AMPS Change Management & Backwards Compatibility

Introduction

Maintaining a flexible and usable system is of the upmost importance for Tradecraft Technologies. Ensuring that software versioning is completed in a smooth, non-impacting manner is very important and ensuring that the software is backwards compatible is a large part of this planning process.

Change Management

All changes to the AMPS system are prioritized, planned, developed, and then tested thoroughly before being rolled out as a new release. All changes are evaluated at design time to determine whether they can be made while ensuring backwards compatibility with older versions. If it is not going to be compatible, the impact of the change will be assessed to determine the best timing for the change as well as communication to all the software stakeholders to minimize downstream impacts.

Backwards Compatibility

Whenever possible, the software will maintain backwards compatibility – this is especially true for the database and API components as changes in these components will typically impact the largest number of clients. If a change is to be introduced that will break backwards compatibility, the development team will consider having more than one version of the API support (i.e. /api/v1 and /api/v2). If this is possible, then both will be maintained, and the differences documented and communicated to all software stakeholders. If it is determined that it does not make sense, then the change management plan (documented above) will be followed to minimize impacts to the software stakeholders.