Force.com

Force.com is a platform-as-a-service (PaaS) product designed to simplify the development and deployment of cloud based applications and websites. Developers can create apps & websites through the cloud IDE & deploy them quickly to Force.com multi-tenant servers.

It is used to create and deploy next-generation cloud apps. Because there are no servers or software to buy or manage, developers can focus solely on building apps that include built-in social and mobile functionality, business processes, reporting and search. Apps run on a secure, proven service that scales tunes and backs up data automatically.

Benefits of Force.com:

Proven
 Social
 Agile
 Mobile

Environments

An environment is an instance of Force.com platform which can also be called an organization (org). It lets users access, deploy or create applications with various feature sets, depending on the configuration of the environment.

A good way to think about an instance of Force.com, is to think about Gmail: when users sign up for Gmail, they get a unique username and access to their private email account in the cloud. Similarly, when users sign up for a Force.com org, they get a unique username and private access to their Force.com cloud computing environment.

Characteristics of an environment:

- Contains data (records) and customizations.
- Each environment is based on an edition, which contains specific functionality and limits.
- All environments can be accessed through a Web browser.

Types of Environments:

There are three types of environments:

Production Environments:

Salesforce.com environments that have active paying users accessing business critical data are known as production environments. It stores the live data that is actively used to run the business.

Custom Force.com application can be developed for

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- Own production use.
- Existing salesforce.com customers.
- Any business or organization in the world.

<u>Note:</u> Users/Developers can easily build a custom object, field or validation rule directly to their production environment without the need of a development or test environment. However some features like Apex code can only be created in development environments.

<u>Note:</u> Salesforce always recommends that one should use a development environment when building a Force.com app.

Development Environments:

Salesforce.com environments where users/developers can extend, integrate and develop on Force.com without affecting their production environments.

Development environments are used strictly for developing and testing apps. These environments contain test data that are not business critical. Development can be done inside browser or with the Force.com IDE, which is based on Eclipse.

There are two types of development environments:

Developer Edition (DE) environment

It is a free, fully-featured development environment with limits on data and users. It is a logically separate environment, ideal for initial development on Force.com. Users/Developers can sign-up for as many DE organizations as they require. This allows them to build an application designed for any of the Salesforce production environments.

Sandbox

It is a nearly identical copy of production environment. The sandbox copy can include data, configurations, or both. It is possible to create multiple sandboxes in production environments for a variety of purposes without compromising the data and applications in production environment.

Different types of Developer Edition and Sandbox environments:

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Development Environment	User Licenses	Data Storage	Notes
Developer Edition	2 full CRM licenses 3 Force.com Platform licenses	5 MB	Sign-Up is free
Partner Developer Edition	20 full CRM licenses 20 Force.com Platform licenses	250 MB (about 125,000 records)	This is a DE org with more storage, features and licenses. Free for enrolled partners.
Full Sandbox	Same as production environment		This is a copy of your production org including data and customization. You may order up to a maximum of 3 full sandboxes.
Partial Copy Sandbox	Same as production environment	5 GB data (about 2.5 million records) 5 GB file storage	This copies the customization, and a sample of your production organization's data. You may order up to a maximum of 6 partial copy sandboxes.
Developer Sandbox	Same as production environment	200 MB data (about 100,000 records) 200 MB file storage	This copies customization (metadata), it doesn't copy production data.

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Developer Pro Same as production environment	1 GB data (about 500,000 records) 1 GB file storage	This copies customization (metadata), it doesn't copy production data, but has more storage than Developer sandbox.
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Testing Environment:

Before deploying app to production or release it to customers, developers migrate app to a dedicated testing environment where they can perform integration tests with large sets of data, do security checks for multiple users and profiles, and uncover bugs or discover enhancements they would like to add.

Automated test scripts can't determine a user's level of satisfaction with the app, so there is a need to train several new users to evaluate the application in a real-world setting without affecting the business data. In essence, developers need to create another development environment that mimics the production environment, and have these trained users/testers use it.

It can be Production or Development Environments specifically used for testing application's functionality before deploying to production or releasing to customers.

Developers have multiple options for creating a dedicated testing environment

- One is to create a sandbox copy of their production environment and deploy directly from the development environment to their sandbox. Using this way, developers will not only test the finished application, but also the procedure used to deploy the completed application as well.
- If there is no sandbox then they can use a DE environment as their testing environment. The standard DE environment may be limiting because of license and storage limits.
- There is also Partner Developer Edition for partners who are looking for a production-like environment with more users and storage to run real-life tests.

Scenarios:

Scenario 1: A Developer looking to get started for free building a Force.com application

Developer Edition

Scenario 2: A Customer who wants to build a new Force.com application for their production environment

Developer Edition organization or set up a sandbox

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Scenario 3: A Partner who wants to build a Force.com application to sell

Developer Edition or Partner DE

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