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1 / 18

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Appian ACD301 Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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.

Topic 2	<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 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactively Design for Scalability and Performance: This section of the exam measures skills of Application Performance Engineers and covers building scalable applications and optimizing Appian components for performance. It includes planning load testing, diagnosing performance issues at the application level, and designing systems that can grow efficiently without sacrificing reliability.

>> Lab ACD301 Questions <<

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Appian Lead Developer Sample Questions (Q12-Q17):

NEW QUESTION # 12

For each requirement, match the most appropriate approach to creating or utilizing plug-ins. Each approach will be used once.
 Note: To change your responses, you may deselect your response by clicking the blank space at the top of the selection list.

Answer:

Explanation:

□ Explanation:

* Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes. # Smart Service plug-in

* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to see where a customer (stored within Appian) is located. # Web-content field

* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to select where a customer is located and store the selected address in Appian. # Component plug-in

* Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users. # Function plug-in Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth

Explanation: Appian plug-ins extend functionality by integrating custom Java code into the platform. The four approaches- Web-content field, Component plug-in, Smart Service plug-in, and Function plug-in-serve distinct purposes, and each requirement must be matched to the most appropriate one based on its use case. Appian's Plug-in Development Guide provides the framework for these decisions.

* Read barcode values from images containing barcodes and QR codes # Smart Service plug-in:

This requirement involves processing image data to extract barcode or QR code values, a task that typically occurs within a process model (e.g., as part of a workflow). A Smart Service plug-in is ideal because it allows custom Java logic to be executed as a node in a process, enabling the decoding of images and returning the extracted values to Appian. This approach integrates seamlessly with Appian's process automation, making it the best fit for data extraction tasks.

* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to see where a customer (stored within Appian) is located # Web-content field:

This requires embedding an external mapping interface (e.g., Google Maps) within an Appian interface.

A Web-content field is the appropriate choice, as it allows you to embed HTML, JavaScript, or iframe content from an external source directly into an Appian form or report. This approach is lightweight and does not require custom Java development, aligning with Appian's recommendation for displaying external content without interactive data storage.

* Display an externally hosted geolocation/mapping application's interface within Appian to allow users of Appian to select where a customer is located and store the selected address in Appian # Component plug-in: This extends the previous requirement by adding interactivity (selecting an address) and data storage. A Component plug-in is suitable because it enables the creation of a custom interface component (e.g., a map selector) that can be embedded in Appian interfaces. The plug-in can handle user interactions, communicate with the external mapping service, and update Appian data stores, offering a robust solution for interactive external integrations.

* Generate a barcode image file based on values entered by users # Function plug-in: This involves generating an image file dynamically based on user input, a task that can be executed within an expression or interface. A Function plug-in is the best match, as it allows custom Java logic to be called as an expression function (e.g., `pluginGenerateBarcode(value)`), returning the generated image. This approach is efficient for single-purpose operations and integrates well with Appian's expression-based design.

Matching Rationale:

* Each approach is used once, as specified, covering the spectrum of plug-in types: Smart Service for process-level tasks, Web-content field for static external display, Component plug-in for interactive components, and Function plug-in for expression-level operations.

* Appian's plug-in framework discourages overlap (e.g., using a Smart Service for display or a Component for process tasks), ensuring the selected matches align with intended use cases.

References: Appian Documentation - Plug-in Development Guide, Appian Interface Design Best Practices, Appian Lead Developer Training - Custom Integrations.

NEW QUESTION # 13

An existing integration is implemented in Appian. Its role is to send data for the main case and its related objects in a complex JSON to a REST API, to insert new information into an existing application. This integration was working well for a while. However, the customer highlighted one specific scenario where the integration failed in Production, and the API responded with a 500 Internal Error code. The project is in Post-Production Maintenance, and the customer needs your assistance. Which three steps should you take to troubleshoot the issue?

- A. Ensure there were no network issues when the integration was sent.
- B. Obtain the JSON sent to the API and validate that there is no difference between the expected JSON format and the sent one.
- C. Send the same payload to the test API to ensure the issue is not related to the API environment.
- D. Analyze the behavior of subsequent calls to the Production API to ensure there is no global issue, and ask the customer to analyze the API logs to understand the nature of the issue.
- E. Send a test case to the Production API to ensure the service is still up and running.

Answer: B,C,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer in a Post-Production Maintenance phase, troubleshooting a failed integration (HTTP 500 Internal Server Error) requires a systematic approach to isolate the root cause—whether it's Appian-side, API-side, or environmental. A 500 error typically indicates an issue on the server (API) side, but the developer must confirm Appian's contribution and collaborate with the customer. The goal is to select three steps that efficiently diagnose the specific scenario while adhering to Appian's best practices. Let's evaluate each option:

A . Send the same payload to the test API to ensure the issue is not related to the API environment:

This is a critical step. Replicating the failure by sending the exact payload (from the failed Production call) to a test API environment helps determine if the issue is environment-specific (e.g., Production-only configuration) or inherent to the payload/API logic.

Appian's Integration troubleshooting guidelines recommend testing in a non-Production environment first to isolate variables. If the test API succeeds, the Production environment or API state is implicated; if it fails, the payload or API logic is suspect. This step leverages Appian's Integration object logging (e.g., request/response capture) and is a standard diagnostic practice.

B . Send a test case to the Production API to ensure the service is still up and running:

While verifying Production API availability is useful, sending an arbitrary test case risks further Production disruption during maintenance and may not replicate the specific scenario. A generic test might succeed (e.g., with simpler data), masking the issue tied to the complex JSON. Appian's Post-Production guidelines discourage unnecessary Production interactions unless replicating the exact failure is controlled and justified. This step is less precise than analyzing existing behavior (C) and is not among the top three priorities.

C . Analyze the behavior of subsequent calls to the Production API to ensure there is no global issue, and ask the customer to analyze the API logs to understand the nature of the issue:

This is essential. Reviewing subsequent Production calls (via Appian's Integration logs or monitoring tools) checks if the 500 error is isolated or systemic (e.g., API outage). Since Appian can't access API server logs, collaborating with the customer to review their logs is critical for a 500 error, which often stems from server-side exceptions (e.g., unhandled data). Appian Lead Developer

training emphasizes partnership with API owners and using Appian's Process History or Application Monitoring to correlate failures-making this a key troubleshooting step.

D . Obtain the JSON sent to the API and validate that there is no difference between the expected JSON format and the sent one: This is a foundational step. The complex JSON payload is central to the integration, and a 500 error could result from malformed data (e.g., missing fields, invalid types) that the API can't process. In Appian, you can retrieve the sent JSON from the Integration object's execution logs (if enabled) or Process Instance details. Comparing it against the API's documented schema (e.g., via Postman or API specs) ensures Appian's output aligns with expectations. Appian's documentation stresses validating payloads as a first-line check for integration failures, especially in specific scenarios.

E . Ensure there were no network issues when the integration was sent:

While network issues (e.g., timeouts, DNS failures) can cause integration errors, a 500 Internal Server Error indicates the request reached the API and triggered a server-side failure-not a network issue (which typically yields 503 or timeout errors). Appian's Connected System logs can confirm HTTP status codes, and network checks (e.g., via IT teams) are secondary unless connectivity is suspected. This step is less relevant to the 500 error and lower priority than A, C, and D.

Conclusion: The three best steps are A (test API with same payload), C (analyze subsequent calls and customer logs), and D (validate JSON payload). These steps systematically isolate the issue-testing Appian's output (D), ruling out environment-specific problems (A), and leveraging customer insights into the API failure (C). This aligns with Appian's Post-Production Maintenance strategies: replicate safely, analyze logs, and validate data.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Troubleshooting Integrations" (Integration Object Logging and Debugging).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Integration Module (Post-Production Troubleshooting).

Appian Best Practices: "Handling REST API Errors in Appian" (500 Error Diagnostics).

NEW QUESTION # 14

You are the lead developer for an Appian project, in a backlog refinement meeting. You are presented with the following user story: "As a restaurant customer, I need to be able to place my food order online to avoid waiting in line for takeout." Which two functional acceptance criteria would you consider 'good'?

- A. The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed.
- B. The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day.
- C. The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields.
- D. The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history.

Answer: C,D

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation:

As an Appian Lead Developer, defining "good" functional acceptance criteria for a user story requires ensuring they are specific, testable, and directly tied to the user's need (placing an online food order to avoid waiting in line). Good criteria focus on functionality, usability, and reliability, aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices. Let's evaluate each option:

A . The user will click Save, and the order information will be saved in the ORDER table and have audit history:

This is a "good" criterion. It directly validates the core functionality of the user story-placing an order online. Saving order data in the ORDER table (likely via a process model or Data Store Entity) ensures persistence, and audit history (e.g., using Appian's audit logs or database triggers) tracks changes, supporting traceability and compliance. This is specific, testable (e.g., verify data in the table and logs), and essential for the user's goal, aligning with Appian's data management and user experience guidelines.

B . The user will receive an email notification when their order is completed:

While useful, this is a "nice-to-have" enhancement, not a core requirement of the user story. The story focuses on placing an order online to avoid waiting, not on completion notifications. Email notifications add value but aren't essential for validating the primary functionality. Appian's user story best practices prioritize criteria tied to the main user need, making this secondary and not "good" in this context.

C . The system must handle up to 500 unique orders per day:

This is a non-functional requirement (performance/scalability), not a functional acceptance criterion. It describes system capacity, not specific user behavior or functionality. While important for design, it's not directly testable for the user story's outcome (placing an order) and isn't tied to the user's experience. Appian's Agile methodologies separate functional and non-functional requirements, making this less relevant as a "good" criterion here.

D . The user cannot submit the form without filling out all required fields:

This is a "good" criterion. It ensures data integrity and usability by preventing incomplete orders, directly supporting the user's ability to place a valid online order. In Appian, this can be implemented using form validation (e.g., required attributes in SAIL interfaces or process model validations), making it specific, testable (e.g., verify form submission fails with missing fields), and critical for a reliable user experience. This aligns with Appian's UI design and user story validation standards.

Conclusion: The two "good" functional acceptance criteria are A (order saved with audit history) and D (required fields enforced).

These directly validate the user story's functionality (placing a valid order online), are testable, and ensure a reliable, user-friendly experience-aligning with Appian's Agile and design best practices for user stories.

Reference:

Appian Documentation: "Writing Effective User Stories and Acceptance Criteria" (Functional Requirements).

Appian Lead Developer Certification: Agile Development Module (Acceptance Criteria Best Practices).

Appian Best Practices: "Designing User Interfaces in Appian" (Form Validation and Data Persistence).

NEW QUESTION # 15

You are reviewing log files that can be accessed in Appian to monitor and troubleshoot platform-based issues.

For each type of log file, match the corresponding Information that it provides. Each description will either be used once, or not at all.

Note: To change your responses, you may deselect your response by clicking the blank space at the top of the selection list.

Answer:

Explanation:

□ Explanation:

* design_errors.csv # Errors in start forms, task forms, record lists, enabled environments

* devops_infrastructure.csv # Metrics such as the total time spent evaluating a plug-in function

* login-audit.csv # Inbound requests using HTTP basic authentication

Comprehensive and Detailed In-Depth Explanation: Appian provides various log files to monitor and troubleshoot platform issues, accessible through the Administration Console or exported as CSV files. These logs capture different aspects of system performance, security, and user interactions. The Appian Monitoring and Troubleshooting Guide details the purpose of each log file, enabling accurate matching.

* design_errors.csv # Errors in start forms, task forms, record lists, enabled environments: The design_errors.csv log file is specifically designed to track errors related to the design and runtime behavior of Appian objects such as start forms, task forms, and record lists. It also includes information about issues in enabled environments, making it the appropriate match. This log helps developers identify and resolve UI or configuration errors, aligning with its purpose of capturing design-time and runtime issues.

* devops_infrastructure.csv # Metrics such as the total time spent evaluating a plug-in function: The devops_infrastructure.csv log file provides infrastructure and performance metrics for Appian Cloud instances. It includes data on system performance, such as the time spent evaluating plug-in functions, which is critical for optimizing custom integrations. This matches the description, as it focuses on operational metrics rather than errors or security events, consistent with Appian's infrastructure monitoring approach.

* login-audit.csv # Inbound requests using HTTP basic authentication: The login-audit.csv log file tracks user authentication and login activities, including details about inbound requests using HTTP basic authentication. This log is used to monitor security events, such as successful and failed login attempts, making it the best fit for this description. Appian's security logging emphasizes audit trails for authentication, aligning with this use case.

Unused Description:

* Number of enabled environments: This description is not matched to any log file. While it could theoretically relate to system configuration logs, none of the listed files (design_errors.csv, devops_infrastructure.csv, login-audit.csv) are specifically designed to report the number of enabled environments. This might be tracked in a separate administrative report or configuration log not listed here.

Matching Rationale:

* Each description is either used once or not at all, as specified. The matches are based on Appian's documented log file purposes: design_errors.csv for design-related errors, devops_infrastructure.csv for performance metrics, and login-audit.csv for authentication details.

* The unused description suggests the question allows for some descriptions to remain unmatched, reflecting real-world variability in log file content.

References: Appian Documentation - Monitoring and Troubleshooting Guide, Appian Administration Console - Log File Reference, Appian Lead Developer Training - Platform Diagnostics.

NEW QUESTION # 16

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

- Answer: A**

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