

***Purpose:***

The proposal is:

- To support maintenance releases in GDSN
- Expand the definition of a GDSN Simple CR
- Create a queue for business requirements where solutions will be developed in conjunction with a release

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## 1.1. Maintenance Releases Support Business

Now that the GDS Network is in actual production, a strategy is needed to bring maintenance enhancements into this environment. In the current process, each change is executed in a singular fashion, from business requirements to XML. By breaking the business discussion into components that feed a regular maintenance release, these changes can be executed in a periodic, cost efficient way.

### Why Maintenance Releases are Necessary

The GSMP process in coordination with GDSN Inc should be changed to support Maintenance Release for the following reasons:

- Projecting CR completion and production availability for new Change Requests is problematic because there is no scheduled release for schema changes that require implementation (Global Registry and Data Pool).
- Currently these CR's are forwarded to the GDSN User Group to assess priority prior to going into GSMP. This process can be made more efficient by having one discussion of the accumulated maintenance requests, leaving the user group to focus on more strategic issues. These CRs are closed in GSMP and assigned to the GDSN User Group where they not only bog up the process and discussion, but are often never addressed in lieu of more important priorities.
- Users are forced to seek alternative approaches that do not solve all of their needs (i.e. Retailer Specific Extensions)

This PCN suggests a “maintenance release” change methodology that would solve these and other potential problems.

## Maintenance Releases Supported by GDSN Inc., GSMP, and the User and Implementing Community.

By using Maintenance Releases, requirements could be processed in a more organized, controlled and timely manner. These would later be added to a release (CR for complex work group) based on their impact to implementers.

### How Maintenance Windows Work

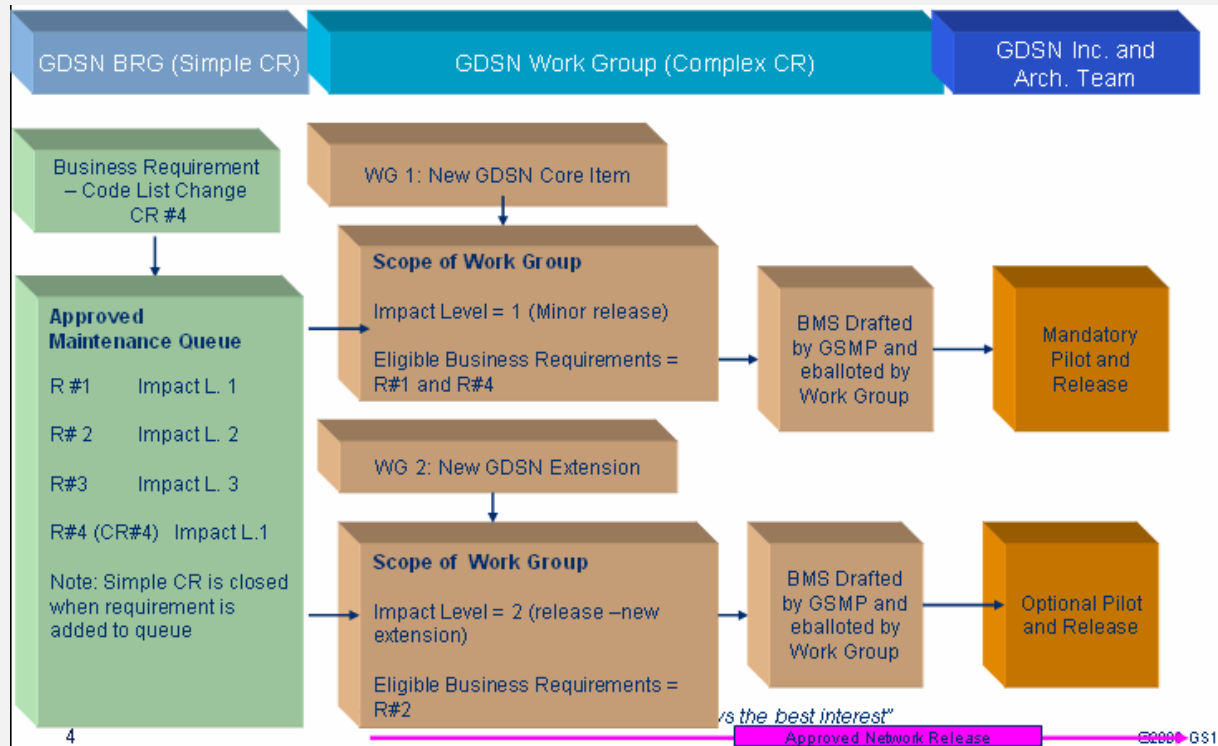
1. New business requirements are submitted as Simple Change Request and routed to the GDSN BRG (code list changes, attribute changes, etc..)
2. The business requirement is added to a Business Requirements Queue (list of eligible changes to go into the next release of the GDSN Trade Item or a Trade Item Extension). The requirement is defined including dependencies with other requirements and solution design, and given a level of impact on implementers.
3. GDSN Inc. and GSMP will decide when a maintenance release will occur and a complex CR will be entered for the formation of a work group to build the solution for that release.
4. The magnitude of the release must be determined to plan the implementation. There are three levels:
  - i. Level 1 (Maintenance):: Code lists additions and BSD documentation only.
  - ii. Level 2 (Maintenance): New attributes that are not requested to be added to the core and attribute changes in extensions. Code lists deletions and changes. Additions of optional attributes to Core.
  - iii. Level 3 (Major Release): Major Implementation effort (ex. Delete an attribute from core, make internal code lists external). Non-maintenance, BCD required, Certification required. Not backwards compatible changes. Changes to version numbers and schema references.

Note: When requirements are interdependent, all interdependent requirements will assume the highest Level of Impact.

5. The maintenance release will be scoped by the Work Group to be either level 1 or 2. Level 3 requirements can only be part of a major release (requires certification, Business Case Development, etc..). If the release is scoped as a level 1 release, all requirements that are at that level will be implemented into the design and go into that release. Requirements must be in the queue in order to be eligible for a release of any size. Development and approval of the Business Message Standard will be the responsibility of the work group.

Note: With all releases, development time will be afforded the implementers, which can vary depending on how large the implementation effort is. Thus standards must

be developed and locked down (not additional business requirements) for development to start.



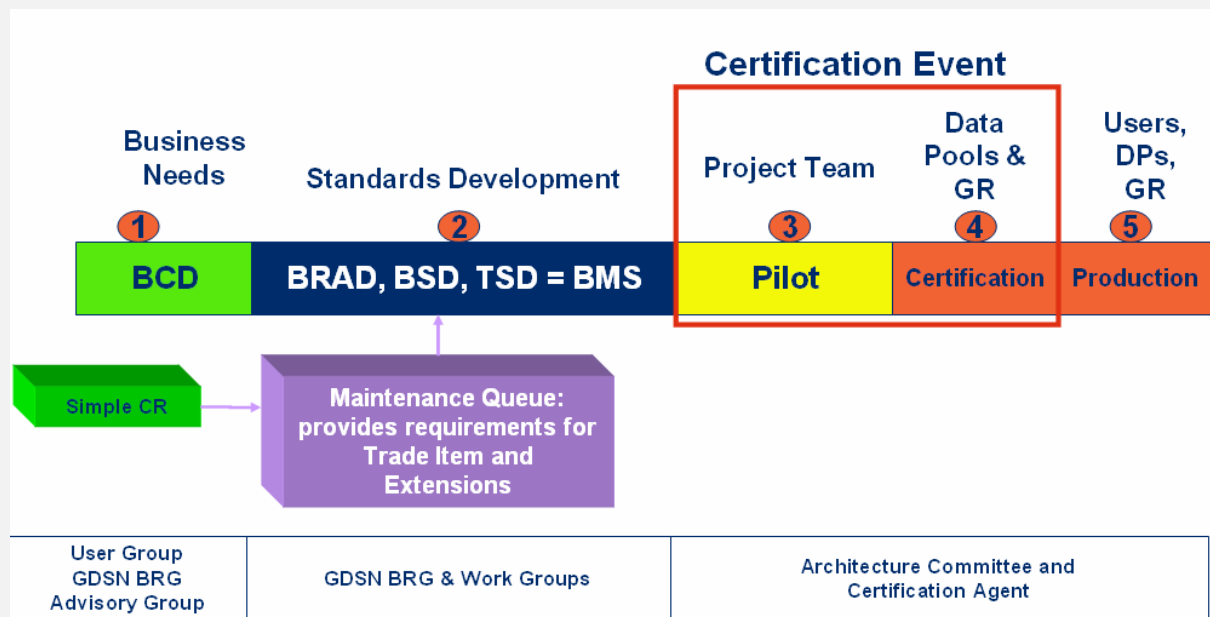
## Benefits of a New Process to Support Maintenance Releases

- Solutions meet network requirements
- Business Requirement Development is not delayed by solution development
- Standards are built once (no re-work) because an accumulation of small changes are addressed at one time which assures that any relationships are identified.
- Users will know where to go to address requirements (business vs. solution design vs. implementation timing)

- Users don't have to go through the complex process because apparently simple changes such as an additional attribute in the core message.

## Impact on Current GDSN Delivery Process

The impact on the current process would be minimal. Some work that was previously deemed complex would be entered as simple CRs to the BRG and closed once the maintenance queue was updated. The solution would be built via a work group once a release is decided.



## Next Steps

- Expand definition of Simple CR for the GDSN BRG to incorporate “maintenance” (code lists, new attributes, attribute changes, and attribute deletions)
- Create Impact Levels for all “maintenance” simple CRs.
- Enter a CR for the next Maintenance Release (2007).