

What's new in 4.3 (June 2009)

IKAN ALM offers a secure and flexible process-centric software change management solution for both local and distributed development teams, and manages and automates SOA, Agile and traditional development processes. It complements existing version management tools by automating the complete software life-cycle management process, offering a single point of control and delivering support for your build, deploy, release and software life-cycle management and the associated approval processes. IKAN ALM helps reducing build complexity, solving complex deployment issues and accelerating release cycles.

A tailored life-cycle from development to production, including test and quality assurance, can be implemented, offering a comprehensive framework across all major platforms including Windows, UNIX, Linux and even z/OS mainframe systems.

New functionalities

Housekeeping Build Archive

Intelligent housekeeping functionality in order to control the size of the Build Archive. It contains an info panel displaying an overview of the Build Archive (total archive size, number of build files, available space,..) and a search panel to filter out candidate build files for deletion (deployed or not, size greater than, ...). Housekeeping actions are logged for history reasons. Possibility to synchronize the physical representation of the Build Archive on the file system with the logical representation of the Build Archive in the SCM4ALL database

History and Event Logging of Global and Project Administration definitions

All create, update and delete operations of Project and Global Administration objects and components are logged in the SCM4ALL Database. This allows for a better audit and traceability of SCM4ALL administration. An History View by component to check the complete history trail, which also allows comparing previous versions with the current state. A History Log shows all recent modifications over all Global Administration components.

Machine (Agent) status and log information

A new interface Machine Detailed Status that is available via the Machines overview. It displays the status of the Agent Daemon running on the Machine and if it is reachable by the SCM4ALL Server. It also indicates what tasks the agent is handling, and contains a log panel which shows the last 150 lines of output of the Agent Daemon process running on this Machine.

Enhanced life-cycle flexibility

- Support for optional Levels: possibility to add a “condition” to a Level, in order to bypass certain Levels in the Life-Cycle. This makes it possible to have (as a sample) an optional

Training Level between Quality Assurance and Production, which is only updated when necessary.

- Allow redeliver on Test and Production Levels: a build which was previously delivered successfully may be delivered again, if necessary with different build or deploy parameters.
- Less restrictive Rollback conditions on Test and Production Levels: all builds delivered to a Level may be rolled back, independent from the build number on the next Level in the Life-Cycle. This makes it possible to first test a Rollback on a Test Level before rolling back the Production Level.

New Builds and Deploys overview

A new overview in the Desktop, which allows for searching actions (a Build or Deploy) by Machine and/or Environment.

New semantics for Post-Approvals and Post-Notifications

They're now applied at the end of all actions on a Level, and not before delivering to the next Level in the Life-Cycle. A Post-Approval now enables a verification moment after the execution of the Build(s)/Deploy(s) on a Test or Production Level. It adds an extra condition to the determination of the end status of the actions on the Level: not only must all Build(s) or Deploy(s) have been ended successfully, but the Post-Approval must also be granted by an SCM4ALL user. As long as the Post-Approval is not handled, the actions' status will not be set success. When a Post-Approval is rejected, the Build can never be delivered to the next Level in the Life-Cycle.

New Dependency type

Use latest Production Source/Build Result. This dependency type allows for a split up Life-Cycle, e.g. to allow people from development and production to work each in their own project in order to avoid responsibility conflicts [and to setup a customized workflow].

Possibility to hide/unhide Projects and Project Streams

It allows filtering out data of obsolete Projects or Project branches in several Project and Desktop overviews.

Better status output of Level and Environment phases

This allows a better follow up of the different steps involved in the Build or Deploy process, eg. show that a partical phase is currently "running".

New license system

The existing licensing system is replaced by an inhouse controlled system, which is easier to install and maintain.

New demo installation

Easier to install demo with integrated webserver, database and versioning system.

Enhanced functionalities

- New Duration field in interface for Level Request and Environment Logs
- Total Level Request time calculated in Level Request interfaces
- Multiple selects possible in several Desktop search panels
- Usability reorganization of the Global Administration and Desktop menus
- Several extended project audit checkings
- Reorganized the Life-Cycle overview
- User Groups are also visible in velocity mail templates
- The Agent process produces more informative logging on the INFO log level
- Upgrade of the MySQL connector
- Support for Groups in Groups when connecting to LDAP via JAAS

Bug fixes

Several small bug fixes and optimizations have also been implemented. Refer to the readme of the installed product for more details.

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