Alfabet

Alfabet 11.11 - Platform Release Notes

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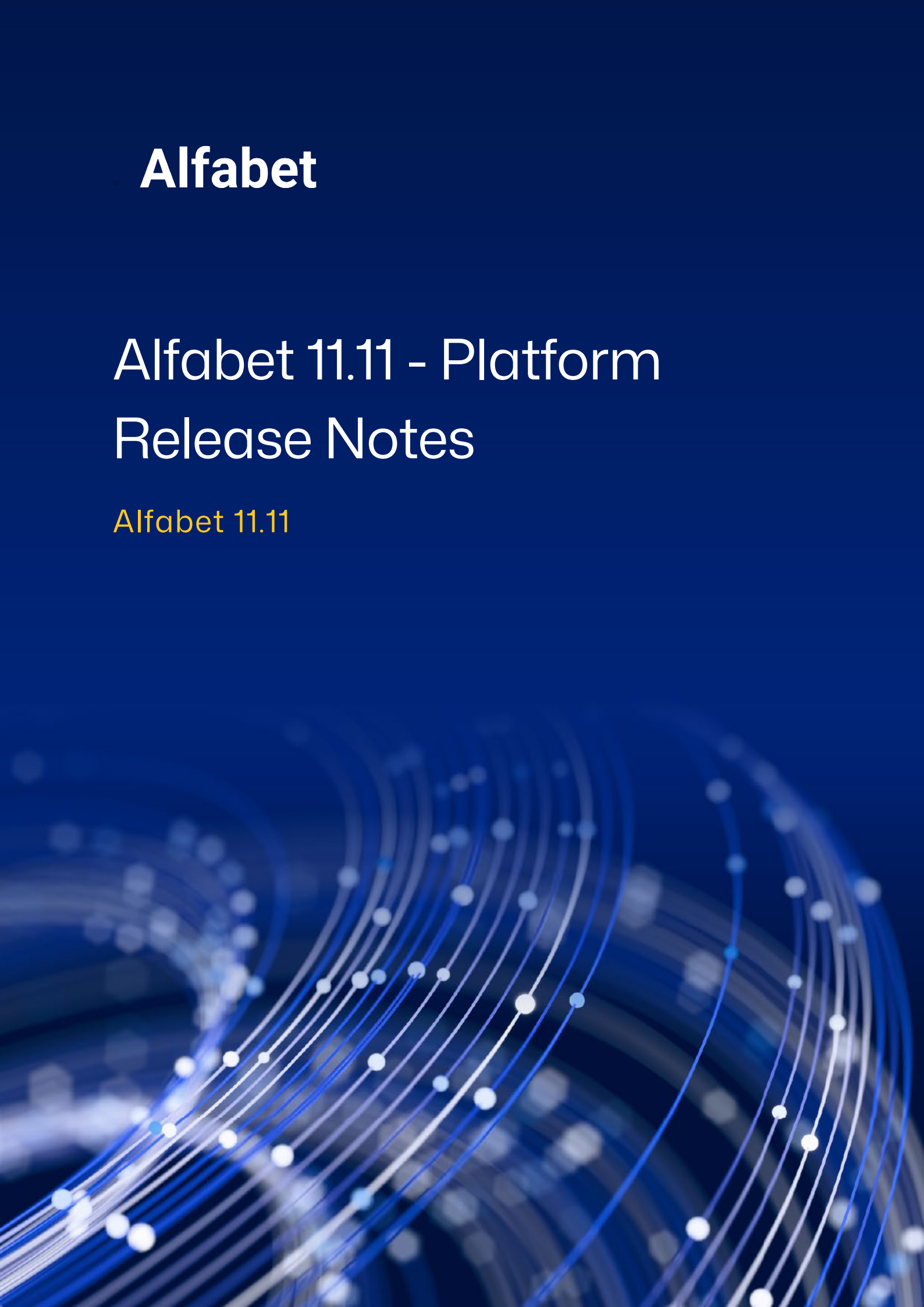

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Release Notes 11.11.0 Platform Changes

The Alfabet platform has been updated to include many new capabilities and enhancements to the functional scope of Alfabet.

New

The following is introduced to the Alfabet platform this release.

Integrated user collaboration

A new integrated collaboration feature is now available in Alfabet, enabling free-form discussion and idea sharing across the user community in a familiar, social-media-style experience. Users can initiate collaboration topics from any data workbench, content area, or view using the new **User Comments** option in the 3-dots menu. Selecting this option opens the **User Topics** window, where multiple topics can be created and managed. Each topic can be expanded or collapsed, making it easy to focus on a single discussion or switch between several in parallel.

Users with either read-only or write access permissions can start a collaboration topic related to the object or analysis currently in view. This makes it simple to spark dialogue, accelerate decision-making, and leverage the collective expertise of the organization. Alfabet users with an email address can be invited into a conversation via @mentions, which trigger an email notification containing a direct link to the topic. Users with the appropriate access permissions can then navigate directly to the discussion and contribute. Users can make multiple posts per topic using an HTML editor as well as upload attachments to a post.

For on-premise customers: To make the user collaboration functionality available in the user interface, the new **Enable Collaboration** setting (available in the server alias > **Server Settings** tab) must be enabled.

Board visualizations for collaborative decision-making

New board visualizations introduce an information-rich, highly interactive way to show data in a data workbench. Board visualizations present portfolio data as cards arranged in user-defined columns, giving teams an immediate, intuitive view of task status, ownership, and upcoming work. Inspired by Kanban boards, they offer instant clarity, support effortless prioritization through drag-and-drop reordering, and strengthen collaboration by ensuring everyone sees the same information during shared decision-making processes such as application portfolio rationalization or strategic prioritization.

Board visualizations are available in all data workbenches via **Visualize** > **Board Visualization**. The **Board Settings** editor allows you to determine which columns

appear on the board, using criteria such as roles filled by a single person or organization, release statuses, enumerations, reference-type properties, and indicators with range definitions. Cards can be colored based on enumeration values or indicator ranges and users can configure up to three attributes to appear in the card header, and display and order up to seven additional attributes and three icons within the card body.

Users can switch between expanded cards, which display full details, and collapsed cards for a more compact view. A single click on any object or referenced object shown on a card opens it in the object inspection pane for preview and editing, while a double-click navigates directly to its content area. Cards can also be dragged between columns, automatically updating the object's value associated with that column. A legend is available that shows the meanings of the icons and colors in the board visualization.

Board visualizations can be saved and added to the content repository, making them available in other content areas and for sharing with colleagues. Saved board visualizations always display the most up-to-date data for the objects included in the report. The export of board visualizations is not currently exported but will be available in a future release.

Rate, like, and follow objects

A new content-voting capability similar to familiar social-media interactions is available. This configurable feature can be applied to all asset object classes and to the Report class, enabling rating, liking, and the identification of expert users. When activated for an object class, a voting or like option appears in the toolbar of its content areas, making feedback and recognition easily accessible.

`ObjectAssociationsConfig` in the 10.15. documentation, since the configuration has not changed for 11: documentation of Alfabet 10.15

Extended resource planning capabilities

New resource management capabilities now strengthen the entire project lifecycle, from early planning through execution. Project planning can now begin directly within the work breakdown structure, where initial resource needs are assessed and estimated costs can be transferred into the project's business case.

A new **Work Breakdown Structure** (`PRJ_WorkBreakdownStructure`) provides a structured Gantt view of projects and sub-projects, allowing teams to create both resource requests and skill requests in the same hierarchical context. The Gantt view includes a **Count and Daily Rate** column that shows the total number of days requested with the associated cost per day. A **Resource** column displays either the organization or the individual expected to provide the resource or skill, giving

clearer visibility into who is supplying the work. To support the transition from high-level planning to more detailed staffing, a **Derive Skill Request** option is available for any selected resource request. This creates a subordinate skill request and automatically carries over key information, including the resource request's name and the providing organization, ensuring consistency and reducing manual entry. Skill requests are displayed with the task name first, followed by the skill name in brackets, making it easier to scan and understand the specific requirements associated with each task.

A new **Project Resource Planning** view (`PRJ_ResourcePlanningSetup`) is also introduced to ensure that the resources, time, and costs can be realistically managed for transformation projects. Skill requests defined in the context of the work breakdown structure can be transferred to the **Project Resource Planning** view ensuring resource planning flows both top-down and bottom-up for seamless synchronization across planning layers. Users can create new skill requests or refine existing ones by splitting them across multiple providers, breaking them down into more detailed skill sets, or specifying staged delivery timelines. If the project scope changes or becomes more complex than originally anticipated, users can also clear the current project resource plan and revert to the original workflow breakdown structure.

The **Business Case** view (`PRJ_BusinessCaseSimple`) cost includes cost estimates generated in the project's work breakdown structure, allowing those values to flow directly into the business case. Costs calculated for resource and skill requests are based on the count and daily rate and can be transferred using the **Transfer from Skill Requests/Resource Requests** option. All project cost types can be populated from defined skill requests or, when no skill requests exist, from the corresponding resource requests. Whenever updates are made to the work breakdown structure or to skill requests in the **Work Breakdown Structure** view, the business case can be refreshed to reflect the revised values for the relevant cost categories. The transferred costs can be edited and refined directly in the **Business Case** view.

For on-premise customers: The **Work Breakdown Structure** view (`PRJ_WorkBreakdown`) and **Project Resource Planning** view (`PRJ_ResourcePlanningSetup` should be added to your solution configuration if you want to take advantage of the new project resource planning concept and business case calculation.

Visual access to external applications

Content items in content areas can be configured to display an external URL directly as an read-only view. This allows users to see live, up-to-date views of external applications right inside the content area without needing to switch

systems or open additional windows. At runtime, the system opens the URL in a read-only mode, ensuring that users always see the current state of the external interface. This is especially valuable when integrating with third-party applications, as it gives users immediate visual insight into the latest information or UI changes.

The security settings in the Alfabet Web Application must be modified in order to display external URLs.

- For cloud customers: Contact Alfabet Support to enable external URLs in the security settings.
- For on-premise customers: The external URLs must be added to the `ContentSecurityPolicyValue` in the `alfasettings.json` file of the Alfabet Web Application.

The default security settings have been changed. The example `alfasettings.json` file delivered with Alfabet 11.11.0 include the required default security settings. Please ensure that the following minimal value is set for `ContentSecurityPolicyValue` in the `alfasettings.json` file:

```
"ContentSecurityPolicyValue": "script-src 'self' 'nonce-{nonce}'; style-src 'self' 'nonce-{nonce}'; style-src-attr 'self' 'unsafe-inline'; object-src 'none'; frame-ancestors 'self'; frame-src 'self'"
```

Customers having implemented the full text index for the standard Alfabet help must add the URL of the Alfabet help server to the image sources to see images in the help window:

```
img-src 'self' https://documentation.alfabet.com data:;
```

Publish documents

The Alfabet Publication Framework enables solution designers to create Microsoft® Word or PDF documents that automatically include up-to-date data from the repository. Complete data sheets for one or multiple objects can be generated using a layout in MS Word designed specifically for the solution. For example, when publishing information about an application group, the publication might include the group's name and its application portfolio report. The publication could also include each application in the group including its name, version, and the **Evaluations** page view for a complete, well-structured document with just one click.

The publication is driven by an MS Word template that contains bookmarks, that act as placeholders where the Alfabet platform inserts Alfabet content. Each bookmark is linked to specific data or views defined in a publication definition in Alfabet Expand. When a user publishes data about an object, a new DOC or PDF

file is created from the template. All bookmarks are automatically filled with the most up-to-date information, so the generated document always reflects the current state of the object.

Disable sharing of user-generated content items

Data workbench visualizations added to the content repository of content areas can be shared with other users. This sharing capability can now be disabled for specific user profiles through a new **Enable Users to Share Content Items** attribute in the user profile configuration. When this attribute is deactivated, the **Share with Users** section is removed from the editor used to add data workbench visualizations to the content repository. This enhancement addresses ticket ASD-8759.

Performance benchmark tool

The new web-based Alfabet Performance Evaluation tool measures the performance of database requests over the active database connection as well as the browser performance. During a test run, a temporary table is created in the Alfabet database, and data is written to, read from, and deleted from this table. The tool then generates a report showing the time required for each step of the transaction. The report can be exported either as JSON or as an image. JSON exports can be re-imported to compare current results with those from earlier performance tests. Running performance tests regularly establishes a baseline, making it easier to detect deviations that may indicate database access issues.

The Alfabet Performance Evaluation tool is released as a beta version and represents the first step toward the upcoming web-based Alfabet Administrator. It is implemented as an independent web application, separate from the Alfabet Web Application. The physical directory `AlfabetAdministratorWeb` will be delivered on customer request. Access requires authentication, either through the standard login mechanism or via Microsoft Account Entry ID Single-Sign-On.

Improvements

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

Quick access to recently searched objects

The global search field in the masthead now displays a **Recent Objects** section, making it easy for users to return to frequently accessed items. When clicking into the search field, the last five objects a user navigated to from the search results are automatically shown in a drop-down for immediate access and the user is not required to re-enter the search term.

Improved layout of navigation panel

The indentation of hierarchical items in the left navigation panel has been refined to make the structure easier to understand, helping users quickly see where they are in the hierarchy and navigate the product more efficiently.

Better usability of global search

If no category is selected when performing a global search, the drop-down list in the search field shows results listed by category. The category names shown were the technical names of object classes. This has been changed to show the caption of the relevant object class or object class stereotype, and they are now sorted by this caption.

Alphanumeric sorting for unused columns

In the editor for modifying a data workbench structure, all columns that have not been added to the data workbench are now sorted alphanumerically. This makes locating a specific column significantly easier.

Streamlined IT-Pedia selector

- Products already imported from IT-Pedia™ to Alfabet are highlighted in the **IT-Pedia Product Selector** in order to ensure that users understand which components are already imported to Alfabet.
- Products imported to Alfabet via **IT-Pedia®Catalog - Models** will also be automatically added to the list of products in **My Products - Models**. This ensures that the component (technology) portfolio that is being created from IT-Pedia is synchronized with the IT-Pedia **My Product List** to keep the lifecycles and details of these technologies up to date if the technology is updated in IT-Pedia.

Easy AI Assistant access control

The Alfabet AI Assistant can be deactivated for specific user profiles in the **User Profile** editor directly in the Alfabet user interface, giving administrators fine-grained control over its availability. This ensures that the feature is only enabled for appropriate users, supports compliance with internal policies, and prevents unintended access. Managing this directly in the Alfabet user interface streamlines administration by keeping configuration in a single, easy-to-reach location. Please note that this change is not yet available for Alfabet FastLane or the Alfabet Enterprise Solution configurations.

Improved AMM file generation

- The AMM generation editor has been enhanced with a new setting that allows users to exclude objects tagged with one or more selected tags. This capability enables solution designers to generate an AMM file that contains the complete configuration while omitting any partially completed elements marked with specific tags.
- The display of role types and evaluation types in the **Reference Data** tab of the AMM editor includes both **Name** and **Technical Name**.
- When updating the meta-model using an AMM file, a Microsoft Excel® report highlights any issues detected in the meta-model configuration during the update process. This report has been extended with a new tab that lists configurations potentially affecting system performance. The tab is only displayed if recommendations are available. Currently, the tab includes all object class properties defined as shadow references that do not have an index configured to optimize search operations. Additional configuration patterns identified as performance-relevant in future releases will also be added to this list.

Usability enhancement for class settings

The display of modified controls in editors, custom editors, and standard views within the class settings explorer has been updated to show both the control's **Name** and **Caption**, rather than the name alone. Since captions are the labels visible in the user interface, this change makes it much easier to identify which control has been modified. In contrast, control names are often technical identifiers that do not clearly reflect the control's purpose or functionality.

Enhanced Logging for SAML

If authentication is done via SAML, the Alfabet Web Application will enforce the SAML component to provide log messages with the debug log level. This ensures that certificate information relevant for support is logged correctly.

Fixes

- The ADIF scheme `ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE` correctly executes when there are single quotes in the vendor name.
- The object inspection pane erroneously opened in Kanban and matrix reports with the click-and-hold mouse action. This has been fixed and now items in Kanban and matrix reports can be moved via click-and-hold.
- Views, diagrams, and reports are no longer truncated in height when embedded in a guided data view.
- The number of characters permissible for URLs has been extended from 128 to 1024 bytes to allow longer URL specification in, for example, the style attribute value BigLogoUrl. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9495.
- If new users are added to the **User Group Administration** via the **Advanced Search** functionality, the definition of existing users will persist.
- If an indicator value is removed but the indicator has a comment defined, the indicator will remain in the database and not be deleted. If both the value and comment are not defined for an indicator, it will be deleted from the database. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9710.
- When a user changed from the **Analysis View** of a content area to the **Data Entry View**, the **Analysis View** was displayed instead of the **Data Entry View** when refreshing the browser page or navigating back to the content area via the breadcrumb. This issue has been fixed so that refreshing the browser page or navigating back to the content area via the breadcrumb will return the user to the correct view. This fix is a resolution for tickets ASD-9834 and ASD-9264.
- The display of the global filter icon was inconsistent in content area tabs. It is now displayed in all relevant tabs if the global filter applies to any of the content area items on the tab. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9870.
- Expanded Gantt charts remain expanded if the user navigates to an object and returns to the Gantt chart.
- The validation of URL properties in editors and wizards that is executed when exiting the editor or wizard is only executed if a value is set. The editor or wizard will close and not show an error message if the URL is not specified. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9288.
- The right-click menu is fixed on an external link to open the link in a new tab. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9051.

- A link target in an email as well as URLs copied from the browser will open correctly even if the user is not yet logged in to Alfabet. This fix is a resolution for tickets ASD-9477 and ASD-9131.
- The display of the name of a local component in a cell in a Microsoft Excel® file for a data capture template and the name of local components in the drop-down list for the cell has been aligned and is displayed as a concatenation of the application name and local component name. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-8755.
- Native SQL reports including Alfabet instructions could not be defined in the **Report Administration** functionality in the Alfabet user interface due to the removal of line breaks. This has been corrected and line breaks are maintained in the query definition when the editor is closed.
- Rendering of the filter panel in data table reports has been fixed to correctly display the filter panel instead of hiding it inactivated behind the data panel. This fix is a resolution for tickets ASD-10000 and ASD-10029.
- When a new vendor product was imported from Technopedia®, the manufacturer name instead of the manufacturer ID was stored in the `TP_ID` object class property of the referenced vendor that was also created. This has been fixed. The standard `ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE` ADIF job needs to be run to change existing values. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-8863.
- The third-party component Aspose.Task® has been added to the release delivery. Issues that occurred with the following are fixed:
  - Upload of Microsoft Excel® data capture template files. This was reported with ticket ASD-9883.
  - Creation of integration connections for ITPedia integration.
  - Creation of methodologies for Microsoft Project® integration.
- The two tables embedded in the **Reports** (`SRCH_Reports`) view have been resized and both tables can be seen without using the zoom functionality. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-8658.
- Customer-defined generic operations for starting a workflow were not available in data workbenches. This issue has been resolved. The button will be displayed and executed according to the setting of the **Selection-Based Operation Context** attribute of the generic operation. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9704.
- The object class `DataActionRule` had no unique class key which might lead to issues in AMM file-based updates of the custom configuration in target

databases. A unique class key for the **Technical Name** property has been introduced. If two existing data action rules have the same technical name, one technical name will be changed during migration to Alfabet 11.11.0. The name of the data action rule remains the same.

- The object class `TimeStatus` contained duplicated entries in some databases. This was caused by an insufficient unique key constraint. The unique key has been corrected to include both `Owner` and `Status` object class properties. On migration to Alfabet 11.11.0, duplicate entries will be cleaned from the Alfabet database.
- The user profile attributes **Last Update** and **Last Update User** are correctly set if the user profile is changed in Alfabet Expand. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9036.
- Incorrect entries in the `Relations` table might exist because in the past references stored in the `Relations` table were not correctly deleted if the source or target object of the relation was deleted. The original issue was fixed. Any incorrect entries in the `Relations` table can be removed using the new **Meta-Model** > **Check Integrity Info Relations and Remove Inconsistencies** functionality of Alfabet Expand. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9097.
- The AMM mechanism to merge text templates to a target database configuration correctly takes over text queries in both custom and protected text templates. This fix is a resolution for ticket ASD-9390.
- Database archiving in ADBZ files and the restore of a database via ADBZ files have been enhanced to work with very large databases.
- The product code `DBPX4` for the IT Transformation Server - Enterprise license in the **License** tab of the server alias editor was not correct. It has been changed to the correct product code `ABTVX`. This change corrects only the interface string and does not have any effect on the validity of the license.