Adobe® LiveCycle™ Workflow 7.0 Identifying relationship-based users

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Follow this tip to identify a user based on their working relationship with another user, such as an initial user's supervisor. You can then assign tasks in Adobe LiveCycle Workflow 7.0 to either user, as required.

In LiveCycle Workflow 7.0, you assign a task to a user through the User Quick Process Action Component (QPAC). The User QPAC provides several ways to specify users, including:

- Selecting a particular user from a list
- Selecting the process creator
- Selecting a group of users
- Using an XPath expression

In all cases, particular users are identified through their `uidstring` that uniquely identifies a user.

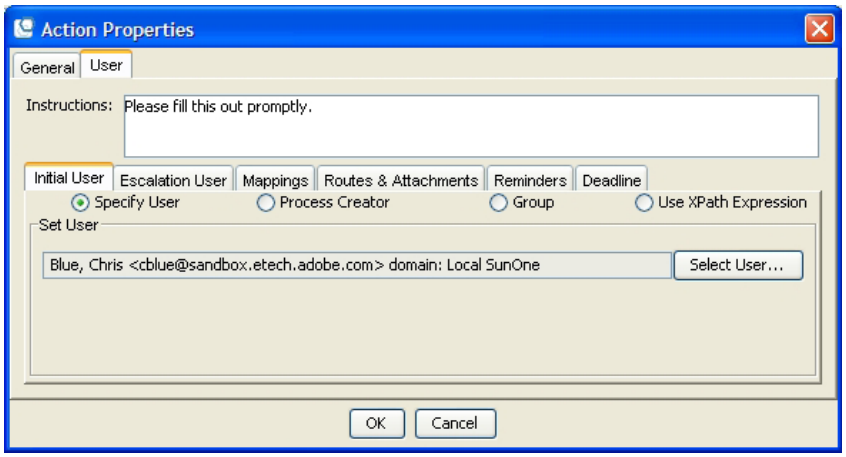

Figure 1: Selecting an initial user with User QPAC

However, it is sometimes necessary to assign a task to a user that has a specific working relationship to another user. For example, an escalation user could be the initial user's supervisor.

The LiveCycle Workflow 7.0 database stores useful information that uniquely identifies a user in the edcprincipaluserentity and edcprincipalentity tables. In particular, the edcprincipaluserentity table contains the `uidstring`, `familyname`, and `givenname` fields while the edcprincipalentity table contains the `canonicalname` and `commonname` fields. Both tables are cross-referenced by the `refdomainid` field to allow you to query one table based on information in the other table.

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However, The LiveCycle Workflow 7.0 database does not normally contain information that specifies the working relationship between users, such as the identity of a user's supervisor. To determine this information, you must query one or more external data sources, such as the source Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory from which the LiveCycle Workflow 7.0 database draws its user information.

The specific steps in determining the `uidstrings` of two users with a working relationship depend on the number and type of data sources you are querying, the information that is stored in the data sources, and how that information is organized. In all cases, you begin your search with the `uidstring` of one user and finish your search with the `uidstring` of a second user, the one that has the working relationship of interest.

In some cases, you may be able to do a single query to an LDAP directory to determine the `uidstring` of the user of interest. In other cases, you may need to first determine a user's distinguished name to optimize subsequent LDAP queries. In still other cases, the result of the database query may need to be parsed to determine the `uidstring` of the user of interest.

If you need to apply an XPath expression to further process the result of a query, the User QPAC offers an XPath Expression Builder to assist you (see Figure 2).

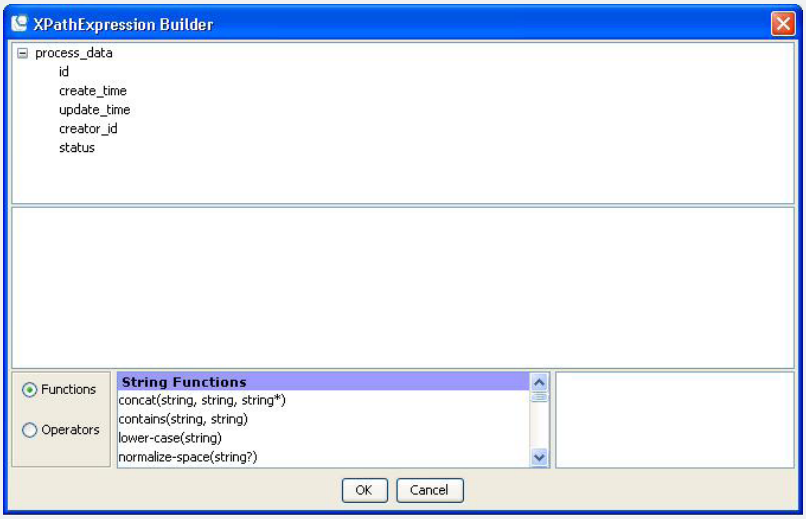

Figure 2: User QPAC XPath expression builder

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Felix Belisle is president of Trillium Solutions LTD, based in Ottawa, Canada, and has been in the technical communications field for almost 20 years. In the past 10 years, Felix has supplied consultant services to several organizations, including Adobe Systems Incorporated. As an expert user of several authoring platforms, Felix has developed a wide range of documents and online help systems for the telecommunications and semiconductor industries. Felix is a senior member of the Society for Technical Communications and has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Ottawa.

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