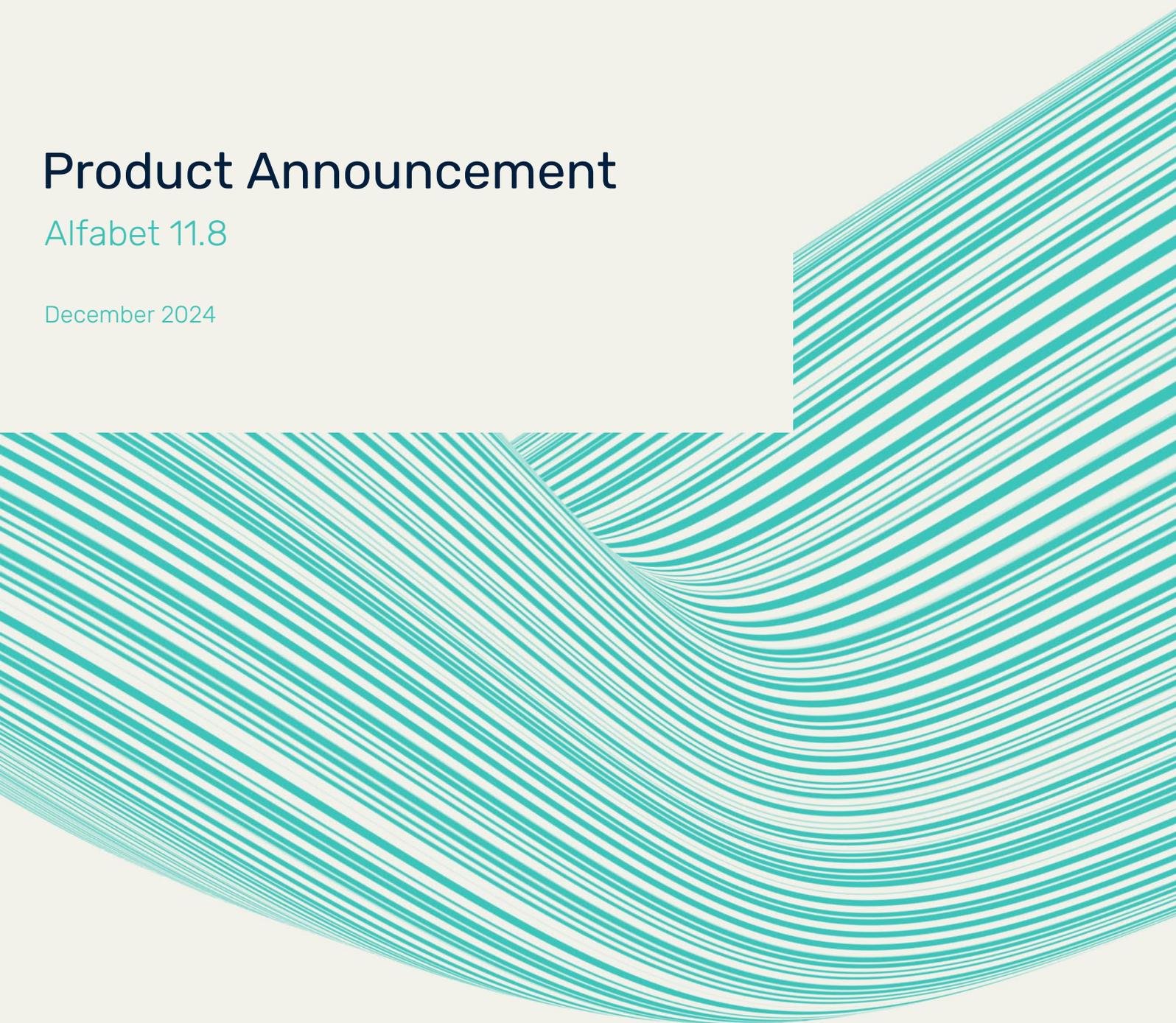




# Product Announcement

Alfabet 11.8

December 2024



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## Introduction

Alfabet 11.8 demonstrates our intent to provide the greatest possible value from Alfabet by ensuring relevant, complete and contextual information on which to base decisions on IT and business change. Such insights require a rich repository of information supplied by a large and diverse pool of stakeholders. Thus, all Alfabet 11 releases have focused on making it easy for all stakeholders to contribute information and derive meaningful insights. Alfabet 11.8 is no exception. This release targets ensuring high data quality even from occasional users and user-friendliness. Additionally, Alfabet 11.8 offers new accelerators and business questions for customers wanting a quick-start into various use cases.

## Feature Highlights:

### The following features are available in the Alfabet IT Transformation Server

#### Guided Data Entry

This new feature guides users through the process of creating and editing assets so they can be sure the most critical data is complete and accurate. Clicking the “Guided Data Entry” button overlays the content area with the fields and views necessary to meet data quality requirements. A list shows the relevant areas of data input including the number of violated data quality rules for each area. For example, Guided Data Entry for an application might require Basic Data, Description, Lifecycle, Architecture, and Information Flows. Users can click any section in the list to focus directly on the fields/views where data is required. When a data rule violation is resolved, the number of violations is updated. Thus, users can easily resolve all data input issues for the assets they own.

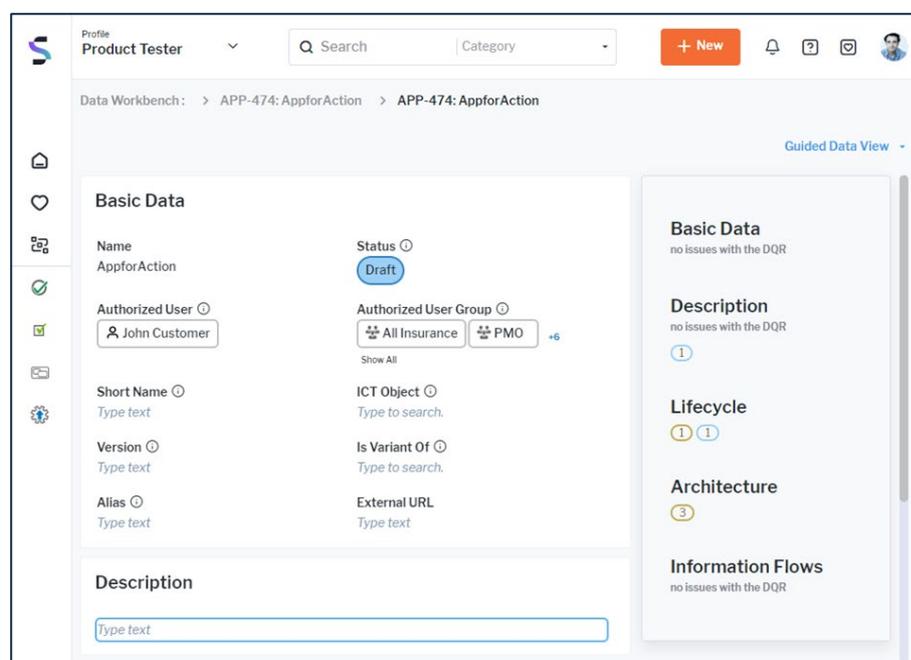


Figure 1: In Guided Data Entry a list shows the relevant areas of data input including the number of violated data quality rules for each area

## Data Triggered Actions

Alfabet 11.8 provides automation of portfolio management tasks, their execution triggered by virtue of a particular action performed on data or based on conditions. This fosters data completeness, ensures consistency and increases productivity. Events that trigger actions are creation, editing and deletion of assets or the fact that certain data conditions have been met. Actions that can be carried out are:

- Create or update data automatically
- Workflow execution
- Data import/export

Examples for this are: an End Date can be automatically updated based on the Start Date; a Start Date can be automatically populated upon application creation; an approval workflow can be automatically triggered upon application creation.

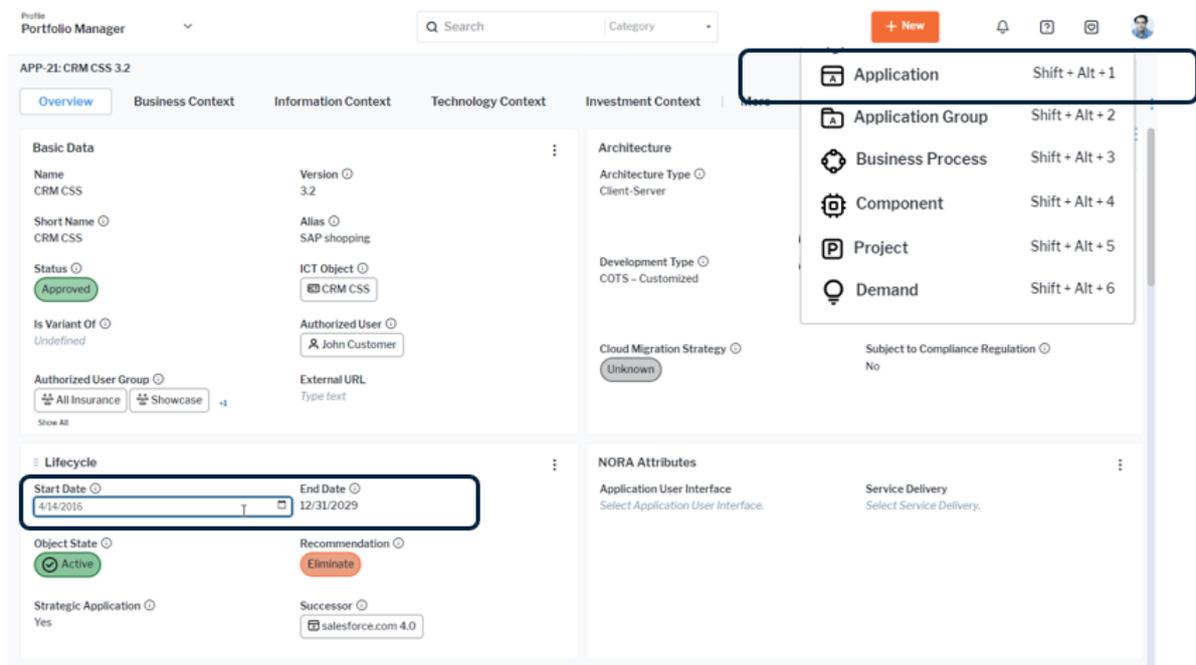


Figure 2: Data-triggered actions can be, for example, automatically update End Date based on the Start Date, automatically populate Start Date on creation, and automatically trigger an application approval workflow on creation.

## Hierarchical Data Workbenches

It is now possible to create data workbenches showing related objects on multiple levels of expandable tables. This greatly increases the amount of information available for analysis and maximizes screen estate. The hierarchy shows one object class per level with up to four additional expandable levels below. For example, an expandable data workbench may include applications, components, and local components. As another example, an organization hierarchy can show the parent organization and three subordinate levels of organizations in the organizational hierarchy. Users can edit inline and add, remove, and sort columns in the data workbenches.

Found: 4 + New Edit Structure

#	<input type="checkbox"/>	Application	Short Name	Object State	Start Date	End Date	Status
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Q Search	Q Search	All	Q Search	Q Search	All
> ↗ 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	L-Account 1.0		<span>Active</span>	1/14/2018	8/9/2026	<span>Approved</span>
> ↗ 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	SAP Banking Cu...	SAP BCA	<span>Active</span>	2/15/2020	9/10/2028	<span>Approved</span>
∨ ↗ 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	ACCOUNT 1		<span>Active</span>	6/16/2015	1/9/2024	<span>Approved</span>

#	<input type="checkbox"/>	Component	Name	Version	Object State	Status	Data Quality Severity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Q Search	Q Search	Q Search	All	All	All
↗ 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Window...	Microsoft Windows	7	<span>Active</span>	<span>Approved</span>	<span>Hint</span>
↗ 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Excel 20...	Microsoft Excel	2010	<span>Retired</span>	<span>Approved</span>	<span>Hint</span>
↗ 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	HP ProLiant Serve...	HP ProLiant Server BL ...	n/a	<span>Retired</span>	<span>Approved</span>	<span>Hint</span>
↗ 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Window...	Microsoft Windows En...	2012 64bit	<span>Active</span>	<span>Approved</span>	<span>Hint</span>

Column Filters

[Application] Contains 'account' Clear

Figure 3: This example of a Hierarchical Data Workbench shows an expanded data workbench for the application "ACCOUNT 1" including its components. The workbench can be expanded up to four levels.

## Enhanced SCIM Support

Alfabet 11.8 provides enhancements to application setup and user account synchronization for SCIM (System for Cross-domain Identity Management). For SCIM users, Alfabet provides a separate Alfabet SCIM application with its own database that can be deployed on customer and cloud infrastructure to enable automated identity management. The SCIM application interacts with the Alfabet application via a REST API. It runs 24/7 to keep the Alfabet database in sync with IDP (Identity Provider) updates. Data coming from the IDP is consumed and updated on the PERSON table.

Enhancements in Alfabet 11.8 are:

- Improved bulk processing of data allowing ~ 200K records to be merged in 1-3 seconds
- Sync scheduling, token generation and field mapping
- Dashboard showing total users, recent updates and creates
- Detailed field mapping of the identity model to the Alfabet table

Alfabet's SCIM integration has been fully tested for Microsoft Azure and OKTA Universal Directory and it fully implements SCIM RFC (Request for Comments).

The image displays three screenshots of the Alfabet SCIM Integration interface. The first screenshot shows the 'Welcome to Alfabet SCIM Integration' page, which includes a 'Synchronizations with Alfabet enabled?' section with a 'Schedule execution' dropdown set to 'EachFiveMinutes' and buttons for 'Generate Token', 'Edit Alfabet Tech Names', 'Edit Mapping', and 'Force Restart Application'. The second screenshot shows the 'Last Updates' dashboard, featuring date filters for 'Date From' and 'Date Until' both set to '12/11/2024', and a circular gauge chart displaying 'Users: 168,786', 'Updates: 1', and 'Creates: 5'. The third screenshot shows the 'Edit Field mappings' page, which includes a warning message and various fields like 'Title', 'Manager', 'AddressCountry', etc., each with an 'Enabled' checkbox and an 'Alfabet Column' dropdown menu.

Figure 4: Here we see sync scheduling, dashboard and field mapping for the Alfabet SCIM application.

## Extended Configuration Migration

Customers wishing to migrate configuration items from Alfabet 10 to the Alfabet 11 configuration scope can now migrate the complete scope of the view scheme. Configuration migrations can be executed at the time of the meta-model update by clicking the “Execute configuration migration scripts” checkbox in the “Update Meta-Model” dialog.

Please note the variance in migration routines depending on the migration scope:

- 10.15 -> 11.7 -- Full migration with scope up to 11.7
- 11.7.1 -> 11.7.2 -- Delta updates between 11.7 patches
- 11.7.2 -> 11.8 -- Delta updates between 11.7.2 and 11.8
- 10.15 -> 11.8 -- Full migration and complete scope of view schemes

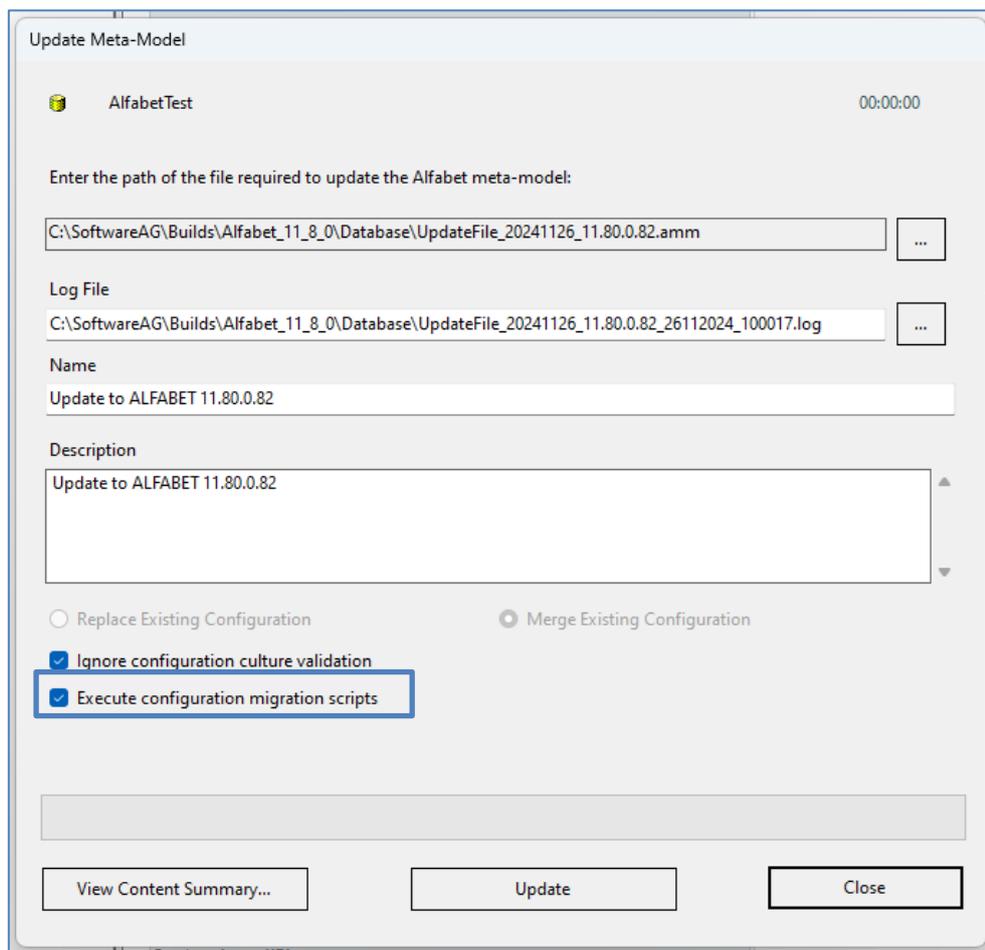


Figure 5: Configuration migrations can be executed at the time of the meta-model update by clicking the “Execute configuration migration scripts” checkbox in the “Update Meta-Model” dialog.

**URLs in Data Workbenches and Content Areas:** Users can specify external links for an asset in the repository, thus making additional relevant information easily available. The external link can be defined by users in data workbenches and content areas via inline editing. Supported protocols are HTTP and HTTPS. Additionally, MAILTO can be used to define an email address thus making it easy to provide contact information and enhance communication. In this case, clicking the link will open the user's default email program with the specified email address in the To: field.

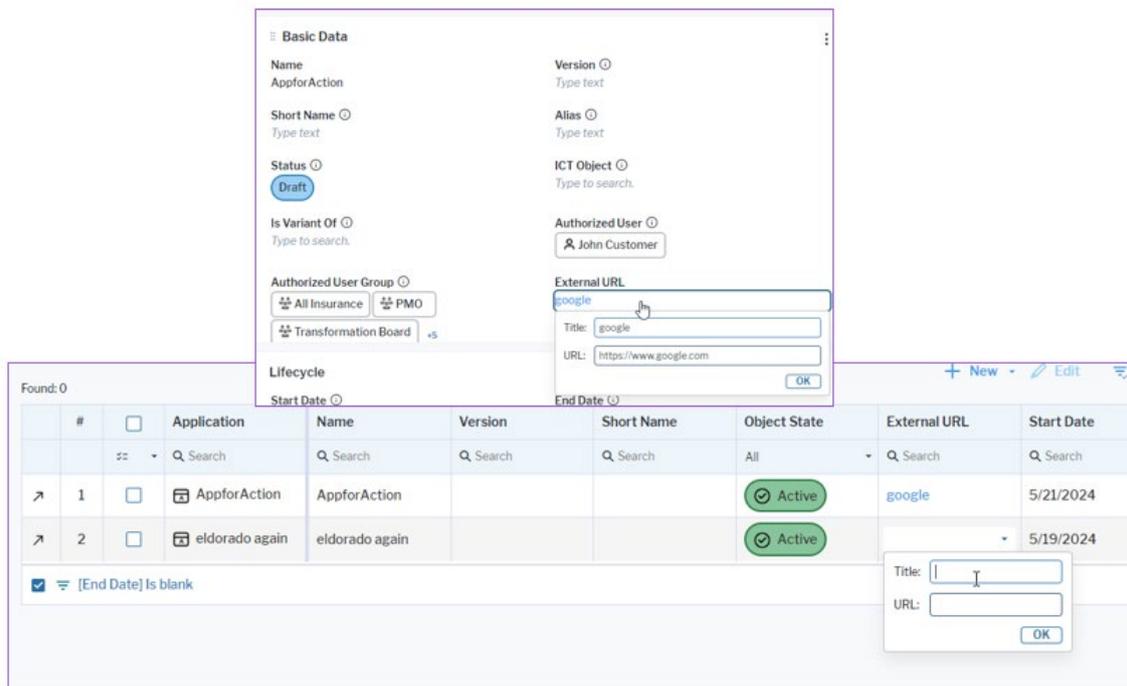


Figure 6: Alfabet 11.8 lets users specify external links for an asset in the repository, thus making additional relevant information easily available.

## Usability Enhancements

Improved navigation and enhanced interface user-friendliness mean higher productivity and easier task completion:

- Interactivity has been added to the left navigation in the collapsed state make better use of the available screen estate
- The number of content tabs displayed has been made fully responsive to the available real estate
- Units created for an Indicator Type are now visible in workbench column headers, visualizations and relevant standard views improving consistency of the displayed information

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## **LDAP Integration**

All LDAP (Lightweight Directory Access Protocol) related functionality as known from Alfabet 10 has been ported to Alfabet 11. Supported are:

- LDAP 2 and LDAP 3
- LDAP via SSL (LDAPS)
- Authorization via LDAP like SAML
- LDAP via ADIF import set

## **Extended User Data Mapping from OAuth (e.g., Okta)**

In addition to default data, extended user data can now be mapped to get copied into Alfabet.

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## The following features are available for Alfabet Accelerators as of Alfabet 11.8

### Resource Management Accelerator

Use Resource Management to transform the demand pipeline into IT transformation projects that are managed and executed upon based on the available resources and budget. Here are the main features:

- Finance management: Include a project's skill request costs in the project business case. Manage and analyze project benefit tracking and cash-out planning.
- Resource planning: Request skills and resources for a project, see who is providing the skills and schedule resources according to availability.
- Resource Manager user profile: Resource Managers have a comprehensive overview of the availability and consumption of skills by organizations, teams, and projects at their fingertips. Understand expected resource constraints at any point in time. Focus on specific organizations, quarterly periods, impacted projects, and requested resources. Create a skills catalog that is the basis for specifying the skills the organization offers. Maintain an overview of all transformation projects including when they start and end and the responsible project manager and architect.
- Team Member user profile: Team Members have a time schedule of all tasks they are responsible for and can move them forward in an Agile Kanban board. They can manage their project tasks, report the time worked on their tasks, and keep track of timesheets.

Required: Strategic Portfolio Management extension package.

### Lean Portfolio Management Accelerator

Use Lean Portfolio Management to drive efficiency and agility across your portfolio. The Lean Portfolio Management Accelerator provides the following:

- Portfolio Backlog and Portfolio Vision. Plan, align and monitor a steady flow of epics and features in Alfabet in alignment with the SAFe framework. Ensure transparency across business and technology silos so that portfolio planning is aligned to the business strategy.
- Classes for Epic, Epic Group, Feature, and User Story: 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.
- New business question "How do we manage our portfolio flow?": Assess epics and move them to the next phase of their lifecycle when capacity allows. Epics can be filtered according to strategic theme and prioritized according to Weighted Shortest Job First (WSJ).
- New business question "How do we manage our program flow?": Prioritize features and user stories according to Weighted Shortest Job First (WSJ). Evaluate features based on their cost of delay and estimated job size in story points to understand the duration of the feature.

Required: Lean Portfolio Management extension package

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## NORA Accelerator

This accelerator supports organizations in their efforts to be compliant with the NORA (National Overall Reference Architecture) methodology as part of the National Enterprise Architecture (NEA) framework relevant for government agencies in Saudi Arabia.

The NORA Accelerator supports ORA's 10-step approach to building an industry-standard EA operating model prescribing: Development of an EA project strategy; specification of reference models and current/target architectures; development of management plans and; execution of the EA strategy. For each step, links navigate the user to pre-configured views, reports, workflows and data ingestion tools.

Required: Strategic Portfolio Management and Enterprise Architecture Management extension packages.

## New Business Questions

Business questions are used in Alfabet Accelerators to provide relevant pre-configured views, reports and data requirements.

- **“What are our service overlaps?”**: Review the services impacted by an IT asset and establish clear objectives for service delivery to minimize risk and reduce the number of service collisions. (Required: Enterprise Architecture Management extension package).
- **“Where are our applications deployed?”**: Understand where applications are located and identify deployment hotspots. This information is a source of input for security and disaster recovery activities for locations with critical applications. (Required: Enterprise Architecture Management extension package).
- **“What is our security score?”**: Identify the most critical applications based on their CIA score (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability). Comply with regulations by identifying yet-to-be assessed applications so that you can initiate activities to capture the required compliance data. (Required: IT Transformation Server).
- **“Where do we have SLA violations?”**: Examine service level agreements for business services and their support. Understand the business service demand and identify risk due to inconsistencies in support. (Required: Enterprise Architecture Management extension package).