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Appian ACD-301

Appian Certified Lead Developer

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Appian Certified Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q38-Q43):

NEW QUESTION # 38

You are reviewing the Engine Performance Logs in Production for a single application that has been live for six months. This application experiences concurrent user activity and has a fairly sustained load during business hours. The client has reported performance issues with the application during business hours. During your investigation, you notice a high Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size value in the logs. You also notice unattended process activities, including timer events and sending notification emails, are taking far longer to execute than normal. The client increased the number of CPU cores prior to the application going live. What is the next recommendation?

- A. Add execution and analytics shards
- B. Add more engine replicas.
- C. Optimize slow-performing user interfaces.
- D. Add more application servers.

Answer: B

NEW QUESTION # 39

You are reviewing the Engine Performance Logs in Production for a single application that has been live for six months. This application experiences concurrent user activity and has a fairly sustained load during business hours. The client has reported performance issues with the application during business hours. During your investigation, you notice a high Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size value in the logs. You also notice unattended process activities, including timer events and sending notification emails, are taking far longer to execute than normal. The client increased the number of CPU cores prior to the application going live. What is the next recommendation?

- A. Add execution and analytics shards
- B. Add more engine replicas.
- C. Optimize slow-performing user interfaces.
- D. Add more application servers.

Answer: B

Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, analyzing Engine Performance Logs to address performance issues in a Production application requires understanding Appian's architecture and the specific metrics described. The scenario indicates a high "Work Queue - Java Work Queue Size," which reflects a backlog of tasks in the Java Work Queue (managed by Appian engines), and delays in unattended process activities (e.g., timer events, email notifications). These symptoms suggest the Appian engines are overloaded, despite the client increasing CPU cores. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Add more engine replicas: This is the correct recommendation. In Appian, engine replicas (part of the Appian Engine cluster) handle process execution, including unattended tasks like timers and notifications. A high Java Work Queue Size indicates the engines are overwhelmed by concurrent activity during business hours, causing delays. Adding more engine replicas distributes the workload, reducing queue size and improving performance for both user-driven and unattended tasks. Appian's documentation recommends scaling engine replicas to handle sustained loads, especially in Production with high concurrency. Since CPU cores were already increased (likely on application servers), the bottleneck is likely the engine capacity, not the servers.

B . Optimize slow-performing user interfaces: While optimizing user interfaces (e.g., SAIL forms, reports) can improve user experience, the scenario highlights delays in unattended activities (timers, emails), not UI performance. The Java Work Queue Size issue points to engine-level processing, not UI rendering, so this doesn't address the root cause. Appian's performance tuning guidelines prioritize engine scaling for queue-related issues, making this a secondary concern.

C . Add more application servers: Application servers handle web traffic (e.g., SAIL interfaces, API calls), not process execution or unattended tasks managed by engines. Increasing application servers would help with UI concurrency but wouldn't reduce the Java Work Queue Size or speed up timer/email processing, as these are engine responsibilities. Since the client already increased CPU cores (likely on application servers), this is redundant and unrelated to the issue.

D . Add execution and analytics shards: Execution shards (for process data) and analytics shards (for reporting) are part of Appian's data fabric for scalability, but they don't directly address engine workload or Java Work Queue Size. Shards optimize data storage and query performance, not real-time process execution. The logs indicate an engine bottleneck, not a data storage issue, so this isn't relevant. Appian's documentation confirms shards are for long-term scaling, not immediate performance fixes.

Conclusion: Adding more engine replicas (A) is the next recommendation. It directly resolves the high Java Work Queue Size and delays in unattended tasks, aligning with Appian's architecture for handling concurrent loads in Production. This requires collaboration with system administrators to configure additional replicas in the Appian cluster.

Appian Documentation: "Engine Performance Monitoring" (Java Work Queue and Scaling Replicas).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Performance Optimization Module (Engine Scaling Strategies).

Appian Best Practices: "Managing Production Performance" (Work Queue Analysis).

NEW QUESTION # 40

Your Appian project just went live with the following environment setup: DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD. Your client is considering adding a support team to manage production defects and minor enhancements, while the original development team focuses on Phase 2. Your client is asking you for a new environment strategy that will have the least impact on Phase 2 development work. Which option involves the lowest additional server cost and the least code retrofit effort?

- A. Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT) > STAGE (UAT) > PROD
- B. Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT) > STAGE (UAT) > PROD
- **C. Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD**
- D. Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

The goal is to design an environment strategy that minimizes additional server costs and code retrofit effort while allowing the support team to manage production defects and minor enhancements without disrupting the Phase 2 development team. The current setup (DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD) uses a single development and testing pipeline, and the client wants to segregate support activities from Phase 2 development. Appian's Environment Management Best Practices emphasize scalability, cost efficiency, and minimal refactoring when adjusting environments.

Option C (Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD; Production support work stream: DEV > TEST2 (SIT/UAT) > PROD):

This option is the most cost-effective and requires the least code retrofit effort. It leverages the existing DEV environment for both teams but introduces a separate TEST2 environment for the support team's SIT/UAT activities. Since DEV is already shared, no new development server is needed, minimizing server costs. The existing code in DEV and TEST can be reused for TEST2 by exporting and importing packages, with minimal adjustments (e.g., updating environment-specific configurations). The Phase 2 team continues using the original TEST environment, avoiding disruption. Appian supports multiple test environments branching from a single DEV, and the PROD environment remains shared, aligning with the client's goal of low impact on Phase 2. The support team can handle defects and enhancements in TEST2 without interfering with development workflows.

Option A (Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT) > STAGE (UAT) > PROD; Production support work stream: DEV > TEST2 (SIT/UAT) > PROD):

This introduces a STAGE environment for UAT in the Phase 2 stream, adding complexity and potentially requiring code updates to accommodate the new environment (e.g., adjusting deployment scripts). It also requires a new TEST2 server, increasing costs compared to Option C, where TEST2 reuses existing infrastructure.

Option B (Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT) > STAGE (UAT) > PROD; Production support work stream: DEV2 > STAGE (SIT/UAT) > PROD):

This option adds both a DEV2 server for the support team and a STAGE environment, significantly increasing server costs. It also requires refactoring code to support two development environments (DEV and DEV2), including duplicating or synchronizing objects, which is more effort than reusing a single DEV.

Option D (Phase 2 development work stream: DEV > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD; Production support work stream: DEV2 > TEST (SIT/UAT) > PROD):

This introduces a DEV2 server for the support team, adding server costs. Sharing the TEST environment between teams could lead to conflicts (e.g., overwriting test data), potentially disrupting Phase 2 development. Code retrofit effort is higher due to managing two DEV environments and ensuring TEST compatibility.

Cost and Retrofit Analysis:

Server Cost: Option C avoids new DEV or STAGE servers, using only an additional TEST2, which can often be provisioned on existing hardware or cloud resources with minimal cost. Options A, B, and D require additional servers (TEST2, DEV2, or STAGE), increasing expenses.

Code Retrofit: Option C minimizes changes by reusing DEV and PROD, with TEST2 as a simple extension. Options A and B require updates for STAGE, and C and D involve managing multiple DEV environments, necessitating more significant refactoring. Appian's recommendation for environment strategies in such scenarios is to maximize reuse of existing infrastructure and avoid unnecessary environment proliferation, making Option C the optimal choice.

NEW QUESTION # 41

You are planning a strategy around data volume testing for an Appian application that queries and writes to a MySQL database. You have administrator access to the Appian application and to the database. What are two key considerations when designing a data volume testing strategy?

- A. Large datasets must be loaded via Appian processes.
- B. The amount of data that needs to be populated should be determined by the project sponsor and the stakeholders based on their estimation.
- C. Data model changes must wait until towards the end of the project.
- D. Testing with the correct amount of data should be in the definition of done as part of each sprint.
- E. Data from previous tests needs to remain in the testing environment prior to loading prepopulated data.

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

Data volume testing ensures an Appian application performs efficiently under realistic data loads, especially when interacting with external databases like MySQL. As an Appian Lead Developer with administrative access, the focus is on scalability, performance, and iterative validation. The two key considerations are:

Option C (The amount of data that needs to be populated should be determined by the project sponsor and the stakeholders based on their estimation):

Determining the appropriate data volume is critical to simulate real-world usage. Appian's Performance Testing Best Practices recommend collaborating with stakeholders (e.g., project sponsors, business analysts) to define expected data sizes based on production scenarios. This ensures the test reflects actual requirements-like peak transaction volumes or record counts-rather than arbitrary guesses. For example, if the application will handle 1 million records in production, stakeholders must specify this to guide test data preparation.

Option D (Testing with the correct amount of data should be in the definition of done as part of each sprint):

Appian's Agile Development Guide emphasizes incorporating performance testing (including data volume) into the Definition of Done (DoD) for each sprint. This ensures that features are validated under realistic conditions iteratively, preventing late-stage performance issues. With admin access, you can query/write to MySQL and assess query performance or write latency with the specified data volume, aligning with Appian's recommendation to "test early and often." Option A (Data from previous tests needs to remain in the testing environment prior to loading prepopulated data): This is impractical and risky. Retaining old test data can skew results, introduce inconsistencies, or violate data integrity (e.g., duplicate keys in MySQL). Best practices advocate for a clean, controlled environment with fresh, prepopulated data per test cycle.

Option B (Large datasets must be loaded via Appian processes): While Appian processes can load data, this is not a requirement. With database admin access, you can use SQL scripts or tools like MySQL Workbench for faster, more efficient data population, bypassing Appian process overhead. Appian documentation notes this as a preferred method for large datasets.

Option E (Data model changes must wait until towards the end of the project): Delaying data model changes contradicts Agile principles and Appian's iterative design approach. Changes should occur as needed throughout development to adapt to testing insights, not be deferred.

NEW QUESTION # 42

You are in a backlog refinement meeting with the development team and the product owner. You review a story for an integration involving a third-party system. A payload will be sent from the Appian system through the integration to the third-party system. The story is 21 points on a Fibonacci scale and requires development from your Appian team as well as technical resources from the third-party system. This item is crucial to your project's success. What are the two recommended steps to ensure this story can be developed effectively?

- A. Identify subject matter experts (SMEs) to perform user acceptance testing (UAT).
- B. Break down the item into smaller stories.
- C. Acquire testing steps from QA resources.
- D. Maintain a communication schedule with the third-party resources.

Answer: B,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

This question involves a complex integration story rated at 21 points on the Fibonacci scale, indicating significant complexity and effort. Appian Lead Developer best practices emphasize effective collaboration, risk mitigation, and manageable development scopes for such scenarios. The two most critical steps are:

Option C (Maintain a communication schedule with the third-party resources):

Integrations with third-party systems require close coordination, as Appian developers depend on external teams for endpoint specifications, payload formats, authentication details, and testing support. Establishing a regular communication schedule ensures alignment on requirements, timelines, and issue resolution. Appian's Integration Best Practices documentation highlights the importance of proactive communication with external stakeholders to prevent delays and misunderstandings, especially for critical

project components.

Option D (Break down the item into smaller stories):

A 21-point story is considered large by Agile standards (Fibonacci scale typically flags anything above 13 as complex). Appian's Agile Development Guide recommends decomposing large stories into smaller, independently deliverable pieces to reduce risk, improve testability, and enable iterative progress. For example, the integration could be split into tasks like designing the payload structure, building the integration object, and testing the connection-each manageable within a sprint. This approach aligns with the principle of delivering value incrementally while maintaining quality.

Option A (Acquire testing steps from QA resources): While QA involvement is valuable, this step is more relevant during the testing phase rather than backlog refinement or development preparation. It's not a primary step for ensuring effective development of the story.

Option B (Identify SMEs for UAT): User acceptance testing occurs after development, during the validation phase. Identifying SMEs is important but not a key step in ensuring the story is developed effectively during the refinement and coding stages.

By choosing C and D, you address both the external dependency (third-party coordination) and internal complexity (story size), ensuring a smoother development process for this critical integration.

NEW QUESTION # 43

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