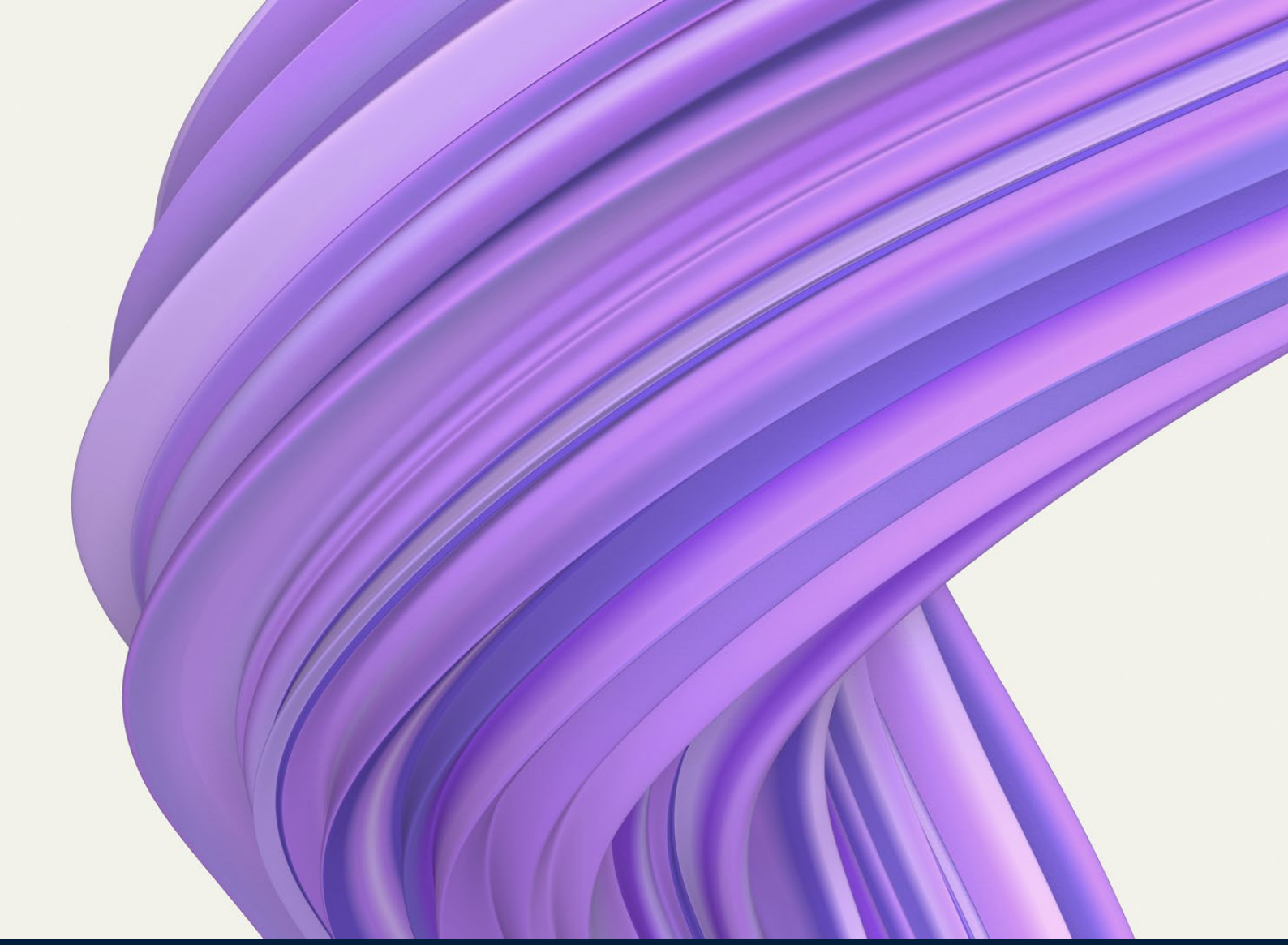

Alfabet 11.7.0 IR - Release Notes

Alfabet Documentation

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Table of Contents

Release Notes 11.7.0 IR - Platform Changes **3**

New 3

- In-product help search 3
- Define milestones via drag-and-drop 3
- Support for BPMN modeling 3
- Export content pages 4
- Configure target reference objects 4
- Migration support for Alfabet 10.15 to Alfabet 11.7 4

Improvements 5

- Easier sharing of content 5
- Simpler resizing of content items 6
- Better usability in diagram designer 6
- Improved usability for collapsed navigation menu 7
- Streamlined design of the lifecycle editor 7
- Improved performance in data workbenches 7
- Enhanced generic attributes 7
- Revised widget definitions for data workbench and indicator cards 7
- Custom buttons for object classes and content areas 8
- Enhanced security for document upload 9

Fixes 9

Known Limitations 9

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Release Notes 11.7.0 IR - Platform Changes

Alfabet release 11.7 IR (Innovation Release) continues Alfabet's journey to provide an easy end-user experience aimed to remove the barriers of adoption in the user community. The functional scope of Alfabet release 11.7 IR has been extended and new functionality has been integrated.

New

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

In-product help search

The context-sensitive help has been extended to include a search field based on a full-text search of the online help. If the standard context-sensitive help topics don't answer the user's question, a search term can be written in the new search field at the top of the help panel. The topics returned by the search are shown in a drop-down list and the topic that the user selects is displayed directly in the help panel. Available links go to the topic in the browser-based online help where users can easily navigate to related topics.

For on-premise customers: During installation, specify the directory to install the index files required for the full-text search functionality. The search index files provided by Alfabet must be placed in this folder. After installation, configure the server alias to access the folder to find the search index files. Specify the **Search Index Directory** attribute with the full directory name of the search index directory specified during the installation. The Help images must be added to the **Help Content Images** icon library.

Define milestones via drag-and-drop

Milestone dates can now be changed in a timeline via drag-and-drop. If a user has edit permissions to an asset in the Gantt chart, they can drag any of its milestone to a new point in time. While dragging the milestone, a date indicator is displayed to support the definition of the new milestone data. This is supported in all Gantt charts where milestones are available.

Support for BPMN modeling

A new diagram template is available to support modeling business processes using the Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN). The new diagram definition **`BPMNDiagram`** can be used to configure custom diagram templates.

Export content pages

Content pages can be exported to PNG or SVG format. A new **Export Page** option has been added to the three-dots menu of a content area. The export includes all content items currently displayed in the page as well as context information about the exported page. If the exported page is in a class-based content area, the file will include the ID and name of the asset and the page name. For pages exported from content areas that are not class-based, the file includes the content area name and the page name.

Configure target reference objects

The set of assets that a user can choose from when defining an attribute in the data workbench or content area can be configured. For example, a solution designer could specify that only applications that are cloud relevant may be assigned to an application group based on a specific application group stereotype.

Solution designers with access to the configuration tool Alfabet Expand can customize the range of objects that a user can select as the target of a reference property. The range definition can either limit the target of the relation to a defined object class or object class stereotype or to a range of objects defined via a query. The allowed range can be defined either on the object class property defining the reference or in the class settings for the object class or object class stereotype that the range definition shall apply to.

Migration support for Alfabet 10.15 to Alfabet 11.7

In Alfabet 11.7, the elements in the user interface and the meta-model configuration objects that they are based on differ considerably from Alfabet 10.15. Migration of an existing Alfabet implementation is therefore very complex. It is strongly recommended that you consult Software AG for help in order to migrate the configuration of your Alfabet installation.

If you have implemented the Enterprise solution configuration (Accelerator), it is recommended that you use the preconfigured solution provided with Alfabet 11.7 as a starting point and adjust it to include the custom configurations that you have made. This may also be a more efficient method to migrate if you are an Enterprise customer with considerable customization of your solution.

If the existing user interface and meta-model configuration should be migrated as-is, the update of the meta-model via the AMM file will automatically update part of your configuration. Documentation of the changes is available under Migration from Alfabet 10.15 to Alfabet 11.7.

Please note that typically the automated migration process does not result in the complete migration of the Alfabet 10.15 user interface configuration. For example, widget reports must be re-implemented by defining cards using the new card definition capabilities available in data workbenches and the views to configure indicator types and evaluation types.

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Improvements

Easier sharing of content

Content can be shared with user groups. The **Add to Content Repository** dialog has a new section **Share with User Groups**. In addition to specifying individual users to share content with, the user sharing the content can now select one or more user groups to share it with. All users in a selected user group can add the shared content item or content page to their own content pages.

User notification is triggered when content is shared. If a user shares content with another user, a notification will be automatically displayed in the notification panel. The notification lets you know the name and type of content that was shared and includes a timestamp of when the content was shared. Shared content such as data workbenches, indicator cards, views, etc. can be added to a content area via the 3-dots button > **Add Content**.

New icons relay information about shared content. To make it easier to understand whether a user is sharing a content item/content page or content is being shared with them, easy to understand icons the following symbols are displayed next to the shared content in the **Show / Hide Page** panel:

- : A content item is created but not shared with anyone else
- : You have shared a content item with someone else.
- : A content item has been shared by someone else with you.
- : An administrative user has shared a content item with you.

Shared pages available to user in respective content area. Content pages that are shared are now only available to the user in the content area that it was created in. For example, if a user shares a content page created in an application content area, the user receiving the shared content will only see the page in the **Show / Hide Page** panel in the context of an application content area. This ensures that users can easily find and access content in the context where it makes sense.

Content owners can delete content pages. The new **Delete Page** option has been added to the 3-dots button for content areas. Only the creator of a content page can delete the page.

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Simpler resizing of content items

Changing the size of content items placed in a content page is now easier. Drag any side or corner handle of a content item to resize it.

Better usability in diagram designer

Improved experience adding new objects to the diagram. Users can now easily create new objects like applications, application groups, etc. There are two easy methods to do this:

1. Click the class icon in the toolbox and click in the diagram workspace to place the object. The class icon in the toolbox will display a blue bar indicating it is selected and the mouse pointer will show a + symbol to indicate that something is being created. When the user clicks in the diagram workspace, the relevant editor or selector will open so that the object creation can be completed.
2. Drag-and-drop the class icon to the diagram workspace. The class icon in the toolbox will display a blue bar indicating it is selected and the mouse pointer will show the class icon symbol as the user drags it. When the user clicks in the diagram workspace, the relevant editor or selector will open so that the object creation can be completed.

Intuitive grouping of action buttons. The action buttons in the toolbar and the context menu that opens via right-click have been overhauled to improve the end-user experience when designing diagrams. Buttons are now logically bundled based on what is to be done so that users can quickly find the button they are looking for. Improved captions and new icons for menus and buttons help users to quickly understand the action behind the button. If the screen is minimized, a vertical three-dot button is added to the toolbar and the buttons that don't fit in the toolbar are moved to the menu.

Streamlined saving of diagram changes. The actions to save changes to the diagram and close the diagram designer have been reworked so that users easily understand the status of their changes to the diagram. A new status message has been added to the left side of the toolbar with the status **Not yet saved** if changes to the diagram have not been saved. Once a user clicks the **Save** button in the bottom right of the diagram, the status information is updated to **Saving** and then **Saved**. Users can close the diagram and save their changes via the **X** button in the top right corner or close without saving their changes by clicking the **Cancel** button in the bottom right of the diagram.

Enhanced icons for shapes. The icons for shapes such as lines, circles, rectangles, etc. have been revised for an enhanced look-and-feel.

New custom palette available. Users can now open a pop-up via the **More Outline Colors** and **More Fill Colors** options to specify custom colors via RGB values or gradients.

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Improved usability for collapsed navigation menu

The symbols in the sidebar navigation panel can now be clicked when the navigation panel is collapsed in order to open the corresponding view in the content area. The side navigation panel will expand automatically. For menu items with a sub-menu, the navigation panel will expand automatically and the menu will be expanded so users can click the relevant option.

Streamlined design of the lifecycle editor

The lifecycle editor has been redesigned to simplify the definition of lifecycle phases. The new **Lifecycle Editor** opens in a panel on the right of the screen. Users can switch on individual lifecycle phases and specify their start and end dates in calendar fields. The duration of each phase is shown for each lifecycle phase. An **Align Active Period** button enables the start/end dates of the application to automatically align to the start/end dates of the lifecycle phases that begin and end the configured active period.

Improved performance in data workbenches

Performance of data workbenches has improved by a factor of up to 10 for handling of large data sets, depending on the situation.

Enhanced generic attributes

"Generic attributes" renamed "Extended attributes". The captions for views, property groups, etc. have been changed to **Extended Attributes** to help users understand that these attributes are an extension to the standard product.

Property type Range added to Extended Attributes editor. An administrative user can create an extended attribute of type Range and specify the values for the attribute. Users can select one of the values in the content area for the attribute. An empty row is also added for undefined values.

Revised widget definitions for data workbench and indicator cards

The following improvements are available for indicator cards and data workbench cards:

- **Improved widget card templates.** The widget card templates that can be used to define indicator cards for indicator types or evaluation types have been simplified. A single template now addresses multiple types of indicator values (numeric, text, etc.). This will not impact the visualization of existing indicator cards in content areas.
- **Use currency or measurement units for cards.** The unit (i.e. %, number of users, etc.) displayed in indicator cards and data workbench cards has been enhanced so that the unit can be selected from preconfigured values. Currencies defined by an administrative user in the **Currencies** view and measurement units defined in the new **Measurement Units** view. These can be selected as units when a user creates a card visualization for a data workbench or an administrative user creates a widget for an indicator type.

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- **Show captions for indicator colors.** Captions can be defined for color ranges in an indicator type widget definition. A change in the widget card template definition in Alfabet Expand is required to show these captions instead of the indicator values in the indicator card.
- **Determine the sequence of indicators in cards.** The order of indicators in grouped indicator cards can be changed.
- **Users can select the widget card template to visualize.** Multiple widget card templates can be defined for data workbench card visualizations. Users can select between the widget card templates in the card settings. In Alfabet Expand, the specification of the widget card templates that are available in data workbenches is no longer managed via the XML object `DataWorkbenchCardWidgetConfiguration` but directly in the widget card template.
- **Extended calculations for cards.** Data workbench card visualizations can display values based on calculations like sum, average, etc. of a numeric attribute or indicator displayed in the data workbench.
- **Enhanced filtering for cards.** An additional filter can be set for card visualizations of a data workbench directly in the card settings. Filtering is limited to attributes with a fixed value range.

Custom buttons for object classes and content areas

Improvements have been made to the new methodology to specify buttons as generic class operations. The following information is only relevant for solution designers with access to Alfabet Expand.

- Generic operations now include operations for reference array properties. These buttons allow users to add existing objects to a current object in data workbenches and content areas.
- Additional generic operations are available for standard object classes.
- Solution designers can add buttons to the generic operations for an object class and to individual content areas. The buttons can be added to execute events or ADIF jobs, open the log files for ADIF job execution, create a workflow, open a wizard, and provide navigation to views, diagrams or objects.
- Different button behavior can be defined in the class settings for object class stereotypes.
- The default selector can be changed for buttons via the class settings.
- Buttons can be completely hidden or disabled based on a condition. This is specified in the relevant class settings.

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Enhanced security for document upload

A number of security measures have been implemented that change the way documents are handled, for example when uploading documents to the **Attachments** view and internal document selector.

- The file upload mechanism has changed to streaming and the size restriction of 1 GB applies to avoid denial of service attacks.
- In the **Attachments** view and the internal document selector, the buttons that opened a document in a new browser tab were not compatible with the enhanced security of session handling in Alfabet 11. This led to problems with the session expiring. The buttons have been removed and a document must be downloaded so that it can be opened.

Fixes

- Content pages that are created by users are no longer deleted if they are hidden via the **Show / Hide Page** option. A **Delete Page** option has been added to allow pages to be explicitly deleted by the creator of the page.
- The **Show Legend** capability was missing for diagrams.
- It was not possible to enter text in the **Comments** field in the **Legend of Changes** element in the diagram designer.
- If one property was changed in the **Reference Class** column in the **Class Properties** tab for a data capture template, the change was applied to all properties.
- Indicator types created by an administrative user were not available in data capture templates created for the object classes they were assigned to.
- An error occurred when an application was opened by means of the global search field.
- An error occurred when exporting the business question **What is Our Application Roadmap?**
- When objects of a defined stereotype were created via RESTful services, the ID prefix of the objects was not set to the ID prefix of the object class stereotype.

Known Limitations

- For Alfabet Enterprise customers who are migrating to Alfabet release 11.7.0 IR (Innovation Release) using the new Enterprise solution configuration, please note that the technical names of some Alfabet-configured reports and views were changed due to technical reasons. This may impact favorites (bookmarks) or other links to Alfabet-configured reports. If you find that the target of a bookmark no longer opens in Alfabet 11.7.0 IR, please recreate it.

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- Before migration from 10.15 to 11.7.0, guide pages and guide views must be explicitly updated and saved in the Guide Pages Designer. To do so, open the Guide Pages Designer and click the **Update Guide Pages** button and then the **Save** button before you trigger the migration of guide pages and guide views.
- In Alfabet 11.7, the following user authentication methods are supported: user name and password, Windows Authentication, SAML, OAuth/OpenID.
- Re-login with user name and password is currently not supported for users logging in with Windows Authentication. The **Allow Relogin** checkbox in the server alias of the Alfabet Web Application is ignored. The checkbox will be removed in a future release and the functionality will be provided via a different method.

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