
White Paper

Application Delivery Management

Fueled with ALM Octane

Introducing the Next Generation of Application
Lifecycle Management

Table of Contents

page

| | |
|--|---|
| Fueled with ALM Octane | 1 |
| Achieving Success in a Bimodal World..... | 1 |
| About ALM Software | 2 |
| ALM Octane Features | 4 |
| Delivery—the Way You Need | 6 |
| Micro Focus ALM Professional Services..... | 6 |
| Plan, Build, Test Track with ALM Octane..... | 7 |

ALM is a functionally rich, unified, yet open platform for your application teams to plan, define, build, test, track, and accelerate the Agile delivery of high-quality applications.

Fueled with ALM Octane

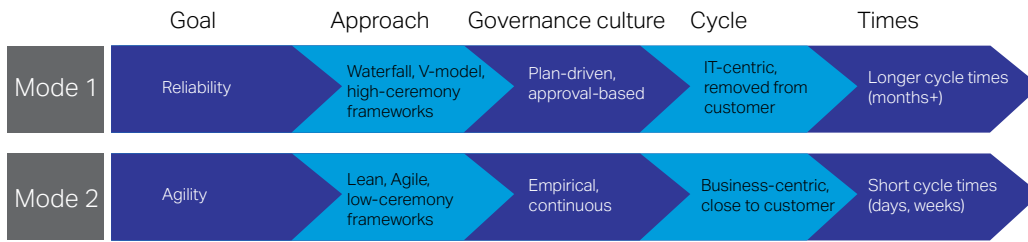
Technology users across the globe are unrelenting in their demand for faster delivery of engaging applications with high-quality and excellent performance. Speed, quality, and scale must be balanced and continuously achieved to stay ahead of the competition. These constantly evolving demands to deliver new digital innovation faster than ever before challenge the teams responsible to build, test, and deliver software in new ways every day. And these teams need an evolved approach to support Lean, Agile, rapid software delivery. Enter the next generation of Micro Focus® Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) software.

ALM is a functionally rich, unified, yet open platform for your application teams to plan, define, build, test, track, and accelerate the Agile delivery of high-quality applications. ALM can help teams drive innovation and enhance customer satisfaction, by enabling teams with real-time visibility across enterprise projects, Agile release trains, and the complete pipeline of application delivery.

Achieving Success in a Bimodal World

While business pressures may drive many IT organizations toward faster release cadence, Lean, and more Agile-like development processes, many groups have developed processes and practices that already work very effectively, without requiring significant change.

In 2015, Gartner Research introduced the concept of bimodal IT, whereby they assert that organizations may opt to run in two distinct modes to support their business demands. Mode 1 organizations require little application development process or tooling changes and already do a good job at satisfying their business goals. Mode 2 organizations require a much faster and regular delivery cadence, involving more Agile frameworks and may include concepts such as continuous delivery, DevOps, and Lean software delivery.



Emerging Mode 2 Practices in Bimodal Governance, Gartner, January 2016

Figure 1. High-level comparison of the two modes as cited by Gartner

ALM software has been a trusted and market-leading ALM platform supporting ALM for over a decade, and continues to support Mode 1 clients in their delivery activities across the globe.

Now, with this new release, Micro Focus Software expands the ALM experience with a new set of ALM capabilities, which embody next generation. This ALM experience, part of the overall ALM software product, helps organizations to not only support Mode 2 activities and processes but also aid organizations as they adopt Mode 2 processes and practices such as Agile development and continuous integration. This new set of software lifecycle management capabilities are optimized for the speed, quality, and scale challenges of organizations adopting Lean and Agile delivery practices, as well as delivering software through DevOps pipelines.

About ALM Software

ALM is a unified platform for defining, managing, and automating activities, gaining insight, and sharing assets to deliver applications from ideation to production. ALM manages the process and assets from requirements definition through software development, manual and automated testing, quality, and defects, leading to an assessment of readiness for delivery. ALM integrates with upstream project portfolio management software and downstream application release automation, continuous deployment, monitoring, and incident management software to drive complete visibility and management of applications from inception to retirement.

ALM is ideal at improving visibility across local, distributed, and outsourced teams, and at managing the moving parts of today's applications. It promotes consistency across processes, drives best practices, encourages asset sharing, and improves interactive communication among executive management, project managers, business analysts, development, and testing teams. Built on a standards-based, easily extensible architecture, and centralized repository, ALM is an open, technology-agnostic application delivery system uniquely scaled for the enterprise from small teams to large organizations with thousands of projects.

ALM Octane is an included part of the ALM product, and integrates with both Micro Focus Agile Manager and the traditional Micro Focus ALM.NET platform to allow teams to easily share assets and report across projects.

In support of the bimodal nature of many customers today, Micro Focus has expanded the ALM experience by introducing ALM Octane, as a separate platform that is tuned and designed for high-velocity, Lean and Agile teams. ALM Octane is an included part of the ALM product, and integrates with both Micro Focus Agile Manager and the traditional Micro Focus ALM.NET platform to allow teams to easily share assets and report across projects.

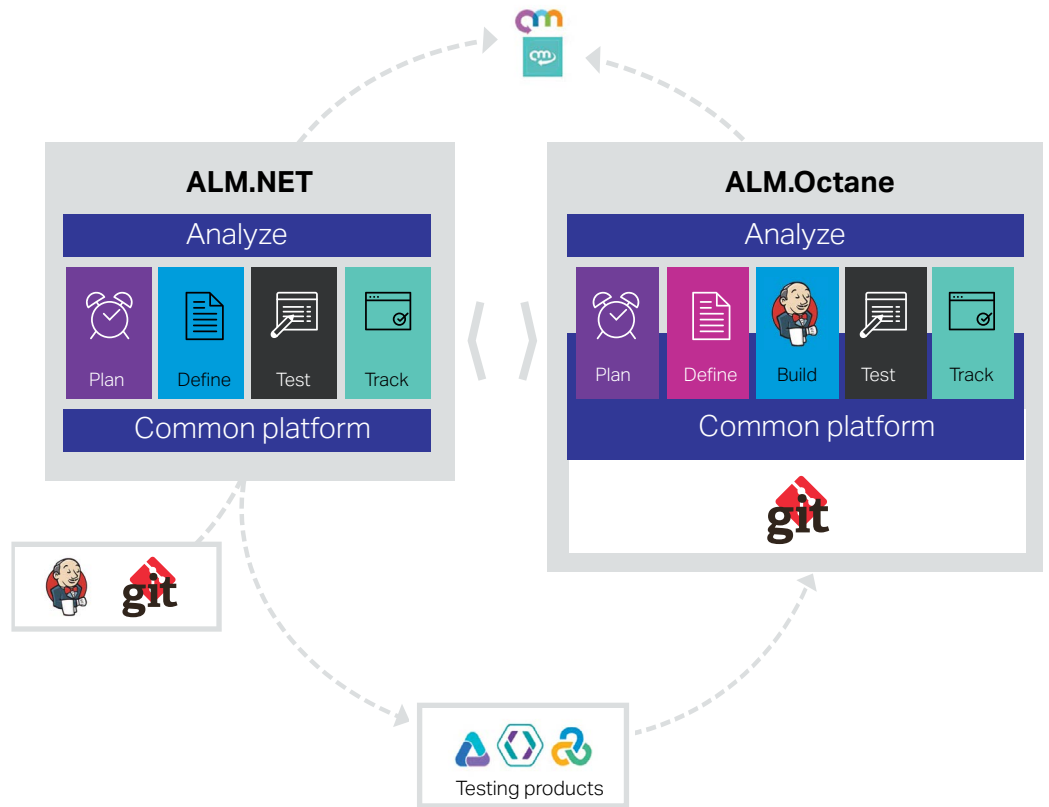


Figure 2. ALM, supporting both Mode 1 and Mode 2 teams

Responsive, streamlined user experience: ALM Octane is designed with a user interface providing a targeted and simplified user flow and architected using responsive design. Accessible in any HTML5 supported Web browser, or operating system, including many tablet devices, ALM Octane ensures users get access to what they want, when they want, and where they want.

Open, integrated, and extensible: With many out-of-the-box integrations to common industry and other Micro Focus Software technologies, ALM Octane platform boasts an extensive REST API, documented with Swagger, to allow users to work within the environment they're most comfortable in, without sacrificing collaboration, governance, and process guidance.

Align and integrate quality with the application deliver pipeline: ALM Octane platform easily integrates with the team's existing Jenkins/ CI system for visibility into the release pipeline, as well as into source code control systems like GIT, allowing for stronger collaboration, and supporting a faster path from manual testing to test automation. ALM Octane also provides a foundation for common terminology across the application development lifecycle facilitating more closely connected teams.

Unmatched enterprise scalability and support: Leveraging over a decade of industry leadership supporting the enterprise with ALM and Micro Focus Quality Center, we have architected scalability, enterprise credential support, cross-project sharing and visibility, and flexible methodology support to the ALM Octane platform. Teams can start small and know that as they grow, the underlying technology will support them along the way.

ALM Octane Features

Plan: Predictable application delivery requires awareness of progress and alignment with goals and milestones, as well as the ability to access updated information without relying on error-prone manual data gathering. ALM Octane platform allows teams to assess the status quickly within their context and access the right data to make the correct decisions.

Understanding business needs is the most critical piece of data any project team can have. ALM Octane has integrated Agile user stories and backlog management directly into the ALM software platform. Through this, teams can quickly document business needs and map them to supporting artifacts in the software development lifecycle, such as defects or tests.

Build: High-velocity teams realize that a quick understanding of what went into a build and where to triage is an effective means to faster application delivery. ALM Octane integrates directly into your Jenkins continuous integration and build environment, so you can quickly view release and quality pipelines, as well as adjust as new or changing validations and regression tests are created.

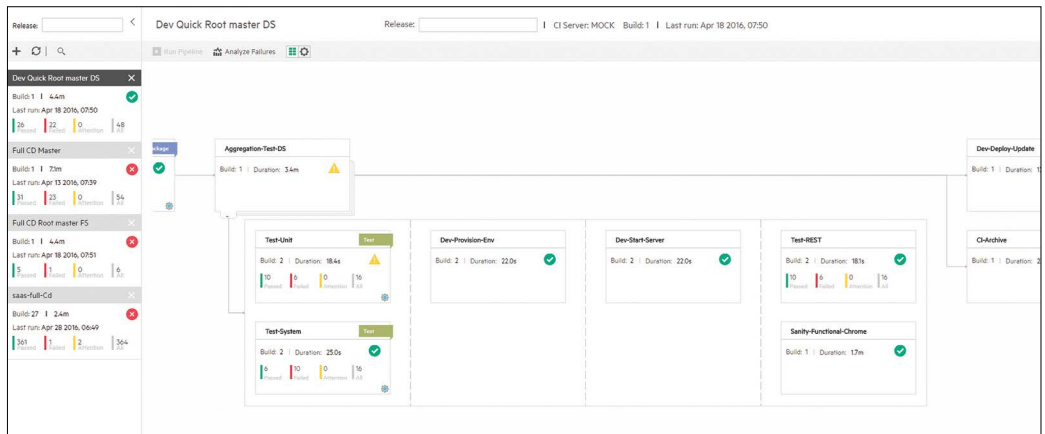


Figure 3. Pipeline view within ALM Octane platform

Test: Consistent quality is critical in any application being delivered to support your business. ALM Octane platform provides the ability for teams to author tests using Gherkin, assisting in the conversion of automated scripts and manages the execution of your test suites. Whether you're planning your tests within the context of a continuous integration pipeline or executing regression tests on the fly, with ALM software you can view aggregated quality within the context of your entire application.

Track: Whether you want to log a defect—quickly and easily—during a regression test, or review the status of a test or user story, ALM Octane provides information tailored to your context. Customizable reports, graphs, and dashboards help the team stay on top of critical items and with prioritization.

Embracing open source: ALM software continues to embrace open source standards and tools within the framework. With the beta release, you can author tests using Gherkin, support test automation management of Selenium scripts, which is based on a GIT architected back-end platform, and tightly integrate with your team's Jenkins build environment.

Business rules: To allow teams to provision workspaces and environments quickly as well as simplify the administration of the system, ALM Octane introduces visual business rules. This helps teams to control access, enforce process and workflow, and align with team priorities consistently. The most beneficial process assistance comes through productive guidance, rather than obstructive blocking.

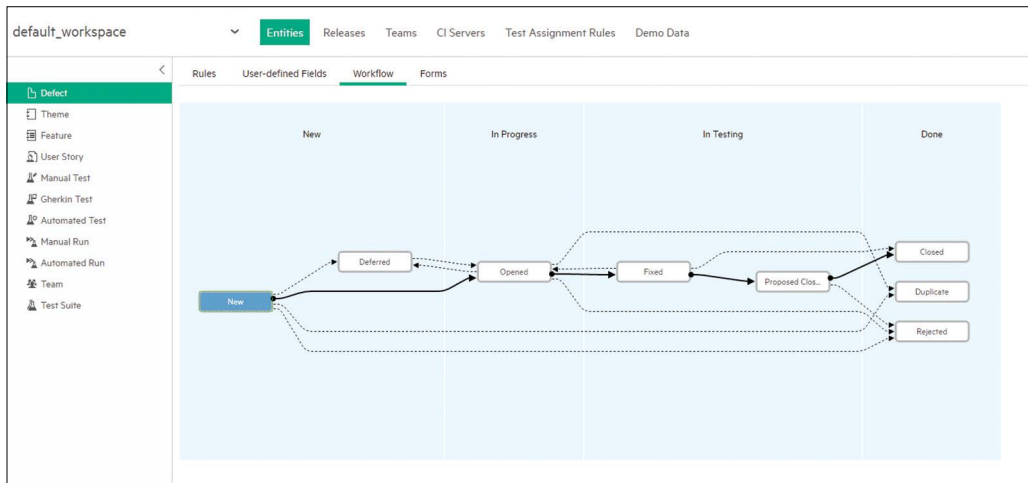


Figure 4. Visual business rules help easily guide users through correct process

Asset sharing, reuse, and tagging: Being able to share similar artifacts between teams or projects doesn't just help save time and lower risk but is a very common reality for many teams today. Using applications modules within ALM Octane, teams can easily assign tests, defects, and user stories to a specific application release, and can use custom tagging that quickly filters and views items across the lifecycle.

Delivery—the Way You Need

ALM offers both on-premise perpetual as well as software-as-a-service (SaaS) subscription offerings. SaaS enables faster time to value, whether you need quick and secure access to the software, or you engage our experts to help drive efficiency into your quality management practice. ALM on SaaS customers can manage and test application quality through the complete ALM process with lower total cost of ownership (TCO) and a predictable operational cost model. The benefits of cloud deployment include reducing resources to manage actual technology and removing the burden of migrations or upgrades. These allow our customers to benefit from the latest Micro Focus Software technology innovations while focusing on executing their core business strategy and creating business outcomes as their competitive advantage.

Micro Focus ALM Professional Services

Micro Focus ALM Professional Services focus on innovative solutions for lifecycle management of modern-era enterprise applications. Services include:

- **Enterprise agility solutions for scaling Agile and Lean practices at different levels of the enterprise**—from large Agile teams up to Agile portfolio management

ALM offers both on-premise perpetual as well as software-as-a-service (SaaS) subscription offerings.

We offer outcome-based services geared toward generating specific outcomes that are enabled through SLAs.

- DevOps solutions for driving agility across the IT value chain (requirements to deployment)
- Enterprise Mobility solutions for supporting DevOps solutions specific to “extreme Agile” mobile applications
- ALM Optimization solutions for helping our customers accelerate value and return on investment (ROI) using Micro Focus ALM technologies based on our library of best practices and prebuild accelerator utilities
- Cloud ALM solutions that exploit on-demand infrastructure and platform capabilities to deliver services on a consumptionbased model
- Enterprise Centers of Excellence (COE) solutions for ALM functions such as testing, service virtualization, Agile, and requirements management

We offer outcome-based services geared toward generating specific outcomes that are enabled through SLAs.

Plan, Build, Test Track with ALM Octane

Micro Focus Software offers a number of formal and informal ways to engage with ALM experts, peers, and like-minded individuals:

- On the Micro Focus [AppDelivery Marketplace](#), explore apps, addons and more to expand the functionality of ALM Octane.
- [ALM Octane Help Center](#) offers a community site to engage with ALM technical content and best practices.
- Engage with the ALM community

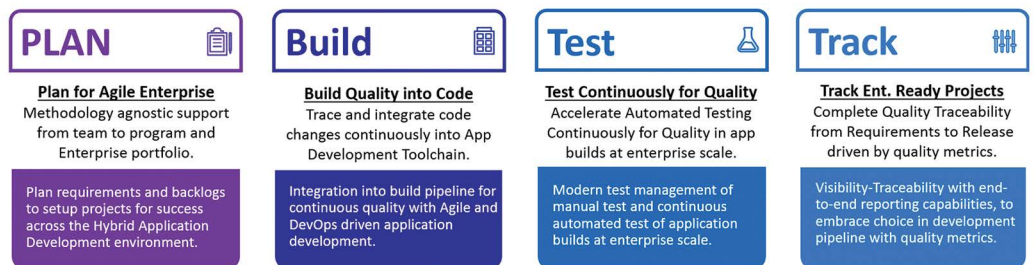


Figure 5. Accelerate quality application release at enterprise scale

Learn More At
www.microfocus.com/alm-octane

Additional contact information and office locations:
www.microfocus.com

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