

Alfabet

Alfabet 11.10 - Configuration Release Notes

Alfabet 11.10



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Release Notes 11.10.0 Solution Configuration Changes

The Alfabet solution configuration has been updated to enhance the functionalities and classes that Alfabet users are familiar with.

New

The following is introduced to the Alfabet solution configuration this release.

Editable object inspection preview

New object inspection views offer a streamlined, user-friendly preview that highlights key object details and enables instant, in-place editing. Users can single-click the button for a referenced object in a data workbench, content area, guided data view, Gantt chart, portfolio report, diagram, and diagram-style reports to open the preview panel to view and edit the object. While the implementation of previews is still in progress, they are already available for most classes.

Important: This feature introduces a new click interaction. The single-click interaction is explicitly implemented to open the preview. Consequently, navigation to an object now requires a double-click to open, replacing the previous single-click behavior.

New runtime editor concept

Runtime editors have been introduced this release as an alternative to traditional standard and custom editors. Runtime editors are dynamically generated at runtime when the user opens the editor. They provide more consistency in the look-and-feel of editors providing a uniform layout that places editor fields in a configured sequence. This approach also ensures that tooltips are standardized across the product for editors and content areas. While the implementation of runtime editors is still in progress, they are already available for most classes.

New business question Where are our application used?

The business question **Where are our applications used?** is available in the **Business Relationship** section of the navigation panel. A nested matrix shows the use of applications by organizations in the company. The number of applications used by organizations is aggregated to the top two levels in the organization hierarchy. The business question helps you find outliers in IT usage from an organizational perspective. Focus on organizations with high usage and identify potential opportunities for optimization. Review where technology is underutilized and promote suitable IT support to close gaps in efficiency and innovation.

The license package **IT Transformation Server - Enterprise** is required to work with this business question. The use case **Application Portfolio Governance** must be activated.

New business question What is our strategic progress?

The business question **What is our strategic progress?** is available in the **Transformation** section of the navigation panel. The nested matrix provides an overview of the company's strategic goals and the progress of their strategic themes. Review the performance measures of the strategic themes based on their rating and gap trends and understand the RAG status of the projects impacted by the strategic theme. This visualization provides a trend analysis of your strategic progress and helps you to focus on the relevant projects that will realize your company's objectives.

The license package **Strategic Portfolio Management** is required to work with this business question. The use case **Strategy Validation** must be activated.

New business question Where can we expect resource constraints?

The business question **Where can we expect resource constraints?** is available in the **Transformation** section of the navigation panel. It provides visibility about the projects requesting resources from organizations over time so that you can recognize when projects are at risk due to potential resource shortfalls. The business question showcases a pivot table with organizations and subordinate organizations requested to provide resources for projects on the Y-axis. The X-axis displays quarterly intervals, showing both resource requests and the number of projects requesting them. Resource requests are highlighted red if they exceed a threshold of resource requests per organization per quarter. This business question sheds highlights potential bottlenecks in resource distribution in projects and helps you to find ways to reallocate resource requests among organizations or over time to reduce risk to project delivery.

The license package **Strategic Portfolio Management** is required to work with this business question. The use case **Resource Management** must be activated.

User-centric portfolio calculations

The introduction of calculated properties in Alfabet 11.9.0 adds greater flexibility for evaluations and prioritization schemes. This feature also improves usability by automatically computing values for objects at runtime, eliminating the need for manual recalculation.

Calculated properties are now available in the Alfabet FastLane and Enterprise solution configurations, allowing for more dynamic data analysis and flexible

filtering. The indicators **Business Score**, **Technical Score**, **Cloud Readiness**, and **Cloud Relevance** have been redesigned to leverage this new feature, making it easier to interpret and sort data in **Application** data workbenches. Additionally, the ordering of value ranges in portfolio matrix reports has been improved for greater clarity and precision in the business questions **What are our investment/retirement candidates?**, **What are our cloud focus areas?**, and the **TIME Portfolio Analysis** view available in the business capability content area.

Dynamic deployment structure visualization

A new **Deployment Structure Network** view is a more robust and insightful alternative to the standard **Deployment Structure** view. The new report leverages a dynamic network diagram to visualize an application's deployment details, including the business capabilities it supports, as well as the servers and geographic locations where it is hosted. The diagram offers flexible layout options, enabling users to reposition elements and enrich the visualization with custom text, shapes, and coloring as needed. The new **Deployment Structure Network** view is displayed by default in the solution, but the **Deployment Structure** view remains in the content repository and can be returned to the application content area if needed.

The license package **IT Transformation Server - FastLane** or **IT Transformation Server - Enterprise** is required to work with this report. Either the use case **Device Management** or **Deployment Management** must be activated.

Simplify complex data with analytic dashboards

Alfabet provides analytics dashboards that are based on the embedded third-party tool DevExpress® Dashboard. Analytics dashboards empower end users with dynamic, data-rich visualizations.

A new **Analytics Dashboard** node is available in the **Configuration** section of the navigation panel. The **Configure Providers** view allows an administrative user to specify the data providers that determine which configured reports or database views shall be used to fetch the data that will be displayed in the analytics dashboard. They can then create a dashboard in the **Configure Dashboards** view, specifying which data provider to use as well as the users, user groups, and user profiles that shall have access to the dashboard. The administrative user can use the full range of visualization possibilities available in the DevExpress Dashboard Designer to design the analytics dashboards for the user community. The completed analytic dashboard should be shared by the administrative user with the relevant users, user groups, and user profiles.

Users can add the dashboard pages shared with them to class-independent content areas like **Home** via the new **Add New Dashboard Page** in the 3-dots menu. The page will show one analytic dashboard and users will have read-only access to the analytics dashboard. Note that analytic dashboards should not be added to class-dependent content areas (like the Application content area) since this may not be supported in the future.

ServiceNow interoperability

ServiceNow® interoperability provides additional value if your company uses ServiceNow® to manage IT Assets, Services and Operations and Alfabet to manage the enterprise architecture and plan IT transformation.

Strategic planning in Alfabet is enhanced when based on data available in ServiceNow, and the results of strategic planning provide input for the operational planning of the IT infrastructure in ServiceNow.

Alfabet FastLane and Enterprise solutions provide a preconfigured interface with ServiceNow. In Alfabet FastLane, the interface offers import capabilities for elements in ServiceNow CI tables and mapping to Alfabet Applications, Components, Locations, and Devices.

Alfabet enterprise customers can benefit from a roundtrip of data compatible with the CSDM 5 data model. Applications created and approved in Alfabet can be exported to Business Applications in ServiceNow for deployment. After deployment is done, the resulting Application Services can then be re-imported to Deployments in Alfabet as input to application versioning and roadmapping, which is then also the basis for IT asset management and incident management in ServiceNow. The mapping of the object data includes generation of links for easy navigation from Alfabet objects to the corresponding ServiceNow elements.

Import and export of data can be managed in the **Portfolio Admin** user profile. To activate ServiceNow integration, on-premise customers need to set the required server variables in the server alias configuration. Cloud customers should contact [Alfabet Support](#) to activate the integration.

Improvements

The following enhancements to the Alfabet solution configuration are available with this release.

Smart filter prompt for new users

New users opening a business question like **What are our architecture dependencies?** or **How will IT failure impact our business?** for the first time will see a message explaining that a mandatory filter must be set in order to see data in the view. It appears only the first time a view with a mandatory filter is opened, provided no filter has been previously set. The message provides immediate clarity so that users no longer have to second-guess why no data is shown.

Optimized asset relations reporting

A new **Relations** button in the toolbar of most content areas now provides direct access to the **Asset Relations** view, a comprehensive overview of an asset's key relationships within the IT architecture. Clicking the button triggers a targeted query for this specific report, resulting in significantly improved performance. Previously, **Asset Relations** reports were embedded and loaded implicitly within content areas, which had a noticeable impact on overall product performance.

Insight-rich data in resource management

The user profile **Resource Manager** now offers clearer, richer information about offered and requested resources, making collaboration across teams and organizations more transparent. The bar charts **Resource Planning by Skills** and **Resource Planning by Team** bar charts have been optimized so that users can navigate to data workbenches that clarify who is offering a skill and who has been requested to provide a skill to another organization. Also, the **Resource Analysis** page now provides more seamless and efficient filter usability.

Streamlined layout for What is the status of our rationalization plan?

The layout of the views **Applications Over Time - Chart** and **Applications Over Time - Table** has been changed to show the entire width of each view so that no data is truncated. The data is easier to read and understand at first-glance and requires no extra horizontal scrolling as you carry out trend analysis and assess the financial impact of your rationalization activities.

More visual analytics for contract management

Contract management capabilities are now more flexible with the addition of the data workbenches **Contract Item** and **Contract Deliverables** to the **Contract** and **Contract Items** content areas. The new data workbenches provide all features of

the data workbench to slice-and-dice your data to focus on your contracts and do the analyses you are interested in.

The business question **Which contracts should we review?** has been updated and the caption of the report has been changed to **Application and Component Contracts** to enhance user guidance and improve clarity around report interactions.

Better clarity for data-triggered action rules

The **Data-Triggered Action Rules** view available for administrative users has been updated to a hierarchical layout, making it easier to see which data-triggered actions are associated with each class. The dataset is structured based on the hierarchy that shows the levels 1) target class, 2) data-triggered action rule, and 3) data-triggered action.

New location for currency configuration

To streamline cost configuration, the **Currencies** view has been moved to the **Cost Management** section in the navigation panel of the **Portfolio Admin** user profile, consolidating all cost management configurations in one place.

Revised concept to clear database

The **Clear Database** function available to administrative users has been revised to ensure that audit tables are cleaned and the instance counter set to 1.

Improved mapping for Horizzon interoperability

The classes HorizzonClassMap, HorizzonClassRelationMap, HorizzonClassAttributes, and HorizzonClassAttributeEnums have new Alfabet REFSTR-based properties to link the Horizzon Integration classes. The REFSTR properties are populated via the ADIF scheme Horizzon Integration ConnectMappingDefinition at the time of schema import.

Fixes

- Obsolete options were removed from the **New** menu in the **Work Breakdown Structure** view available for projects and work packages available for the **Portfolio Manager** and **Project Manager** user profiles. Also, obsolete fields haven been removed from the **Shift Start/End Dates** editor available in the view.
- It was not possible to navigate from nodes in the **Data Roundtrip** view to data workbenches for the classes Master Plan, Master Plan Map, Master Plan Folder, and Risk Mitigation are now working.
- The **Business Capability** filter in the business question **What is our OPEX distribution?** was not correctly applied to the cards for **Last Year Project Budget** and **Current Year Project Budget**.
- Class stereotypes such as Application:Application, Application:Peripheral, Domain:Business Capability, Domain:IT Capability, Device:Physical Server, and Device:Virtual Server were missing in the **Class Configuration** selector in the **Extended Attributes** view available to the **Portfolio Admin** user profile.
- The color of states in the **Object State** column was not aligned in the Gantt charts for the business questions **What is our application roadmap?**, **What is our technology roadmap?**, and **What is our service roadmap?**
- Errors no longer occur to business questions focusing on financial data if the name of a cost type is changed.
- The query to import IT-Pedia® products imported to Alfabet did not update the start and end dates of the Alfabet component if those dates were not specified for the component in Alfabet. This issue has been addressed so that when IT-Pedia products are imported and the Alfabet component's start and end dates are empty, the start and end dates of the IT-Pedia product will be written to the Alfabet component. If the start and end dates of the Alfabet component are already defined, its dates will not be changed by the IT-Pedia update.