Oh!! We Should Have Checked That!

Release Testing at the University of Iowa Libraries

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Statement of Problem

- Each new ALEPH release requires a thorough review and testing of all components of the system
 - ≻Tables
 - ≻Indexes
 - ➢Processes
 - ➢Displays
 - ➢Forms
 - ≻Messages

Iowa's Implementation History

- August 2000
- Summer 2001
- Spring 2002
- Winter 2003
- 2004

- —Rel. 12.4
- —Rel. 14.2
- -Rel. 14.2.6
- —Rel. 15.2
- —Rel. 16.x

Release Installation and Data Review

- Release installed on test server
- Generic client is distributed to testers
 - Overview Testing
 - Has data converted correctly
 - Is basic functionality stable (ability to retrieve records, edit records, save records, etc.)
 - Tables reviewed

Indexes

- Indexes are built
- Client is Iowa-ized
- Documentation is posted on the InfoHawk Intranet web site

Upgrade Process Cont.

- Detailed Testing
 - Functionality Testing
 - Workflow testing
 - Configuration clean-up (i.e., tables)
 - Security Testing
 - Client testing

Upgrade Process Cont.

- Review the Indexes
- Batch products
- Import/Export
- New Features or new Iowa initiatives

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Move to Production

- Web OPAC points to the test server
- Staff security to Read-Only
- Test Server available for training and documentation
- Offline or manual circulation

Problems

- Table & Client configuration problems divert attention from functional testing
- Using the same testers over and over and over

Tester Burnout

Or "Not Seeing the Forest for the Trees"

TTL=little women

17 Little women

1

1

1

- 1 Little women, a comedy in four acts
 - Little women : a family romance
 - Little women, a play in three acts and an epilogue
 - Little women an opera in two acts

Displayed as

- 17 Little women
 - Little women
 - Little women
 - Little women
 - Little women

Favorite Problem Syndrome

Or "Hasn't that been fixed yet?"

What are we doing differently?

- 1. Do more systems configuration work up front
- Create Testing Scripts which allows us to spread the testing around among a larger group of staff

Configuration Time

1. Spend 4-6 cleaning up before turning over to testers

A. Tables

B. Client

C. Displays

Create Testing Scripts

- Some very detailed
 - Students and support staff
 - Does not require interpretation of data
- Others more general
 - InfoHawk team member; experienced staff
 - Requires interpretation

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Our Hopes and Dreams

More distributed and equitable

testing process

- Less time spent by libraries staff
 - Less frustration for all