Xpages: Practical Ideas for Converting Existing Notes Applications

2012/02/08 – Matthew Fyleman

- **Why convert?**

- The future

- Xpages capabilities
- **Planning ahead**

- What to convert

- Should you re-design?

- Assessing resources
- **Implementing the changes**

- Groundwork – L&F and Component Libraries

- Identify re-usable code

- Custom controls are your friends
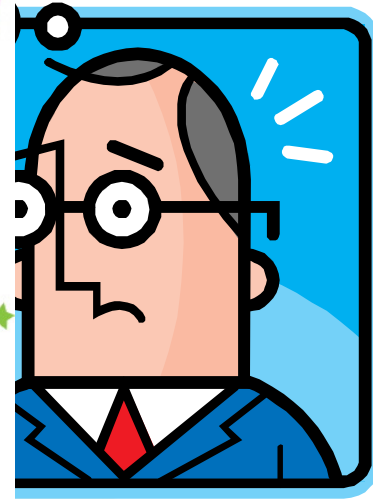
- Some gotchas to look out for
- **Questions**

Why bother?

The future

- Browsers are
- Innovations wi

Xpages capa

- More flexible t
- Capable of mo
- Retains ease
- Provides easy

It's Fun!

Which applications to convert?

▪Converting everything is probably impractical!

▪Are some applications better suited to a different platform?

▪Choose the business critical

▪Choose the greatest functionality gap
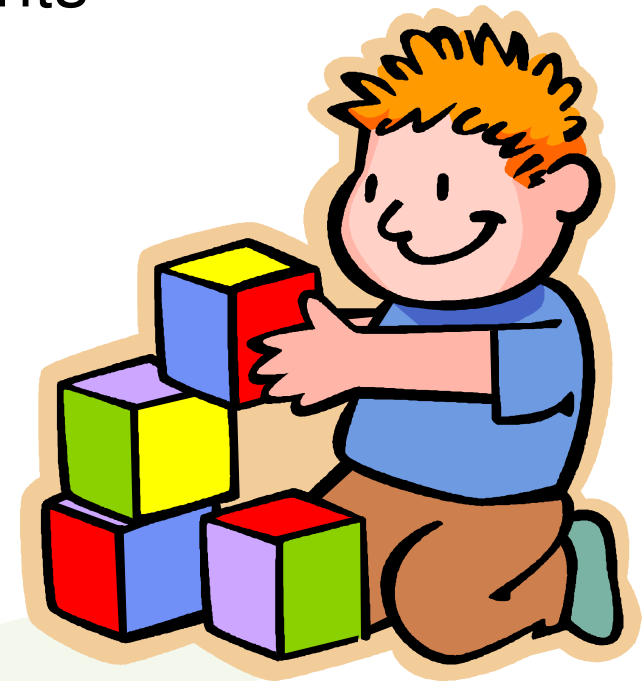
Application assessment

▪Utilisation – how much is it used *and by whom*?

▪How complex is the application?

▪What resources will be required?

▪How long will it take?

▪Key indicators of complexity:

▪Lines of code

▪Type of code (LS, Java, Formula, API)

▪Structure and standardisation (e.g. use of subforms, naming conventions, coding standards)

Implementation – Look and Feel

- Plan the look and feel first

- Themes – custom, standard, hybrid or not at all!

- Create a css framework

- Create a master layout

- Decide on general functionality:

- Search bar

- Type ahead search in views

- Breadcrumbs

- Login / logout facilities etc.

Implementation – Building Blocks

- Create prototypes for key design elements

- Employ custom controls

- Main elements to consider:

- Main layout

- Views

- Forms

- Action bars

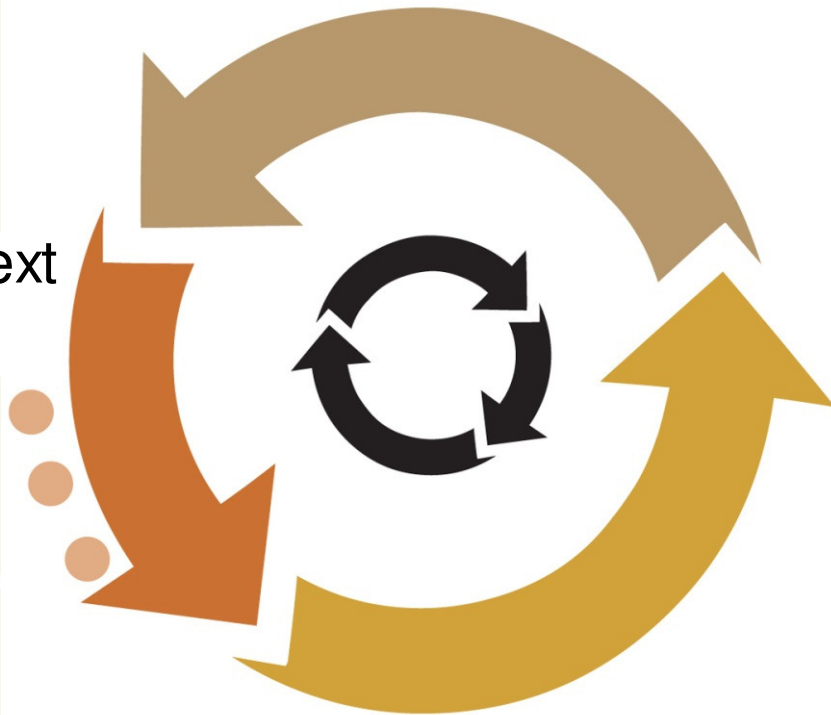- Example – some considerations for views

- The Xpages extension library – open NTF

- No need to re-invent the wheel

- But – requires deployment

- Plenty of reference information out th

- Mastering Xpages

- Xpages 101

- Open NTF & Xpages Wiki

- Many more

- Examples – extlib components, resource bundles

- Libraries of useful things

- Some UI:

- Picklists

- Prompts

- Some script:

- Safe lookups

- Resource retrieval

- Field values

- Error handling - OpenLog

- Example – @Prompt, @DbLookup

▪Custom controls are your friend!

▪Identify re-usable elements

▪Make use of parameters to:

▪Decouple controls from specific context

▪Allow dynamic re-purposing

▪Passing data sources

▪Example – Modification History

@Prompt again

Implementation – Test

- Test, test and test some more!

- Employ source and version management

- Vital for tracking configurations!

- Set up test harnesses early in the process

- Unit test as each new feature is added

- Dry run system tests frequently

- Check that the test environment reflects the live

environment

- No surprises!

- Know your scopes and use them wisely
- Get permission to add or change views
- Look for more useful ways of presenting data
- Examine dialogs closely
- Move server-side JS to managed beans

- Multi – value items in the UI

- List related JavaScript @Functions

returning single values

- Date @Functions

- SSJS splice()

- SSJS recycle() in Domino Object

Model loops

- We4IT – www.we4it.com

- OpenNTF – www.openntf.org

- Xpages101 – Matt White – xpages101.ne

- Mastering Xpages – Martin Donnelly et. al.

  – ISBN 978-0132486316

- Wissel.net – Stephan Wissel's blog – Learning

Xpages http://www.wissel.net/blog/archive?

openview&type=Category&key=XPages

Questions?

Thank-You!

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