

## Podcast Script: Release Rules

Hi, this is Susie Williams with today's 60 second Sugar snippet. Today we'll cover the rules Sugar follows when we unveil new releases, upgrades, and patches. Rest assured, we spend a considerable amount of time devising the simplest way to keep your Sugar installation current.

A new release refers to a new version, like 4.5 or the upcoming 5.0 release, with significant functional changes when compared to prior releases. Sugar provides new releases as a full installation, ready to be installed from-scratch on your existing LAMP or WAMP stack. Or, a new release can be bundled within a stack installer which is a convenient way to get the LAMP or WAMP stack and Sugar all at once. In either case, a fresh Sugar instance results from the installation of a new release.

With each new release Sugar also provides an upgrade, allowing earlier versions to be easily migrated to the new version. Upgrades pertain to migrations from earlier significant releases, like 4.2.1, to a new release, like 4.5. Patches are a special type of upgrade where the migration occurs within a specific release, like from 4.5.1a to 4.5.1e. New releases (and their associated upgrades) occur about twice a year. Patches occur as needed, on average about once a month. Sugar treats reported security vulnerabilities seriously and as a special case will produce patches to address these vulnerabilities as quickly as possible.

Clear so far? Good!

Now, here are some golden rules Sugar follows for releases, upgrades, and patches:

- A new release can and probably will change HTML, PHP scripts and the database schema from prior versions.
- Patches are cumulative. Going from 4.5.1 to 4.5.1e is all you need to do. No need to install 4.5.1a, 4.5.1b and so on.
- An upgrade is cumulative too. For instance, if you upgrade from 4.2.1 to 4.5.1e, the latest release as of this recording, you've done all you need to do in one step.
- An upgrade or a patch preserves modifications you make via the Studio; any modifications you make outside the Studio to PHP or HTML that conflict with the new version will be flagged during the Upgrade Wizard process, allowing you to resolve the differences or override them. Refer to the Developer's Wiki at [wiki.sugarcrm.com](http://wiki.sugarcrm.com) for ways to implement upgrade-safe customizations to reduce this potential.
- Patches are kept small and usually will not change the schema or HTML.
- Schema modifications are automatically applied via a schema upgrade script performed during the upgrade itself.
- A security vulnerability will result in a patch to the most recent and prior major releases. For instance, a security vulnerability found in 4.5.1.b prompted the release of 4.5.1.c but also resulted in patches to the 4.5.0, 4.2.1 and 4.0.1 branches.

- The availability of a new release or patch is highlighted by red lettering that appears near the top of the screen when logged in as an administrator. This occurs on Sugar instances where the Sugar Updates flag is enabled.

And that's your 60 second Sugar snippet. Goodbye!