Release Notes 11.8.0 Configuration

Alfabet Documentation

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software AG

Table of Contents

Release Notes 11.8.0.a Configuration Changes

Alfabet release 11.8.0 includes many new capabilities and enhancements to Alfabet Enterprise solution configuration.

New

The following is introduced to Alfabet solution configuration this release.

User support and guidance for data input

A new guided data entry is introduced to help users create and edit applications, peripherals, components, business services, support services, and projects so that they can be sure the most critical data is complete and accurate. The guided data entry feature is available as a button in the respective content areas for which the guided data entry is available.

Triggering the **Guided Data Entry** button overlays the content area with the fields and views that are necessary to meet data requirements. A panel on the right lists the relevant areas of data input including the number of violated data quality rules for each area. For example, a guided data entry for an application highlights that data is required for the areas **Basic Data**, **Description**, **Lifecycle**, **Architecture**, and **Information Flows**. Users can click any section in the list to move the focus directly to the fields/views where the required data can be entered. Whenever a data rule violation is resolved, the number of data quality rule violations is updated. In this way, users can easily resolve all data input issues for the assets they are responsible for.

Easy initiation of demand workflows

Users can trigger the preconfigured workflow to create a demand from anywhere in the user interface. By clicking the orange **New** button in the masthead and selecting **Demand**, the **Register Demand** workflow will be automatically triggered, and the editor panel will open so that the demand can be documented, assessed, and approved.

Resource management

New capabilities are available to help your company transform the demand pipeline into IT transformation projects that are managed and executed upon based on the available resources and budget.

The Financials page in the project content area has been extended so that the project's skill request costs can be transferred to its business case. Additional views allow benefit tracking and cash-out planning to be managed and analyzed.

A new Execution page has been added to the project content area where project resources planning is specified and monitored. Skills and resources can be requested for the project and additional views provide an overview of who is providing the skills as well as a comprehensive time schedule of the resource planning.

The new user profile Resource Manager is a dedicated profile for users that are responsible for maintaining the data relevant for project portfolio management and provides complete transparency of offered and requested resources across teams and organizations. The **Home** page includes a **Resource Management** view that offers a comprehensive overview of the availability and consumption of skills by organizations, teams, and projects. A **Resource Analysis** page allows the resource manager to understand expected resource constraints at any point in time. Extensive filtering is available to focus on specific organizations, quarterly periods, impacted projects, and requested resources. Rules can be set to highlight significant resource constraints so that action can be taken in a timely manner.

Additionally, the resource manager has various data maintenance views available and can capture a skills catalog that is the basis for specifying the skills organizations offer. The resource manager can administer resources on a higher organizational level in the new **Resources** page in the organization content area as well as on a granular level that focuses on who can provide the skill and when they can provide it. The resource manager also has an overview of the transformation projects including when they shall start and end and who the responsible project manager and architect are.

The new user profile Team Member allows users who have been assigned to provide skills and resources to manage those tasks. The **Home** page for a team member shows a time schedule of all tasks they are responsible for and allows them to move them forward in an agile Kanban board. Various views are available where team members can manage their project tasks, report the time worked on their tasks, and keep track of timesheets.

The resource management capabilities can be accessed by users with the extension package **Strategic Portfolio Management**.

Lean portfolio management

The extension package **Lean Architecture Management** is available and supports the use cases **Portfolio Backlog** and **Portfolio Vision**. These use cases allow various roles and stakeholders to plan, align and monitor a steady flow of epics and features in Alfabet in alignment with the SAFe framework. These capabilities ensure transparency across business and technological silos so that architecture planning is aligned to the business's strategy.

New classes Epic, Epic Group, Feature, and User Story have been added to the **Investment Architecture** section of the navigation panel. With these classes, users can capture epics to outline big picture goals, features to break down those goals into smaller, achievable chunks of functionality, and user stories to define the specific tasks needed to build each feature.

The new business question How do we manage our portfolio flow? has been added to the **Transformation** section. This business question focuses on epics that can be filtered based on specific strategic themes. The best practice methodology **Weighted Shortest Job First (WSJ)** is available to prioritize business and enable epics based on their cost of delay in terms of business value, risk, and time criticality as well as cost forecast. The business question allows epics to be assessed and moved to the next phase of their lifecycle when capacity allows.

The new business question How do we manage our program flow? allows features and user stories to be prioritized based on the methodology **Weighted Shortest Job First (WSJ)**. Features are evaluated based on their cost of delay and estimated job size in story points to understand the duration of the feature. Relevant features can be moved to the next phase of the feature lifecycle.

NORA use case available

A new use case based on the **NORA** (National Overall Reference Architecture) methodology is available. The **NORA** use case is compliant with the National Enterprise Architecture (NEA) framework relevant for governmental agencies in Saudi Arabia.

A new storyboard **NORA Accelerator** is available that is an entry to the 10-step approach to an industry-standard enterprise architecture operating model. The storyboard begins with developing an EA project strategy and takes users through the stages of specifying reference models and current and target architectures to developing management plans and the final execution of the EA strategy. Each storyboard link navigates the user to pre-configured views, reports, workflows and data ingestion tools. The new **NORA** use case helps enterprises streamline the establishment of enterprise architecture programs based on industry best practices in order to fast-track public sector digital transformation.

The **NORA** use case can be accessed by users with the extension packages **Strategic Portfolio Management** and **Enterprise Architecture Management**.

New business question What are our service overlaps?

The business question **What are our service overlaps?** is available in the **Rationalization** section of the navigation panel. It helps you to quickly identify the overlap of business services or support services based on common IT assets.

The business question displays a matrix with a lane for each object class of service items that are providing services. The service items are marked with symbols and numbers if they are impacted by services. IT assets are highlighted red if they are affected by multiple services and require attention. Review the services impacted by an IT asset and establish clear objectives for service delivery in order to minimize risk and reduce the number of service collisions.

The business question can be accessed by users with the extension package **Enterprise Architecture Management**.

New business question Where are our applications deployed?

The business question **Where are our applications deployed?** helps you to understand where applications are located and provides a quick overview about the deployment hotspots. The information is a source of input about security and disaster recovery activities for locations with critical applications.

A branching diagram visualizes locations and their subordinate locations and the number of applications that are deployed at the location. Parent locations are on the left. The subordinate locations branch out towards the right. For each location deploying applications, a number is displayed in parenthesis next to the location name. A **Deployment Structure** view is available for each location that allows you to understand its application deployments including the physical and virtual servers that the applications run on.

Depending on the use case implemented by your company, the business question **Where are our applications deployed?** may show either the locations based on the physical/virtual servers that deploy the application or based on application deployments that specifically describe how the application is deployed on the physical and virtual servers via the logical set of installed elements that constitute one instantiation of an application.

The business question is available in the **Transparency** section for users with the base package Enterprise Architecture Management.

New business question What is our security score?

The business question **What is our security score?** provides a high-level overview of the application risk assessment. It helps identify the most critical applications based on their CIA score (**Confidentiality**, **Integrity**, **Availability**) in the application portfolio. This business question helps your enterprise comply with regulations by identifying yet-to-be assessed applications so that you can initiate activities to capture the required compliance data.

The business question is available in the **Risk** section for users with the base package IT Transformation Server - Enterprise.

New business question Where do we have SLA violations?

The business question **Where do we have SLA violations?** examines the service level agreements for business services and their support services and compares the indicators of the SLAs. A nested matrix shows the business services, their support services and the alignment of their service level agreements (SLAs). The visualization highlights where support services do not provide enough support to the business service and where violations are occurring with service level agreements. This business question helps you to understand the business service demand and the support service supply chain and identify risks due to inconsistencies in the supply chain.

The business question is available in the **Risk** section for users with the license package Enterprise Architecture Management.

Application variant definition

Application variants can be created by users with the license package Enterprise Architecture Management.

Dark color theme to support accessibility

A beta version of a dark color palette is available to support accessibility to the Alfabet UI for people with disabilities. The color theme is labeled **Dark Theme (beta)** and is available in the **Color Themes** functionality available for an administrative user.

User profile configuration available

A new **User Profiles** section has been added to the **User Accounts Management** section of the navigation panel available for the **Portfolio Admin** user profile. Administrative users can edit existing use profiles and change the user profile's read-write permissions, whether it is available for anonymous user login, or has administrative rights.

This capability is available only to administrative users with the base package IT Transformation Server - Enterprise.

New view to manage licenses

A new **License Overview** section has been added to the **Administration** section of the navigation panel available for the **Portfolio Admin** user profile. Administrative users can view all licenses and license packages that their company has purchased as well as view which use cases are active in the product scope of each license package.

Improvements

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

Authorization for data stewards

The user profile **Application Manager** has been adjusted to provide Write permissions for the class Application and read-only permissions to all other relevant classes in the business, information, technology, and investment architectures. The same adjustment has been made to the user profile **Technology Manager** whereby write permissions are available for the class Component.

Enhancements to information architecture

Information architecture classes to capture business data have been reworked and realigned with the Alfabet class model in order to simplify the capture of business data usage and CRUD reporting as well as support more complex information landscapes. Please note that **Data Categories** are deprecated and replaced by **Business Object Categories**. The class **Business Data** class has been removed from the user interface and replaced with the class **Business Object**. New data workbenches and content areas have been implemented to capture and analyze business objects and business object categories.

A new BPMN diagram is available in the **Diagrams** page in the business process content area. Business applications and data objects (=Business Objects) can be added to the BPMN diagram. Business data usage can be specified in the diagram by adding a message flow connection between a data object and a business process. Please note however that if the business data usage already exists in the database, then two arrows will be displayed for the message flow. The input or output arrow that is not required must be manually hidden in the diagram via the context menu for the message flow.

Alignment of application lifecycle phases

The application lifecycles implemented for the licenses IT Transformation Server - FastLane and IT Transformation Server - Enterprise have been revised and aligned to provide a smoother transition for customers planning to upgrade to IT Transformation Server - Enterprise. The lifecycle phases are:

- **Plan**: The application has been identified and evaluated for possible use in the company.
- **Implementation**: Activities are underway to prepare the application for production.
- **Production**: The application is being used in the company.
- **Sunset**: The application is still available but is not intended to be used for daily work.
- **Read-Only**: The application is no longer used but is available for reasons of documentation and compliance.
- **Retired**: The application is no longer used.

Enhanced visualization in What is our vendor roadmap?

The vertical lines showing the reference from an asset's lifecycle to its predecessor are visually enhanced so that a blue vertical line begins at the end of the predecessor contract and points to the start of the successor contract. Grey vertical lines are displayed for the predecessor/successor relationship of applications and components. lifecycle of an application or component and points to the start of the successor application/component lifecycle.

Property caption for IT-Pedia synchronization

The caption of the component attribute **Synchronize with IT-Pedia** (ITP_SYNC) has been aligned with the **IT-Pedia Enrichment** attribute and has been renamed **IT-Pedia Synchronization**.

Extension to server type

Database Server has been added to the **Server Type** attribute for physical servers and virtual servers.

Fixes

- The **Admin** user profile is a deprecated profile and has been removed from the user profile menu. This fix is a resolution for ticket SI-573512.
- The indicator type **License Eligible for Cloud** has been removed from the **Cloud Assessment** evaluation type because it was duplicated.
- The indicator type **Cloud Application EoL** has been removed from the **Cloud Readiness** evaluation type because it was duplicated.