Release Notes 11.9.1.B Solution Configuration Changes

The Alfabet Enterprise 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 Enterprise solution configuration this release.

AI portfolio management

AI Portfolio Management is a strategic AI governance tool designed to provide visibility into the deployment and use of artificial intelligence across your enterprise and link it to IT architecture. It enables organizations to catalog the AI features of its business features and provides transparency around the authorized use of underlying models and technologies. By offering a clear view of where and how AI is applied, AI portfolio management helps stakeholders understand the impact of AI on critical business segments. Risk assessment on all levels of the AI portfolio guarantees transparency to prevent black-box decision-making about AI technologies. The specification of where AI can be used in the enterprise ensures regulatory and legal compliance with the AI laws in the company's different geographical regions. A dedicated approval workflow makes certain that all aspects of the AI portfolio are approved, and each AI use case is reviewed by the responsible role in terms of the AI architecture as well as legal, data privacy, and security issues.

New business questions provide a single source of truth about the AI portfolio and keep you up-to-date on the applications and components providing AI features and technologies and the risk level of the AI features, analyze the impact of changes to the AI portfolio, and assess whether AI use is aligned with business needs. Alfabet's AI portfolio management provides a clear view of how AI initiatives influence your business, highlighting which segments of the business are most affected. It ensures your organization strikes the right balance between innovation, safeguarding data privacy, and maintaining AI compliance.

The following has been added to the user interface to support AI portfolio management:

- **New data workbenches** allow you to catalog the AI features used in your enterprise including the AI technologies and models that they rely on. AI features are bundled in AI use cases. A new **AI Portfolio Management** section is

available in the left navigation panel and provides access to the data workbenches **Capture AI Use Cases**, **Capture AI Features**, **Capture AI Models**, and **Capture AI Technologies**.

- **A new Has AI Features attribute** has been added to the application content area. If enabled, a new **AI Context** page is displayed where the user can specify the AI features that the application provides. A new **Has AI Models/Technologies** attribute is also added to the component content area that when enabled allows the user to specify the AI models and AI features that the component provides.

- **The new business question What is our AI portfolio?** offers a comprehensive overview of the AI portfolio in your enterprise. Up-to-date reports provide a single source of truth about the applications and components providing AI in your enterprise. Review the overall level of risk of AI features to the enterprise as well as the approval status of your AI uses cases and AI architecture.

- **The new business question What are our AI dependencies?** visualizes a network diagram that helps you understand the relationships between the different parts of the AI portfolio. Review the AI use cases that are supported, the AI features included in those use cases, the AI models and AI technologies used, and the business capabilities that are affected by the AI architecture. You can perform an impact analysis on the AI portfolio from any perspective and, for example, assess the consequences to the AI portfolio if an AI feature or AI model is discontinued. This business questions helps you to understand your AI architecture to manage its complexity, avoid potential risks, and ensure compliance with AI regulations.

- **The new business question Where is AI impacting business?** shows a capability map to identify and manage AI-driven capabilities so that you understand the role of AI in your business landscape. Analyze which parts of the business leverage AI technology and which AI uses cases target your enterprise's business capabilities. Review the impact of the AI portfolio on the business to understand which mission-critical or market-diffentiating business capabilities are most impacted and how AI drives transformation across distinct business domains.

Documentation is available for the use case *AI Portfolio Management*.

To work with Alfabet's AI portfolio management capabilities, you must have a license to **Enterprise Architecture Management**. The use case **AI Portfolio Management** must be enabled. This use case includes the classes AI Use Case, AI

Feature, AI Model, and AI Technology and the business question **What is our AI portfolio?**, **What are our AI dependencies?**, and **Where is AI impacting business?**

New business question What is our business-IT alignment?

The business question **What is our business-IT alignment?** is available in the **Business Relationship** section of the navigation panel. The business question visualized a network diagram that helps you to understand how the business is dependent on the IT infrastructure by focusing on the relationships between business capabilities and IT capabilities. This helps to identify the most important IT capabilities and how critical business capabilities depend on particular IT capabilities.

To visualize results in the business question, one asset must be selected in the filter to generate the network diagram. The visualization shows the applications that support a business capability and the components providing support to the application and the IT capabilities they enable. Visualize aspects of the IT architecture based on various attributes to understand potential risk and the impact on your enterprise's mission-critical business capabilities. Understand the dependence of business segments on IT and identify the most important IT capabilities based on their support of critical business capabilities.

The business question can be accessed by users with the extension package **IT Transformation - Enterprise**.

New business question What are our service costs?

The business question **What are our service costs?** is available in the **Finance** section of the navigation panel. Multiple reports help identify the most costly services, breaking down information so that you understand the cost drivers, cost types, and costs per lifecycle phase for current and planned costs. What-if analyses provide insight to phasing in and phasing out services. This business question helps decision-makers understand the cost breakdown as well as analyze cost evolution over time of the enterprise's business service and support service costs.

The business question can be accessed by users with the extension package **Enterprise Architecture Management**. The use case **Service Portfolio Management** must be enabled.

Easy access to business questions

A new page is available for the user profiles **Portfolio Manager** and **Portfolio Analyst** featuring visual tiles that provide quick access to the most frequently used business questions. The new page is available via **Home** > **Business Questions** and

features a reduced content page that shows only the 9 most common business questions to get started with managing the IT architecture in order to facilitate a rapid entrance to portfolio management. End users can personalize the **Business Questions** page by adding and removing the business questions available via their license.

For enterprise customers, an additional entry point for business questions is now available through the left navigation pane via **Business Questions** > **Business Questions Overview**. This page showcases visual tiles for all business questions distributing the business questions across the content area pages **Business Portfolio**, **Application Portfolio**, **Service Portfolio**, **Information Portfolio**, **Technology Portfolio**, and **Project Portfolio**. The tiles use color highlights and text to visualize the use case category (**Transparency**, **Governance**, **Roadmapping**, etc.) as well as the number of reports for the business question. Users can use all functionalities to take advantage and personalize the content area. Pages and individual business questions can be hidden and new content area pages created and shared.

New CRUD analysis

A new **Data Usage (CRUD)** view is available in the content area of an application group. The report provides a clear, structured overview of how applications in a selected application group create, read, update, and delete business objects. The CRUD analysis serves as a health check of the application portfolio so that you understand what's happening to your data.

New help for Alfabet use cases

A new section titled **Alfabet Enterprise Use Cases** has been added to the documentation start page. This section introduces methodology-driven use cases centered on capturing and analyzing data to address key business questions. Initial tiles address the use cases **AI Portfolio Management** and **Contract Management**. This section is a work in progress and will continue to evolve with additional use cases and expanded methodology coverage in future updates.

Improvements

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

Extensions to agile transformation

The **Agile Transformation** use case has been extended to align more fully with the SAFe framework in order to drive enterprise transformation in alignment with articulated strategic intentions so that value is delivered to the enterprise.

Operational and development value streams have been added to the **Agile Architecture** section of the navigation panel. Operational value streams can be captured and analyzed to understand the activities needed to deliver a product or service. Development value streams capture the sequence of activities to develop, and support the products and solutions used by operational value streams. Value stream steps can be specified for operational value streams to document the relevant steps necessary to implement solutions that provide a continued flow of value to the enterprise.

Agile release trains (ARTs), program increments (PIs), and iterations are available in the **Agile Architecture** section of the navigation panel. Data workbenches and content areas are available for agile release trains, program increments, and iterations. An **Agile Release Train (ART)** is the execution mechanism within development value streams. It is a cohesive group of cross-functional agile teams working together to develop solutions. A **Program Increment (PI)** is a structured timebox in which an Agile Release Train (ART) delivers incremental value through working, tested software and systems. The PI provides a framework to segment the continuous work of an ART into defined periods, ensuring better planning, synchronization, and delivery of value.

To work with Alfabet's AI agile transformation capabilities, you must have a license to **Lean Portfolio Management**. The use case **Agile Transformation** must be enabled. This use case includes the classes Development Value Stream, Operational Value Stream, Value Stream Group, and Value Stream Step. The use case **Agile Implementation** must be enabled to use the classes Agile Release Train and Program Increment.

Enhancements to Alfabet - Horizzon interoperability

Interoperability between Alfabet and Horizzon allows you to leverage Horizzon's data modeling and solution architecture capabilities as well as Alfabet's application portfolio management, technology portfolio management, and strategic portfolio management capabilities. This release provides further

functional developments to ensure a seamless interaction between the Horizzon and Alfabet repositories so that a flexible integration between the two platforms is possible.

Alfabet and Horizzon now support a fully dynamic and customizable 2-way integration. The integration model is constructed in Horizzon and synchronized between both systems. New data endpoints enable Horizzon to query and fetch meta-model data for all Alfabet classes relevant to IT portfolio management. The Alfabet-Horizzon class meta-model is created in the Connect Designer in Horizzon, Alfabet consumes the schema, and Alfabet classes are enabled to support the bi-directional integration. In Alfabet, the **Horizzon ID** and **Horizzon URL** attributes are displayed in the content area of a relevant asset, and users can navigate to the relevant business process in Horizzon via links. Changes to the mapped data in Alfabet are dynamically updated to Horizzon.

Better usability in What are our architectural dependencies?

The business question **What are our architectural dependencies?** is enriched with more data in the network diagram to help users uncover and understand complex interdependencies across the IT architecture.

- A new **Application Attribute** field is available in the local report filters so that an attribute like **Short Name**, **Status**, **Architecture Type**, etc. can be displayed on the application user items in the report.

- The **Information Flow Attribute** filter has been amended so that multiple attributes can be selected and displayed on the information flow connections in business question. Also, a new **Aggregate Information Flows** switch has been added that allows multiple information flows between a source and target application to be displayed as one distinct connection with a number showing the number of information flows between a source and target application.

- If no data is visualized in the business question because an application hasn't been specified in the **Application** filter field, a user item will be displayed in the empty report with text explaining that an application must be specified.

Enhanced information flow reports

A new **Application Dependence via Information Flows** view is available in the content area of an application. This visualization provides clearer visibility into an application's IT architecture dependencies and shows all incoming and outgoing information flows in a way consistent with the functionality and layout of the business question **What are our architecture dependencies?** This enhanced visualization makes the **Information Flows Diagram** view redundant and therefore it is no longer displayed per default in the content area. The **Information Flows**

Diagram view is currently still available in content repository but will be phased out of the standard solution configuration in a future release.

Simplified definition for roles

Individual responsibilities for an asset can now be easily defined directly in a new **Responsibilities** attribute section. Each role can be specified like an attribute via inline editing capabilities, streamlining the definition of roles to be faster and more intuitive.

This enhancement makes the **Responsibilities** view redundant. It is no longer displayed per default in content areas but is currently still available in content repository.

Simplified data entry for data stewards

Data entry is enhanced for data stewards using the **Application Manager**, **Technology Manager**, and **Project Manager** user profiles. The guided data entry is now the default view to help data entry users create and edit applications, peripherals, components, and projects so that they can be sure the most critical data is complete and accurate.

The guided data entry feature 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. 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.

Workflow optimization with guided data entry

User workflows have been enhanced to make task completion faster and easier. Guided data entry views are now available in preconfigured workflows to ensure the most critical data is accurate and complete. By replacing outdated wizards, they offer a more modern, intuitive user experience.

When the user selects a workflow activity in the **Workflows** > **Workflow Activities** explorer, a guided data entry view is displayed in the workflow activity content area. Users can perform their workflow activity in the guided data view which provides the relevant attributes and views as well as data quality rules that highlight potential data quality violations. The **Workflow Details** page in the content area provides all the necessary information for the user to understand the workflow activity that they are to perform as well as an overview of where they are in the workflow process.

Enhance usability with new data workbenches

Some legacy views have been replaced by data workbenches to improve ease-of-use for data entry and take advantage of the reporting capabilities. These include:

- All views to capture subordinate relationships such as **Subordinate Application Groups**, **Subordinate Business Capabilities**, **Subordinate Component Categories**, **Subordinate Organizations**, etc.

- **User Stories** view in the feature content area

- **Features** view in the epic content area

- **Work Packages** view in the project content area

- **Tasks** view in the work package content area

- **Business Processes** view in the business capability content area

- **User Administration** view (available to administrative users only)

Business questions available in Portfolio Admin

A **Business Questions** section has been added to the left navigation panel of the **Portfolio Admin** user profile. Administrative users can easily access all business questions that their license permits without changing user profiles and access all data in the repository with Write permissions.

Flexible configuration of text for cards

Indicator card designers can now insert custom text into indicator cards, offering greater flexibility in configuration and personalization. For indicator cards and grouped indicator cards, the caption and description of the evaluation type or indicator type can be overwritten with text specified in the card definition.

Enhanced cost type configuration

Functionality to specify cost and income types have been bundled and moved to a new **Cost Management** section in the navigation panel of the **Portfolio Admin** user profile. The following views are available:

- **Capture Cost Types - IT Architecture/Projects**

- **Capture Income Types - Projects**

- **Assign Maintenance Cost Types - IT Architecture**

- **Assign Cost Types - Projects**

- **Assign Income Types - Projects**

Fixes

- The icons in the **Business Capability Assessment** view in the business question **What are our business priorities?** have been revised to improve readability.

- The values for the **Business Relevance** attribute in the **Business Capability** data workbench were not correctly colored.

- The **Responsibilities** view in the content area for a peripheral did not show the correct dataset.

- The erroneous **Add Local Component** button was removed from the **Standard Platform Architecture** view in the standard platform content area.

- Performance has been improved for the business questions **What are our cost drivers?** and **How can we manage our portfolio flow?**

- Performance has been improved for the **Capture Applications** data workbench.

- Object classes were missing in the **Object Class** filter in the **Responsibility Distribution** chart in **Who is responsible for our assets?**

- Mandatory attributes in data capture templates were not aligned with the mandatory attributes in the end user interface. The following data capture templates have been revised. Customers are advised to generate new data capture templates for the following classes relevant to your implementation.

  - Application

  - Business Data

  - Business Process

  - Business Support

  - Component

  - Deployment

  - Device

  - ICT Object

  - Information Flow

  - IT Capability

  - Policy

  - Peripheral

  - Project

- Standard Platform

Forthcoming Changes

- With the introduction of the **Application Dependence via Information Flows** view in the content area of an application, the **Information Flows Diagram** view is redundant and therefore no longer displayed per default in the content area. The **Information Flows Diagram** view is currently still available in content repository but will be phased out of the standard solution configuration in a future release.

Release Notes 11.9.0.A Solution Configuration Changes

The Alfabet Enterprise 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 Enterprise solution configuration this release.

New project manager user profile

The new **Project Manager** user profile is for users who are responsible for capturing data relevant to document the project portfolio. The project manager has write permissions for the classes editable with a **Data Steward** license and read-only permissions to all other relevant classes in the business, application, technology, and investment architectures. Reports display all projects according to their status, an overview of projects with data quality issues, and a data workbench where the project manager can create and maintain projects.

Requested and current costs in cost management

For customers upgrading from Alfabet FastLane to Alfabet Enterprise, cost management will be extended to capture requested and current costs in addition to budgets. Upgrade of the license will automatically change the views for cost management to provide the additional capabilities.

Deployment management in Alfabet FastLane

Also customers with an Alfabet FastLane license can optionally capture which applications are installed on which server via deployments as intermediate definition. A deployment is the logical set of installed elements that constitute one instantiation of the application. Customers interested in deployment management should contact Alfabet BD GmbH support and ask for activation of the feature.

Definition of platform layers and tiers

Customers with an Alfabet Enterprise Architecture Management license can define their own platform layers and tiers for platform templates in the **Reference Data** functionality of the **Portfolio Admin** user profile.

Improvements

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

Improved usability in platform architecture

A **Remove from Matrix** button has been added to the **Platform Architecture** view in the application content area. The button allows the user to remove the component from the matrix visualization. The component however is not removed from the application and is still displayed in the **Components Lifecycle** and **Used Components** views for the application.

Extension to business objects

A new **Data Attributes** view has been added to the business object content area that allows characteristics of a business object to be captured. A business data attribute will have a type definition (CHAR, BLOB, REFERENCE, etc.) as well as a size specification. By means of data attributes, you can track a selected business object's references to other business objects across the entire information network.

BPMN diagram available in Alfabet FastLane

A new BPMN diagram is available in the **Diagrams** page in the business process content area in Alfabet Fastlane. 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.

Automatic update of information flow names

The names of information flows are created from the names of the source and target application. When the name of the source or target application changes, the information flow name will automatically adapt to the change.

Alignment of object filter fields

The **Object State** filter has been reviewed and aligned across business questions and views. It has also been added to views where it was missing.

More intuitive filters in Where are our business priorities?

The filters in the business question **Where are our business priorities?** have been revised. The fields to select evaluation types and the time period to assess maturity

gaps for business capabilities have been renamed **Maturity Assessment** and **Maturity Assessment Time Series**. These filter captions are now aligned with the business analysis type **Maturity Assessment**.

New inline editing option for indicators and roles

Users with access to the **Portfolio Admin** user profile can specify that roles and indicators are editable in object class property groups. A new **Property Group** field is available in the editors for indicator types and for assigning a role type to an asset.

Buttons for information flow to business object relations

In the content areas of information flows and business objects, **Add** and **Detach** buttons have been added to the toolbar of the embedded data workbenches for managing the relation between information flows and business objects.

Enhanced captions of views and property groups

The captions of the views for the definition of subordinate categories have been changed to include the name of the object class the category is defined for.

Captions of object class property groups and Gantt charts for lifecycle management have been changed to better reflect the content.

Better visibility of SLA definition for service products

In the class-based content area for service products, the functionalities for managing service level agreements have been moved from the three-dots menu to a **SLA** button directly visible in the main toolbar.

Enhanced usability for creating business support

When a user creates a business support for an application, business capability, or organization, the name of the current application, business capability, or organization is automatically is automatically set in the **Providing Application**, **Supported Business Capability**, or **Supported Organization** field in the editor.

Standard Application Diagram added

The **Standard Application Diagram** view is available in the content repository of the content areas for applications, application groups, business data, business objects, business processes, business process models, domains, locations, and organizations. The diagram shows the application architecture of the selected object.

Detailed license overview

Users with access to the **Portfolio Admin** user profile can drill down from the pie charts with license usage statistics in the **Home** content area to detailed information about the data the statistic is based on.

Improved usability for user profiles administration

In the content area for user profiles in the **User Profile Administration** functionality of the **Portfolio Admin** user profile, the **Type** attribute displays as text whether the user profile a Read Only or Read/Write user profile. In prior releases, the information was displayed as a number with 1 for ReadWrite and 0 for ReadOnly.

Improved usability for integration solutions

Portfolio Admin user profile, the **Integration Connection** view in the content areas for the **IT Pedia** and **Horizzon** integration solutions only display the relevant integration connection. The **Integration Connections** menu option opens an overview of all integration connections.

RESTful access to all relevant asset classes

Read/Write access via RESTful service calls is granted for all relevant asset classes.

Automatic adaption of class configuration to stereotype handling

On migration to Alfabet 11.9, class configurations from previous releases done on the object class are automatically moved to the object class stereotype for applications, projects, and organizations. They will then be correctly visible in the object class stereotype-based explorer for class configuration in the **Portfolio Admin** user profile.

Fixes

- The **Standardization** attribute for a component has been enhanced. The value **Not Classified** has been changed to **Unknown** to align with other attributes.

- An error occurred in the business question **What are our architectural dependencies?** when the color rule filter was not set.

- The **Layout** filter was missing for the business questions **What are our architecture dependencies?** and **How will IT failure impact our business?** and the **Strategy Network** view.

- Project baselines and project scenarios were displayed in the **Affected Architecture** view of a project.

- In the **Information Context** of business capabilities, business data was shown instead of business objects.

- The **Description** property was not migrated from business data to business objects.

- Private editors were displayed in Alfabet Expand.