10 Tips for Testing Your Nimblex Applications for the Real World

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nimblex

One system. Countless possibilities

Nimblex is easy to configure, but good testing is essential.

The beauty of Nimblex Internet-enabled applications (i.e. tailored management solutions) is that it's easy to add value with configured features, real-time tracking, and other capabilities which our platform offers.

But with this flexibility comes new responsibilities for testing the "integrity" of applications in real-time situations. For instance, if employees are using mobile devices powered by Nimblex, you can no longer assume a stable in-office environment in which these applications will be used. You might have to get out of the office and visit typical locations where your users will need to use their Nimblex Platform on their mobile devices.

EBMS will always conduct comprehensive testing to the best of our capabilities, but we do rely heavily on our users to conduct the necessary testing within their work environments.

Here are 10 things to consider if you are testing a new management application within environments and usability challenges that you can't readily foresee in your test lab.

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# 1: Think about how people will use the application

Your Nimblex management solution has already been configured and eBMS have taken all of your requirements into consideration. Now is the time to work through the created application in detail and think how the various user groups will engage with the application.

Yes, we know the obvious ways of how they will use the configured solution, but can you think of ways how they might try to circumvent the standard work procedure? This might happen intentionally or by accident. It's a good idea is to give your Nimblex application to a small group of test users with the challenge to see if they can break it. You will be amazed at how dedicated some of them will be at taking up this challenge, but the feedback will be invaluable.

2: Consider environmental conditions

It doesn't do anyone any good if an end user tries to use Nimblex on their device, for example, on the factory floor, but there is inconsistent internet connectivity within the factory. We can give you the best-configured application, but without internet connectivity, it is not going to work for you.

So think through the environment your users will need to operate their Nimblex applications within, to ensure the physical and IT set-up is conducive to the use of our Nimblex Platform. We recommend you test the solution in the environment it will be used in, e.g. office, factory floor, on a building site, a drilling site, etc.
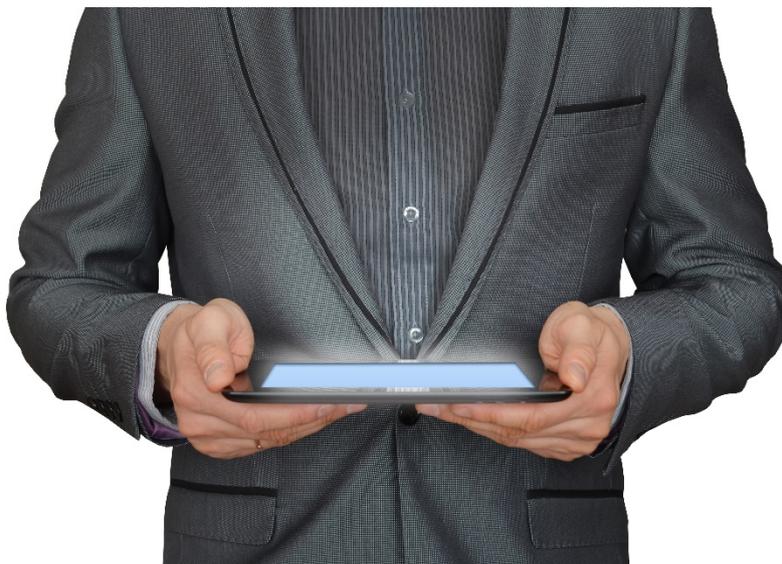
3: Develop a comprehensive test plan with a checklist for usability, features and functions.

Eighty percent of end user acceptance of an application comes down to usability (over features and functions). Yet interestingly, many traditional test plans are usually the reverse; 80 percent features/functions and 20 percent usability.

Remember, Nimblex offers such unprecedented flexibility which makes it easy to make any necessary changes, helping to continuously improve user experience and the need to enhance usability. With this in mind, it takes the pressure off striving for perfection, as changes to features and functions can be made over time. The primary focus needs to be given to the new application's capability to 'wow' your users as part of their first impressions and experience with the new application. By achieving this testing goal, it will result in a heightened level of buy-in and enthusiasm during the introduction phase of the new application. Keeping the above in mind, we recommend testing the following with a small group of users:

- How they navigate through the tool and reports

- What they think about the 'look and feel' of the application

- What their experience is like with the number of clicks they need to make to complete various tasks and functions.

The benefit of a Nimblex application is that any desired changes to features and functions can be made incrementally over time. But it is so important to get that first impression right for users before you go-live with your application as this will definitely contribute to your success and acceptance of the application by users.

Work in close cooperation with your eBMS team to develop a test plan.

4: Actively engage users in testing

Engaging users in testing, especially for usability and fit for the environment, ensures that there are no surprises from the user side when your Nimblex application goes live. It also ensures user signoff and buy-in for the Nimblex solution and an ongoing collaborative relationship as you enhance the solution over time.

Select a small group of users which:

• are representative of your broader user community

• you trust will give you practical and constructive feedback

• are positive and onboard with what you wish to achieve

5: Engage users up front in app design

Get users involved at the very beginning of requirements, especially when it comes to designing the application interface. This is a good practice because it provides a reference point for users to more meaningfully contribute during testing. In the past our team at eBMS have had to rescue a number of projects when the person responsible for the project (at the client side) assumed that they knew what the users wanted in different departments, only to have a mini riot on their hands during user acceptance testing (UAT). This resulted in long delays and additional costs as the original requirements had to be revisited.

6: Prototype

One of the key advantages in using Nimblex is eBMS' ability to quickly produce prototypes due to its drag and drop configuration capability.

A prototype is a basic working model of the management application, but remember it is not the completed version. The benefit of the prototype is that it will enable you to have a much stronger understanding and conceptualisation of what the end product is going to look like, and if the eBMS team are on the right design path. To get the most out of this prototype phase, clients should sit down with end users and demonstrate the user interface, business rules, workflow, and form responses, with the objective of gaining confirmation and constructive feedback from end users.

This is needed because this feedback will be used to write up the Functional Requirements Specifications. Remember to continue with regular demo meetings with end users during the production phase. As you journey through the various iterations, keep the sessions short and meaningful as more pieces of your Nimblex solution are completed. Doing this will ensure that the project continues to track true to user requirements. These regular prototype reviews will significantly shorten QA and final test times.

7: Make testing everybody's business

We've already talked about getting end users engaged in the final checkout and in intermediate reviews during the production iterations. It's also a good idea to split your testing team into two groups. The objective of the first group is to test your Nimblex application for technical 'integrity', e.g. the correct user settings, business rules, escalation rules, notifications, etc. The objective of the second group is to focus on the testing for usability and overall 'fit' to user's expectation about intuitiveness, ease of navigation, operating report filters, etc.

8: Writing test cases is a team effort

The writing of test cases needs to be a team effort between eBMS and you as the client. Test cases should be written for intended functionality first, i.e. for valid conditions according to the requirements. Then write test cases for invalid conditions. This will cover expected as well as unexpected behaviour of the Nimblex application under test. As the client, you might know best of what these 'unexpected user cases' might be. We encourage our clients to take an active role in the creation of test cases to ensure that expectations are met. A good tip is to think of good test cases and note them down as you journey with us through the various production iterations. This will help us all to have a library of test cases ready to go when the moment for UAT arrives.

9) Think positive

Don't think beforehand that everything will be perfect and there won't be any bugs in the application. There will always be little issues and bugs to fix; this is just the reality of software applications. The good news is that with the flexibility offered by Nimblex, it's not difficult to make the necessary fixes. With this in mind, let's all stay positive and help each other to identify these little issues, bugs, and errors so that eBMS can promptly fix them. Also keep in mind that you have a 3 month warranty which also covers your application if we've missed anything.

10) Document your findings

Keep a text file open while testing your Nimblex application. Note down the testing progress and observations in it. Give each test case a reference number so that it can be easily referred to when it needs to be discussed with eBMS. The aim is to provide a complete and unambiguous test report and feedback.

**If you would like to know more about our Nimblex Platform, check out our website: getnimblex.com, drop us an email: mailto:info@ebms.com.au,
or give us a call on 1300 721 159.**