



Release Notes 11.8.0

Platform

Alfabet Documentation

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Release Notes 11.8.0 - SR Platform Changes

Alfabet release 11.8.0 includes many new capabilities and enhancements to the functional scope of Alfabet.

New

The following is introduced to the Alfabet platform this release.

User support and guidance for data input

A new guided data entry is introduced to help users create and edit assets so that they can be sure the most critical data is complete and accurate. The guided data entry feature is available as a button in content areas for which the guided data entry has been configured. Triggering the **Guided Data Entry** button overlays the content area with the fields and views that are necessary to meet data requirements. A panel on the right lists the relevant areas of data input including the number of violated data quality rules for each area. For example, a guided data entry for an application might include that data is required for the areas **Basic Data**, **Description**, **Lifecycle**, **Architecture**, and **Information Flows**. Users can click any section in the list to move the focus directly to the fields/views where the required data can be entered. Whenever a data rule violation is resolved, the number of data quality rule violations is updated. In this way, users can easily resolve all data input issues for the assets they are responsible for.

Users with access to Alfabet Expand can define guided data views for object classes via **Presentation > Guided Data Views**. Guided data view configuration includes an ordered list of object class property groups, data workbenches, standard views and configured reports. Visibility conditions can be specified for each element added to the guided data view. The guided data view must be specified for the relevant class setting via the **Guided Data View** attribute.

Define URLs in data workbenches and content areas

Users can specify external links for an asset in the repository, thus making additional relevant information for the asset easily available. The external link can be defined by users in data workbenches and content areas for properties of the type URL via inline editing. The link must start with the protocols http or https and can include a title to display instead of the URL. In native SQL reports, only the link text is displayed but no link functionality is available. The JoinURL report instruction can be used for SQL reports if needed to display a link. Additionally, the protocol mailto can be used to define an email address, thus making it easy to provide contact information and enhance communication. In this case, clicking the link will open the user's default email program with the specified email address in the To: field.

Server variables can be specified for URLs in the server alias. Part or all of the link target can be defined with the syntax `$VariableName`.

Start workflows via the New button

Workflows to create a new object can be triggered via the orange **New** button in the masthead as well as the **New** button in the respective data workbench. In this case, the workflow will open instead of the editor. Solution designers with access to Alfabet Expand can specify the workflow in the **New Object Workflow** attribute of class settings.

Beta version of hierarchical data workbenches

Solution designers with access to Alfabet Expand can create data workbenches showing related objects on multiple levels of expandable data tables. The hierarchy can show one object class per level with four additional expandable levels below. For example, an expandable data workbench may include applications, components, and local components, or an organization hierarchy with parent organization and 3 subordinate levels of organizations in the organization hierarchy. Users can edit inline and add, remove, and sort columns in the data workbenches in the hierarchical data workbench.

The hierarchical data workbenches are currently only available in a beta version. Further development will address visualization capabilities, data export, bulk editing, and filtering.

External source synchronization and LDAP support

External source synchronization with LDAP and Microsoft® Access® databases and the support of user authentication and authorization via LDAP is available. The functionality available in Alfabet 10.15.x has been re-implemented for Alfabet 11.8.

Hide login link in session timeout messages

The link **Click here to start a new session** displayed when a user logs out of Alfabet or a session expires can be hidden via the XML attribute `ShowBacktoAppLinkonLogout` in the XML element `AlfabetRuntimeConfig` in the `alfasettings.json` file of the Alfabet Web Application.

Improvements

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

Improved usability of the left navigation panel

The left navigation panel has been revised to be easier to use with less clicks and more flexibility.

- If the navigation panel is collapsed, users can hover over an icon to automatically expand the navigation panel and click the content to display, whereby the navigation panel will automatically collapse again.

- If the left navigation panel is reduced in width and the window is resized, the width of the navigation panel will return to its previous width once the window is returned to its original size.
- The left navigation panel can be expanded to a maximum of 30 - 40 % of the overall windows size.

Better legends for matrix visualizations

The legend for matrix reports has been improved and now shows the object class icon and class name for the elements on the X- and Y-axes and in the matrix cells.

Support for mandatory filter settings

For configured reports that require mandatory filter to be set to show data, the filter panel will be automatically opened if the **Execute on Enter** attribute is set to False for the configured report. Please note the limitation that if the configured report is embedded in a content area, the filter panel will not open but instead a message is shown asking the user to set the filter.

Performance enhancement for data visualizations

Visualizations like business graphics displayed in the context of a data workbench will display a maximum of 50 objects to avoid the rendering of visualizations that are not readable or performative. If the visualization is based on more than 50 objects, a message will be displayed above the graphic informing the user that only the first 50 objects are displayed. It is advised that filters are set in the data workbench to reduce the number of objects to a readable amount for the visualization.

Improved usability for content areas

If a user shares a content item with another user, the recipient will receive a notification about the new shared content.

- The **Add Content to Page** functionality in the 3-dots menu of a content area has been renamed **Manage Content on Page** to reflect that content can be removed from the content area as well as added to the content area.

Better PDF layout

The title and graphic are both displayed on the first page of the PDF when diagrams, matrices, and Gantt charts are exported to PDF in landscape format.

Usability enhancement for New button

All object classes are displayed in the drop-down list in the orange **New** button in the masthead and the **more** link is no longer displayed.

Unit information displayed for indicators

If indicators are defined with a unit, the unit will automatically be displayed in parenthesis behind the indicator name in the column headers, **Structure** menu, and **Business Chart Settings** available for data workbenches as well as the standard **Evaluation** (ObjectEvaluation) view.

Enhancements to indicator calculation

The **Compute Indicators** functionality in the standard **Evaluations** view (ObjectEvaluation) has been moved out of the 3-dots menu and is displayed directly in the toolbar of the view to make it easier for users to trigger indicator calculation.

The **Rescan Indicators** button will not be displayed in data workbenches if no computed indicators have been defined for the object class.

Extended configuration available for principles

Administrative users can configure role types, cost types, and evaluation types for principles. The object class Principle has been added to the **Class Configuration** functionality.

Import of IT-Pedia® products in application context

If a component is imported from IT-Pedia in the **Components** page that is available in an application's content area, the component will be imported and a corresponding local component will be created for the application. The reference between the local component, component, and application will be automatically created.

Improved performance of user administration views

The performance of standard views and configured reports for user administration has been considerably improved so that the restriction to show only 300 users was removed from the standard **Users Administration** view. This addresses the customer request in ticket SI-571309.

Easier navigation to reports

The **Reports** view (SRCH_REPORTS) has been enhanced so that users can easily navigate to a configured report listed in the dataset. A new navigation arrow is available for each configured report so that users can click the arrow to open the configured report.

Data quality rules for survey classes

Survey classes can be selected as a target class when specifying a data quality rule.

Re-scheduling of locked jobs

To manage these scheduled jobs that run into a deadlock and aren't executed, new options have been added to the **Action** button in the **Job Schedule** view to view locked jobs and reschedule them.

Improved usability for job schedule and data capture templates

Selecting documents for ADIF jobs and data capture templates has been revised so that it is easier to select documents in the editor.

Improvements to the online help

The Alfabet online help has been moved to another server and changed in structure to provide the following additional features:

- The **Help Server** setting in the server alias configuration can be set in two different ways:
 - <https://documentation.alfabet.com>: This links to the help of the latest Alfabet release. It will currently link to Alfabet 11.8 and will automatically link to the next documentation set when a new release comes out. Customers frequently updating to the newest release can use this link to avoid the need to redefine the link with every release
 - <https://documentation.alfabet.com/11-8>: This links to the Alfabet 11.8 help and will explicitly open only the online help of Alfabet 11.8. Update to a future release requires an update of the **Help Server** setting in the server alias configuration.
 - Existing settings to the former web server will be re-directed for a limited time. Customers using older versions of Alfabet 11 should update the link in the **Help Server** setting in the server alias configuration to the new server to the help version they use.
- A full-text search field is available directly on the website for the online help for Alfabet 11.8.
- A version picker provides access to prior versions of the Alfabet online help for Alfabet 11.3 - 11.7, and to the PDF files published for Alfabet 10.9 - 10.15.
- Images for the context-sensitive and full-text help displayed in the Alfabet user interface are directly read from the online help server. They are no longer read from the documentation icon gallery which will be removed from the database during update to Alfabet 11.8.
- Continuous delivery will be provided for the online help starting with Alfabet 11.8. Help content will be updated as soon as new content is available. The start page of the online help will provide information about updates.

More flexibility in user profile configuration

The configuration capabilities for button availability and captions for buttons have been re-worked to provide solution designers with more flexibility.

- A new **Content Areas** section is available in the attributes of user profiles in Alfabet Expand. The attributes enable the solution designer to specify if and how users may change the content displayed in all content areas relevant for the user profile.
- A **Content Areas** section is available for class settings that allows content areas to be changed for a class setting. The user profile configuration will override the class setting configurations.
- The properties available in a property group in content areas can be changed in the **Properties** node of the class settings. The order of the properties displayed can then be changed for a content area under the **Content Areas** node. The solution designer can also modify the caption of all properties including the ones moved to the property group via the class settings.
- The availability of buttons and filter fields in configured reports can be specified in the **Reports** node in the class settings. Report captions and descriptions can also be modified.
- The availability of buttons and filter fields of standard page views can be changed in the **Graphic View** node in the class settings. View captions and descriptions can also be modified.
- The availability of buttons and fields can be changed for standard editors in the **Editors** node and for custom editors in the **Custom Editors** node of the class settings. In addition, the editor caption can be adapted.
- The accessibility and caption of generic operations can be changed in the **Class Operations** node of class settings. Visibility conditions can be defined for the operations. Button definitions for presentation objects have been moved to the **Presentation Objects** node. These buttons are displayed in standard views and business functions. Data workbenches show buttons defined as class operations, while content areas show both the generic operations as well as any button defined for an associated object profile.
- Two new class operations have been added to the generic operations of the BusinessDataUsage object class to define business data usage for applications and business objects. These operations are shown only when a data workbench for the BusinessDataUsage object class is embedded in the content area of the Application or BusinessObject context classes.
- Generic create, edit, and delete operations are now available for all relevant classes.
- Dynamic buttons derived from code can be deactivated or marked as customized directly in the user interface. The Alfabet Web Application needs to be started in design mode to add the option to configure buttons to each view. After buttons have been marked as customized, a node for the button is added under the **Presentation Objects** node of the relevant class settings and customization can be carried out directly in the class settings.

Content areas for defined objects

Class-based content areas can be configured to return data for a defined object returned by a query. For example, the query could create content areas returning data about the current user. A new **Base Object By Query** attribute has been added to content areas. The query defined in this attribute must return a single object.

Class model extended to include Notification Monitor

The object class NotificationMonitor has been added to the class model in the **Meta-Model** tab in Alfabet Expand. Solution designers can build data workbenches and class-based content areas for notification monitors and include them in queries.

Usability enhancements in Alfabet Expand

- The setting specifying the searchability of object classes can be changed simultaneously for all class settings via new options on the **Class Settings** node in the **Presentation** tab. This addresses the customer request in ticket SI-568797
- Copy and paste is enabled for the configuration of class settings.

Improved automatic migration

The automatic migration of Alfabet 10.15.x to Alfabet 11 has been changed for Alfabet 11.8:

- In Alfabet 11.7.2, the migration scripts were amended with the ability to take over view customizations from view schemes to class settings.
- In Alfabet 11.8, the customization of views in the class settings has been completely revised and the auto-mated migration has been changed accordingly.

The update of the meta-model via the AMM file has been changed to include these migration steps for all customers currently migrating from Alfabet 10.15.x or for customers who have already migrated an Alfabet 10.15.x configuration to Alfabet 11.7.x using the automated migration scripts:

- The **Execute configuration migration scripts** checkbox has been added to the **Update Meta-Model** dialog. The checkbox must be selected to execute automatic migration scripts. It is only displayed for:
 - Update from Alfabet 10.15.x to Alfabet 11.8 to execute the complete automatic migration including the scripts implemented in Alfabet 11.7.2 and Alfabet 11.8.
 - Update from Alfabet 11.7.1 to Alfabet 11.7.2 to execute only the new automatic migration of view customizations from view schemes to class settings introduced with Alfabet 11.7.2.
 - Update from Alfabet 11.7.2 to Alfabet 11.8 to adapt the class settings to the new configuration infrastructure for view customizations.

- Customers who have migrated from Alfabet 10.15.x to Alfabet 11.7.0 or earlier Alfabet 11 versions and used the option to automatically change the existing configuration are advised to first update to Alfabet 11.7.1, then to Alfabet 11.7.2, and then to Alfabet 11.8 to make sure all new migration features are implemented.

TLS encryption for sending emails

The method for sending emails from the Alfabet application was outdated and has been replaced by a new method supporting TLS encryption. The new method requires that the SMTP host in the server alias settings for sending emails is specified.

More login options for AlfaAdministratorConsole.exe

When using the AlfaAdministratorConsole.exe command line tool for database archive, restore, or update of the meta-model or workflow-related tasks, login is possible with Alfabet username and password as an alternative to the existing option to log in with database username and password. This addresses the customer request in ticket SI-569338 and SI-569424

Leaner log file after meta-model update

During update of the meta-model, issues with configuration objects are written to a Microsoft® Excel® file. Messages that do not require any check about whether a manual correction is required have been removed. This includes warnings about merged icons and property group migration.

Changes to OAuth authentication

Data can be taken over from OAuth authentication providers like OKTA. The mapping can be specified in the XML object **AuthConfiguration** in an XML element Actualization including the mapping information in the format `<AuthAttrMapping Name="external attribute name" TargetProperty="Alfabet object class property name" />`.

Better language support for integration with ARIS

If the data in ARIS is defined only in languages not available for the Alfabet user interface, data import to Alfabet can be configured to force import to the standard language in Alfabet from any of the languages used in ARIS. In the XML object **ArisApiConfig**, the XML attribute `overwrite_primary_language_as="Java locale language and country"` must be specified (for example, `overwrite_primary_language_as="de_DE"` for German).

Fixes

- Google Sheets™ can be used for the import of data via data capture templates.
- The search in the masthead of the Alfabet user interface can find objects written in Arabic.

- The specification of the creation user and the last update user in the **Tech Info** section of data workbenches is set correctly.
- Evaluation types can be deleted from the database without issues. This is a resolution for ticket SI-569294.
- The selector for adding an evaluation type to a prioritization scheme allows both evaluation types and indicator types to be selected. This is a resolution for ticket SI-569419.
- The **Expand All** functionality in the **My workflow Activities** explorer correctly expands to show the workflow activities. This is a resolution for ticket SI-569879.
- Search indexes can be updated in the Alfabet user interface without prior manual deletion of the existing search index from the local file system. This fixes a known limitation in Alfabet 11.7.x.
- The selector for the **Target Properties** field in the **Data Quality Rule** editor has been cleaned up so that there are no longer internal object class properties that are not relevant for data quality settings.
- Performance problems have been resolved:
 - The data quality views of business questions load without issues.
 - Data workbenches for the object class Person, which shows user information, loads without issues.
- Only one role or organization can be selected in the **Responsibilities** view if the role type has been configured to allow only one organization or user to be selected. This is a resolution for ticket SI-570873 and SI-571473.
- Custom indicators are correctly displayed in the export file for a data table in a data workbench. This is a resolution for ticket SI-569447.
- If a user defines a filter for empty values in a column in a data workbench, the count for found objects is correctly displayed and no longer set to zero. This is a resolution for ticket SI-571096.
- Filters applied to a data workbench are also applied in the export file if the data workbench is exported. This is a resolution for ticket SI-571531.
- Filters applied to a data table in a data workbench are also applied to visualizations based on the data table.
- Bookmarks (favorites) include the filters applied to a data workbench.
- Cascading user global data filters in content areas have been fixed so that the settings from the parent filter change the availability of data in child filter fields.
- Issues fixed regarding filtering in the configuration view for color theme style attributes filtering works without errors.
- The following has been fixed for Gantt charts:
 - If a configured Gantt chart report displays the dependencies between lifecycles of different objects, expanding and collapsing the dataset will reduce the display

- o of dependencies to only those with both a source and target in the visible dataset.
 - o Buttons with no working functionality are hidden in Gantt chart reports displayed in the context of a data workbench.
 - o In configured Gantt chart reports, the colors of connections are correctly rendered and a legend is displayed for connections.
- The following has been fixed in Archimate Viewpoint diagrams:
 - o In Archimate Viewpoint diagrams, the functionality to Organize elements by row/column works as in Alfabet 10.15.x. This is a resolution for ticket SI-569809.
 - o Filtering for Archimate Viewpoint diagrams has been corrected to be applied to the diagram in the Alfabet user interface and not only after export. This is a resolution for ticket SI-571094.
 - o In Archimate Viewpoint diagrams, the button to add referenced objects is disabled if no objects are available to be referenced. This is a resolution for ticket SI-571836.
- Users can re-load the Alfabet URL to a browser tab while SAML SSO sign-in is still in progress without getting an error message.
- Scroll bars will be visible if the content does not fit in the remaining space even if the user has enlarged the width of the left navigation panel considerably. This is a resolution for ticket SI-568397.
- If data capture templates are created without making the required mandatory settings, these data capture templates are ignored as otherwise the view to display data capture templates would fail to work.
- The **Property Details** field in the specification of reference properties in data workbenches has been fixed to show all relevant classes.
- An error was fixed in the data capture template editor for capturing costs. The content of the **Class Properties** tab is displayed without issues. This is a resolution for ticket SI-571054.
- The editor for creating an IT-Pedia® integration connection works without issues.
- In Alfabet Expand, the caption and description of style attributes have been set to editable so that users can change them.
- Placeholders defined for fields in custom editors can have line breaks. These line breaks are honored when displaying the placeholders in the user interface. This is a resolution for ticket SI-572356.
- Entries can be created without issues in the ServiceNow® import assistant of ADIF jobs for ServiceNow integration.
- The **Is Active** attribute of custom themes is correctly taken over if custom themes are migrated from one database to another via AMM file.
- The following configuration capabilities for obsolete functionality have been removed:

- The parameters of the obsolete Skype® integration have been removed from the user editor in the Alfabet Administrator.
- Map chart reports based on FusionMap® are no longer reported because of a change in the FusionMap license model. The standard ADIF job has been removed and the option MapChartReport has been removed from the selector of report templates for configured reports. Existing reports based on this template will remain in the database to be later adapted to a new solution. The object classes for storing FusionMap maps and markers have been removed.
- The information displayed about users in the dialog to add and share content items is not fixed to the username but identical to the **Image** properties of the relevant class settings.
- The information displayed about users in the **Responsibilities** view is identical to the **Image** properties of the relevant class settings in the order of their specification, separated with a comma.
- If the **Admin** user profile is deleted from the **Admin** tab in Alfabet Expand, update of the meta-model via AMM file will not re-create a new, empty **Admin** profile.
- The calculation of data quality rules has been revised to improve performance. This is a resolution for ticket SI-568782.
- A blank color element has been removed from the **Bar Chart Style Group** user interface group in Alfabet Expand. This color element has caused elements in bar charts to be shown without coloring.
- The placeholder text for undefined read-only properties in content areas has been changed from **Type to search** to **Undefined**.

Known Limitations

- The standard **Users Administration** view (ADMIN_UsersOverview) cannot be used in combination with a custom selector for the object class Person. The class settings used for the object class Person must not refer to a custom selector for user profiles providing access to the standard **Users Administration** view.
- The standard **Personal Info** business function (Personal_Items) is displayed empty in Alfabet 11.8. Customers can create a content area displaying the same information as in the business function and assign the content area to the respective menu item instead of the business function. The content area can be configured to show only data of the current user. The new **Base Object By Query** attribute of the content area must be set to the query `SELECT REFSTR FROM PERSON p WHERE p.REFSTR = @CURRENT_USER`.
- It is not possible to limit the amount of return results in WITH statements of SQL queries. For example, when configuring a selector with a limited returned dataset, the limitation must be defined in the top SELECT statement of the query instead of the WITH statement.

- The bar chart shown in the **Data Quality** visualization of a data workbench only displays data for the first 50 objects.

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