When customer expectations are high and timelines are short, creating and communicating precise requirements to application delivery teams is crucial. Schedule delays and costly rework impact the bottom line. Business, development, and test teams must remain aligned. Atlas centralizes requirements definition, consolidates test and development progress, and improves collaboration within any development methodology. Organizations must rapidly adapt to evolving customer needs and ongoing competitive pressures, which means new levels of project visibility and analysis are required. As an Agile program management and delivery platform, Atlas increases flexibility and market responsiveness while maintaining accelerated delivery.

Product Overview
Bottlenecks have the potential to slow down Agile delivery processes. They occur because business owners, product managers and stakeholders have difficulty in:
- Expressing their ideas and concepts to other stakeholders using the tools they are familiar with
- Effectively gathering and managing changes to business priorities and expectations
- Providing and collecting feedback on ideas, concepts and business needs with other stakeholders across the organization
- Translating the progress of Agile teams into the context of business needs and expectations
- Understanding the impact of the changes required by the constant shift in business priorities
- Minimizing disruptions caused by regulatory and compliance rules.

These difficulties often lead to rework and copious meetings. Product teams are forced to spend more time figuring out how requirements, user stories, regulations, epics and tasks are linked, leaving little or no time for anything else.

By removing these bottlenecks, product teams gain time for innovation and the business is able to take advantage of market opportunities, staff availability and more streamlined processes.

Micro Focus® Atlas™ is an Agile requirements and delivery platform that enables teams to create products in a much more collaborative and flexible way in comparison to other requirements management tools. Atlas blends the definition of business needs with iterative Agile delivery, without forcing process change on delivery teams. It provides the ability to track progress of remote development teams in the context of defined business rules to assure the right products for the business are progressing as needed. Atlas helps organizations of all sizes gather, define, plan, track and deliver complex products to market with speed and confidence.

System Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Minimum System Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Quad-core</td>
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<td>• 16 GB RAM</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Systems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 (64-bit)</td>
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<td>• Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2 (64-bit)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Versions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Oracle 11g R2, 10g R2</td>
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<td>• Microsoft SQL Server 2008, 2012</td>
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<td>• PostgreSQL 9.3</td>
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<tr>
<th>Browsers</th>
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<td>• Firefox</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Internet Explorer 10+</td>
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Key Features

Atlas Effectively Gathers and Manages Changes to Business Priorities and Expectations

When defining and building products, different teams in the organization have different needs and expectations. Each team needs an effective way to clearly structure and manage changes in business priorities. Teams including development, operations, sales and marketing need to be aligned in order to stay in sync while managing the scope of their projects.

Atlas enables users from different teams to easily capture and organize requirements as flexibly as possible, using a combination of custom fields, tagging and requirements hierarchies. Atlas’ ‘quick look’ enables users to quickly view ideas relating to a requirement, in order to gain better understanding of what it means and where it came from. Understanding how often the requirements change and who is responsible for those changes is just as important. Atlas has a unique ability to automatically track changes to requirements while listing the contributors and when those changes occurred.

Business Users Can Express and Communicate Ideas and Concepts to Other Stakeholders in the Organization

Some of the most significant products ever built started out on a whiteboard. As whiteboards are static though, ideas have the tendency to ‘get lost in translation’ when drawings are recreated as requirements, so it’s useful to be able to share ideas in various ways. Some people prefer to use drawings, some are more descriptive and like to write lists of items or steps. Others prefer to open a browser and show a similar example to what they want. Atlas whiteboards accommodate all users by enabling them to use any kind of file format they choose to represent ideas. Even existing documents such as analyst and competitive reports are supported.

Atlas enables users to easily organize and find their concepts within whiteboards and requirements through tagging, filtering and full-text search. As concepts evolve, users can rely on Atlas’ advanced versioning capabilities to easily understand the changes made while they are under development. Atlas email connector enables users to capture ideas anytime, anywhere. Use devices with photographic capabilities to capture ideas and attach images and documents in any type of format. Micro Focus provides connectors (see http://community.microfocus.com/borland/managetrack/borland_connect/m/mediagallery/) as well as an API to integrate with additional third-party tools.

Providing and Collecting Feedback on Concepts and Business Needs with Distributed Stakeholders

Gathering ideas, concepts and business needs requires flexibility, especially when multiple contributors are dispersed across the organization. Atlas enables context-driven discussions, which makes sharing concepts and requirements as easy as mentioning other people in a threaded discussion. Atlas email notifications enable users to quickly receive feedback in context via email, so the user can easily navigate directly back to where they left the feedback.

Translating Agile Delivery into Business Transparency

After a plan is set, the development team starts sprinting through its backlog, incrementally building and delivering applications and products. This enables the business stakeholders to review and refine priorities as they progress. But it can be difficult for business stakeholders to review and refine requirement priorities, and track the delivery progress, when delivery items are scattered across stories that have been broken down. To make it even more challenging, Agile teams may be constantly shuffling their own priorities within the backlog while overall capabilities are partially delivered within sprints every two-to-three weeks.

Atlas gives everyone a clear status view of the current project, when delivery can be expected, how the stories have evolved, and how each story is linked to the requirement. Business
users can create planning scenarios for a variety of market conditions without disrupting the Agile team’s backlogs. Micro Focus’s Change Management Hub enables Atlas to automatically capture and track any changes across Agile delivery assets from the development team’s Agile tool of choice. Atlas enables users to track the delivery progress at an individual requirements level to bring focus only to those items relevant to the user’s project.

Understanding the Need for Change Due to the Constant Shift in Business Priorities

Business needs and priorities are in a constant state of flux, causing business plans to change to support new demands and expectations. Agile development teams are very responsive in supporting such changes, but capturing and communicating how those business changes impact Agile backlogs and delivery over time are still time intensive and often neglected tasks.

Atlas’s ‘Time Machine’ feature compares the current state of a plan and its related delivery assets to any point in time during the planning to help stakeholders understand the impact of changes made. In addition, Atlas provides a planning tool that assesses current Agile deliverables to help make the right decisions. Atlas automatically captures and tracks any changes across Agile delivery assets from your team’s Agile tool of choice like JIRA Agile, CA Agile Central (formerly Rally), Version One, Rhythm, StarTeam Agile, Microsoft TFS and MS Excel. Atlas’s connector API enables customers to provide the same level of integration with any other Agile tool.

In addition, defined requirements can be sent directly to the testing environment to provide testers a clear understanding of required behavior. Help test teams improve application quality by ensuring test criteria derives from business requirements. Integration means test teams can view—and test tools stay in sync with—defined requirements as they evolve.

Milestone Tracking

Requirements may be not be fully defined at the start of an iterative development project. Instead, business teams may prefer to align their work with the delivery team, to ensure defined requirements are available in cadence with the associated engineering activities. For straightforward milestone tracking, use Requirement Date Planning to assign definition ‘Due Date’ and ‘Completed Date’ attributes per requirement type. Track status against project-wide delivery schedules using the Atlas home activity view.

Diagramming and UI Mockup

Atlas 4.1 introduces extensive browser-based diagramming capabilities to create flow charts, develop storyboards to illustrate use cases, lean mapping, process engineering and much more. Simply drag and drop images onto the
diagram canvas to easily generate UI mock-ups, using stencils for Windows Applications, Internet Applications, iOS, and Android. Send images to test and development tools to ensure clarity of customer requirements.

Atlas diagramming is based on HTML and JavaScript, without the need for plugins or specific browsers. Atlas Shapes is a comprehensive library of model objects and templates, useful for a wide range of diagram types, including: BPMN, UML, Flowcharts, Use Case, Lean Mapping, Process Engineering, SysML, EIP, Cisco, AWS, Azure and more.

Learn more about Atlas diagram capabilities:
https://youtu.be/ba-DObFgRJI

Requirements Re-Use
A requirement is often a component of more than one project. Defining requirements centrally before intelligently sharing them in multiple projects—while keeping them synchronized to the source requirement—saves time and minimizes errors. Synchronized requirements are version-aware, and easily compared against the original.

Changes to the common requirement can then be pushed out to the re-used requirement, or optionally deferred.

Baselining
Atlas 4.1 extends the existing Time Machine capability to allow the creation and usage of baselines. The Time Machine functionality is now available in all Atlas views and can be used as a basis for report generation. Baselines can also be used as input for the new Plan Review Comparison Report.

Rhythm—Agile Delivery Platform
Rhythm is a set of new perspectives for agile delivery management (SCRUM), and is included in the “Atlas Planning and Tracking Suite” installer for Atlas 4.1. Rhythm is based on the same hub infrastructure and UI platform as Atlas, and Atlas 4.1 users are invited to discover Rhythm free of charge. Production use of Rhythm requires additional licenses. Rhythm 4.1 is designed as the successor of StarTeam Agile. Please refer to the Rhythm Data Sheet and Release Notes for more information.

See more details about Atlas and request a cloud-based trial: www.microfocus.com/products/requirements-management/atlas