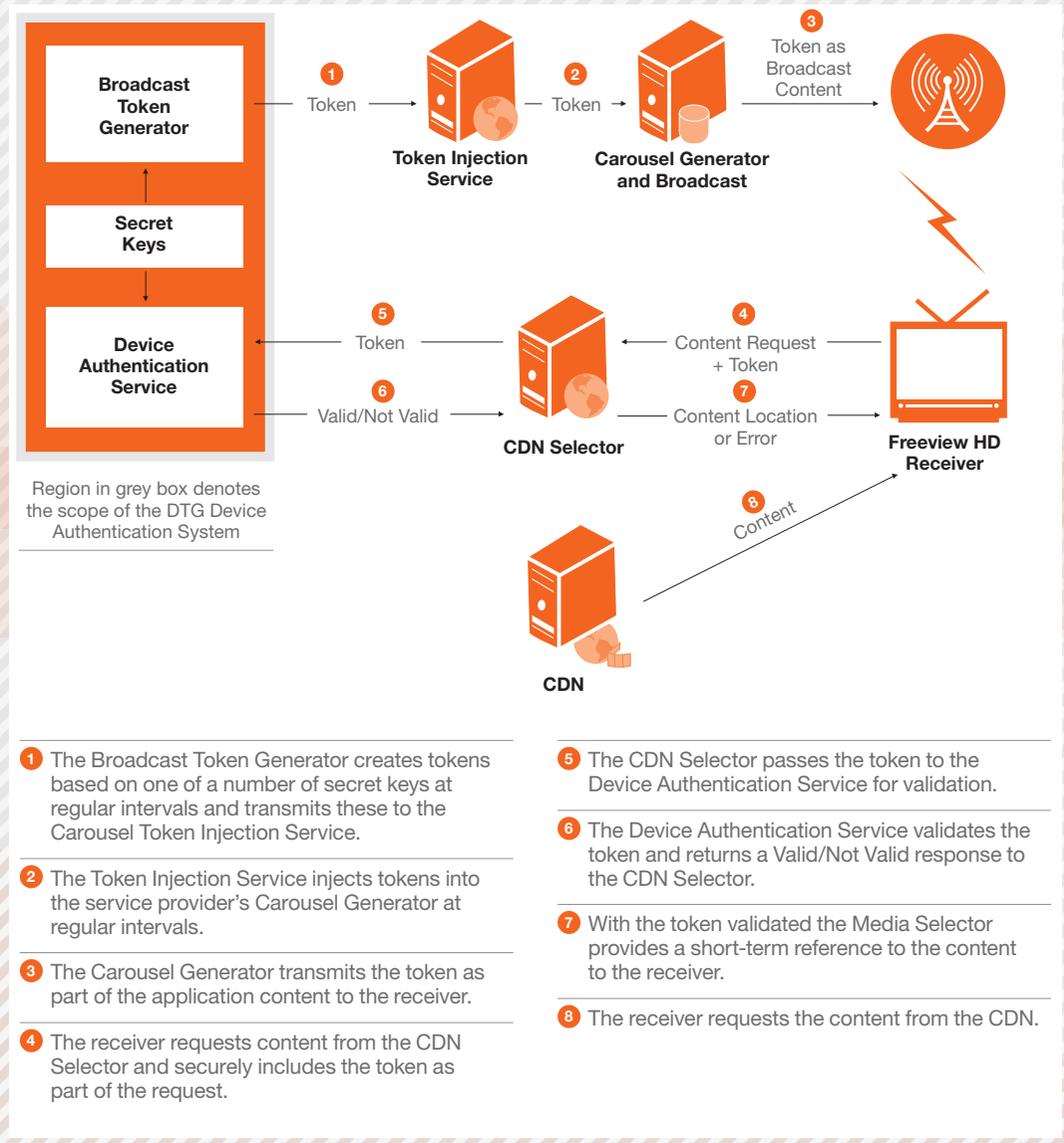
One

One centralised authentication system to allow manufacturers to enable BBC iPlayer and other catch-up players on Freeview HD devices.

Delivering catch-up TV to Freeview HD receivers

DTG Testing's parent company, the Digital TV Group (DTG), works with its membership of over 150 broadcasters, manufacturers and technology providers to publish and maintain the specification for UK digital terrestrial television (Freeview). The sixth edition of the D-Book enabled the launch of free-to-air high definition services using the DVB-T2 standard (Freeview HD).

The D-Book also specifies an MHEG interaction channel capable of delivering catch-up players to Freeview HD via a broadband return path. The seventh edition of the D-Book provides the specification for hybrid broadcast broadband 'Connected TV' products and services. Although DTG Testing's DAS has been designed to work with the MHEG interaction channel specified in D-Book 6 it is not specific to MHEG and will be able to provide device authentication for other technologies such as Connected TV.



¹ At time of publication DTG Testing's DAS system is used for BBC iPlayer. DTG Testing is in discussion with other providers of catch-up players such as ITV Player regarding utilising the DAS system for their services.

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Case Study: BBC iPlayer

The BBC is only able to licence BBC iPlayer to manufacturers that have implemented a system to manage content.

DTG Testing has worked with the BBC to implement a DAS service that allows Freeview HD receivers that are compliant to DTG D-Book 6.2.1 to offer BBC iPlayer using the MHEG interaction channel. The system works by playing out tokens through the BBC's MHEG carousel play-out contractor and validates tokens presented by receivers in the field. DAS includes protection against unregistered organisations attempting to utilise tokens without a DAS agreement in place.

This service is one of the BBC-approved solutions for the protection of content delivered to BBC iPlayer on Freeview HD receivers.

The DTG Testing DAS is available to all manufacturers whose receivers meet D-Book 6.2.1 requirements, and who sign a BBC iPlayer linking agreement with the BBC.

DTG Testing does not make a profit from the BBC iPlayer DAS system but charges a set-up fee and annual service fee to recover the cost of establishing and operating the system.

Why use DTG Testing's DAS?

DTG Testing's DAS system was established following requests to create a single, centralised authentication system to enable manufacturers to offer BBC iPlayer and other catch-up players on Freeview HD devices.

By establishing the DAS, DTG Testing can offer an 'off the shelf' device authentication system for any catch-up player, meaning that manufacturers do not have to develop their own solutions and negotiate individual DAS agreements with providers.

The DAS service pools the cost of developing and implementing the service between all manufacturers using the service, significantly lowering the price of developing and implementing an authentication system.

Pricing

The DTG Testing DAS for the BBC iPlayer costs £2,500 per year for members of the DTG Testing Engineering Channel and £7,500 for non-members. There is a one off set-up fee of £5,000 for both groups.

About DTG Testing

DTG Testing was founded in 2000 and is the UK digital TV industry's interoperability testing house. DTG Testing is a subsidiary of the Digital TV Group, the industry association for digital television in the UK.

DTG Testing is not-for-profit, with all proceeds reinvested in providing world-leading test and conformance services to the digital television industry.

DTG Testing provides the product testing services used by manufacturers to demonstrate conformance to the Freeview, Freeview HD, Freeview New Zealand and Freesat trade marks and the 'digital tick' certification mark.

The Test Centre plays a significant role in the development of the Freeview and Freesat platforms, providing testing services to broadcasters, platform operators and manufacturers and developing test tools with its industry partners.

The Test Centre's receiver 'Zoo' houses the UK's largest collection of representative samples of DTT and D-Sat receivers. The Zoo is used to simulate switchover events and other network changes in a controlled environment and for pre-transmission testing of over-air downloads and interactive applications.

DTG Testing manages the Freeview and Freesat Engineering Channel, which is used by manufacturers to provide over-air downloads to the software in deployed receivers.

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Our services



Test development



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Engineering Channel



Consulting projects



Device authentication



Automated testing



Digital radio testing