

Requirements Management

Requirements Management module is a comprehensive, integrated solution for defining, managing, and tracking requirements at every step of the entire application lifecycle.

Overview

Better Requirements Pave the Path to Better Results

The way an organization defines and delivers software requirements is imperative to the success of an IT project and in turn the success of the business. Even though organizations have invested heavily in project management, development, and quality assurance; many projects still fail and these failures can often be traced back to poorly defined requirements.

Defining and managing good requirements is a difficult task. Requirements emerge from an idea or as a business initiative, evolve through the definition phase, and often change through the delivery phase. To add to this challenge, there are many different people and groups involved in the requirements lifecycle. These groups are dispersed across different teams, business units, and geographies, and they need to collaborate and communicate clearly.

The rapid adoption of Agile across organizations means having good requirements is even more important.

To ensure excellent business outcomes, organizations need to address these challenges and recognize the need for better requirements. The right requirements management solution is needed to facilitate the management of the requirements lifecycle. The solution must:

- Be easy to use.
- Facilitate a single "point of truth" for both visual and textual requirements.

- Support collaboration between stakeholders to ensure the right thing is being captured.
- Provide traceability between requirements and other development assets (test, defects, code, and the like).
- Enforce standardization to ensure consistency and quality between requirements.

From Collaboration Comes Confident Decisions

Requirements Management introduces a new lightweight Web client that is robust and easy to use. This modern UI compliments the standard UI and has been constructed to allow access to Requirements Management without the need to download any add-ins or plug-ins, or need administration rights on users computers. This new solution works across all major browser platforms. With a clean, easy-to-navigate, UI and single-sign-on capabilities, this addition to the Requirements Management solution allows customers greater flexibility in deploying requirements management across their enterprise.

The new Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) Web Client introduces features not available in the Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) Desktop Client, such as Author Mode. A document-centric viewing mode that enables you to see a list of requirements in a single document view and allows for quick editing of descriptions. This helps you to better understand the big picture. It also introduces

Standardize and Control Requirements Capturing in a Familiar Environment

Maintaining consistency and quality of requirements is critical to avoiding inconsistencies, missed requirements, and high amounts of rework. Micro Focus Requirements Management gives you the capability to standardize and control your requirements by enforcing customized templates and workflows to facilitate the capturing of a requirement in a consistent structure across your entire organization.

If you prefer the familiar interface of Microsoft Word, Requirements Management offers a rich text content editor with a similar look and feel for data input as Microsoft Word, allowing for rapid and easy adoption across your teams. Alternatively, you can import requirements from existing Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel files.

category views. A dynamic hierarchical structure based on virtual folders allows for flexibility in manipulating the requirements view. Views can be updated on the fly by selecting new category fields. This flexibility lets you determine the way in which requirements are organized.

Key Features and Benefits

Capture Different Types of Requirements

One of the most critical roles in the requirements management process is that of the BA. BAs act as a liaison among project stakeholders to gather, analyze, communicate, and validate requirements related to new IT projects or changes to existing applications, processes, or policies.

Requirements Management provides BAs and other key stakeholders with multiple pre-configured requirement types—from technical specifications to use cases. It also supports customizable requirements types to capture all levels of requirements and store them in the centralized repository, along with supporting attachments. Requirements can be shared across projects and also integrated into Micro Focus® Agile Manager solution as user stories.

Graphically Represent and Map Requirements to Critical Business Process Flows

Requirements Management allows for business process models to be imported and displayed, visually representing, and communicating defined business process flows. A requirements hierarchy is automatically generated and directly linked to objects within the business process models, allowing for detailed drill down and avoiding the risk of requirements duplication or oversight. Development and QA teams can use the visual representation of end-to-end scenarios within the models as key guidance to developing and testing the right thing. Business process models are becoming a key element in the elicitation and communication of requirements. Requirements

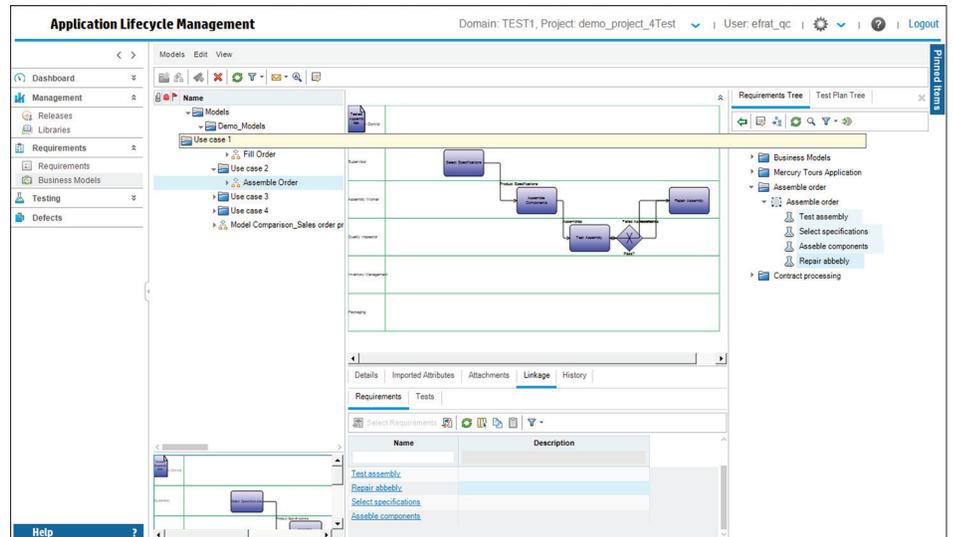


Figure 1. Requirements management—link requirements directly to business process models improving requirements communication

Management delivers this capability as part of your application lifecycle management and quality management solution.

Manage Requirements with Native Version Control and Base Lining

By storing the requirements in a centralized location and leveraging the native versioning capabilities in Requirements Management, BAs, developers, and QA can collaborate and share data without overriding each other's work, thus maintaining data integrity. Baselines can also be captured, including full traceability linkages, which help in making more informed decisions about when projects are ready to be moved to the next stage of the lifecycle.

Establish Requirements Traceability

Requirements Management gives users the ability to specify and link requirements, making it easy to establish and identify relationships between requirements. You can also tie requirements to test cases and code, thus establishing a traceable link to the corresponding requirement definition. Test cases can be auto-generated from a requirement, which

reduces the time needed to build a test and enables superior coverage. The traceability capabilities also allow for a test's pass/fail status and defects to be automatically linked back to the corresponding requirement, giving you an accurate, real-time analysis of the application readiness.

The requirements traceability matrix (n x n) and reporting are available to help identify broken links between requirements and help identify dependencies between requirements and cut down on the definition of wasted requirements.

Manage the Impact of Change

Requirements often change during the definition phase and sometimes even during the delivery phase. A change in a requirement can have a significant impact on other requirements and in turn, code, and tests. The change management process within Requirements Management identifies and notifies the relevant personnel when a requirement is changed, so they can review and/or approve the change. An impact analysis report can also be viewed to help identify other requirements

"75 percent of organizations surveyed waste over one in three dollars spent in IT development and implementation annually as a result of poor requirements maturity."

KEITH ELLIS

Business Analysis Benchmark—The Path to Success
IAG Consulting

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