Comprehensive Meeting Notes - Release Planning & Blaze Pipeline

Date: [Insert Date]

Facilitator: Sven

Attendees: Sven, Sihong, William, Aladin, Lamin, Zuen, Sam, Ruth, Ruben, David, Jan, Selene, Hiep's team, others

## 1. Blaze Pipeline & Merge Backlog

* The Blaze build and deployment pipeline is currently congested, causing delays in merging and promoting pull requests (PRs).
* Many teams are trying to get final PRs merged ahead of the June release, adding strain on the system.
* Sven emphasized transparency and urged all teams to include relevant stakeholders when flagging critical PRs.
* Some PRs, while not blockers, are strategic for external clients (e.g., TIM), and should be included if the pipeline allows.
* Sai’s PRs are currently delayed due to the long review queue. No strong prioritization push yet unless they impact delivery.
* The hard deadline for all PR merges targeting the June release is end of this week. This deadline includes testing and documentation.

## 2. Schema Changes & Sanity Attribute Update

* An important schema change was introduced for the 'sanity attribute' extract file concerning INO TRS instruments.
* Previously labeled as 'LUST-linked repo', these entries are now relabeled as 'LGOV-linked repo'.
* This change was pushed directly to production as a hotfix due to its immediate impact.
* Note: the updated field is excluded from the new Parquet schema due to data type incompatibility with Parquet exports.
* All teams relying on these extracts, especially ingestion teams using Parquet, need to be made aware of the discrepancy to avoid processing errors.
* Coordination with David and other stakeholders is ongoing to ensure full testing before integration in Saber’s ingestion layer.

## 3. Release Planning & Coordination

* Three waves of releases are planned in sequence: a performance update, a standard Cortex upgrade (release 26), and a major feature rollout (release 27).
* Release 25 includes a critical incident (Item #25) that must be merged and impact-tested. However, it will not involve SEH or stress batch runs.
* Item #26 represents a full Cortex upgrade and will require complete testing of all standard batch jobs.
* Item #27 is being scoped for equity and SFR fixes, and it will depend on a new build of Cortex beyond the one used in 26.
* Legal batch failures have persisted in UAT for more than two months. Failures appear in both SEH and end-of-day batches. These failures are consistent across cores and are suspected to stem from missing or malformed data.
* Each team must submit a prioritized list of their PRs by email to ensure nothing is missed before the pipeline locks.

## 4. Cortex Build Management & SCBA Integration

* Item 26 will need a new Saber SCBA build due to dependency on revised risk calculations.
* Item 27 will also need a Cortex upgrade as the current build will not include all equity and SFR enhancements.
* Sven proposed a tracking column in the release dashboard specifically for SCBA build requirements to improve transparency.
* There is an ongoing test of isolating SCBA on a separate Aquila grid and broker to avoid performance degradation to the main batch. However, due to risk, this will not be implemented in release 26.
* Release 26 will focus only on integrating the Cortex upgrade and essential batch updates, with minimal infra change.

## 5. FRTB Scenario File Alignment & Output Planning

* The release planned for the 26th includes an updated set of FRTB scenarios with Parquet outputs.
* Selene is finalizing UAT test runs to validate the list of files that will be generated on PROD.
* Historical and recent COPs are included in the analysis to ensure consistency in scenario coverage.
* The list will be validated by Hiep’s team and frozen once final review is completed, minimizing future changes.
* Rejected scenario types, such as Vegas, are excluded to comply with ingestion constraints set by Sulin’s team.
* The finalized list and test results will be shared internally later today for sign-off and integration.

## 6. Governance & Future Release Structure

* There's a recognized need to shift away from a reactive release process where teams push changes last-minute.
* Proposed governance model encourages small, frequent Cortex releases to handle change in manageable increments.
* May release will be minimal and focused on production health. Heavy content like equity/SFR/inflation will be moved to the larger June or July releases.
* The new release structure includes three tracks: performance-only fixes, Cortex upgrade with regression testing, and a comprehensive feature batch.
* Aligning features to predefined release windows will reduce integration risk and improve throughput across QA and Infra.