

One Microsoft + PAQ Epic

Epic 35030

Problem Statement

- **No versioning of the PAQ or organization.** This means that there is no way, currently, to change the PAQ without applying to all active releases, which presents a substantial data migration challenge.
- **No updates except via code deployment.** There is no way, currently, to change the PAQ or organization list without deploying a new code base. Instead of handling updates via authoring, all updates, even simple text changes, must be implemented by a developer and deployed.
- **All policies must be affected.** Additionally, every change to the PAQ or organizations, if we were able to change it, would require a new major version of *every* policy.

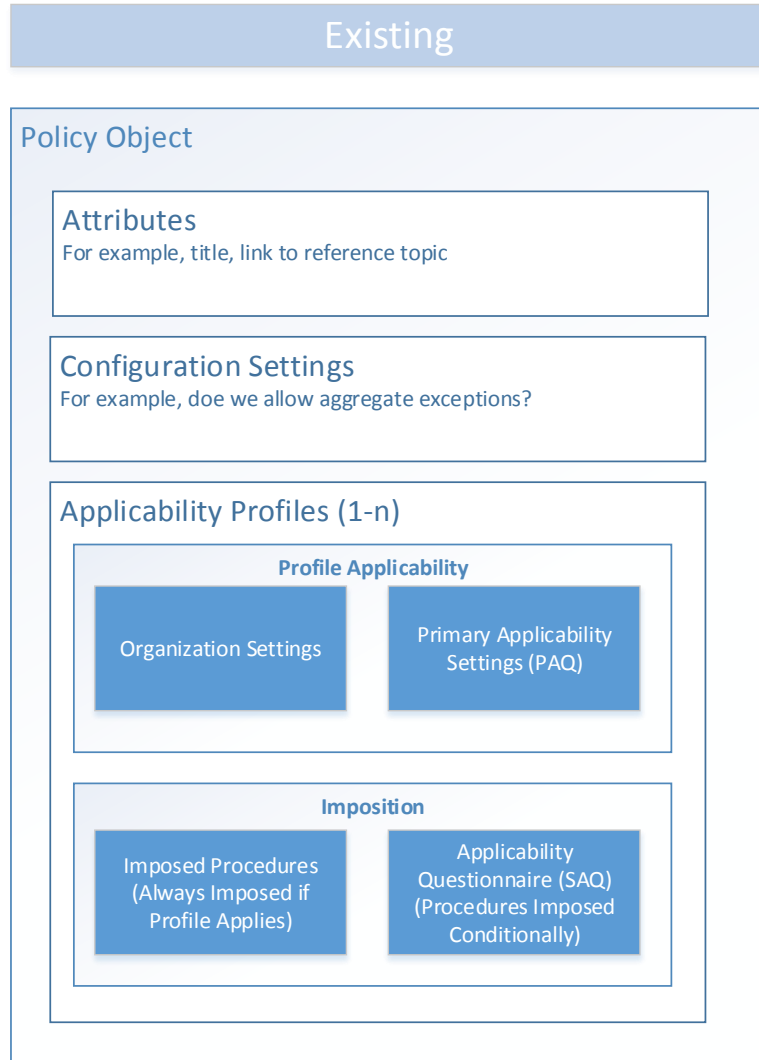
Real-world Issues

- Dozens of complaints from users about inappropriate questions for their release type in the PAQ
- Increasing pressure from policy owners and business groups to fix organizations (update the list)
- Increasing pressure from policy owners to provide more reasonable options for applicability
- Refinement questions are major pain point for authors and allow us to author nonsensical options.

Proposed Solution

- **PAQs (including organization) will be versioned.** Different releases may have different PAQ questions based on when they are created. This aligns with our existing versioning model. Organization will simply be another question within the PAQ
- **Updates to PAQ may be made by content authors.** The content authors, who work directly with the policy teams will be able to make the changes to the PAQ. Further, we will be able to use our existing infrastructure to stage this information.
- **PAQ updates do not require major versions of all policies.** After the initial migration to the new model (which may require major versions), it will allow us to publish new versions of the primary applicability questionnaire without requiring all policies be republished.
- **Policies can use a sub-set of questions.** Instead of forcing all policies to use all of the primary applicability questionnaire questions, teams will be able to choose the set that are relevant to their policy.
- **Foundation for single applicability system.** This is the first step towards a unified applicability system for both PAQ, organization, and secondary applicability questionnaires (SAQ).

Existing Policy Object



Proposed Policy + Applicability Objects

Proposed

Policy Object

Attributes

For example, title, link to reference topic

Configuration Settings

For example, do we allow aggregate exceptions?

Applicability Profiles (1-n)

Imposition

Imposed Procedures
(Always Imposed if
Profile Applies)

Applicability
Questionnaire (SAQ)
(Procedures Imposed
Conditionally)

Policy Applicability Object

Primary Applicability
Questionnaire (PAQ)
Includes Organization
Settings

Mapping to Policy Profiles

