Alfabet Release Notes

Alfabet 10.13

Documentation Version Alfabet 10.13.0

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Alfabet 10.13.0 Release Notes

What's New in Alfabet 10.13 for Alfabet End Users?

This release contains many new capabilities and enhancements. These are described below:

- New Data Workbench for Enhanced Data Management and Data Visualization
- Other Solution Enhancements and Changes

New Data Workbench for Enhanced Data Management and Data Visualization

Software AG introduces the data workbench, a streamlined view that requires minimal configuration and allows users to edit, manage, understand, and choose the right data visualization at runtime for their purpose. The data workbench is an innovative approach to data management and analytics in Alfabet that places usability and the customer journey at the center. This new configuration possibility allows a dataset to be rendered with various out-of-the-box visualizations that an end user can choose from, thereby sidestepping the need to configure and manage multiple complex reports for various parts of the user community.

With this and coming releases, we are modernizing the product infrastructure and designing a simpler and joyful end-user experience aimed to remove the barriers of adoption in the user community. With Alfabet 10.13.0, we deliver the data workbench in a beta version that is foundational to Alfabet 's forthcoming and highly-anticipated new user interface.

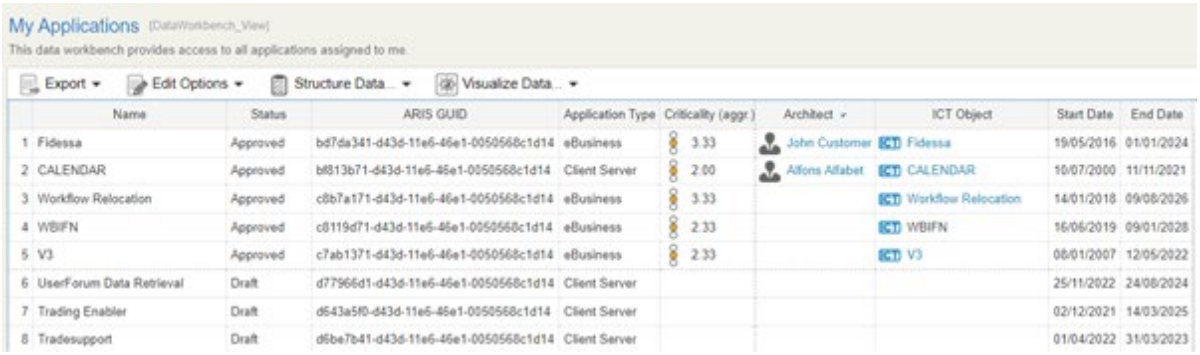

FIGURE: Data workbench showing data in a data table

The data workbench is a configured view that allows users to edit and analyze a set of data for a specified object class or object class stereotype in a data table. The solution designer configures a query to find the set of objects for a data workbench and specifies which attributes may be visible and edited. The user then decides which allowed attributes, indicators, and roles to show in the data workbench at runtime. The data may be edited directly in the data table, thus bypassing the need to work in an editor or wizard. At any time, users can switch the visualization in the data table to a business graphic of their choice to consider the data from a different perspectives. The data workbench provides a default data table and the following features:

- **Structure Data** menu to add, remove, and sequence columns displaying attributes, indicators, and roles to the data workbench. The solution designer configures which attributes may be displayed or edited in the context of the data workbench. Icons will be displayed in the read-only data workbench for reference properties, roles, and indicators (if configured).
- **Edit Options** menu to toggle the data table between a read-only and edit mode that supports inline editing of all permissible attributes as well as roles and indicators. The autocomplete functionality supports users in entering their inline data.
- **Visualize Data** menu to switch between a data table and out-of-the-box data visualizations. Users can specify the type of business chart to display and the X- and Y-axes and data series. Column filters defined in the data table are also applied to the business charts ensuring that the users can focus on relevant data in the analysis stage. With Alfabet 10.13.0, out-of-the-box visualizations include business charts that show a bar chart, line chart, spine chart, radar chart, pie chart, area chart, spine area chart, waterfall chart, and doughnut chart.
- Standard Alfabet functionalities including column filters, object preview, bookmarking, express views, and export capability. Enhanced navigation to the object profile/object cockpit is possible for all blue hyperlinked data in the data workbench. The ID attribute is hyperlinked to provide navigation for the selected object and referenced objects and roles are also hyperlinked and provide navigation to the object profile/object cockpit targeted by the reference.

Configuration has been simplified to make data workbenches easy to adopt and implement in your Alfabet solution. Multiple data workbenches may be created to address the use cases relevant to your user community. The following have been added to Alfabet Expand Windows in order to support the implementation of data workbenches:

- A new **Data Workbenches** tab is available in Alfabet Expand Windows create data workbenches. The solution designer must specify an artifact class and a query to find the objects that shall be available in the data workbench. All objects found by the query will be displayed in the data workbench.
- A permissions concept controls visibility and editability of properties of the type `String`, `Text`, `Date`, `Integer`, `Real`, `Boolean`, `Reference`, `URL`, and `Email`. For each object class for which a data workbench is configured, the solution designer decides whether its properties shall be hidden, visible but read-only, or visible and editable in the context of the data workbenches. The access permissions are configured for each property of the object class, but the settings can be overridden by a definition made on the class setting. This allows the access permissions for properties to be refined for different user profiles. Please note the following:
  - A new **Access Permissions for Data Workbenches** attribute has been added to custom and protected properties. The solution designer can specify that properties (columns) in the data workbench are not visible or have read-only or write permissions. For inherited properties, the **Access Permissions for Data Workbenches** attribute is defined in the **Local Settings** section of the attribute window. Upon migration to Alfabet release 10.13, the following default settings will be set for the **Access Permissions for Data Workbenches** attribute:
    - Read-only access permissions are available per default for a preconfigured set of properties for artifact classes. The default settings can be changed as needed. The following properties have been preconfigured: `ReadAccess`: **Level ID, Name, Description, Status, Responsible User, Short Name, Version, Start Date, End Date, Object State, Domain**.
    - Custom properties and all other protected properties are set to be hidden (`NoAccess`) per default. The default settings can be changed as needed.

- A new **Modify Access for Data Workbenches** option is available for class settings to override the access permission settings for properties for a class setting. The option is available in the context menu of the new **Properties** node that has been added below all class settings.

- A new **Add Data Workbench** option is available on the menu item node of a user profile. Once a data workbench is added via the **Add Data Workbench** option, a new business function of type data workbench is created in the background. This business function can then be added to guide views, guide pages, and object profiles, thus making the data workbench accessible to the user community.

Details about the configuration of a data workbench is available in the new chapter *Configuring Data Workbenches* in the reference manual *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand*. How users can use the data workbench and specify the default data visualization options is described in the new chapter *Working with Data Workbenches* in the reference manual *Getting Started with Alfabet*.

Stay tuned for future releases! The data workbench is in its infancy and will be extended to include other capabilities in upcoming releases.

Other Solution Enhancements and Changes

- The captions of buttons available in the **My MS Teams Meetings** (`USER_MS_MyTeamsMeetings`) view has been modified to improve the translation of the captions.

What's New in Alfabet 10.13 for Solution Designers?

The following is relevant to solution designers using the configuration tool Alfabet Expand.

- Enhancements and Changes to the Class Model
- Enhancements and Changes to Reports Configuration
- Enhancements and Changes to the Alfabet Data Integration Framework (ADIF)

Enhancements and Changes to the Class Model

- The **Capabilities** attribute of the object class `Vendor` has been changed from `Contract and Vendor Management` only to both `Contract and Vendor Management` and `Organization Definition`.
- JSON has been added as a data type for technical service operation method parameters.

Enhancements and Changes to Reports Configuration

- The standard button to edit multiple objects simultaneously has been removed from configured tabular reports that were based on the report template `CaptureInformationFlows`. This is because the underlying technology did not take the specific requirements for editing of

information flows with different source/target applications into account. Multi-editing can be enabled by creating a configured report for multi-editing of objects.

- Configured reports of the type `NativeSQL` can be used for the definition of questionnaire policies. Unlike reports of the type `Query`, reports of the type `NativeSQL` must have the policy object class defined in the **Base Classes** attribute. This is the class for which the policy is being created. Apart from that, the configuration requirements for configured reports of the type `Query` also apply to configured reports of the type `NativeSQL`.

Enhancements and Changes to the Alfabet Data Integration Framework (ADIF)

- The standard `UpdateReportsPopularity` ADIF scheme that calculates the popularity of configured reports displayed in the **Dynamically Composed Insights** (`FacetedAlfaBotSearch`) and the **Popular Reports** (`PopularReports`) functionalities has changed. The ADIF scheme can be executed via the **ADIF Jobs Administration** (`ADMIN_AdifJobs`) functionality and via Alfabet RESTful services.

What's New in Alfabet 10.13 for System Administrators

The following is relevant to system administrators.

- Changes to Alfabet Batch Processing Tools
- Changes to the Alfabet RESTful API
- Changes to Interfaces with External Applications and Data Sources

Changes to Alfabet Batch Processing Tools

- If the command line tool `AlfaAdministratorConsole.exe` was used to rebuild indices, successful execution was not logged. The issue has been resolved and log entries will be generated in the log file.
- The ability to register Alfabet as a Windows Event Log source has been added to the command line tool `AlfaAdministratorConsole.exe`.

Changes to the Alfabet RESTful API

- Support of the Alfabet RESTful services version 1 has terminated. The **Enable REST API v1** attribute has been removed from the **Server Settings** > **REST API** tab of the server alias configuration editor in the Alfabet Administrator. In Alfabet Expand Windows, the **Generate User REST API V1 Token** option has been removed from the root node of the **ADIF Schemes** explorer.

Changes to Interfaces with External Applications and Data Sources

- Server variables can be used in the `External Sources Configuration` to specify the login name, login password, and connection string to connect to an external data source.
- The Generic API Integration interface has been enhanced to seamlessly handle authentication token requests to interfaces with a regular token expiration. If a token has expired, a new token will be requested immediately during the current execution of the ADIF job and the ADIF job will be processed while consuming the new authentication token for API requests. This is applicable for cases where authentication flow has been set as `AuthorizationCode`.

Resolved End User Issues

- When navigating the user interface via the TAB key, the links configured for the product logo and the custom logo were skipped. This issue has been corrected.
- Labels in configured sunray diagrams were not displayed in Alfabet 10.11.2 because the new method for enhanced label visualization were not compatible with the existing method for label placement. This issue has been resolved and all labels will be displayed independent from the configuration method used.

Known Limitations in Alfabet 10.13

- Update of the meta-model via the context menu of the server alias explorer node in the Alfabet Administrator is only available if the server alias is not currently connected to the Alfabet database.

Forthcoming Changes

- Support for Oracle® database servers will end with Alfabet releases 11.X, scheduled to be generally available in 2023. New customers should host the Alfabet database on Microsoft® SQL Server®. Customers hosting the Alfabet database on an Oracle database server should contact their Software AG success manager to discuss possible migration strategies to Microsoft SQL Server.

Alfabet Documentation Available with Alfabet 10.13

The following English language documentation has been updated and is available for Alfabet10.13:

- Alfabet Expand Online Help
- Alfabet Online Help
- ADIF Online Help for Alfabet meta-model
- Alfabet Reference Manuals:

- Alfabet Glossary
- *Getting Started with Alfabet*
- *Enterprise Architecture Management*
- *Portfolio Management Basic*
- *Portfolio Management Advanced*
- *Portfolio Management Complete*
- *IT Planning Basic*
- *IT Governance, Risk and Compliance*
- *Designing IT Landscape Diagrams in Alfabet*
- *System Administration*
- *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand*
- *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand - Appendix*
- *API Integration with Third-Party Components*
- *User and Solution Administration*:
- *Configuring Evaluation and Reference Data in Alfabet*
- *Designing Guide Pages for Alfabet*
- *Web Services for Alfabet*
- *Alfabet Data Integration Framework*
- *Alfabet Meta-Model*
- *ARIS - Alfabet Interoperability*
- *Alfabet RESTful API*
- *Alfabet - CentraSite Interoperability*
- The following reference manuals are structured according to the current go-to-market capability packages provided by Software AG. New reference manuals providing a methodological approach are being written and will be completed and published in an upcoming release. Until then, the following interim reference manuals are available that list each capability available in the package as well as the object classes assigned to the capability and the views available in the standard object profile of each object class.
  - IT Planning Advanced Reference Manual
  - IT Planning Complete Reference Manual
- Examples of Configured Reports Available in the Showcase Database