



An EDI Testing Strategy

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Agenda

- Why do you need it and What is it?
- What should be included in a testing strategy?
- What are some risks to a successful testing project?
- What to do and Where can you go for more information?



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Why do you need it?

- When have you ever implemented so many software changes to multiple systems?
- When have you ever had to test so many levels as part of the testing phases



What is it?

- A high level plan to support the objectives of your testing approach
- A definition of the resources (software, hardware and people) needed during the course of the process



What is it?

- A list to assist the team (at a high level) in understanding the events that need to take place
- A guide/checklist as the detail plans are developed.



What is it?

- A first look at the risks and dependencies that could impact the success of the testing effort
- A list of the deliverables that will be created and used during the testing events



What should be included?

- The scope of the testing effort
 - Transactions, code sets, software changes
 - Lines of business
 - Trading partners
 - Interfaces
 - Special processing
- The phases and techniques
- Test schedule (high level)
- Acceptance criteria



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What should be included?

- Roles and Responsibilities
- Description of the test environment
- Test data management process
- Test reporting process and controls
- Transactions flowing through the systems



Creating transaction flow

Things to think about?

- What contacts are made internally for EDI work to start?
- How do you communicate with your external IS (in the provider organization) contacts?
- What is the timetable for bringing a new major provider into a full EDI relationship?
- How are inbound/outbound transmissions tested?



Creating transaction flow

Things to think about?

- What reports are generated during the EDI process?
- Where are the reports from?
- Where do the reports go?
- Who monitors the EDI reports?
- Who handles EDI errors?
- What non-standard data files are created for external entities?
- What non-standard data files are received from external entities?



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Creating transaction flow

Touch point table?

1 System XYZ

1.1 837 Inbound Claim Touch Point Table (System XYZ)

#	Pathway Description	Related Transaction	Related HIPAA Touch Points	Touch Point Contact Name
1	Paper Claims via Reformat XXX to Claims Processing	837	Mailroom	
			Imaging	
			Reformat XXX	Mary Jones
			System XYZ	



What are some risks?

- Large number of changes to be tested
- Large number of testing events to be included
- Availability of the test environment when needed
- Available testing resources



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What are some risks?

- HIPAA knowledgeable testing resources
- Large number of testing with partners
- Tight testing schedule
- Dependencies on vendor software



What to do?

- Start the test planning process now, develop a project plan
- Assign a test manager
- Get all parties involved now
- Track issues and risks, resolve issues and mitigate risks quickly



What to do?

- Understand your organization roll out strategy
- Identify resources needed
- Identify tools needed to support the effort
- Identify training requirements
- Identify a testing methodology



HIPAA Testing Methodology

- Goal: To develop a comprehensive, “practical” HIPAA Testing Methodology to address unique challenges of HIPAA transaction/code set compliance.
- 3 major objectives:
 - Direct Resources to areas of Highest Risk
 - Maximize Value of Testing Expenditures
 - Address Challenges of “Time vs Resources”
- Methodology uses “Risk-Based Testing Approach”.



Balance - Time/Cost With Risk

- The goal of absolute safety is balanced by the constraints of a Transaction regulation deadline
- Given the schedule and resource constraints, an alternate goal is required.

\$\$\$\$\$
Time/Cost

X%
Risk



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Testing - How Much to Do?

Evaluate 4 Factors

- Cost of Testing
 - Follows law of Diminishing Returns
- Cost of Failure
 - All failures are not equal
- Likelihood of Failure
 - The potential cost of failure is adjusted by the likelihood to occur
- Tolerance for Risk
 - Varies by Organization and Application



Risk-Based Approach

- Limits the scope of the testing effort, reducing testing time and resources
- Uses application risk information to select and stack-rank the following:
 - Applications
 - Functions within applications
 - Test paths within functions



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Risk Assessment

- The optimal level of testing cannot be decided without the assistance of the business area owners.
- Cost of consequential errors and risk tolerance must be provided by the business areas.
- IT organizations will be forced to make tradeoffs between maximum risk avoidance and available time, resources and skills.

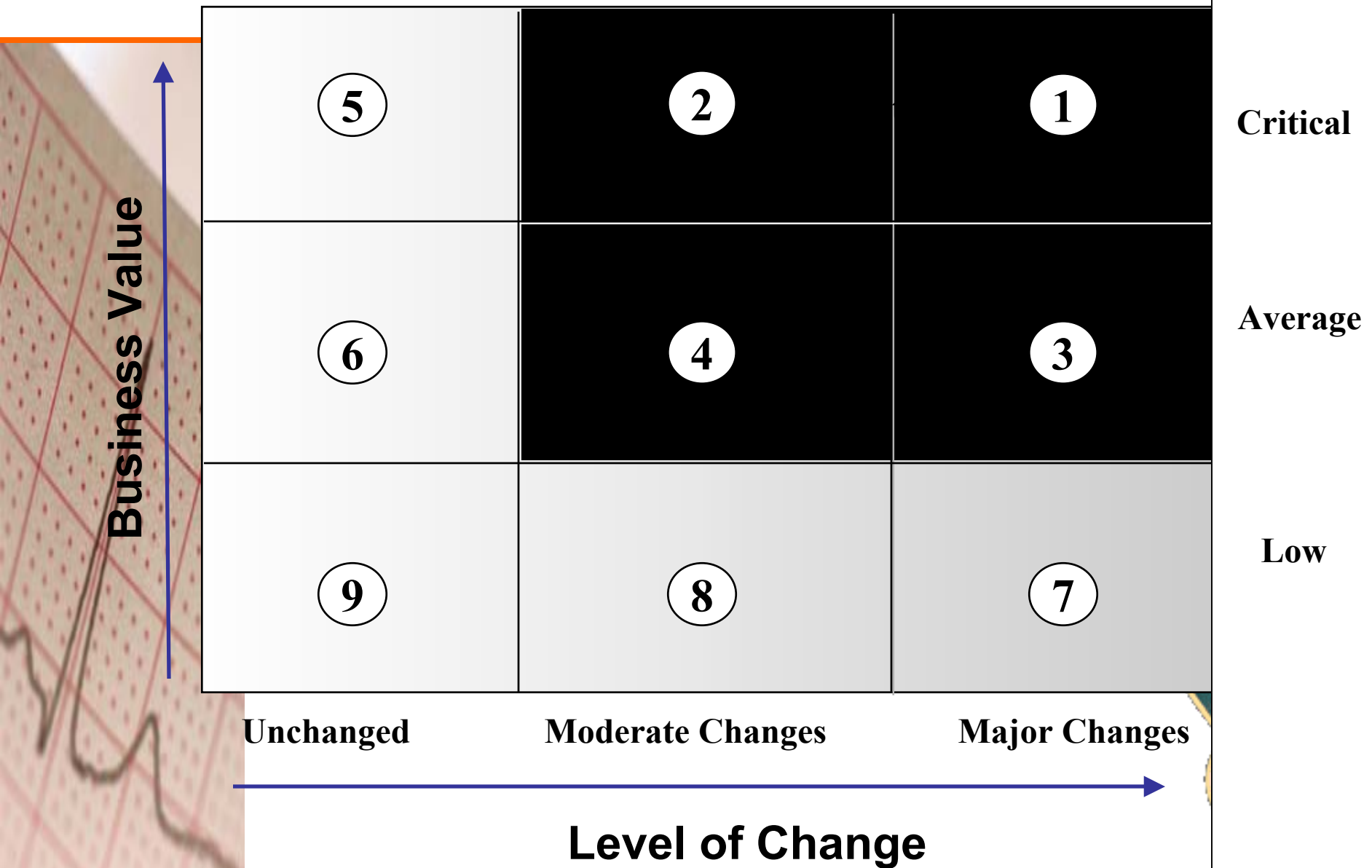


Risk Assessment (continued)

- Without advance planning, tradeoffs will be made by default, exposing the company to serious risk.
- Careful analysis allows management to select which risks are acceptable and which are intolerable.
- Ultimately, the question of how much testing is enough is a business decision to be made by the managers that own the application.



Function Priority Scheme



Conclusion

- Goal: Achieve “Compliance”
- Not Practical to test everything 100%
- Not likely to mean perfection
- Apply Common Sense



For more information?

- www.wedi.org
 - White papers
 - Transaction compliance certification
 - Business-to-business transaction set testing
- www.claredi.com
 - Test files
 - Scenarios
- www.foresightcorp.com



Thank You !

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