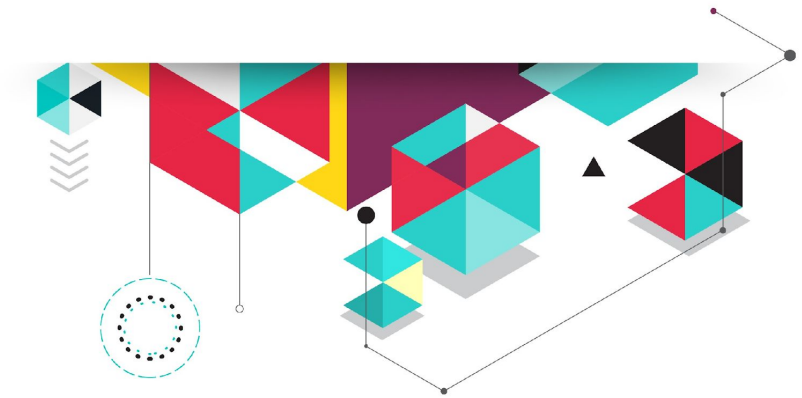
LESSON 13 – PROJECT ORGANISATION - RECAP

Overview

This chapter taught you that a project needs to be reliable, efficient, maintainable and extensible. You learnt how to organize a process from start to finish, as well as how to use the **Invoke Workflow** activity.



Takeaways

- When developing automation projects, it's best to follow these best practices:
  - **Reliability**: Solid and robust workflows that can handle errors and recover gracefully
    - **Efficiency**: Maintaining smooth execution while cutting down development time through a variety of methods
      - **Maintainability**: In an environment where collaboration and handovers are the way things work, it's important that your project is easy to update
        - **Extensibility**: The project needs to be as prepared as possible for the addition of new components

- You can select any sequence or flowchart, right click and choose **Extract as Workflow**, thus replacing the selection with an **Invoke Workflow** activity, essentially turning it into programming function, with the parameters being arguments for the workflow.

Best practices

- Make sure you take some time to pick the appropriate layout for each workflow:
  - Main: flowchart or state machine
  - Business logic: flowchart
  - UI interactions: sequence
  - Avoid nested IFs by using flowcharts
- It's good to break your process into smaller workflows:
  - Develop and test pieces independently
  - Reuse workflows
  - Collaborate more efficiently by working on separate files
- Always handle exceptions:
  - Place exception prone workflows into Try Catch blocks
  - Same goes for externally invoked workflows
  - Setup recover sequences
- Make sure your workflows are readable:
  - Choose descriptive names for all components
  - Use explanatory notes and comments
  - Log real time execution progress
  - Place environment settings in a config file
- Always keep things clean by closing the applications when they are no longer needed.

Useful links

Reusing Automation