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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Project and Resource Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Agile Project Leads and covers interpreting business requirements, recommending design options, and leading Agile teams through technical delivery. It also involves governance, and process standardization.

Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Data Architects and covers analyzing, designing, and securing data models. Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of how to use Appian's data fabric and manage data migrations. The focus is on ensuring performance in high-volume data environments, solving data-related issues, and implementing advanced database features effectively.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending Appian: This section of the exam measures skills of Integration Specialists and covers building and troubleshooting advanced integrations using connected systems and APIs. Candidates are expected to work with authentication, evaluate plug-ins, develop custom solutions when needed, and utilize document generation options to extend the platform's capabilities.
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform Management: This section of the exam measures skills of Appian System Administrators and covers the ability to manage platform operations such as deploying applications across environments, troubleshooting platform-level issues, configuring environment settings, and understanding platform architecture. Candidates are also expected to know when to involve Appian Support and how to adjust admin console configurations to maintain stability and performance.

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q40-Q45):

NEW QUESTION # 40

You are developing a case management application to manage support cases for a large set of sites. One of the tabs in this application's site is a record grid of cases, along with information about the site corresponding to that case. Users must be able to filter cases by priority level and status.

You decide to create a view as the source of your entity-backed record, which joins the separate case/site tables (as depicted in the following image).

□ Which three columns should be indexed?

- A. priority
- B. name
- C. status
- D. site_id
- E. modified_date
- F. case_id

Answer: A,C,D

Explanation:

Indexing columns can improve the performance of queries that use those columns in filters, joins, or order by clauses. In this case, the columns that should be indexed are site_id, status, and priority, because they are used for filtering or joining the tables. Site_id is used to join the case and site tables, so indexing it will speed up the join operation. Status and priority are used to filter the cases by the user's input, so indexing them will reduce the number of rows that need to be scanned. Name, modified_date, and case_id do not need to be indexed, because they are not used for filtering or joining. Name and modified_date are only used for displaying information in the record grid, and case_id is only used as a unique identifier for each record. Verified Reference: Appian Records Tutorial, Appian Best Practices As an Appian Lead Developer, optimizing a database view for an entity-backed record grid requires indexing columns frequently used in queries, particularly for filtering and joining. The scenario involves a record grid displaying cases with site information, filtered by "priority level" and "status," and joined via the site_id foreign key. The image shows two tables (site and case) with a relationship via site_id. Let's evaluate each column based on Appian's performance best practices and query patterns:

A . site_id:

This is a primary key in the site table and a foreign key in the case table, used for joining the tables in the view. Indexing site_id in the case table (and ensuring it's indexed in site as a PK) optimizes JOIN operations, reducing query execution time for the record grid. Appian's documentation recommends indexing foreign keys in large datasets to improve query performance, especially for entity-backed records. This is critical for the join and must be included.

B . status:

Users filter cases by "status" (a varchar column in the case table). Indexing status speeds up filtering queries (e.g., WHERE status = 'Open') in the record grid, particularly with large datasets. Appian emphasizes indexing columns used in WHERE clauses or filters to enhance performance, making this a key column for optimization. Since status is a common filter, it's essential.

C . name:

This is a varchar column in the site table, likely used for display (e.g., site name in the grid). However, the scenario doesn't mention filtering or sorting by name, and it's not part of the join or required filters. Indexing name could improve searches if used, but it's not a priority given the focus on priority and status filters. Appian advises indexing only frequently queried or filtered columns to avoid unnecessary overhead, so this isn't necessary here.

D . modified_date:

This is a date column in the case table, tracking when cases were last updated. While useful for sorting or historical queries, the scenario doesn't specify filtering or sorting by modified_date in the record grid. Indexing it could help if used, but it's not critical for the current requirements. Appian's performance guidelines prioritize indexing columns in active filters, making this lower priority than site_id, status, and priority.

E . priority:

Users filter cases by "priority level" (a varchar column in the case table). Indexing priority optimizes filtering queries (e.g., WHERE priority = 'High') in the record grid, similar to status. Appian's documentation highlights indexing columns used in WHERE clauses for entity-backed records, especially with large datasets. Since priority is a specified filter, it's essential to include.

F . case_id:

This is the primary key in the case table, already indexed by default (as PKs are automatically indexed in most databases). Indexing it again is redundant and unnecessary, as Appian's Data Store configuration relies on PKs for unique identification but doesn't require additional indexing for performance in this context. The focus is on join and filter columns, not the PK itself.

Conclusion: The three columns to index are A (site_id), B (status), and E (priority). These optimize the JOIN (site_id) and filter performance (status, priority) for the record grid, aligning with Appian's recommendations for entity-backed records and large datasets. Indexing these columns ensures efficient querying for user filters, critical for the application's performance.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Performance Best Practices for Data Stores" (Indexing Strategies).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Data Management Module (Optimizing Entity-Backed Records).

Appian Best Practices: "Working with Large Data Volumes" (Indexing for Query Performance).

NEW QUESTION # 41

You have 5 applications on your Appian platform in Production. Users are now beginning to use multiple applications across the platform, and the client wants to ensure a consistent user experience across all applications.

You notice that some applications use rich text, some use section layouts, and others use box layouts. The result is that each application has a different color and size for the header.

What would you recommend to ensure consistency across the platform?

- A. Create constants for text size and color, and update each section to reference these values.
- B. In each individual application, create a rule that can be used for section headers, and update each application to reference its respective rule.
- C. In the common application, create one rule for each application, and update each application to reference its respective rule.
- D. In the common application, create a rule that can be used across the platform for section headers, and update each application to reference this new rule.

Answer: D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, ensuring a consistent user experience across multiple applications on the Appian platform involves centralizing reusable components and adhering to Appian's design governance principles. The client's concern about inconsistent headers (e.g., different colors, sizes, layouts) across applications using rich text, section layouts, and box layouts requires a scalable, maintainable solution. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Create constants for text size and color, and update each section to reference these values:

Using constants (e.g., cons!TEXT_SIZE and cons!HEADER_COLOR) is a good practice for managing values, but it doesn't

address layout consistency (e.g., rich text vs. section layouts vs. box layouts). Constants alone can't enforce uniform header design across applications, as they don't encapsulate layout logic (e.g., `a!sectionLayout()` vs. `a!richTextDisplayField()`). This approach would require manual updates to each application's components, increasing maintenance overhead and still risking inconsistency. Appian's documentation recommends using rules for reusable UI components, not just constants, making this insufficient.

B . In the common application, create a rule that can be used across the platform for section headers, and update each application to reference this new rule:

This is the best recommendation. Appian supports a "common application" (often called a shared or utility application) to store reusable objects like expression rules, which can define consistent header designs (e.g., `rule!CommonHeader(size: "LARGE", color: "PRIMARY")`). By creating a single rule for headers and referencing it across all 5 applications, you ensure uniformity in layout, color, and size (e.g., using `a!sectionLayout()` or `a!boxLayout()` consistently). Appian's design best practices emphasize centralizing UI components in a common application to reduce duplication, enforce standards, and simplify maintenance—perfect for achieving a consistent user experience.

C . In the common application, create one rule for each application, and update each application to reference its respective rule: This approach creates separate header rules for each application (e.g., `rule!App1Header`, `rule!App2Header`), which contradicts the goal of consistency. While housed in the common application, it introduces variability (e.g., different colors or sizes per rule), defeating the purpose. Appian's governance guidelines advocate for a single, shared rule to maintain uniformity, making this less efficient and unnecessary.

D . In each individual application, create a rule that can be used for section headers, and update each application to reference its respective rule:

Creating separate rules in each application (e.g., `rule!App1Header` in App 1, `rule!App2Header` in App 2) leads to duplication and inconsistency, as each rule could differ in design. This approach increases maintenance effort and risks diverging styles, violating the client's requirement for a "consistent user experience." Appian's best practices discourage duplicating UI logic, favoring centralized rules in a common application instead.

Conclusion: Creating a rule in the common application for section headers and referencing it across the platform (B) ensures consistency in header design (color, size, layout) while minimizing duplication and maintenance. This leverages Appian's application architecture for shared objects, aligning with Lead Developer standards for UI governance.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Designing for Consistency Across Applications" (Common Application Best Practices).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: UI Design Module (Reusable Components and Rules).

Appian Best Practices: "Maintaining User Experience Consistency" (Centralized UI Rules).

The best way to ensure consistency across the platform is to create a rule that can be used across the platform for section headers. This rule can be created in the common application, and then each application can be updated to reference this rule. This will ensure that all of the applications use the same color and size for the header, which will provide a consistent user experience.

The other options are not as effective. Option A, creating constants for text size and color, and updating each section to reference these values, would require updating each section in each application. This would be a lot of work, and it would be easy to make mistakes. Option C, creating one rule for each application, would also require updating each application. This would be less work than option A, but it would still be a lot of work, and it would be easy to make mistakes. Option D, creating a rule in each individual application, would not ensure consistency across the platform. Each application would have its own rule, and the rules could be different. This would not provide a consistent user experience.

Best Practices:

When designing a platform, it is important to consider the user experience. A consistent user experience will make it easier for users to learn and use the platform.

When creating rules, it is important to use them consistently across the platform. This will ensure that the platform has a consistent look and feel.

When updating the platform, it is important to test the changes to ensure that they do not break the user experience.

NEW QUESTION # 42

You are just starting with a new team that has been working together on an application for months. They ask you to review some of their views that have been degrading in performance. The views are highly complex with hundreds of lines of SQL. What is the first step in troubleshooting the degradation?

- A. Browse through the tables, note any tables that contain a large volume of null values, and work with your team to plan for table restructure.
- B. Run an explain statement on the views, identify critical areas of improvement that can be remediated without business knowledge.
- C. Go through all of the tables one by one to identify which of the grouped by, ordered by, or joined keys are currently indexed.
- D. Go through the entire database structure to obtain an overview, ensure you understand the business needs, and then normalize the tables to optimize performance.

Answer: B

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: Troubleshooting performance degradation in complex SQL views within an Appian application requires a systematic approach. The views, described as having hundreds of lines of SQL, suggest potential issues with query execution, indexing, or join efficiency. As a new team member, the first step should focus on quickly identifying the root cause without overhauling the system prematurely. Appian's Performance Troubleshooting Guide and database optimization best practices provide the framework for this process.

* Option B (Run an explain statement on the views, identify critical areas of improvement that can be remediated without business knowledge): This is the recommended first step. Running an EXPLAIN statement (or equivalent, such as EXPLAIN PLAN in some databases) analyzes the query execution plan, revealing details like full table scans, missing indices, or inefficient joins. This technical analysis can identify immediate optimization opportunities (e.g., adding indices or rewriting subqueries) without requiring business input, allowing you to address low-hanging fruit quickly. Appian encourages using database tools to diagnose performance issues before involving stakeholders, making this a practical starting point as you familiarize yourself with the application.

* Option A (Go through the entire database structure to obtain an overview, ensure you understand the business needs, and then normalize the tables to optimize performance): This is too broad and time-consuming as a first step. Understanding business needs and normalizing tables are valuable but require collaboration with the team and stakeholders, delaying action. It's better suited for a later phase after initial technical analysis.

* Option C (Go through all of the tables one by one to identify which of the grouped by, ordered by, or joined keys are currently indexed): Manually checking indices is useful but inefficient without first knowing which queries are problematic. The EXPLAIN statement provides targeted insights into index usage, making it a more direct initial step than a manual table-by-table review.

* Option D (Browse through the tables, note any tables that contain a large volume of null values, and work with your team to plan for table restructure): Identifying null values and planning restructures is a long-term optimization strategy, not a first step. It requires team input and may not address the immediate performance degradation, which is better tackled with query-level diagnostics.

Starting with an EXPLAIN statement allows you to gather data-driven insights, align with Appian's performance troubleshooting methodology, and proceed with informed optimizations.

References: Appian Documentation - Performance Troubleshooting Guide, Appian Lead Developer Training

- Database Optimization, MySQL/PostgreSQL Documentation - EXPLAIN Statement.

NEW QUESTION # 43

You are required to configure a connection so that Jira can inform Appian when specific tickets change (using a webhook). Which three required steps will allow you to connect both systems?

- A. Create an integration object from Appian to Jira to periodically check the ticket status.
- B. Create a new API Key and associate a service account.
- C. Give the service account system administrator privileges.
- D. Configure the connection in Jira specifying the URL and credentials.
- E. Create a Web API object and set up the correct security.

Answer: B,D,E

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: Configuring a webhook connection from Jira to Appian requires setting up a mechanism for Jira to push ticket change notifications to Appian in real-time.

This involves creating an endpoint in Appian to receive the webhook and configuring Jira to send the data.

Appian's Integration Best Practices and Web API documentation provide the framework for this process.

* Option A (Create a Web API object and set up the correct security): This is a required step. In Appian, a Web API object serves as the endpoint to receive incoming webhook requests from Jira. You must define the API structure (e.g., HTTP method, input parameters) and configure security (e.g., basic authentication, API key, or OAuth) to validate incoming requests. Appian recommends using a service account with appropriate permissions to ensure secure access, aligning with the need for a controlled webhook receiver.

* Option B (Configure the connection in Jira specifying the URL and credentials): This is essential.

In Jira, you need to set up a webhook by providing the Appian Web API's URL (e.g., <https://<appian-site>/suite/webapi/<web-api-name>>) and the credentials or authentication method (e.g., API key or basic auth) that match the security setup in Appian. This ensures Jira can successfully send ticket change events to Appian.

* Option C (Create a new API Key and associate a service account): This is necessary for secure authentication. Appian recommends using an API key tied to a service account for webhook integrations. The service account should have permissions to process the incoming data (e.g., write to a process or data store) but not excessive privileges. This step complements the Web API security setup and Jira configuration.

* Option D (Give the service account system administrator privileges): This is unnecessary and insecure. System administrator

privileges grant broad access, which is overkill for a webhook integration. Appian's security best practices advocate for least-privilege principles, limiting the service account to the specific objects or actions needed (e.g., executing the Web API).

* Option E (Create an integration object from Appian to Jira to periodically check the ticket status). This is incorrect for a webhook scenario. Webhooks are push-based, where Jira notifies Appian of changes. Creating an integration object for periodic polling (pull-based) is a different approach and not required for the stated requirement of Jira informing Appian via webhook.

These three steps (A, B, C) establish a secure, functional webhook connection without introducing unnecessary complexity or security risks.

References: Appian Documentation - Web API Configuration, Appian Integration Best Practices - Webhooks, Appian Lead Developer Training - External System Integration.

The three required steps that will allow you to connect both systems are:

* A. Create a Web API object and set up the correct security. This will allow you to define an endpoint in Appian that can receive requests from Jira via webhook. You will also need to configure the security settings for the Web API object, such as authentication method, allowed origins, and access control.

* B. Configure the connection in Jira specifying the URL and credentials. This will allow you to set up a webhook in Jira that can send requests to Appian when specific tickets change. You will need to specify the URL of the Web API object in Appian, as well as any credentials required for authentication.

* C. Create a new API Key and associate a service account. This will allow you to generate a unique token that can be used for authentication between Jira and Appian. You will also need to create a service account in Appian that has permissions to access or update data related to Jira tickets.

The other options are incorrect for the following reasons:

* D. Give the service account system administrator privileges. This is not required and could pose a security risk, as giving system administrator privileges to a service account could allow it to perform actions that are not related to Jira tickets, such as modifying system settings or accessing sensitive data.

* E. Create an integration object from Appian to Jira to periodically check the ticket status. This is not required and could cause unnecessary overhead, as creating an integration object from Appian to Jira would involve polling Jira for ticket status changes, which could consume more resources than using webhook notifications. Verified References: Appian Documentation, section "Web API" and "API Keys".

NEW QUESTION # 44

You need to design a complex Appian integration to call a RESTful API. The RESTful API will be used to update a case in a customer's legacy system.

What are three prerequisites for designing the integration?

- A. Define the HTTP method that the integration will use.
- B. Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits.
- C. Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model.
- D. Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data.
- E. Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian.

Answer: A,B,E

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, designing a complex integration to a RESTful API for updating a case in a legacy system requires a structured approach to ensure reliability, performance, and alignment with business needs. The integration involves sending a JSON payload (implied by the context) and handling responses, so the focus is on technical and functional prerequisites. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Define the HTTP method that the integration will use:

This is a primary prerequisite. RESTful APIs use HTTP methods (e.g., POST, PUT, GET) to define the operation here, updating a case likely requires PUT or POST. Appian's Connected System and Integration objects require specifying the method to configure the HTTP request correctly. Understanding the API's method ensures the integration aligns with its design, making this essential for design. Appian's documentation emphasizes choosing the correct HTTP method as a foundational step.

B . Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits:

This is also critical. The JSON payload for updating a case includes fields (e.g., text, dates, numbers), and the API expects a specific structure with field types (e.g., string, integer) and limits (e.g., max length, size constraints). In Appian, the Integration object requires a dictionary or CDT to construct the body, and mismatches (e.g., wrong types, exceeding limits) cause errors (e.g., 400 Bad Request). Appian's best practices mandate understanding the API schema to ensure data compatibility, making this a key prerequisite.

C . Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model:

While knowing the context (interface vs. process model) is useful for design (e.g., synchronous vs. asynchronous calls), it's not a

prerequisite for the integration itself—it's a usage consideration. Appian supports integrations in both contexts, and the integration's design (e.g., HTTP method, body) remains the same. This is secondary to technical API details, so it's not among the top three prerequisites.

D . Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian:

This is essential. RESTful APIs return HTTP status codes (e.g., 200 OK, 400 Bad Request, 500 Internal Server Error), and the customer's API likely documents these for failure scenarios (e.g., invalid data, server issues). Appian's Integration objects can handle errors via error mappings or process models, and understanding these codes ensures robust error handling (e.g., retry logic, user notifications). Appian's documentation stresses error handling as a core design element for reliable integrations, making this a primary prerequisite.

E . Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data:

While business rules (e.g., validating case data before sending) are important for the overall application, they aren't a prerequisite for designing the integration itself—they're part of the application logic (e.g., process model or interface). The integration focuses on technical interaction with the API, not business validation, which can be handled separately in Appian. This is a secondary concern, not a core design requirement for the integration.

Conclusion: The three prerequisites are A (define the HTTP method), B (understand the body content and limits), and D (understand error codes and handling). These ensure the integration is technically sound, compatible with the API, and resilient to errors-critical for a complex RESTful API integration in Appian.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Designing REST Integrations" (HTTP Methods, Request Body, Error Handling).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (Prerequisites for Complex Integrations).

Appian Best Practices: "Building Reliable API Integrations" (Payload and Error Management).

To design a complex Appian integration to call a RESTful API, you need to have some prerequisites, such as:

Define the HTTP method that the integration will use. The HTTP method is the action that the integration will perform on the API, such as GET, POST, PUT, PATCH, or DELETE. The HTTP method determines how the data will be sent and received by the API, and what kind of response will be expected.

Understand the content of the expected body, including each field type and their limits. The body is the data that the integration will send to the API, or receive from the API, depending on the HTTP method. The body can be in different formats, such as JSON, XML, or form data. You need to understand how to structure the body according to the API specification, and what kind of data types and values are allowed for each field.

Understand the different error codes managed by the API and the process of error handling in Appian. The error codes are the status codes that indicate whether the API request was successful or not, and what kind of problem occurred if not. The error codes can range from 200 (OK) to 500 (Internal Server Error), and each code has a different meaning and implication. You need to understand how to handle different error codes in Appian, and how to display meaningful messages to the user or log them for debugging purposes.

The other two options are not prerequisites for designing the integration, but rather considerations for implementing it.

Understand whether this integration will be used in an interface or in a process model. This is not a prerequisite, but rather a decision that you need to make based on your application requirements and design. You can use an integration either in an interface or in a process model, depending on where you need to call the API and how you want to handle the response. For example, if you need to update a case in real-time based on user input, you may want to use an integration in an interface. If you need to update a case periodically based on a schedule or an event, you may want to use an integration in a process model.

Understand the business rules to be applied to ensure the business logic of the data. This is not a prerequisite, but rather a part of your application logic that you need to implement after designing the integration. You need to apply business rules to validate, transform, or enrich the data that you send or receive from the API, according to your business requirements and logic. For example, you may need to check if the case status is valid before updating it in the legacy system, or you may need to add some additional information to the case data before displaying it in Appian.

NEW QUESTION # 45

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