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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	• 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	• Application Design and Development: This section of the exam measures skills of Lead Appian Developers and covers the design and development of applications that meet user needs using Appian functionality. It includes designing for consistency, reusability, and collaboration across teams. Emphasis is placed on applying best practices for building multiple, scalable applications in complex environments.
Topic 3	• 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	• 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 5	• 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.

Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q39-Q44):

NEW QUESTION # 39
As part of an upcoming release of an application, a new nullable field is added to a table that contains customer data. The new field is used by a report in the upcoming release and is calculated using data from another table.
Which two actions should you consider when creating the script to add the new field?

- A. Create a script that adds the field and then populates it.
- B. Create a rollback script that clears the data from the field.
- C. Create a rollback script that removes the field.
- D. Create a script that adds the field and leaves it null.
- E. Add a view that joins the customer data to the data used in calculation.

Answer: A,C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:As an Appian Lead Developer, adding a new nullable field to a database table for an upcoming release requires careful planning to ensure data integrity, report functionality, and rollback capability. The field is used in a report and calculated from another table, so the script must handle both deployment and potential reversibility. Let's evaluate each option:
* A. Create a script that adds the field and leaves it null:Adding a nullable field and leaving it null is technically feasible (e.g., using ALTER TABLE ADD COLUMN in SQL), but it doesn't address the report's need for calculated data. Since the field is used in a report and calculated from another table, leaving it null risks incomplete or incorrect reporting until populated, delaying functionality. Appian's data management best practices recommend populating data during deployment for immediate usability, making this insufficient as a standalone action.
* B. Create a rollback script that removes the field:This is a critical action. In Appian, database changes (e.g., adding a field) must

be reversible in case of deployment failure or rollback needs (e.g., during testing or PROD issues). A rollback script that removes the field (e.g., ALTER TABLE DROP COLUMN) ensures the database can return to its original state, minimizing risk. Appian's deployment guidelines emphasize rollback scripts for schema changes, making this essential for safe releases.
* C. Create a script that adds the field and then populates it:This is also essential. Since the field is nullable, calculated from another table, and used in a report, populating it during deployment ensures immediate functionality. The script can use SQL(e.g., UPDATE table SET new_field = (SELECT calculated_value FROM other_table WHERE condition)) to populate data, aligning with Appian's data fabric principles for maintaining data consistency. Appian's documentation recommends populating new fields during deployment for reporting accuracy, making this a key action.
* D. Create a rollback script that clears the data from the field:Clearing data (e.g., UPDATE table SET new_field = NULL) is less effective than removing the field entirely. If the deployment fails, the field's existence with null values could confuse reports or processes, requiring additional cleanup. Appian's rollback strategies favor reverting schema changes completely (removing the field) rather than leaving it with nulls, making this less reliable and unnecessary compared to B.
* E. Add a view that joins the customer data to the data used in calculation:Creating a view (e.g., CREATE VIEW customer_report AS SELECT ... FROM customer_table JOIN other_table ON ...) is useful for reporting but isn't a prerequisite for adding the field. The scenario focuses on the field addition and population, not reporting structure. While a view could optimize queries, it's a secondary step, not a primary action for the script itself. Appian's data modeling best practices suggest views as post-deployment optimizations, not script requirements.
Conclusion: The two actions to consider are B (create a rollback script that removes the field) and C (create a script that adds the field and then populates it). These ensure the field is added with data for immediate report usability and provide a safe rollback option, aligning with Appian's deployment and data management standards for schema changes.
References:
* Appian Documentation: "Database Schema Changes" (Adding Fields and Rollback Scripts).
* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Data Management Module (Schema Deployment Strategies).
* Appian Best Practices: "Managing Data Changes in Production" (Populating and Rolling Back Fields).

NEW QUESTION # 40
You have an active development team (Team A) building enhancements for an application (App X) and are currently using the TEST environment for User Acceptance Testing (UAT).
A separate operations team (Team B) discovers a critical error in the Production instance of App X that they must remediate. However, Team B does not have a hotfix stream for which to accomplish this. The available environments are DEV, TEST, and PROD.
Which risk mitigation effort should both teams employ to ensure Team A's capital project is only minorly interrupted, and Team B's critical fix can be completed and deployed quickly to end users?

- A. Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly.
- B. Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release.
- C. Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes.
- D. Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:
As an Appian Lead Developer, managing concurrent development and operations (hotfix) activities across limited environments (DEV, TEST, PROD) requires minimizing disruption to Team A's enhancements while ensuring Team B's critical fix reaches PROD quickly. The scenario highlights no hotfix stream, active UAT in TEST, and a critical PROD issue, necessitating a strategic approach.
Let's evaluate each option:
A . Team B must communicate to Team A which component will be addressed in the hotfix to avoid overlap of changes. If overlap exists, the component must be versioned to its PROD state before being remediated and deployed, and then versioned back to its latest development state. If overlap does not exist, the component may be remediated and deployed without any version changes: This is the best approach. It ensures collaboration between teams to prevent conflicts, leveraging Appian's version control (e.g., object versioning in Appian Designer). Team B identifies the critical component, checks for overlap with Team A's work, and uses

versioning to isolate changes. If no overlap exists, the hotfix deploys directly; if overlap occurs, versioning preserves Team A's work, allowing the hotfix to deploy and then reverting the component for Team A's continuation. This minimizes interruption to Team A's UAT, enables rapid PROD deployment, and aligns with Appian's change management best practices.
B . Team A must analyze their current codebase in DEV to merge the hotfix changes into their latest enhancements. Team B is then required to wait for the hotfix to follow regular deployment protocols from DEV to the PROD environment:
This delays Team B's critical fix, as regular deployment (DEV → TEST → PROD) could take weeks, violating the need for "quick deployment to end users." It also risks introducing Team A's untested enhancements into the hotfix, potentially destabilizing PROD. Appian's documentation discourages mixing development and hotfix workflows, favoring isolated changes for urgent fixes, making this inefficient and risky.
C . Team B must address changes in the TEST environment. These changes can then be tested and deployed directly to PROD. Once the deployment is complete, Team B can then communicate their changes to Team A to ensure they are incorporated as part of the next release:
Using TEST for hotfix development disrupts Team A's UAT, as TEST is already in use for their enhancements. Direct deployment from TEST to PROD skips DEV validation, increasing risk, and doesn't address overlap with Team A's work. Appian's deployment guidelines emphasize separate streams (e.g., hotfix streams) to avoid such conflicts, making this disruptive and unsafe.
D . Team B must address the changes directly in PROD. As there is no hotfix stream, and DEV and TEST are being utilized for active development, it is best to avoid a conflict of components. Once Team A has completed their enhancements work, Team B can update DEV and TEST accordingly:
Making changes directly in PROD is highly discouraged in Appian due to lack of testing, version control, and rollback capabilities, risking further instability. This violates Appian's Production governance and security policies, and delays Team B's updates until Team A finishes, contradicting the need for a "quick deployment." Appian's best practices mandate using lower environments for changes, ruling this out.
Conclusion: Team B communicating with Team A, versioning components if needed, and deploying the hotfix (A) is the risk mitigation effort. It ensures minimal interruption to Team A's work, rapid PROD deployment for Team B's fix, and leverages Appian's versioning for safe, controlled changes-aligning with Lead Developer standards for multi-team coordination.
Reference:
Appian Documentation: "Managing Production Hotfixes" (Versioning and Change Management).
Appian Lead Developer Certification: Application Management Module (Hotfix Strategies).
Appian Best Practices: "Concurrent Development and Operations" (Minimizing Risk in Limited Environments).

NEW QUESTION # 41
As part of your implementation workflow, users need to retrieve data stored in a third-party Oracle database on an interface. You need to design a way to query this information.
How should you set up this connection and query the data?

- A. Configure a timed utility process that queries data from the third-party database daily, and stores it in the Appian business database. Then use a!queryEntity using the Appian data source to retrieve the data.
- B. Configure an expression-backed record type, calling an API to retrieve the data from the third-party database. Then, use a!queryRecordType to retrieve the data.
- C. In the Administration Console, configure the third-party database as a "New Data Source." Then, use a!queryEntity to retrieve the data.
- D. Configure a Query Database node within the process model. Then, type in the connection information, as well as a SQL query to execute and return the data in process variables.

Answer: C

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:
As an Appian Lead Developer, designing a solution to query data from a third-party Oracle database for display on an interface requires secure, efficient, and maintainable integration. The scenario focuses on real-time retrieval for users, so the design must leverage Appian's data connectivity features. Let's evaluate each option:
A . Configure a Query Database node within the process model. Then, type in the connection information, as well as a SQL query to execute and return the data in process variables:
The Query Database node (part of the Smart Services) allows direct SQL execution against a database, but it requires manual connection details (e.g., JDBC URL, credentials), which isn't scalable or secure for Production. Appian's documentation discourages using Query Database for ongoing integrations due to maintenance overhead, security risks (e.g., hardcoding credentials), and lack of governance. This is better for one-off tasks, not real-time interface queries, making it unsuitable.
B . Configure a timed utility process that queries data from the third-party database daily, and stores it in the Appian business database. Then use a!queryEntity using the Appian data source to retrieve the data:
This approach syncs data daily into Appian's business database (e.g., via a timer event and Query Database node), then queries it

with a!queryEntity. While it works for stale data, it introduces latency (up to 24 hours) for users, which doesn't meet real-time needs on an interface. Appian's best practices recommend direct data source connections for up-to-date data, not periodic caching, unless latency is acceptable-making this inefficient here.
C . Configure an expression-backed record type, calling an API to retrieve the data from the third-party database. Then, use a!queryRecordType to retrieve the data:
Expression-backed record types use expressions (e.g., a!httpQuery()) to fetch data, but they're designed for external APIs, not direct database queries. The scenario specifies an Oracle database, not an API, so this requires building a custom REST service on the Oracle side, adding complexity and latency. Appian's documentation favors Data Sources for database queries over API calls when direct access is available, making this less optimal and over-engineered.
D . In the Administration Console, configure the third-party database as a "New Data Source." Then, use a!queryEntity to retrieve the data:
This is the best choice. In the Appian Administration Console, you can configure a JDBC Data Source for the Oracle database, providing connection details (e.g., URL, driver, credentials). This creates a secure, managed connection for querying via a!queryEntity, which is Appian's standard function for Data Store Entities. Users can then retrieve data on interfaces using expression-backed records or queries, ensuring real-time access with minimal latency. Appian's documentation recommends Data Sources for database integrations, offering scalability, security, and governance-perfect for this requirement.
Conclusion: Configuring the third-party database as a New Data Source and using a!queryEntity (D) is the recommended approach. It provides direct, real-time access to Oracle data for interface display, leveraging Appian's native data connectivity features and aligning with Lead Developer best practices for third-party database integration.
Reference:
Appian Documentation: "Configuring Data Sources" (JDBC Connections and a!queryEntity).
Appian Lead Developer Certification: Data Integration Module (Database Query Design).
Appian Best Practices: "Retrieving External Data in Interfaces" (Data Source vs. API Approaches).

NEW QUESTION # 42
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. In the common application, create one rule for each application, and update each application to reference its respective rule.
- 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.
- C. Create constants for text size and color, and update each section to reference these values.
- D. In each individual application, create a rule that can be used for section headers, and update each application to reference its respective rule.

Answer: B

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.
References:
* 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 # 43
You need to connect Appian with LinkedIn to retrieve personal information about the users in your application. This information is considered private, and users should allow Appian to retrieve their information. Which authentication method would you recommend to fulfill this request?

- A. Basic Authentication with user's login information
- B. API Key Authentication
- C. Basic Authentication with dedicated account's login information
- D. OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant

Answer: D

Explanation:
Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:As an Appian Lead Developer, integrating with an external system like LinkedIn to retrieve private user information requires a secure, user-consented authentication method that aligns with Appian's capabilities and industry standards. The requirement specifies that users must explicitly allow Appian to access their private data, which rules out methods that don't involve user authorization. Let's evaluate each option based on Appian's official documentation and LinkedIn's API requirements:
* A. API Key Authentication:API Key Authentication involves using a single static key to authenticate requests. While Appian supports this method via Connected Systems (e.g., HTTP Connected System with an API key header), it's unsuitable here. API keys authenticate the application, not the user, and don't provide a mechanism for individual user consent. LinkedIn's API for private data (e.g., profile information) requires per-user authorization, which API keys cannot facilitate. Appian documentation notes that API keys are best for server-to-server communication without user context, making this option inadequate for the requirement.
* B. Basic Authentication with user's login information:This method uses a username and password (typically base64-encoded) provided by each user. In Appian, Basic Authentication is supported in Connected Systems, but applying it here would require users to input their LinkedIn credentials directly into Appian. This is insecure, impractical, and against LinkedIn's security policies, as it

exposes user passwords to the application. Appian Lead Developer best practices discourage storing or handling user credentials directly due to security risks (e.g., credential leakage) and maintenance challenges.
Moreover, LinkedIn's API doesn't support Basic Authentication for user-specific data access-it requires OAuth 2.0. This option is not viable.
* C. Basic Authentication with dedicated account's login information:This involves using a single, dedicated LinkedIn account's credentials to authenticate all requests. While technically feasible in Appian's Connected System (using Basic Authentication), it fails to meet the requirement that "users should allow Appian to retrieve their information." A dedicated account would access data on behalf of all users without their individual consent, violating privacy principles and LinkedIn's API terms.
LinkedIn restricts such approaches, requiring user-specific authorization for private data. Appian documentation advises against blanket credentials for user-specific integrations, making this option inappropriate.
* D. OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant:This is the recommended choice. OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Grant, supported natively in Appian's Connected System framework, is designed for scenarios where users must authorize an application (Appian) to access their private data on a third-party service (LinkedIn). In this flow, Appian redirects users to LinkedIn's authorization page, where they grant permission. Upon approval, LinkedIn returns an authorization code, which Appian exchanges for an access token via the Token Request Endpoint. This token enables Appian to retrieve private user data (e.
g., profile details) securely and per user. Appian's documentation explicitly recommends this method for integrations requiring user consent, such as LinkedIn, and provides tools like a!authorizationLink() to handle authorization failures gracefully. LinkedIn's API (e.g., v2 API) mandates OAuth 2.0 for personal data access, aligning perfectly with this approach.
Conclusion: OAuth 2.0: Authorization Code Grant (D) is the best method. It ensures user consent, complies with LinkedIn's API requirements, and leverages Appian's secure integration capabilities. In practice, you'd configure a Connected System in Appian with LinkedIn's Client ID, Client Secret, Authorization Endpoint (e.
g., https://www.linkedin.com/oauth/v2/authorization), and Token Request Endpoint (e.g., https://www.
linkedin.com/oauth/v2/accessToken), then use an Integration object to call LinkedIn APIs with the access token. This solution is scalable, secure, and aligns with Appian Lead Developer certification standards for third-party integrations.
References:
* Appian Documentation: "Setting Up a Connected System with the OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Grant" (Connected Systems).
* Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (OAuth 2.0 Configuration and Best Practices).
* LinkedIn Developer Documentation: "OAuth 2.0 Authorization Code Flow" (API Authentication Requirements).

NEW QUESTION # 44
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