



A Release Testing Method That Works

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Learning Objectives: By the end of the presentation participants will be able to:

1. Understand how to organize and develop a Test Plan for application enhancements and upgrades.
2. Get all staff involved in testing through using Test Plan Documentation.

Background

Partners In Health Systems (PHS) has developed a method to help with immunization registry release testing for the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS). With changes that occur in healthcare as well as customer requests for updates and enhancements to applications, PHS created a testing process that utilized time and resources most effectively.

Objectives

Outline and describe different phases of testing to help other IIS' become successful at doing the following: testing, finding, and resolving issues before being released to the user community, as well as helping meet release deadlines.

Methods

Solid testing is a result of a good test plan, commitment, communication, and teamwork. Full system testing conducted by internal staff should include alpha and beta testing before becoming generally available. The development and implementation of a comprehensive test plan will guide the overall process. The test plan should guide internal testers on how and what to test, specific to changes or enhancements. Regression testing ensures the system still operates as required with the changes or enhancements. Testing phases are then monitored to optimize coordination among resources.

Results

Our use of the test plan for each release resulted in improvements with finding and documenting application issues before full release, minimizing a negative impact on the community as a result of thoroughly testing the application.

Conclusions

A testing model was developed by our team to help organize and involve all staff, improve staff time spent on testing different functionality of the software, meet release deadlines, and improve the quality of overall testing.