

ANATOMY OF A RELEASE



RELEASES AND UPDATES

We here at TxEIS work hard all year to make sure you have the most updated, cutting-edge version of TxEIS you possibly can. Below is the cycle we go through for each bi-annual release. But we have updates that go out throughout the year. Both have basically the same cycle. So what's the difference?

RELEASES

- ★ Enhancements and changes to the functionality of the TxEIS software are part of what makes a release a release.
- ★ The software version number is incremented with a new release (e.g., 2.0.0004 → 2.0.0005).
- ★ Releases are planned up to a year away, and due to the scope and complexity of the changes (releases touch every application), there may be several months from the time programming is completed to the time the software reaches the end user, allowing time for several phases of testing, and delivery of training to the software support staff.

UPDATES

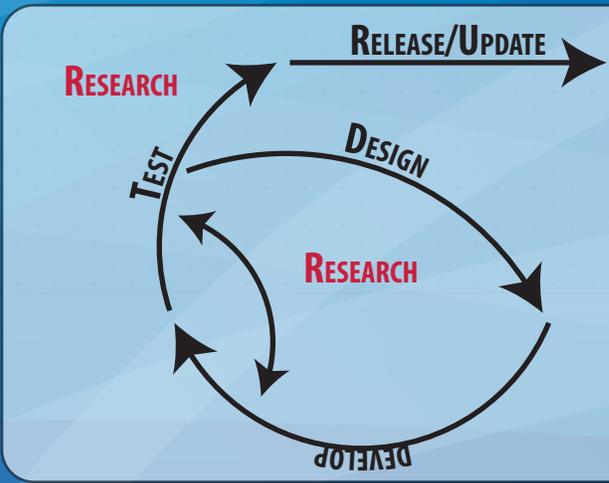
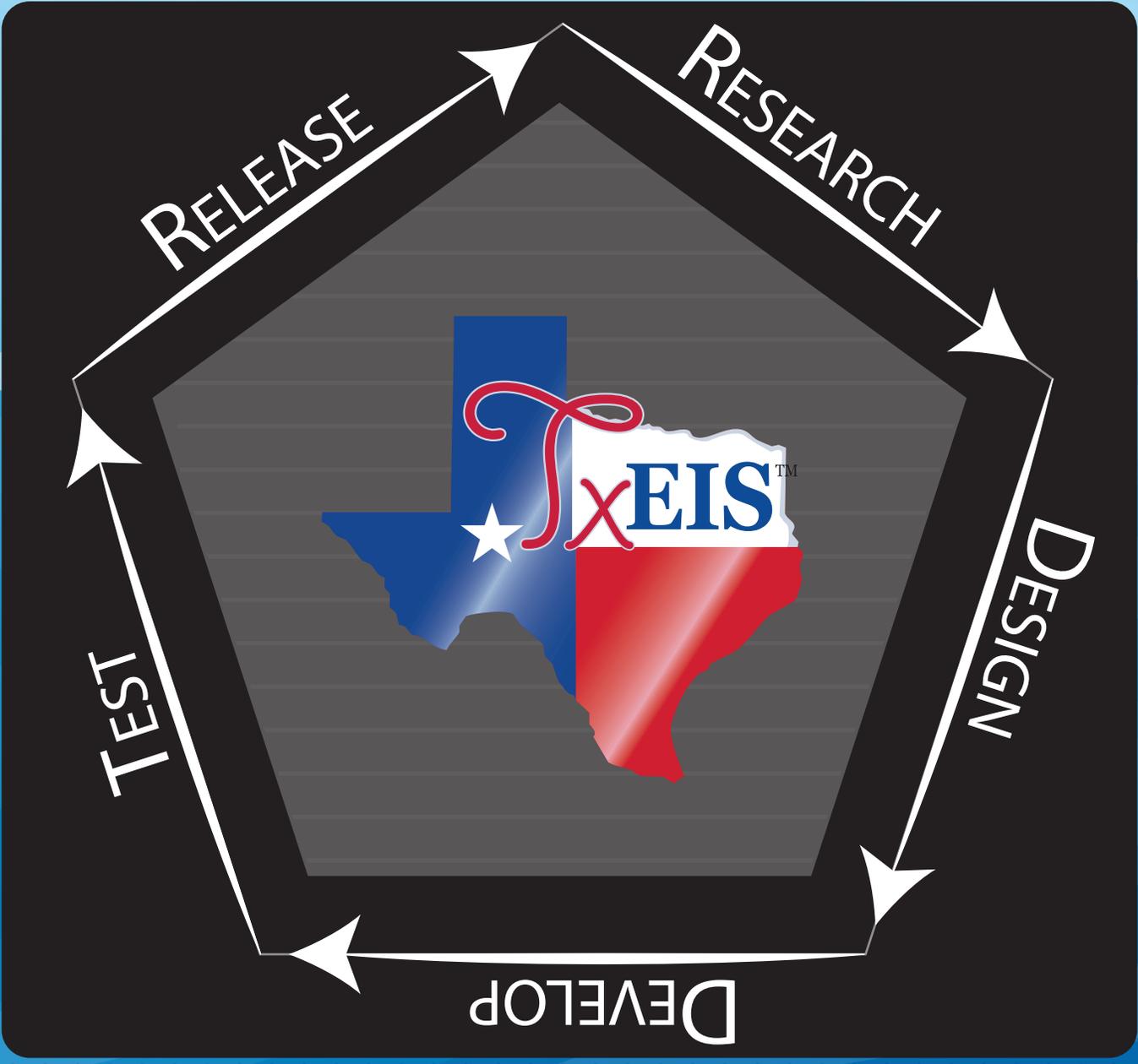
- ★ Time sensitive mandates that cannot wait to go with the next scheduled release and important software fixes are included in updates.
- ★ The build number is incremented with a software update (e.g., 2.0.0004.0086 → 2.0.0004.0089).
- ★ Only the applications that have been updated since the last full release will be included in the update. If, for example, there is only a correction for PEIMS, only the PEIMS application will get a new build number. The installation package will include PEIMS and all other applications that have been updated since the last full release.
- ★ As updates are very focused, turnaround time is much shorter, from a day to several weeks depending on the scope and complexity of the changes.

For a visualization of this cycle of releases and updates, take a look at the diagrams.

TYPES OF TESTING: OUR OUTSTANDING QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM

- ★ **System & Performance Testing:** Individual programming changes for the release are tested at this point as well as their interaction with the system -- that is, how fast they perform in the system.
- ★ **User Acceptance Testing (UAT):** Consultants at education service centers across Texas get to test changes before they're released. This is headed up by the Texas Computer Cooperative Coordinators.
- ★ **Regression Testing:** Critical application functionality is tested during regression testing to ensure that the introduction of new functionality did not in any way adversely affect existing functionality.

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Here is a more accurate portrayal of the process. There is a lot of communication between our Quality Assurance team and developers during testing. And the developers are already working on the next release or update during testing.

Research is prompted by external and internal factors like federal and state mandates, client requests for enhancements, QA and developer enhancements, and product upgrades.