17th Oct 2022

ITAS Heritage and ITAS Services

Several customers have asked us to clarify the differences between these two areas of functionality with particular reference to software deployment policies.

Background

ITAS has developed over more than three decades across various platforms and as a company, Hivedome has had to continually adapt to new technologies while supporting earlier versions. Obviously, applications written on VAX in the 1980's went the way of the dinosaurs, but a vast number of applications contain at least some element of code written in Visual Basic. These applications are often referred to as **ITAS Heritage** and include well known ones such as TRADE and CLI, and key reports such as GPLREP and TRADEQ.

Most code written in the last few years has been a mix of C# (back-end) and REACT (front-end). These languages allow Hivedome to develop modern solutions that are largely based around API. In terms of reference, in the early days this was represented as ITAS 8 (with the proposition that ITAS 7 was the last version of ITAS Navigator) and later Trader Desktop. In the main the C# developers were known as the NextGen (NG) team and so these deployments were often referred to as NG or Trader Desktop releases but internally, we refer to this code base as **ITAS Services**.

Deployment Strategy

Typically, any development of **ITAS Heritage** components is ad hoc. General maintenance and minor changes to code are irregular and managed through an in-house Modification library we call Modlib. Deployment is through a **Heritage Service Pack (SP)** which is essentially a collection of "delta changes" unique to each site. This process allows <u>irregular</u> deployments both in the sense of what is included, and when it is created.

In contrast the development of **ITAS Services** is following a Roadmap and as such, is <u>regular</u> in both content and timing:

[ITAS Services Roadmap | Trello](#)

Deployment packages are released four times a year (January, April, July, and October) thus enabling support teams to plan UAT and production rollout with more certainty. Release notes are available online and known issues, resolutions, and planned enhancements to products such as the [Data Portal](#) platform are advertised as part of the overall support package:

[Release Notes – ITAS Help (hivedome.net)](#)

Other information, such as Official Communications that detail major changes to **ITAS Services** or required pre-deployment infrastructure updates, can be found online:

[Official Communications – ITAS Help (hivedome.net)](#)

Development Roadmap

The backbone of most development is the API, and this means that the lines are becoming more blurred with regards to business functionality (traditionally the preserve of **ITAS Heritage**) as it is transitioned to components deployed as **ITAS Services**.

Hivedome has developed several components that consume C# code added to the Business Logic Layer (BLL) and so often customers will be required to perform a Heritage SP release at the same time as an ITAS Services package deployment.

Summary

Over the coming years Hivedome fully expects the BLL to grow and to eventually replace the ITAS Heritage logic. This code transition will also mean that in future we will be able to introduce a single-deployment strategy that will ultimately be automated. For the foreseeable future, the dependency on both **ITAS Heritage** and **ITAS Services** deployments will remain, so will recommend where dual deployments are required to ensure full compatibility and continuous service.

For more information or assistance with the above, please contact your ITAS representative or support team.