

What's new in 5.0 (June 2010)

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.

Besides the rebrand from SCM4ALL, IKAN ALM 5.0 includes the following major enhancements:

Package-based Projects

IKAN ALM introduces the Package concept, which allows selecting and moving individual files or components through the life-cycle. This is especially useful for Projects that consist of a large amount of files. Those Projects can now be supported following the mainframe way of life-cycle management. This new functionality is supported for Subversion and IBM ClearCase Versioning Systems

A new Package-based Project definition is introduced to make a distinction with the original way of working (now referred to as a Release-based Project) with all files in the head (trunk) or branch of the versioning system. Before creating a first Build in a Package-based Project, a Package must be created in a Project Stream of the Project. The user will select revisions of files from the corresponding head/branch of the versioning system, and add them to the Package. Once built, such a Package-based build result may travel individually through the life-cycle via test and quality assurance, up to production. There may be ongoing development (resulting in several builds per Package) in multiple Packages in one Project Stream.

Multiple Desktop Tab Pages

The completely restyled Desktop (see also the enhanced functionalities further on in this document) gives users the possibility to have multiple (up to 10) “Desktops” by introducing the concept of Desktop Tab Pages. This is a significant enhancement over the old Desktop, that had a limit of 20 items, and thus allows administrators and project managers to easily follow up the life-cycle of multiple projects. Also, the new Desktop makes adding, removing and moving items on the Desktop much easier.

JIRA Issue Tracking Integration

The integration with the Atlassian JIRA Issue Tracking System now not only links issues related with an IKAN ALM build, but also retrieves more information, like short description, owner, priority, ... from the corresponding JIRA Issue. This information is synchronized each time the build result evolves in the IKAN ALM life-cycle.

Enhanced life-cycle flexibility

Support for Levels which are not linked to any Build or Deploy Environment. This makes it possible to create so-called “Milestone” Levels into the life-cycle.

Possibility to display and disconnect connected users

A new administrative function which makes it possible to get more information about the connected users (such as Login Name, IP address and Host Name). On top of that, it is also possible to disconnect them, for example to free up a floating license.

New Approval overview

A new overview in the Desktop, which allows searching the approval history.

New Project History Log interface

New overview in the Project Administration part, which shows the latest administrative changes to the Project, and allows searching the Project Administration history.

New installation interface

Besides the file-based non-graphical installation process, it is now also possible to install or update the IKAN ALM Server, Agent and Commandline via an ergonomic user interface on a diversity of platforms.

Enhanced functionalities

- More easily manageable Desktop with simple drag and drop rearranging functionality, restyled interface, and new “Package” desktop type.
- Restyled Desktop overviews including enhanced search panels containing suggestion fields, reviewed result tables, new icons and more informative pagination
- New interface for approving and rejecting approvals
- Build history integrated in the Level Request overview and available for all Level Requests
- Pluggable Issue Tracking Architecture allowing a tighter integration with Issue Tracking systems following a clearly defined API
- Optimized integration with IBM ClearCase Base and UCM
- Enhanced protection of secure values
- More informative logging for login and logout actions
- Support for Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 installation

- Several fixes of encoding problems

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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