DHIS2 upgrade process

# Minor upgrade

These are used to apply bug fixes and security patches

Should be applied regularly (eg check every week for updates)

Very rarely there will be a security announcement on email lists for a critical fix. The first announcement is likely to be on system administrators list (url?). Do not ignore these.

There should not be ny new functionality requiring user training for these patch releases so apply regularly.

Make a copy of existing war file and backup the database so that you can revert if necessary.

# Major upgrade

The process is similar but the likelihood of breaking changes is much higher so planning is more critical

It is a necessary evil. You should strive never to fall more than 3 versions behind.

Read the release notes and upgrade notes really carefully. Often there is need to apply a script to the database.

Having a staging server really helps. You can deploy early pre-release on here and test thoroughly (this is also useful to developers). Identify beta testers amongst your users.

If you have a critical production system, don’t rush to be the first to upgrade your live system! Keep deploying on staging while the early bugs settle.

Remember that upgrades will likely require some user refresher training. Plan (and budget) for this.

Before deploying a new major release to production system:

make a copy of the entire DHIS2\_HOME directory plus war file;

Backup the database (and test the backup);

apply any required upgrade sql script