

Designing the Optimal Maximo User Experience

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Agenda

- Usable Designs: What are they?
 - Some useful definitions
- Use Cases: What problems have been solved in version 7
 - Simplified screen design
 - Conditional user interface
 - Helping users avoid making mistakes
 - Adding images to records
 - Switching Maximo skins
- Ensuring More Usable Designs in the Future: How can we work together to improve Maximo?
 - Themes for future releases
 - Getting involved in the Maximo design process





Usable Designs Defined

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Implementing Maximo

- Involves making the right functionality available to the right people
- Out-of-the-box applications demonstrate potential uses

But

 Using functionality without configuration may not result in the most usable designs for your users





Usability

- A usable product enables users to complete their tasks successfully
 - Must understand who the users are
 - Must understand the tasks those users want to perform
- One size does not fit all
- Lack of usability results in the need for more training, more documentation, and more help and support so that users can accomplish their tasks
- Failure to address usability can cause reduced user satisfaction and poor system utilization





To Design Is...

- To create, fashion, execute or construct according to plan
- To devise for a specific function or end

From http://www.merriam-webster.com/





What's Involved?

Design requires finding a problem-solution pairing that is temporarily sufficient

My paraphrase of Kees Dorst's definition from Understanding Design: 150 Reflections on Being a Designer





Usability and Design

Goals:

- Create usable designs in Maximo for all users
- Provide tools so that administrative users can create (or configure) their own usable designs in Maximo
- User tasks drive design goals by establishing the problems we want to solve
 - End users want to do something and turn to their admins to make it happen
 - Maximo admins want to set up the product so that it works for their users while meeting business goals
 - IBM developers want the product to be configurable and maintainable





Recurring Themes from End Users

- Help me find what's important to me, even if I don't know what I'm looking for
- Help me get things done quickly (make me more efficient)
- Don't force me to learn Maximo conventions that don't apply anywhere else
- Don't scare me off
- Minimize the time I spend here
- Help me avoid errors (and don't cause me to make any!)





Usable Design in Maximo 7

- Every aspect of the product requires usable designs
- Specific usability improvements have been made to version
 7 in areas like reporting, searching, and screen design
- Our specific focus today:
 - Simplified Screen Design: larger text and navigation tools for mobile devices and other simple implementations
 - Conditional UI: onscreen content and presentation changes depending on context
 - Error Avoidance: Help users avoid making mistakes
 - Flexible Content: Use images in addition to text
 - Changing the screen look: Different skins for different uses





Use Cases: Problems and Solutions

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Mobile Touchscreens

Give me access to the Maximo I use at my desk when I'm somewhere else

- Maximo Everyplace limited release in September, 2009
- Initial support for iPhones only
- Small, touchscreens require bigger screen elements that react to fingers rather than a mouse pointer
- Less onscreen real estate requires a different layout for applications



Maximo Everyplace offers a look well suited to small touchscreens

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Conditional User Interface

Who the user is and the record she's viewing should affect how the screen is presented.

- Data Restrictions: Only certain records are relevant to a subset of users
- Control Security: Some controls should not be visible to certain users
- Conditional Option Access: Only certain users should be able to perform particular actions
- Conditional Properties: Controls should appear differently to different users
- Conditional Domain Values: Lookups should present different sets of choices under different circumstances





Data Restrictions

A certain group of users always works with a subset of data so only that data should be fetched for them

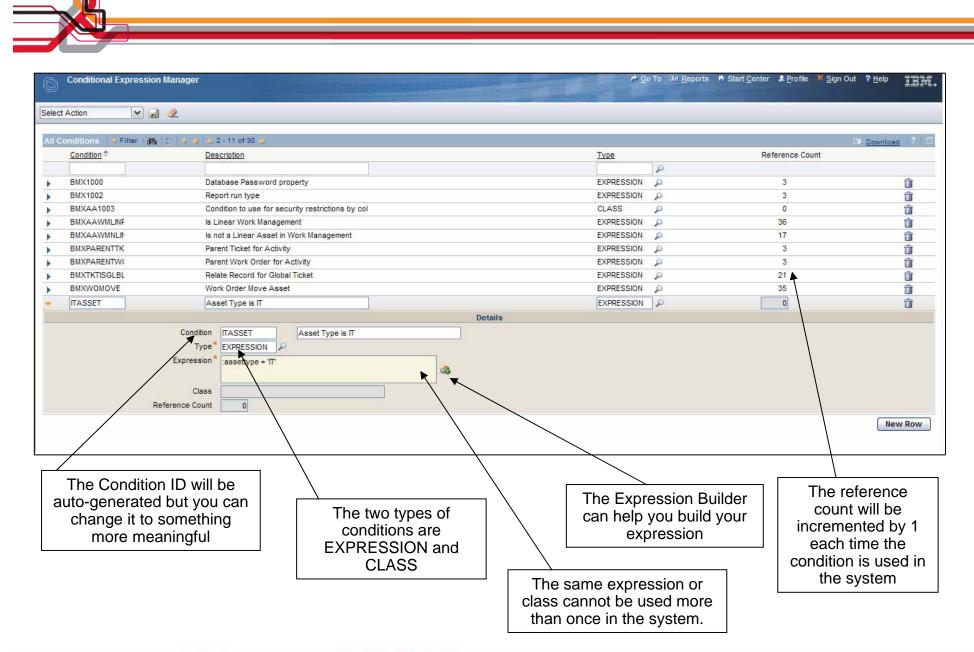
- Security Group driven
- Qualified data restriction only fetches records that meet the condition
- Reusable condition library
- Different options

-Object - limit what is fetched, mask records or make them read-only

-Attribute - make an attribute read only, required or masked

- Optional settings
 - -Global







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Control Security

The 'Safety' tab in the Assets application is irrelevant for IT assets so that tab is not needed by users that deal only with IT Assets.

- Security can be added to any control
 - Tab
 - Section
 - Field
- Can use an existing SIGOPTION record or create a new one





Associating a Sig Option with a Control

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Conditional Option Access

Certain users need to have access to all types of assets, but they should only be able to change status for IT assets.

- Conditions from library used
- Conditions can be associated with
 - Standard application options
 - New options to drive access to controls
- Need a record to evaluate the condition against so can't be used on the List tab or when inserting



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Conditional Properties

A control should have different property values, such as label, for different groups or in different conditions.

- Conditions from library used
- Can be different for groups
- Many, but not all, controls and properties supported



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Conditional Domain Values

Different values should be visible from the Usage lookup depending on the type of asset.

- Conditions from library used
- Can control synonyms
- Replaces 'Data Flow Control'



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Important Considerations...

- Just because you can configure, doesn't mean you should...
 - Performance will be impacted by configurations
 - Data restrictions (least expensive)
 - Conditional option access
 - Control security
 - Conditional control properties (most expensive)
 - Adding complexity to the configurations adds complexity to troubleshooting
- Cloning is not a sin





Troubleshooting, part 1

• Don't 'x' out of a browser – always sign out

- 'X'ing out of a browser can leave hanging sessions and impact the implementation of security changes that take effect on the next login
- To view and manage these sessions, use the 'Manage Sessions' action in the Users application
- There is an action to end sessions
- Check the 'Profile' tab in the Users application to see what access a user has
 - This will show you all of the applications and options that a user has per site, including very basic information on restrictions
 - Useful for troubleshooting when you are getting unexpected results





Troubleshooting, part 2

- When you are testing a configuration and experiencing unexpected results, try it with one group and one user
 - Create a user that is in just one group
 - Put all of the configurations that you are trying to test in that one group
- When configuring conditional behavior, create an 'alwaystrue' condition
 - Set the expression to 1=1
 - This helps determine if your problem is with your condition syntax or another part of the configuration



Troubleshooting, part 3

 A report is available in the Security Groups application that will show you all of the options configured for a specific group or all of the groups a user belongs to. This can help troubleshoot unexpected behavior as well.

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Warning on the List Page

I've just performed a query and gotten my result set of Work Orders – there are a few hundred. Because the first record in the set is the one I'm interested in, I don't even need to go to the Main tab. I'll just change status right here on the List page.

- Common misconception because of row highlighting
- Changing status (or performing any action from the toolbar or Select Action menu) affects all the records in the result set
 - All of them, not just the ones on the first page
- Recovering from the error is extremely difficult and time consuming
- In Maximo 7.1, a warning alerts users to the potential danger, and lets them continue with the action if they want to





Row 1 is Highlighted, not Selected

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1006	Feedwater Pump Service	BR450	11450	APPR		7	BEDFORD	44
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New Warning on List Page

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1023	Conveyor Overhaul- Conveyor #1	SHIPPING	12600	WSCH			8	BEDFORD	\$





Warning Appears Out of the Box

- For most actions that can affect an entire result set
- On the List page only
- Only when NOT in select records mode
- Only when there is more than one record in the result set

But:

- It can be disabled in places where it has been enabled out of the box
- It can be enabled for other actions





Working with the Flag

For the desired application, go to App Designer and choose Add/Modify Signature Options from the Select Action menu:

Find:	内	Select Action	2
Applications Workspace Application WOTRACK Work Order	Track	Add/Modify Signature Options Add/Modify Select Action Menu Add/Modify Toolbar Menu Add/Modify Search Menu	
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The Flag Is Set

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Thumbnail Image on Records

I can't remember which of the three types of X I'm supposed to reorder, but I'd recognize it if I saw it.

- Sometimes, a picture provides more information than a textual description
- It takes many clicks to open an attachment; thumbnail images are always visible on record without clicking
- The same image can be placed on each tab, but there is only one image per record





New Control for Item Master

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Putting an Image on a Record

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	View Status History	
v	Change Capitalized Status	
	Copy Item Assembly Structure	
44	Add Items To Storeroom	
	Unit of Measure and Conversion 🕨	
	View Contracts	/
-	Add/Modify Image	
	Item/Organization Details	
	Add/Modify Commodity Codes	
	Attachment Library/Folders	
	Duplicate Item	
	Add to Bookmarks	
	Run Reports	

Choose Add/Modify Image from Select Action menu

Find the jpg or gif image on the system

Browse
OK Cancel





Image Can Be Removed Via Same Process

	Find:		🔥 Select Action 🖌 🎦	a 214	🕴 🔶 I 😂 I 🖓 🖳 👘			
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Clicking image opens a new Maximo dialog with the image shown in its original size

original size
PulseANZ2010



Add the Image Control

Application Designer	Ulletins: (1)	Co To Let Reports the Start Center & Profile K Sign Out ? Help
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tabgroup List User Groups Security Profile	Appbar Attachments Blank Line Breadcrumbs	
User Display Name	Default Value Value Include Listbox Menubar Textbox	section <u>Type</u>
Click to see actual-size image	Multipart Parameter Parameter Pushbutton	
	Button Button Image Section Group abc Section Section Section Static Text	
Groups Filter Description		Independent of Other Groups ?

I'm adding the image control to the Users App, so I can insert a picture of each employee





Image Properties

Control ID	new_recordimage
CSS Class Name	
Height	120
Width	120
Data Source ID	
Is Thumbnail ?	
ALT Text on Image	
Label	Click to see actual-size image
Signature Option	
Option Data Source ID	•
	Configure Conditional Properties

Image properties allow specification of size, label text, etc...



Adding to the Select Action Menu (1): Create ITEMIMAGE Sigoption

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The sigoption for the dialog is ITEMIMAGE



Adding to the Select Action Menu (2): Create SHOWDELETE Sigoption

	Option D	Description
S	show	
\$	SHOWDELETE	Show Delete Button
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SHOWDELETE creates the delete button in the dialog when an image has already been added



Grant Group Access to the ITEMIMAGE Sigoption

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•	New User				1	
•	Read access to Users				1	
*	Save User	$\boxed{\mathbf{v}}$			1	
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*	Authorize Group Reassignment				1	
*	Bookmarks				1	
•	Change Passwords				1	~

Not everyone who sees the image should be allowed to add or delete the image



Grant Group Access to the SHOWDELETE Sigoption

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-	Group MAXADMIN Maximo	Administrators (Super Users)		
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		Gr	ant Listed Applications	Revoke Listed Applications
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SHOWDELETE should be granted to all the same groups as ITEMIMAGE





Create a Relationship

Ę	Database	Configuration			<mark>₿ <u>B</u>ulletins: (1) 🗭</mark>	<u>G</u> o To 🛛 🔟 <u>R</u> epo	rts 🕈 Start <u>C</u> enter 🌲 <u>P</u> rofile 🏾 X Sign Out 7 <u>H</u> elp	IBM.
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-	IMGLIB		IMGLIB	0	refobject = 'MAXUSER' and refobj	ectid = :maxu	Relationship to the IMGLIB table, used to find th	Û
					Details			
	Relationship	IMGLIB			Child Object	IMGLIB	A	
Where Clause		refobject = 'MAXUSER' and refobjectid = :maxuserid		Remarks	Relationship to the IMGLIB table, used to find the image for given item. (imglib.refobject="MAXUSER" and imglib.refobjectid=:maxuser\$MAXUSER.MAXUSERID). The resulting set will contain zero or one object.			
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Record images live in the IMGLIB table. Create a relationship between the object and IMGLIB.





Result: Employee Pix in the Users App

•	Users				🦺 <u>B</u> ulletins: (1) 🛛 🎓 (<u>3</u> o To 💷 <u>R</u> eports	Start Center	.≜ <u>P</u> rofile ₹	<u>S</u> ign Out	? <u>H</u> elp	IBM. 🗠	T will be
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Summary: Adding a Picture to a Record

- In App Designer
 - Add image control
 - Add 2 sigoptions: ITEMIMAGE and SHOWDELETE
 - Add ITEMIMAGE option to Select Action Menu
- In Security Groups
 - Grant access to ITEMIMAGE and SHOWDELETE for groups that are allowed to add or delete specific images
- In Database Configuration
 - Create the relationship between the app's object and IMGLIB





Look and Feel

- They refer to different aspects of the product
- Look: Visual qualities that support the user and convey information about the product
- Feel: Interaction techniques that help users accomplish tasks
- We've been focusing on feel aspects, but look aspects play an important role in usable designs as well





Changing Skin

Maximo doesn't look friendly/easy/approachable/like the other applications my users are accustomed to

• Customers want flexibility in the look of the product.





Using the new skin gives different, often larger visual elements, as well as some features like shading every other row in table windows.

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4 <u>1081</u>	Inspection	BR400	11400	APPR	8/28/01 3:45 PM	2	BEDFORD	
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Y



Changing the Skin

- New skin (Tivoli09) is included starting at fixpack 7.1.1.5
- To change the skin for the entire product open webclient.properties and add webclient.skin=tivoli09
- To change the skin for a particular application, in the xml for that app, add skin=tivoli09 to the presentation tag





Ensuring More Usable Designs in the Future

PulseANZ2010

Meet the people who can help advance your infrastructure





To Get To a Usable Design

- Validate with appropriate users
 - Need to show the right functionality to realistic users: end users, administrators, executives, etc.
 - Need to get feedback on an ongoing basis
 - Need to pursue a range of data: site visits, prototype interactions, betas
- When you work with us:
 - You influence our direction
 - You make the product better
 - You discover features that you may not have known existed





Themes for the Maximo UI

- Focusing on priorities
- Easing data entry
- Supporting untrained users
- Supporting personalization
- Making configuration easier





Maximo UI Customer Council

- Let me know that you want to be involved:
 - Talk with me after this presentation and give me your business card
 - Email me: landesman@us.ibm.com
- I'll want to know
 - What kinds of users I can work with in your org
 - Some of the other Maximo-related products you're using
 - What version of Maximo you're on now



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