Cross Cutting Concerns in ERP

SWEN-343
Cross Cutting Concerns

Common functionality that spans multiple layers and tiers
  Authentication
  Authorization
  Caching
  Communication
  Exception Management
  Logging
  Validation
  …. Many more…. 
XCC & ERP Systems - Concerns

How to properly design & implement system with XCC concerns?

Maintenance
Understandability
Extensionality
Functionality
Security
XCC & ERP Systems - Concerns

Who is in charge of managing XCC?
Who/how to put an appropriate plan in place?
How to test all XCC?
How to get an agreement on XCC?
   How to deal with them?
   How to test?
Etc....
Other Concerns?
Specific Design Issues

Authentication
Authorization
Caching
Communication
Configuration Management
Exception Management
Logging
State Management
Validation
Authentication

Identify your trust boundaries and authenticate users and calls across the trust boundaries.
Enforce the use of strong passwords or password phrases.
If you have multiple systems within the application or users must be able to access multiple applications with the same credentials, consider a single sign-on strategy.
Do not transmit passwords over the wire in plain text, and do not store passwords in a database or data store as plain text. Instead, store a hash of the password.
Authorization

Role-based authorization for business decisions. Role-based authorization is used to subdivide users into groups (roles) and then set permissions on each role rather than on individual users. Resource-based authorization for system auditing. Resource-based authorization sets permissions on the resource itself; for example, an access control list (ACL).

Identify your trust boundaries and authorize users and callers across the trust boundary.

Protect resources by applying authorization to callers based on their identity, groups, or roles. Minimize granularity by limiting the number of roles you use where possible.
Caching

Do not cache volatile data, and do not cache sensitive data unless you encrypt it.

Do not depend on data still being in your cache; it may have been removed. Implement a mechanism to handle cache failures, perhaps by reloading the item from the source.

Be especially careful when accessing the cache from multiple threads. If you are using multiple threads, ensure that all access to the cache is thread-safe to maintain consistency.
Communication

Choose an appropriate transport protocol HTTP, TCP etc..
Ensure that you **protect messages** and sensitive data during communication by using encryption, digital certificates, and channel security features.
If your messages do not need to be received in a specific order and do not have dependencies on each other, consider using **asynchronous** communication to avoid blocking processing or UI threads.
Exception Management

Design an appropriate exception propagation strategy that wraps or replaces exceptions, or adds extra information as required. Allow exceptions to bubble up to boundary layers where they can be logged and transformed as necessary before passing them to the next layer.

Ensure that the design deals with unhandled exceptions. Ensure that a failure does not leave the application in an unstable state, and that exceptions do not allow the application to reveal sensitive information or process details.

Design an appropriate logging and notification strategy for critical errors and exceptions that stores sufficient details about the exception to allow support staff to recreate the scenario, but does not reveal sensitive information in exception messages and log files.
Logging

Design a *centralized* logging and instrumentation mechanism that captures *system-* and *business-critical* events.

Don’t get too fine grained

Create secure log file management policies.

Do not store sensitive information in the log files, and protect log files from unauthorized access.

Make logging useful
Main Factors for Managing XCC

Examine the functions required in each layer
Look for cases where you can abstract that functionality into common components.
It is likely that these kinds of components will be reusable in other applications.
Depending how you physically distribute the components and layers of your application, you may need to install the crosscutting components on more than one physical tier.
Still benefit from reusability and reduced development time and cost.
Dealing with XCC

Aspect Oriented Development
Common libraries
   Consider using a third-party library of components that are highly configurable and can reduce development time.
   May contain application blocks to assist with many concerns
Design Patterns
   Decorator
   Dependency Injection
Aspect Oriented Development

Semi-popular way of dealing with XCC
“Weaves” code in during AOP compilation
Decorator Pattern

Add new functionality to an existing object without altering its structure.
Decorator Pattern

How can it help XCC?
Activity

Addressing and Planning for Cross Cutting Concerns

http://www.se.rit.edu/~swen-343/activities/cross-cutting-concerns.html