Alfabet

Product Overview

Alfabet 11.10

NOTE! This document is applicable to customers who purchased Alfabet after February 1, 2025, and according to the Alfabet product license model. For purchases before this time, the Alfabet Product Overview for Alfabet 10.15 and Alfabet Product Overview for Alfabet Fastlane documents (for purchases between October 2023 and January 2025), the Alfabet Product Offering document (for purchases between December 2017 and September 2023), or the Alfabet Solution Overview document (for purchases between April 2014 and November 2017), or the Alfabet Module Catalog document (for purchases before April 2014) may be more applicable.

ABOUT ALFABET

Alfabet has been empowering organizations to navigate the complexities of IT and business transformation for over three decades. Recognized as a market leader by top industry analysts, we specialize in enterprise architecture and strategic portfolio management to help businesses align IT investments with strategic goals. Our flagship solution, Alfabet, enables organizations to achieve clarity, agility, and confidence in decision-making, reducing risk and unlocking innovation across the enterprise.

Trusted by global industry leaders, Alfabet provides the tools to plan and execute digital transformation with precision—ensuring that IT not only supports but drives business success. Whether it's streamlining operations, mitigating risks, or fostering sustainable growth, our solutions deliver measurable value. Backed by a passionate and innovative team, we are committed to enabling enterprises to thrive in today's dynamic digital economy.

Alfabet is part of the Bizzdesign Group, a global leader in enterprise transformation, providing the expertise and solutions needed for sustainable, future-ready success. To learn more, visit www.alfabet.com.

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Introduction

Ensuring business and IT transformation success

Alfabet for IT Transformation helps IT decision-makers make better IT investment decisions and reduce transformational risks by understanding when, where, how and why to make changes in the IT portfolio. It links the interdependent perspectives of IT, business, finance, and risk for “whole view” analysis of how IT can support business change. Enterprise architecture capabilities build the necessary foundation with an accurate, real-time picture of the IT landscape – including all applications and technologies, the inter-relationships between them, the information they exchange as well as the business capabilities and processes they support. Alfabet’s portfolio management capabilities support independent portfolio decision-making for optimization of individual portfolios as well as portfolio-level strategy modelling to incorporate all portfolios into strategy formulation. Its collaborative planning platform enables all stakeholders to interface, communicate and consider multiple perspectives when making transformation decisions as well as prioritize project proposals based on alignment with business strategy. Alfabet is available as an on-premise or SaaS solution.

Benefits:

- Well-founded and sustainable decisions on IT transformation based on accurate, current and complete information on the IT landscape
- IT structures aligned with business objectives and processes to ensure that IT transformation goes hand-in-hand with business transformation
- Streamlined IT portfolios that increase IT’s agility in implementing business initiatives faster thus improving time to market for new business products
- Lowered project, application, and data risk to safeguard IT project investment, ensure business continuity, and increase compliance with regulatory requirements
- Improved IT governance across federated environments through definition and enforcement of standard EA, IT planning and portfolio management processes
- Greater enterprise agility enabled by reduced IT complexity, bi-modal strategy adoption as well as support for agile development and governance practices

Components:

Alfabet IT Transformation

- General Functionality
- Baseline Architecture
- Roadmapping
- Project Portfolio Design
- Alfabet Configuration

Enterprise Architecture Management

- Architecture Governance
- Business Process Planning
- Business-IT Alignment
- Financial Management
- Service Portfolio Management
- AI Portfolio Management

Target Architecture Planning

- Target Architecture Design
- Master Planning
- Migration Planning
- Blueprinting

Strategic Portfolio Management

- Demand Management
- Strategy Validation
- Project Portfolio Governance
- Resource Management
- Investment Optimization
- Enterprise Release Management

Lean Portfolio Management

- Portfolio Vision
- Lean Portfolio Management
- Portfolio Backlog Management
- Agile Implementation

Contract Management

- Contract Library
- Contract Alignment
- Contract Optimization

Risk Management

- Threat Management
- IT Risk Management
- Compliance Management

User Types

Alfabet offers three types of users according to the scope of the individual user's responsibility in the enterprise's IT planning and portfolio management process:

Alfabet Business Users

Alfabet Business Users are the main drivers of value-adding activities such as architecture landscape assessment and planning, master planning, strategy deduction, and capability management. The product functionality required to accomplish these tasks make up Alfabet's various capability packages. Business Users have access to all the functionality contained within the package(s) the customer has licensed in a fully interactive mode. Permissions for Business Users to make changes to the information comprised in Alfabet are governed by the user and access rights set up in Alfabet.

Business Users contribute to the various IT planning tasks, such as demand management, project proposal planning, master planning, strategy deduction and capability management by either supplying needed information or using such information to make or propose decisions, develop scenarios, define future state architecture artifacts and portfolio roadmaps, operationalize business and IT strategies and so on. In this sense business users span the wide range of stakeholders in business and IT transformation be it portfolio managers, business and IT strategist or planners, business and IT leaders, risk and finance managers or innovation managers.

Business Users may also use the configuration capabilities in the IT Transformation Server while acting as the customer’s solution designers. Configurations are performed with features of Alfabet Expand in a networked development environment, i.e., networked non-production instance, or a local installation, i.e., non-networked presentation instance, as licensed by the customer. Changes to configurations are applied to the relevant production instance using the Alfabet Administrator application and a specifically created file comprising the configuration changes by the customer’s administrative personnel.

Business users may use data capture functions according to the scope of the customer contract, e.g., Document Application, Component, Device. They may also initiate workflows for capturing data.

Typically, the data capture and maintenance processes are performed using guided data entry views specifically tailored to the needs of the Business User’s profile. Business Users have all the rights of Data Steward Users and Analysis Users.

Alfabet Data Steward User

Data Steward Users capture, maintain, and validate the set of objects they are responsible for. A typical example of this is the application owner who owns several applications in the application portfolio and must ensure the completeness, consistency and accuracy of the information on these applications - information such as lifecycle definition, and relationship to the business, information and technology architectures.

Users with the status of Data Steward User typically interact with the product to enter information that will be used by Business and Analysis Users for enterprise architecture, IT planning and portfolio management processes, and analyses. These include low touch interactions such as submitting timesheets for project management, entering demands or participation in a workflow.

Alfabet Analysis User

Users with the status of Analysis User access Alfabet for the sole purpose of viewing information relating to the enterprise architecture, IT planning and portfolio management activities the enterprise is engaging in. Information may be accessed through any of the functions available in the IT Transformation Server and Extension Packages the customer has licensed. This includes the use of dashboards, storyboards, bookmarks or content areas. A read-only user profile must be defined for the Analysis User. Analysis Users can attach notes to objects and notify the owners of objects as needed. Though read-only user type, the Alfabet Analysis User license permits contribution to collaboration conversations and comments to objects using annotations. Actionable contribution through workflows or assignments is reserved for Alfabet Business Users and Alfabet Data Steward Users.

Server Sizing

Alfabet IT Transformation, the Extension Packages and User Types come in four sizes - Team, Cross Team, Function, and Enterprise - which are scaled according to the number of Alfabet business users. A Business User refers to any named user interacting with the solution in creating, maintaining, or updating information:

- Team Edition: permits use for the smallest Business User communities
- Cross Team Edition: permits use for user communities with a minimum of 25 Business Users
- Function Edition: permits use for user communities with a minimum of 100 Business Users
- Enterprise Edition: permits use for user communities with a minimum of 500 Business Users

Alfabet IT Transformation

- General Functionality
- Baseline Architecture
- Roadmapping
- Project Portfolio Design
- Alfabet Configuration

Alfabet IT Transformation provides general functionality for using the product, foundational capabilities for enterprise architecture management and strategic portfolio management as well as configuration capabilities for adapting the Alfabet solution to an organization's individual needs and for greatly enhancing the user experience. Alfabet IT Transformation is a pre-requisite for the Extension Packages. All Extension Packages, (i.e. Enterprise Architecture Management, Target Architecture Planning, Strategic Portfolio Management, Lean Portfolio Management, Contract Management, and Risk Management) require Alfabet IT Transformation and can run independently of other extension packages.

General Functionality

The General Functionality encompasses the features that are relevant and important for using the product effectively including user management functions, the workflow engine, monitors and assignments and other basic underlying functionality.

Streamlined data collection and navigation through the inventory

- Web interface for quick access to the inventory
- simple editor screens for data entry
- wizard-driven interfaces for defining objects including infrastructure to perform input validation through configurable complex rules
- guided data entry to create and edit assets and ensure data is complete and accurate
- data collection templates using Microsoft® Excel®
- assignment of update responsibilities to named individuals
- password administration
- display of sent assignments for keeping track of the progress on assignments
- display of all objects that a user is responsible for as well as all profiles defined for a user
- data-centric, hierarchical navigation of inventory content using explorers
- simple and hierarchical search facilities to retrieve objects

- automatically generated reports in flexible formats for the relevant objects in the inventory, also end-user designed reports
- usage of Treemaps (including the rectangular and clustered rectangular variants), Layered Diagrams, Matrix Diagrams, Pivot Grid Tables, Lane Diagrams, Portfolio Charts, Area Charts, Directed Graphs, Combo Charts, Card Reports, Bubble Cloud Charts, Multi-perspective Object Assessments and other visualizations showing object dependencies, relationships, rankings and KPIs
- default configuration for content areas that can be changed by adding, removing and re-ordering content
- usage of interactive Kanban reports for agile development, maintaining relationships and status assignment
- data workbenches to capture and maintain data including analysis facilities such as sorting and moving columns, advanced filtering options, and choice of business graphic (e.g. bar charts, pie charts, matrix reports, portfolio reports) for displaying table data
- analytics dashboards allowing the end user to independently create ad-hoc, information-rich data visualization
- bookmarks for linking to a particular page view in the software
- sending of web links to share information with peers and stakeholders
- HTML formatting for all descriptive and informative text
- context sensitive help with informative content of any type to provide context and guidance for the occasional user
- visible response notification of completed processing activities

Monitors and workflows support stakeholders in their daily tasks

The Monitors function allows the user to keep track of specific objects, monitoring them for activity, inactivity, or approaching dates. Monitors are also used to verify consistency of information and automated general notification. When a monitor is activated, all users defined as listeners to the monitor are automatically sent an email notification. Alfabet's Automated Data Quality Management functionality allows the enterprise to define a set of rule-based monitors to alert responsible users to data inconsistencies in their domain of control. Further, a Data Quality Rules facility allows customer-defined data quality rules, data quality scoring, and context-specific data quality analysis directly in the Alfabet interface.

The Alfabet Workflow functionality enables workflows to be Initiated and for workflow owners to keep track and administrate the workflows that they own. It allows responsible users to receive and perform workflow steps or trigger such workflows based on pre-defined workflow templates.

Administration functions support product implementation

- The Profiles Administration function allows administrators to view, create, and edit user profiles as well as add users to a user profile.
- User administration is established through configurable linkage to the customer's authoritative source of identity and access management. A variety of systems is available including but not limited to Microsoft® Active Directory®, LDAP, enterprise portals, identity federation solutions etc.
- The Users Administration function supports setup and editing of users, editing and assignment of profiles to users, administration of user passwords (in case the user management function is not based on the customer's authoritative source of user information) and viewing of users' personal items.
- The Custom Reports Administration function allows administration of access to Alfabet queries. By default, queries are accessible to all users who are assigned profiles for which these rights are defined.

Baseline Architecture

The Baseline Architecture in Alfabet provides a comprehensive and integrated view of the most common sub-portfolios that make up the enterprise portfolio. This includes the definition of business, application, technology, and information portfolio management capabilities enabling the organization to neatly organize the information needed to optimize portfolios, improve agility, and set the pace for change. Tightly integrated portfolios deliver impact analyses to reduce planning errors and improve synergies between the portfolios. Alfabet enables all stakeholders involved in IT planning and management to work collaboratively using a single, reliable view of the business, application, technology, and information portfolios. Plans for change are transparent to all so that planning conflicts and their associated costs are avoided.

The Baseline Architecture also captures cost information to enable Cost Driver Analysis and OpEx Optimization. Cost Driver Analysis helps organizations associate costs to architecture elements and then aggregate these for individual organizations or business capabilities to understand exactly where costs are accruing. They can thus make rationalization decisions without risk to IT support for business. OpEx Optimization enables IT managers to use a portfolio approach to assess assets, returns and risks in the IT landscape to reduce operating expenditure.

Also captured in the Baseline Architecture are business capabilities. Business capabilities provide the means to view the enterprise in the context of business as a common basis for evaluating how well IT is supporting the enterprise's business requirements. It enables evaluation and identification of which business capabilities are core and where improvement in one or the other of the portfolios is needed.

The Baseline Architecture is used by portfolio managers, IT strategists and planners, and enterprise architects to:

- express the business relevance in the business capability map thereby determining which business capabilities need to change for business strategy attainment
- manage business capabilities to establish business–IT communication and prioritize business demands
- trace the functional decomposition of the enterprise from capability to associated applications, technologies, projects, organizations, and more
- align IT investments with capability evaluations to ensure money is being spent in the right business areas
- define portfolios along the business capability structure to reflect the business in the IT portfolios
- manage and optimize application, technology, and information portfolios
- manage changes to portfolios in a consistent and transparent manner
- expose dependencies and impacts between different portfolios - current and future
- perform rapid impact analysis on the application, technology and information portfolios resulting from business events such as acquisitions, divestitures, product launches, and entry into new markets
- support IT management processes that require reliable information on applications, technologies, and information flows
- choose, define, and enforce technology standards

Features include:

- creation and classification of business capabilities
- business capability map summary displaying evaluation results as to the contribution of each business capability to corporate success
- business capability heat maps to effectively communicate the current weaknesses in IT and why business at times needs to invest to save
- bundling of applications into application groups relevant to the portfolio assessment process and goals

- bundling of technologies into technology groups relevant to the portfolio assessment process and goals
- integration with IT Pedia® IT catalog for public sourcing of vendors, vendor products and technology lifecycle information
- automatic diagrams to instantly display information flows between selected applications and the application landscape
- a diagram designer with rich functionality for flexible design and editing of diagrams depicting a particular segment of the EA landscape
- process workflows to ensure alignment and timelines to maintain governance and keep IT up-to-speed in the portfolio management process
- KPIs such as those pertaining to usage, performance, and criticality for application and technology rankings
- KPIs such as those pertaining to interface criticality, interface reliability and technical compliance to understand the quality of information flows
- KPIs such as those pertaining to confidentiality, availability, reliability and integrity for business data
- CRUD (create, read, update, delete) matrices to understand how an architecture element and the business data are related to one another
- analyses of CRUD matrices to identify inconsistencies and redundancies in the way business objects and data are used in the EA landscape
- prioritization schemes for weighting evaluation types to determine a prioritized ranking of objects

Roadmapping

Roadmapping is used to define, analyze and communicate plans for the further evolution of the core IT assets, i.e., applications, technologies, deployments, devices etc. Roadmaps express changes in the IT portfolio and help coordinate the change between interconnected portfolios and are indispensable in large organizations with interdependent operational units. They comprise the definition of succession cycles for these artifacts, their current and future lifecycle plans, the analysis of conflicts in these plans and the tracking of plan fulfillment.

The Roadmapping capability is used by IT and business strategists and planners to:

- plan the future landscape by analyzing the current strategy and vision, design architectural scenarios and create the architecture roadmap
- communicate the planned application and technology roadmaps and approved architecture decisions to relevant business stakeholders

- provide a common language between business and IT to be able to communicate sudden changes to plans throughout an increasingly complex organizational setup
- show the activities and timing of various projects to ensure project deliveries are in sync
- demonstrate progress on delivering on business strategy

Features include:

- collaborative planning facilitated through roadmapping, stakeholder-oriented views and reporting
- application and technology lifecycle reports to align technology support plans and understand the impact of changes on the application roadmap
- migration roadmaps for clear instructions to the Operations and Infrastructure group as to the precise timing of technology changes
- strategic target architecture definition and road map development to advance from the current situation to the desired target landscape
- technology platform compliance matrices to ensure compliance with company standards
- roadmaps to communicate delivery plans for programs and to demonstrate adoption of new technologies

Project Portfolio Design

The Project Portfolio Design capability provides functionality for the definition, planning and assessment of project proposals and projects. It is used to assign defined projects to portfolios and conduct architecture analysis. The Project Portfolio Design process in Alfabet informs decision-makers of the value and architecture alignment across several possible IT investment alternatives. It is used to monitor changes to original project plans and assess the impact of alterations to the plans.

Project Portfolio Design is used by business analysts, project portfolio managers and IT planners as well as general leadership functions across business and IT to:

- create project proposals, together with their business and technical parameters, and impact on the as-is architecture
- review projects to identify conflicts and consolidate or reject redundancies
- initiate proposals with consolidated business benefits, delivery dates and action holders
- review the planned architectures for project proposals, consolidate the planned architectures, and derive the consolidated to-be architecture

- relate project proposals to the business architecture
- review and evaluate scenario proposals for value, architecture alignment and risk
- prioritize project proposals based on alignment with business architecture and key evaluation criteria
- track project progression against criteria used for project approval
- plan projects according to the planned investment scope, budget and timeline
- monitor project progress and make necessary changes with an understanding of the broader enterprise planning context

Features include:

- standard input pages for capturing project proposal specifications with important details including sponsor, target dates, and affected architecture elements
- automatically generated reports for showing every aspect of the business, information, application and technical architectures a project may affect
- status reports for instantly revealing work in progress for any project including its approval, or rejection
- advanced search facilities for quickly compiling similar projects (based on any element of the architecture in a standard report)
- creation of key assessment values including quality factors and evaluation criteria that can be assigned to proposals
- definition of project inter-dependencies for detection of conflicts when changes are made to one or the other of co-dependent projects
- milestone tracking for high-level tracking of approved projects

Alfabet Configuration

Alfabet Configuration capabilities provide functionality for configuring the Alfabet solution to an organization's individual needs and for greatly enhancing the user experience with the product. Configuration of Alfabet is conducted by specially trained solution designers in a development environment, i.e., non-production instance, or a local installation, as licensed by the customer. Changes to configurations are applied to the relevant production instance using the Alfabet Administrator application and a specifically created file – the Alfabet Meta Model or amm file - comprising the configuration changes by the customer's administrative personnel.

The following sequence of configuration capabilities represents the typical order of implementation by customer organizations.

Custom Reports

Custom Reports enables the customer to complement standard reports, diagrams, and analysis views available with Alfabet with customer-specific visualizations, diagrams, and analysis views. It allows the organization to:

- define queries to create custom reports in graphical or tabular formats
- define links into reports provided by external solutions such as a reporting or business intelligence tool based on Alfabet and/or non-Alfabet data
- set up query definitions for object-centric and global full-text searches

- use graphical assistants to easily customize standard report types
- configure data workbenches to allow the user to easily edit large numbers of class objects including class attributes and associated roles and indicators

Alfabet Data Integration Framework (ADIF)

ADIF is the framework for the various types of integration offered in Alfabet. It encompasses:

- an ETL-based mass update facility for high performance import and export supporting file and database formats. It can be wrapped into a SOAP envelope
- REST- and SOAP-based web services for mass update as well as record-based interactions; create, read, update, and delete methods are supported for use with .net and Java or common integration infrastructures such as EAI.
- Online Lookup: a REST services-based user interaction for creation of Alfabet content through lookup in external repositories, e.g., IT-Pedia technology catalog, ARIS process library or service registries; subsequent synchronization to keep aligned.
- Soft linkage connections to external repositories to contextualize Alfabet objects with relevant information; access is based on REST services
- Universal REST API connector enabling Alfabet integration with third-party products using a code-less, business user-ready connector to almost any REST API endpoint providing an OAS 3.1-compliant Swagger representation
- Event management framework using triggers in wizards and workflows for real-time automated updates to external systems as well as data in Alfabet

ADIF ETL provides the following features:

- definition of integration to external sources and vice versa supporting full net change capability, i.e., create, update, and delete of records
- data translation, formatting and writing performed in the Alfabet database in single database transactions
- standardized integration procedures
- configuration using SQL, T-SQL, and PL/SQL
- automatic structure recognition for CSV, XLS, XSD and XML files
- visual design of import, export, and data manipulation packages
- visual debugger to validate implemented business logic
- synchronous or asynchronous processing using console application or Windows- or web-based user interaction as well as REST services-based invocation.
- evaluation and editing of Alfabet data in MS Excel® with the option of re-importing into Alfabet
- imbedding into existing Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) infrastructures and Extract, Transform and Load (ETL) solutions
- cross linkage of objects that are synchronized between Alfabet and the external system
- workflow triggered upon completion of an ADIF ETL import job (the Workflow Configuration expansion set is a prerequisite)
- self-service integration for Alfabet Cloud Enterprise using the Alfabet job scheduler

User Profile Configuration

With User Profile Configuration including design themes, the solution designer can create a look and feel matching corporate design or preferences, for example, the background and navigation tree. It allows definition of role-specific navigation through Alfabet as well as instructional text and shortcuts into the solution such as the opening of a guided data entry view or editor for creation of a new object or the triggering of a workflow. This includes a configurable search for fast, targeted access to specific information and definition of the access path to the user's task list on the Home page. User-specific views and reports can be directly embedded in the user's Home page. This capability also includes content areas which offer attractive visualization possibilities for important reports, information, and all-round page design.

Solution Configuration

Solution configuration enables the customer to own the configuration of the solution for its community of users based on the standard reports and object profiles defined for Alfabet. It enables the organization to:

- configure user profiles in the context of business applications
- configure content areas that provide information and editing capabilities, and associate them with the desired user profiles
- configure custom properties to allow capture of customer-specific information
- define accessibility and exclusion rules for properties and views for the users associated with a specific profile
- definition of rules that determine which users a federated admin user can work with
- configure wizards
- configure editors
- configure guided data entry views
- set up default diagram settings
- define templates for automatically generated e-mail notification
- define object state, lifecycle and release status definitions
- set up configuration of global and object centric full text search groups
- define search rules for glossaries
- define time-triggered monitors for an object class on a system-wide basis
- email message logging
- configure custom views to allow capture of customer-specific information
- create diagram item templates (shapes and images) for use in designed diagrams
- define conditional visibility constraints in editors, wizards, and content areas
- define a custom theme as a collection of style group customizations

Solution Configuration is typically also used in conjunction with Workflow Configuration.

Workflow Configuration

Create and administrate automated workflow processes including:

- specification of what object class is the point-of-departure in the workflow
- which user groups and/or use profiles may initiate and administrate the workflow

- which users must work on a specific activity in the workflow, whether their contribution is mandatory or optional and how the process proceeds upon completion or expiration of the activity
- which users workflow steps can be delegated to
- which workflow steps comprise the workflow as well as their sequence, any possible pre- and post-conditions or update actions associated with a workflow step
- what kinds of workflow notifications should be sent to collaborating Alfabet users in which context
- workflow migration specifications when workflow templates change
- how Alfabet workflows should integrate with workflows in complementary, external solutions
- which events should be triggered upon completion of a workflow step

Often, Solution Configuration and Custom Reports are also used for workflow configuration as workflows typically rely on customer-specific properties, customer-specific wizards or custom views and involve customer-specific queries for, e.g., the definition of associated pre- and post-conditions.

Content Areas

Alfabet's content areas are a powerful medium for fast-path access to needed information. Using the Solution Configuration Expansion set they can be configured as landing pages for user profiles and for a class of objects, such as a project or application, and can contain different information sets for different user profiles in the user community. Individual user profiles and classes can, in turn also have several content areas allowing the user to view information on an object according to different themes. The customer can design content areas to include:

- partitionable content items including freely selectable grouping of information: Group specific attributes, charts, and tables into theme-oriented sections. Content items can be reassigned, extended and removed as desired. A vertical scroll bar lets the user move easily up and down the content page.
- visual cues for the viewer: Rule-based user alerts, icons as design elements and conditional field formatting all make it easier for the user to pick up on important information.

Historiography

History tracking capability to document and track the history of changes made to objects in the IT architecture duct.

- creation of audit tables for selected object classes including monitoring capability for that object class
- tracking includes every event that has occurred to the object, the timestamp of the change, the Alfabet user who executed the change, and the property or relation that has been changed
- reporting using history tracking data via SQL queries

Standard reports for retrieving history information are available in the object profiles for Alfabet objects. Customer-specific reporting on history information may require the Solution Configuration and Custom Reports configuration capabilities.

Horizzon/Alfabet Interoperability

The Horizzon/Alfabet interoperability facility enables users to traverse both products to understand the relationships between business processes and their supporting applications as well as their enterprise context. This new capability ensures tighter business-IT collaboration on the whole range of business-IT management activities - from planning of business model changes to the implementation of IT-enabled business solutions.

The integration interface allows Horizzon and Alfabet to be used in parallel. Data maintained in either Horizzon or Alfabet can be re-used in the other application to ease data maintenance and to prevent data inconsistencies between the different management tools. The expansion set allows for regular synchronization of data between Horizzon and Alfabet.

The interoperability expansion set provides the means for retrieving planning-relevant information from Horizzon and mapping it to data structures in Alfabet. Information on models, objects, relationships, attributes, and assignments is captured from Horizzon using a built-for-purpose application programming interface (API). A solution designer then defines ADIF (Alfabet Data Integration Framework) packages to process the information and load it according to their configuration into the primary Alfabet data structures, such as business processes, value nodes and business objects. Users of both products are thus able to perform high-level design of the business architecture in Horizzon – business strategy, business capabilities, business process and business objects – and import these

into Alfabet for operationalization and use in on-going portfolio planning and management processes.

Bizzdesign Horizzon licenses are required to use Horizzon and integrate with Alfabet.

Miscellaneous Configuration Capabilities

- User access rights rules applied to determining whether a user is permitted to editing a certain object
- Configurable data anonymization for all protected or public object classes in the meta-model leveraging a number of built-in anonymization rules and retaining full functionality for the anonymized dataset
- The User Group function allows customers to define user groups. User groups are used to control the access rights of persons to objects within Alfabet.
- Storyboards can be created for occasional read-only users. A storyboard is a collection of easily navigable links to quickly access relevant reports. It is a portal-like environment located in the Home module.
- A Reporting Interface provides the user with the choice of running reporting on Alfabet's live repository (or an offline copy that is updated in regular cycles). The simple relational representation of the Alfabet meta model conforms easily to the needs of external reporting solutions. It allows for the repository tables to be directly referenced in data cubes for BI solutions so that data from Alfabet can be combined with data that is available in other systems.
- With Search and Select Configuration customers can configure selectors based on standard Alfabet reporting capabilities to limit searches to a meaningful subset of elements or hide elements from unauthorized users. The function can be used for simple and advanced searches as well as for browsing hierarchies. It can also be used in conjunction with the Alfabet user interface to predefine selection options in a context-aware manner.

Enterprise Architecture Management

- Architecture Governance
- Business Process Planning
- Business-IT Alignment
- Financial Management
- Service Portfolio Management
- AI Portfolio Management

The **Enterprise Architecture Management** extension package in Alfabet is used to describe complex IT systems in terms of their business, application, service, information, and technical layers (including a comprehensive financial aspect), and to develop standards for change.

The **Architecture Governance** capability provides a comprehensive and integrated view of the many sub-portfolios that make up the enterprise portfolio. Above and beyond enabling management and optimization of individual portfolios, Alfabet enables management and governance across multiple IT and non-IT portfolios to provide the CIO and other leaders with the information they need to make broad, directional and strategic decisions. Alfabet enables all stakeholders involved in IT planning and management to work collaboratively using a single, reliable view of the IT portfolio and its relationships to relevant business portfolios. Plans for change are transparent to all so that planning conflicts and their associated costs are avoided.

Business Process Planning provides the ability to define multiple process models to allow for variations over time or over organizational entities of the enterprise. Business process versions capture the concurrent release of changes in the organization and are used to plan together with their business supports describing the time perspective of the roll out and use. Stakeholders can analyze business process execution at a more granular level. For example, the high-level business process Sales Order Management can have business process variants defined for the specific process execution flows for the sectors Automobile and Motorcycle.

Business-IT Alignment helps enterprise architects align the IT landscape with the business to guide competitive transformation. It is the foundation for implementing a service-oriented architecture. Business functions standardize business services on the demand-and-supply side by describing the business' IT requirements and offerings in a uniform, formalized, and comparable manner.

Financial Management is a means to centrally define costs for a specified period and allocate them to a group of architecture objects according to a defined allocation scheme. Cost centers can be hierarchically structured to reflect the organization-specific cost allocation. The Financial Management capability is the foundation for implementing the TBM (Technology Business Management) framework.

Service Portfolio Management enables the service product portfolio to be optimized for greater performance, standardization and simplification leading to higher agility in delivering on business demand. Additionally, users can analyze the impact of changes to application and technology portfolios on IT services in terms of availability and SLA-conformity. They can better understand who consumes and who sponsors IT services. Further, users can coordinate the analysis and planning of changes to IT services with the projects delivering on those changes.

AI Portfolio Management provides visibility into AI deployment and usage - linking to business and technical architectures - ensuring transparency into where AI is being used, alignment with business strategy, and smart management of the AI portfolio. It helps establish responsible AI practices by understanding the AI risk profile and enabling compliance to AI regulations.

The **Enterprise Architecture Management** capability is used by enterprise architects to:

- define the enterprise IT landscape and its primary relationships to the business as, e.g., expressed by business processes and executing organizations
- define the enterprise technology stacks supporting the enterprise IT landscape
- define the enterprise information landscape and its interaction with business processes, applications, and business services
- define the enterprise function taxonomy and its use in the context of business processes and applications
- define the enterprise physical infrastructure and how it is used to support the applications
- capture and govern the usage of AI in the enterprise

Features include:

- definition of the application, information, and technology architectures as well as business processes, organizations and legal entities
- definition of information flows between application deployments

- comprehensive business libraries, including business functions, business objects and business process, and technical libraries with detailed references
- diagrams and reports to help identify components in specific application architectures to eliminate redundancies, optimize upgrades and control costs
- definition of the enterprise's IT standards including the components, platforms, component catalogs, software products, software vendors, tiers-layers matrix, standard platforms, and master platforms
- ICT (Information Communication Technology) objects as "wrapper" objects around applications, components, or standard platforms, abstracting from the specific version of these or as placeholders
- compliancy checks of business and technical standards for geographic regions over time
- standardization reports to detect poor standards compliance in applications
- setting and monitoring architectural principals and goals, policy management and governance of portfolio structures
- portfolio report showing the performance of a set of objects in multiple dimensions of measurement
- component catalogs to maintain components and standard platforms from the perspective of a geographical region, business unit, or product portfolio, for example
- tier and layer matrices to quickly configure an application architecture using standard components or platforms
- representation of technical networks as part of the technology architecture and application deployment strategy
- component catalogs to maintain components and standard platforms from the perspective of a geographical region, business unit, or product portfolio, for example
- the class "service product" as a service that is owned by an organization and made available to other entities
- "service items" to represent the "bill of service"
- association of services with objects such as applications, components, standard platforms or organizations
- service contracts to capture consumption of services by business organizations
- service level agreements (SLA) for each service to define measures for the service product being contracted, for example Service Desk Support Hours,

Target Resolution Time, Defect Backlog Size Limit, Maximum Number of Test Failures, etc.

- assignment of a service product to a market product in order to indicate that the service product is made available via the market product
- service product lifecycles, object states, and release status definitions
- the classes “AI use case”, “AI feature”, “AI model” and “AI technology” to represent the AI portfolio elements
- association of AI portfolio elements to architecture objects such as business capabilities, applications and components
- risk assessment of AI features
- approval statuses of AI portfolio elements

Target Architecture Planning

- Target Architecture Design
- Master Planning
- Migration Planning
- Blueprinting

The **Target Architecture Planning** extension package enables the thorough analysis of business needs to understand its impact on the as-is architecture – and with it the impact on the company – and to design the target IT support to fulfill the business requirements along with corresponding migration plans.

With **Target Architecture Design**, IT architects develop a clearly documented proposal to deliver IT solutions and services which are aligned with the enterprise's IT landscape and business objectives. It enables the IT architect to gain full understanding of the requirements, expectations, limitations and options for the application before embarking on its creation.

For business-IT synchronization, Alfabet's patented **Master Planning** functionality is a keystone in translating business strategy into IT tactics. It clearly shows the usage of applications in support of business operations, i.e. business processes, executing organizations and market products. It provides the IT organization with a clear overview of how strategic decisions will impact IT's tactics and direction over time. The master plan is a highly condensed representation of the strategic plan, and is an easy to comprehend, single point of reference, hence an excellent medium for discussion at decision boards.

Migration Planning is the process in which applications are substituted by other applications. In Alfabet, migrations are planned in the context of master planning or strategic planning. A migration typically provides an incremental description and target date of each required step of the planned transformation.

Blueprinting is used to set up master plans or IT strategy to serve as guidelines for planning business support across organizations in the enterprise. In the blueprint planning process, master planners and strategic planners can refer to a blueprint to plan tactical or strategic business supports. The blueprint planning process supports the standardization of business support and efficiency in the roll-out of IT support in the enterprise.

The **Target Architecture Planning** capability is used by enterprise architects to:

- plan the target architecture by analyzing the current strategy and vision, designing architectural blueprints, and creating the architecture roadmap
- create blueprints for standardization across the enterprise at the business support level
- identify redundant or inefficient IT support of business processes and business capabilities
- remove low-value investments to reduce or optimize capital expenses
- understand the true cost of IT support for business processes or business capabilities
- derive specific IT initiatives and changes to the architecture from business strategy and goals
- understand IT support for various aspects of the business model thus enabling planning that is better aligned to needs of individual business operational units
- visualize the company's business operating model to better understand enterprise change needs and collaborate with business on how to achieve optimal efficiency in business operations
- create blueprints for standardizing IT solutions across the enterprise
- explore tactical options and ensure that flexibility in the IT architecture is accommodated
- define and communicate the rollout plans of application assets through dedicated lifecycle definitions and along organizational or business structures
- plan and manage migrations for IT solutions, relating resulting migration plans with the IT strategies and master plans they are associated with
- equip the enterprise for the digital age by collaborating with business on transforming the business model and operating model

Features include:

- business support maps including organizations, business processes, business capabilities and market products to understand operational relationships and how those are supported by IT assets and/or organizations
- different business support maps defining the incremental steps or milestones bridging from the as-is operating model to the defined target operating model including realization time periods and approval statuses for incremental steps
- different business support maps defining the incremental steps or milestones bridging from the as-is landscape of IT business supports to the target landscape of IT business supports defined in the IT strategy including realization time periods and approval statuses for incremental steps

- modeling of business supports provided by non-IT resources such as service centers or other organizational units of the enterprise
- migration diagrams for a clear understanding of the migration schedule for IT solutions
- application landscape diagrams to enable clear and concise depictions of the as-is and to-be architectures

Strategic Portfolio Management

- Demand Management
- Strategy Validation
- Project Portfolio Governance
- Resource Management
- Investment Optimization
- Enterprise Release Management

The **Strategic Portfolio Management** extension package aims at ensuring that IT supports and enables the enterprise's business IT strategy – ensuring that business strategy and demands are completely understood, prioritized, and executed on. It is a facilitator to the team of planners, strategists, architects, and portfolio managers in the CIO office collaborating with business strategy and planning stakeholders, enabling them to transform business wish into successful projects and reliable operations.

Demand Management ensures that any business demand for IT services is documented and transparent to all stakeholders. Demand Management helps business analysts and IT identify the context and scope of each demand to be able to better understand the business need and potential architectural effect of its realization. It helps filter the profusion of incoming demands into a manageable list that can be evaluated and translated into project proposals.

Strategy Validation provides a framework for systematically deriving IT initiatives from business strategies. Business strategy is documented and broken down into operative strategic themes which are then associated with business capabilities, demands, running and planned programs, and current architecture. This enables analysis and alignment of current and future IT activity to business strategy and business capabilities as well as an understanding of impacts of changes to programs on business strategy.

Project Portfolio Governance supports the selection of the optimal portfolio of investments to be executed considering the available budget. This is facilitated by defining portfolios, budgets and critical KPIs for assessing the alignment of investments to business and technology strategy. Once approved, the portfolio is then used to monitor implementation of associated changes for progress, success and ultimately value delivered. The Project Portfolio Governance process in Alfabet informs decision-makers of the value, architecture alignment and risk across

several possible IT investment alternatives. It is used to prioritize project proposals based on strategic and technical alignment, resource priorities and risk.

Project Portfolio Governance also includes Scenario Management to ensure that the optimal IT solution for attaining the target architecture is selected in a transparent process following governance guidelines. This enables companies to compare alternatives for implementing the target architecture, e.g. different vendor solutions and make or buy decisions. Scenario Management allows solution architects to define a solution architecture according to the business scope of an investment proposal, to compare multiple solutions and prepare a final proposal with a solution definition suitable for deriving investment milestone deliverables, skill requirements and a bottom-up budget plan.

This is complemented by the capabilities provided by Operational Project Management for near-term operational task planning and management. Operational Project Management provides the tactical project planning and management capabilities needed to ensure project execution is closely tied to project investment decisions. It is used to allocate budget and resources at a task level as well as monitor changes to original investment plans and assess the impact of alterations to the plans.

Resource Management involves the strategic allocation, utilization, and optimization of personnel resources to support a portfolio of projects efficiently and effectively within the enterprise. It involves planning, tracking, and optimizing resource allocation across multiple projects to ensure that projects are executed successfully while balancing resource constraints and priorities. Effective resource management is crucial for organizations to achieve their strategic goals and deliver successful projects within budget and on schedule.

Investment Optimization provides a methodology for inventorying and analyzing current and planned investments to investigate whether they are serving any business purpose – thus optimizing the investment portfolio to give the best value for money – bottom-up and top-down budget analysis, business case creation and assessment as well as generating key financial performance measures for individual investment and entire portfolios thereof.

Enterprise Release Management breaks down the delivery of IT support into packages that form part of programs, projects, and productive releases. Enterprise Release Management provides the means to orchestrate project-driven architectural changes for applications, components, and related small change requests for the entire enterprise landscape. It greatly reduces the effort involved in

the release management process by linking it to investment planning in a coordinated governed process.

The **Strategic Portfolio Management** extension package is used by IT and business strategists, planners, and project managers as well as general leadership functions across business and IT to:

- create demands, together with their business and technical parameters, and impact on the as-is architecture
- review demands to identify conflicts, consolidate, or reject redundancies and to break down high level requests into discrete, actionable demands
- transform demands from operational business divisions into effective IT services by systematically capturing and evaluating their business motivation, architectural impact, and portfolio viability
- initiate proposals by bundling like demands and assigning these to investment proposals with consolidated business benefits, delivery dates and action holders
- review and evaluate solution proposals for value, architecture alignment and risk
- review the planned architectures for project proposals, consolidate the planned architectures, and derive the consolidated to-be architecture to ensure decision-makers are informed of the value, cost, and risk across a number of possible IT investment alternatives
- prioritize investment proposals based on alignment with business strategy and key evaluation criteria
- optimize budget allocation to the investment portfolios with the highest predictability of ROI
- ensure delivery according to plans and be able to quickly assess the impact of changes occurring during execution in the context of business and IT strategic planning
- plan projects according to the planned investment scope, budget, and timeline
- monitor progress and make necessary changes with an understanding of the broader enterprise planning context
- better define the services available to business units as well as the more elementary services IT uses internally to bring these business services to life
- identify technology innovations that can provide business benefit to the enterprise
- classify and standardize IT's "products", in turn helping IT understand what functionality IT needs to deliver and what infrastructure is needed to deliver it

- plan and manage IT activities and costs in a business-oriented manner, aligned to business needs and operating efficiency

Features include:

- standard input pages for capturing detailed demand profiles including business benefits, supported goals, target dates, priority, operational or strategic classifications, creators, requesting organizations and responsible users
- automatically generated reports for showing every aspect of the business, information, application, and technical architectures a demand may affect
- status reports for instantly revealing work in progress for any demand including its approval, rejection and formulation in a detailed proposal
- advanced search facilities for quickly compiling similar demands (based on any element of the architecture in a standard report)
- standard input pages for capturing proposal specifications and alternative scenarios, with important details including sponsor, target dates, required skills and affected architecture elements
- creation of key assessment values including quality factors and evaluation criteria that can be assigned to proposals
- advanced search for the assignment of investment proposals to programs and organizations according to stated goals and business values
- prioritization reports for automatic ranking of investment proposals for a specified budget period and financial threshold by applying user-defined weighting schemes such as technical and commercial impact and technical complexity
- definition of project inter-dependencies for detection of conflicts when changes are made to one or the other of co-dependent investments
- standard templates to support budget allocations for investment proposals within programs and/or organizations
- definition of the architecture deliverables such as new or updated applications, technology components or business supports in response to an investment's business scope
- definition of specific skills needed - and in which amount - at each individual phase of an investment, also project and skill templates for defining re-occurring implementation patterns for projects that have similar resource needs
- milestone tracking for high-level tracking of approved investments
- task-level project planning using multiple currencies (if needed) and named resources

- time reporting per named resource and timesheet submission and approval across project and non-project related work items
- project baselining, what-if scenario planning and benefits tracking
- data capture forms, computational rules and standard measures – like discounted cash flow – for business case definition, assessment and comparison
- orchestration of change from projects, applications, components, and standard platforms to enterprise releases
- prioritization reports for automatic ranking of investment proposals for a specified budget period and financial threshold by applying user-defined weighting schemes such as technical and commercial impact and technical complexity
- cost-benefit estimates derived from bottom-up and top-down analysis
- instant checking of investment budget requests against planned budget allocations to confirm availability of funds over years
- representation of IT cost elements as captured by the organization's financial and asset management systems
- allocation of IT cost elements to fundamental architecture dimensions such as applications, projects, deployments, or service products
- expression of IT costs along business dimensions such as business processes and business capabilities as well as organizational entities using IT systems in their daily operations
- portfolio analysis along multiple dimensions such as cost, risk, usage, technology health and business fit to base portfolio rationalization decisions on the value, cost, and risk across several possible alternatives
- business support map to understand the business context of the architectural changes included in the enterprise release to identify any increase in risk to the environment that would necessitate adjustment
- information flow diagram to identify the integration and information management context of the architectural changes included in the enterprise release and ensure completeness of the integration tests
- project dependency map to verify the relevant dependencies between the different projects included in the enterprise release and ensure completeness of the architectural changes planned for in the release
- interactive Kanban reports for demand-to-investment lifecycle planning and management
- strategy deduction framework for specifying goals down to an actionable initiative and associating strategic considerations with parts of the architecture

Lean Portfolio Management

- Portfolio Vision
- Agile Transformation
- Portfolio Backlog Management
- Agile Implementation

The **Lean Portfolio Management** extension package supports the entire enterprise in adopting agile principles and practices as part of a strategic and organizational change initiative. It provides the tools needed to comprehensively transform the organization for agility, create alignment, and deliver more efficient and effective value to customers.

Portfolio Vision provides an overarching strategic view of the organization's goals and the strategic themes related to its portfolio of programs, projects, and initiatives. This vision includes a clear articulation of the desired business value. It helps prioritize and coordinate efforts across different Agile Release Trains (ARTs), ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently, and that the organization is working on the most valuable and strategic initiatives to achieve its long-term goals.

Agile Transformation is a key component of the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe), designed to help organizations efficiently plan, prioritize, and execute their strategic initiatives at scale. It helps break down strategic initiatives into smaller, manageable epics, which are then organized into value streams, allowing for effective tracking and execution.

Portfolio Backlog Management provides a prioritized list of potential solutions, initiatives, and projects that the organization plans to pursue. It serves as a critical element for strategic alignment and helps in making informed decisions about where to invest resources. The portfolio backlog typically includes a wide range of items, such as new product features, enhancements, technical debt reduction efforts, and exploratory initiatives. Prioritization is based on business value, market dynamics, and other strategic factors. This backlog is a key component in prioritizing and managing work at the portfolio level, ensuring that the organization is focused on delivering the most valuable solutions to its customers.

Agile Implementation supports enterprise agile methodologies, in particular the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) methodology-related artifacts such as strategic themes, epics, user stories and agile release trains (ARTs). These artifacts can be related to applications for integrated portfolio management in the same way as projects can. Funnel management supports assessment, selection and

prioritization of the feature backlog and requests. Ideation and innovation management features facilitate feeding requests into the agile portfolio management process. Feature management provides feature planning and management for a portfolio management approach to agile development. Integration with Jira® for project issue management and tracking provides an overview of agile planning and delivery capabilities and ensures changes are according to enterprise strategy.

The **Lean Portfolio Management** extension package is used by IT and business strategists, planners, and project managers as well as general leadership functions across business and IT to:

- create demands, together with their business and technical parameters, and impact on the as-is architecture
- leverage lean practices such as SAFe to achieve enterprise agility in delivery of digital business products and services
- apply a strategic portfolio management approach to the funnel and backlog for effective planning and governance in an Agile development environment
- plan agile changes according to the planned investment scope, budget, and timeline

Features include:

- definition of agile change inter-dependencies for detection of conflicts when changes are made to one or the other of co-dependent investments
- integration with JIRA issue tracking system to support prioritization of operative development work and to reflect issues associated with applications, projects and more in the portfolio assessment
- demand-to-feature backlog transition for direct translation of business demands for digital products and services into backlog features for Agile development teams
- Integration with Microsoft Azure DevOps
- interface system migration for enterprise application integration (EAI) and enterprise information integration (EII) systems for automatic migration of information flows to a new version of the interface system
- constructs for strategic themes, epics, user stories and ARTs for Agile delivery
- feature management to manage requests and backlog in the context of business and IT strategy
- interactive Kanban reports for portfolio backlog lifecycle planning and management
- operational and development value streams

Contract Management

- Contract Library
- Contract Alignment
- Contract Optimization

The **Contract Management** extension package helps align IT cost optimization with business strategy to be able to see where to cut costs and what the impact will be to the business. It enables organizations to understand current and future business priorities and which IT supports them at what cost. It provides confidence in decisions to cancel licenses, reduce maintenance, stop investments, and postpone programs.

The **Contract Library** helps organizations document all contracts and their breakdown structure in a central repository to understand contract dependencies and manage contract reviews in a timely manner.

Contract Alignment lets organizations associate contractual terms and conditions with related architecture elements to understand change implications to minimize planning risk and avoid unnecessary costs.

Contract Optimization enables capturing contract volume and actual usage to avoid license bottlenecks, uncover cost-saving potential, and reduce legal risks.

The **Contract Management** extension package is used by portfolio managers, enterprise architects, business analysts, IT finance managers and procurement managers to:

- make informed decisions on architectural change as per contractual relations with IT suppliers or service providers
- define contract deliverables and service level agreements that are aligned with the architectural structure and thus also aligned with IT support for the business
- understand which contracts are associated with a specific vendor/provider organization and what risk implications or negotiating leverage can be derived from this
- pro-actively manage vendor contracts to align with current and future needs of the organization
- optimize budget allocation to the investment portfolios with the highest predictability of ROI
- identify business processes that are candidates for an outsourcer who can deliver at lower cost

- base portfolio rationalization decisions on the value, cost, and risk across several possible alternatives
- understand what is driving IT costs and responsibly optimize IT operational costs

Features include:

- "Contract" as an artifact describing which vendor or service organization is providing a certain product or service and under which conditions
- association of contracts for many of the Alfabet classes, for instance Vendor Product, Business Process, Business Object, Component, Standard Platform, Project and Application
- view of the contract terms including cost information and any referenced master contract
- capture of individual contract items to ensure that relevant contract conditions are known by the organization using them
- definition of contract deliverables including date, volume, and status and their association to architectural elements and responsible staff or organization
- capture of the contract payment schedule to ensure that income and expenditures can be tracked
- usage monitoring with regards to volume and status of contract deliverables to identify contracts that are not fully utilized (and should hence be re-negotiated or cancelled) as well as contracts that are over-utilized

Risk Management

- Threat Management
- IT Risk Management
- Compliance Management

The **Risk Management** extension package helps enterprises identify and assess threats and risk more effectively and achieve greater efficiencies in compliance control. It provides greater insight into risk exposure to understand which, e.g., IT systems, technology components or investments carry risk due to direct and indirect threats, what the implications of the risk are, and what kind of mitigation measures are needed. It also supports the processes necessary for compliance management: definition of control sets, evaluation of objects for specific controls, reporting and auditing. In anchoring control processes and objectives into the IT architecture, organizations can better keep up with the on-going demands for controls assessment in the evolution of a corporation's IT landscape. Data retention policies for business data ensure data retention is compliant, cost-effective and supports information needs.

The **Threat Management** capability helps to identify, plan for, and reduce risk to the enterprise IT. The assessment of threats as associated to the IT portfolio helps understand where there is damage potential, effectively assess and mitigate risks to the application architecture, and plan associated risk-mitigating projects.

The **IT Risk Management** capability consists of three activities that focus on understanding, evaluating and prioritizing the vulnerability of applications, assessing the risks and potential damage to the applications considered most at risk, and specifying and implementing mitigations for the risks. This methodology allows the enterprise to streamline the risk evaluation process and specifically target the relevant objects that are considered most at risk in the enterprise.

The **Compliance Management** capability provides the definition of compliance inquiries launched for a regulatory evaluation of a specific set of objects in the IT architecture. The capability allows the specification and identification of objects targeted by a compliance project as well as managing the compliance project to ensure that it is completed in time. Finally, internal and external auditors can audit adherence to the control structure and the correctness of the evaluated objects.

The **Risk Management** extension package is used by enterprise architects, compliance officers, risk managers and auditors to:

- assess applications, technology components, investments and other (IT) objects according to their degree of risk exposure
- define a centralized framework and the relevant data to make compliance checks more efficient
- stipulate risk catalogs as applicable to specific sets of applications, technologies or similar
- perform and manage compliance evaluations
- audit for adherence to the control structure and correctness of the evaluated objects
- be informed, knowledgeable and pro-active in protecting the enterprise from threats, automate the assessment and plan and manage mitigation measures and actions
- link mitigation actions to demands thereby incorporating them into the standard demand to budget processes
- establish automated processes to drive risk assessments from the threats as those become known in the market
- refine data retention policies at a more granular scale

Features include:

- capture of threats from internal and external sources on a continual basis
- categorizing, scoring, and assessing threats as well as relating them to architecture elements
- definition of “risk relevance” questionnaires to survey risk-related properties of individual IT objects such as applications, technology components or projects
- creation of risk assessment values that can be assigned to IT objects according to implied risk
- automatically calculated risk rankings
- risk portfolios portraying risk distributions for groups of or individual IT objects in a three-dimensional evaluation matrix
- definition of mitigations and association of these with affected architectural objects and demands
- control sets, compliance controls and compliance domains as architecture artifacts
- definition of compliance projects as individually executed compliance inquiries
- policies for defining areas of validity for compliance projects, and rules to find the target objects as well as the persons to answer the questions for the target objects

- automatic notification sent via e-mail to assessors when a compliance project is initiated
- easy-to-use wizards allowing assessors to efficiently provide the necessary information about the target objects they are responsible for
- reports providing compliance managers with an overview of the completion of the compliance project and the aggregated results of the evaluations
- association of data policies to the related applications and business data objects

