GOING BEYOND DEPLOY AND PRAY – APPLICATION RELEASE CYCLES

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Agenda

- Straight to Production
- Template to Production
- Template to Testing
- Versioning
- Frequency and Duration
- Tips and Tricks
- Don'ts and Disasters

Say It Aint So

- Don't make design changes directly into production applications
  - Unless you:
    - A) Enjoy it when Admins scream at you
    - B) Enjoy it when Users scream at you
    - C) Enjoy scrambling to fix things "before anyone notices"
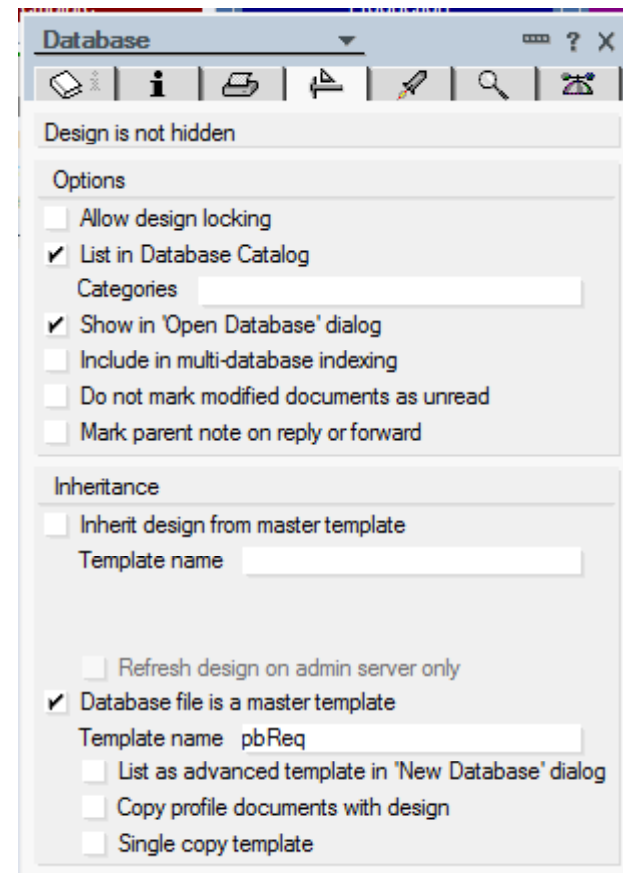   - D) All of the Above

Why Have a Plan?

- Avoids those painful production mistakes
- Reduces frustrating users
- Reduces frustrated Admins
- Aids in avoiding scope creep

Templates

- Domino makes it easy to create templates
- Refresh the design of an application from the template

Don't Be Michael Bolton

Testing on a Sandbox

- Create a sandbox server
  - What to watch out for:
    - User's same roles and groups
    - Replica IDs of other applications
    - Third party tools
- Better yet, ask your Admin to create a sandbox with similar traits as your production server

General Testing

- Volume of documents
- Volume of users
- Dates, dates, dates
- Edge cases
- Test scripts/user testing

Version Control

- Roll your own
  - Different templates
    - Different versions
    - Sampling
  - DXL

Version Control

- Use a tool
  - Teamstudio Build Manager
  - Dploy on OpenNTF
  - Other

Frequency and Duration

- How often to roll out a new release?
  - Lots of features and bug fixes?
  - One at a time?
  - Every 6 months?

Documentation, Documentation, Documentation

- What features were added
- Which bugs were fixed
- Companion applications
- New groups/roles
- New agents

Tips and Tricks

- Simplicity
  - If it isn't easy, you won't do it
- Set up trouble-ticketing/feature request system to convert to "What's New?" list
- Check with your Admin!

Tips and Tricks

- Make the process iterative
  - Gather specs, develop, test, deploy is typical
  - Gather specs, develop, test, review specs, develop, test, develop, test, deploy often a better choice
- Design Modules

Tips and Tricks

- Have a plan or checklist
  - Do keywords need to be added
  - Roles or groups updated
  - Agents run to update docs
  - Agents enabled
  - Design elements signed
  - Last step is to hand off to your admin!

Tips from an Admin

- Include different version numbers in the design template so Admins only change design by choice

- Inform your Admin what you need for agent behavior rather than just setting every agent to run every five minutes

Tips from an Admin

- Tell your Admin if environment variables are being set and why

- Include a document or form in the design which contains a list of changes made in that revision

Don'ts and Disasters

- "I'll just change this one thing directly in production. It's easy."
- Losing track of the changes or most frequent code
- "The users don't need to test, I tested it!"

Questions?

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