

Podcast Script: The Release Process

Welcome to this 60-second Sugar snippet. My name is Susie Williams and today's topic is all about DPs, CPs, and betas. Yes, that's right. We're going to dissect the Sugar release process. We have a lot to cover so here goes ...

Long before a Sugar release is generally available we'll subject the release to a series of early previews. First, there is the Developer Preview, or DP. During the DP we'll provide community members with builds of Sugar Open Source edition for code inspection and analysis. The goal here is to inform the Sugar developer community as early as possible of upcoming technical and architectural changes. The DP's readme file indicates the areas of particular interest to developers. Note that the DP builds are way, way early, pre-alpha builds.

Once the release reaches a feature complete state we'll initiate Community Previews of the release. CPs are hosted in the Sugar on-demand environment and are available for all Sugar editions. You can access a shared test instance or create your own private instance. This makes them the perfect vehicle for the Sugar community to comment on functionality without the need to install the full release. We'll also refresh the DP when we release the CP for those techie types that want to see how things tick. Note that the CP is available for all editions while the DP is restricted to Sugar Open Source.

Then comes the beta release, which is when the entire release is made available, complete with upgrade scripts from earlier Sugar versions. So, now Sugar community members can test the features and the upgrade process in their environment. Note the word "test": betas are not meant for production and there is no upgrade script provided from beta to GA when it becomes available. Participating Sugar Professional and Enterprise customers will also receive full beta builds of their respective editions. Our on-demand CP environment is refreshed at this time but with the beta release there is no longer a need for a developer preview.

How long each cycle lasts is largely determined by the amount and type of community feedback. Sugar goes through a lot of work to make early previews available but it definitely pays off. The feedback we get via the forums is tremendous and really goes a long way to building a better product.

So how do you get to participate? Just visit the forums at <http://forums.sugarcrm.com> and look for the "Community Previews and Upcoming Releases" section. You'll find all the information you need right there.

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