

Orchestrated Release Management

Solve application release complexities, gain visibility and control, and track releases all the way to production.

“Operations can now focus on their work instead of manually deploying software for the development department all the time.”

RELEASE MANAGER

Global Insurance Company

Introduction

CHALLENGES

Release management processes have been characterized by a lack of visibility and traceability, poor coordination, and time-consuming manual tasks that are prone to error and difficult to track. These processes often resemble a complex web of communications that involves phone calls, email, and weekly meetings, where structure is lacking, and people are unintentionally left out of the loop. Release teams spend too much time chasing information that was dropped or missed in the handoff and have little visibility and lead-time on what's coming downstream from development. This results in late night and weekend deployments that require large release teams, manual tasks, and many heroics.

Additionally, as development teams increasingly adopt Agile development methodologies, release management has become even more of a bottleneck, delaying key application deployments at a time when businesses rely on software for competitive advantage and innovation.

From this extreme disorder and growing number of releases, the industry sees a backlog of changes that can pose significant risk to software release schedules and a company's overall competitiveness, profitability, and reputation.

SOLUTION

Micro Focus® Release Control helps enterprises meet the challenges of release

management with a flexible process-centric approach, enabling enterprises to gain visibility and efficiency across the “path to production.”

Micro Focus Release Control is a complete life-cycle release management solution, enabling release managers to manage the release process, including planning, scheduling, reporting, and approvals. With Release Control, organizations can orchestrate the planning, control, and coordination of all releases using workflows designed for their specific release policies. Notification and reporting to all release stakeholders occur automatically, ensuring that the status of releases is communicated accurately and promptly and that there are no surprises regarding release schedules. Additionally, handoffs between development, QA, and IT Operations are streamlined and accelerated.

Micro Focus Release Control is built on a proven, underlying process management enterprise platform that is used by over 1,500 companies globally. This platform allows customers to unify and automate processes and connect teams with tools, making Release Control the most comprehensive solution in the marketplace.

BENEFITS

Micro Focus Release Control helps organizations drive efficiency into their application development, IT operations, and development operations through better planning, control, and

process automation of the continuous delivery of changes (major, minor, and emergency) to the applications that support business agility and competitiveness. These efficiencies give companies the ability to choose how to make best use of their savings to introduce more innovation in the same amount of time, shorten the deployment time, or spend more time on quality control.

Offering a unique approach by orchestrating release management, Micro Focus Release Control maximizes an organization's business agility while optimizing its current investments in processes, technologies, people, and platforms. With Micro Focus Release Control helping to create a single, proven path to production, businesses can deploy more applications faster with greater consistency and auditability—all without increasing deployment staff levels.

Why Micro Focus

Micro Focus understands the challenges of Release Management and has been in this business for more than a decade. We enable you to achieve quick wins by immediately automating manual deployment tasks. Based on our extensive customer success experiences, we have assembled a comprehensive Release Management solution that allows you to mature your organization into a coordinated, process-driven, highly visible human workflow at the pace best suited for you.

“Through standardization and automated deployment, we have reduced implementation errors by 75% with the same level of staffing.”

IT VICE PRESIDENT
Global 500 Banking Company

Key Highlights

- **Acquire Actionable Insight:** Provide visibility into the release status, foresee potential issues, and take action to avoid missing milestones
- **Remove Release Process Inefficiency:** Release more often, release more each time, and reduce the release window by providing a standard, repeatable release process that manages application releases according to release policies and business priorities
- **Replace Ineffective Handoffs:** Eliminate error-prone and time-consuming handoffs by simplifying and automating the handoffs across development, quality, and operations teams
- **Simplify Compliance:** Be audit-ready in minutes through a release governance framework that is based on your release processes and policies

Our Release Control product is an integral part of the Micro Focus Orchestrated IT solution set, which extends from initial planning, through development, and into IT service management, for distributed, cloud, and mainframe environments. Orchestrated IT means streamlined IT processes that deliver applications faster, improve IT service performance, and lower overall IT costs. The Micro Focus family of orchestrated IT products works together to deliver the speed, automation, and control demanded by today's application development and IT operations organizations. Micro Focus has helped thousands of IT organizations make dramatic improvements to their application development processes by ensuring greater visibility, faster time to market, higher stakeholder satisfaction, and lower development costs.

Deploying Application Changes Efficiently and Effectively Is Critical for Success

What if you could:

- Reduce your release window by 90%?
- Improve the production readiness and quality of your application code?
- Avoid “But it worked in our environment” discussions?
- Eliminate lengthy email threads trying to achieve change approval?
- Avoid poorly executed software hand-offs between development, testing, and operations?

Without a coordinated release process, organizations will have difficulty meeting the expectations of the business. Furthermore, a lack of effective release management contributes to the majority of production incidents in large organizations with complex IT services. Increasing release efficiency and coordination to improve the production readiness of code can have a significant positive financial impact.

Enhancing applications after deployment is expected; resolving costly production downtime is not. Having an efficient and effective release management process as part of overall application lifecycle management is critical for business success.

Orchestrated Release Management

Micro Focus helps IT operations and application development teams improve the delivery of application releases by providing a common and secure orchestrated release management solution based on the organization's release policies and processes. Unlike isolated release management tools, Micro Focus provides an integrated solution for release management that enables you to automate and streamline your release management process and integrate your release teams—supporting distributed, cloud, mobile, and mainframe systems.

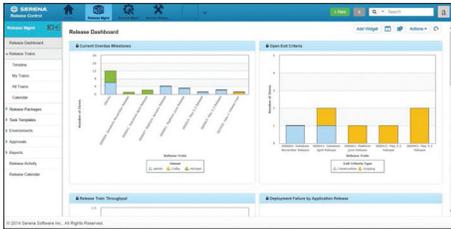


Figure 1. It's important to provide captions from the start to avoid possible time-consuming rework later.

Micro Focus customers have been able to dramatically shorten release times, increase the quality of application code, and reduce deployment costs. Customer examples include:

- Reduction in time of 90% to put changes into production
- Greater control over the end-to-end release process with full traceability—from release definition through to release documentation
- Single view of all planned projects and changes, greater control over what moves into production
- Accelerated time-to-market by 80% and increased efficiency by 50%

With Micro Focus Release Control, you can orchestrate your DevOps-oriented application release processes into a complete release lifecycle. Continuous delivery and developer self-service deployments speed up the development and test phases, while managing releases through stage gates with exit criteria ensures that the highest quality code is deployed into your production environments.

Gain Actionable Insight and Control of the Release

With Micro Focus Release Control, organizations can orchestrate the planning, control, and coordination of all releases using workflows designed for their specific release policies. Notification and reporting to all release

stakeholders occur automatically, ensuring that the status of releases is communicated accurately and promptly and that there are no surprises regarding release schedules. Additionally, exit criteria is tracked and managed for each stage of the release.

Micro Focus Release Control provides actionable insight and visibility to all stakeholders using a visual release calendar and dashboard to display release status, release packages, and release trains.

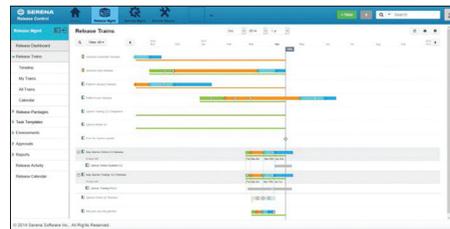


Figure 2. Release Timeline Views provides real-time status and progress of your releases.

The timeline view helps organizations track all application releases across all release trains, months, and even years in advance. As soon as the status of a release changes, the release calendar automatically shares the updated information with all stakeholders, including business owners, developers, QA teams, DevOps, and IT operations staff.

Avoid Error-Prone Handoffs Between Teams

IT operations and application development must work more closely than ever to deliver the application services that the business demands. DevOps is the movement that focuses on improving the collaboration and coordination between application development, QA, and IT operations teams. Ultimately, technology and process must connect these teams; then, and only then, will the applications be delivered with the timeliness and quality that the business demands.

Micro Focus Release Control is built on a proven, underlying process management platform (Micro Focus Solutions Business Manager) that unifies and automates processes that connect teams with tools; this platform is currently in use by over 1,500 companies globally. Micro Focus Release Control provides bidirectional information and feedback between all release teams. For example, Micro Focus Release Control can capture deployment tasks and environmental information between development, QA, and operations teams.

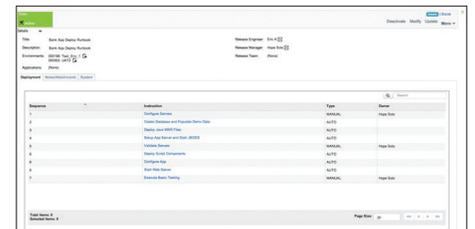


Figure 3. Deployment tasks for an application.

Tasks can be aggregated from many teams and then automatically scheduled and executed repeatedly across all environments. Valuable feedback and feed forward information is captured, and end-to-end traceability is recorded.

Integrating teams with current tool sets is an absolute requirement, and Micro Focus Release Control has an extensive integration list across the entire end-to-end tool chain. Do you have automation or deployment tools? No problem, Micro Focus Release Control integrates with deployment tools to enable customers to orchestrate their entire release process. This helps customers avoid automating bad processes.

People, process, and tools—Micro Focus Release Control provides a perfect enterprise solution to solve the complexities of release management.

“Micro Focus solutions support our application lifecycle management process, allowing us a 99.9% success rate in rolling out changes and giving us the ability to roll back with confidence if necessary.”

IT DIRECTOR
Global Telecommunications

www.microfocus.com

Summary

Micro Focus offers the most comprehensive end-to-end solution for planning, tracking, and releasing applications into production. With Micro Focus Release Control, organizations can improve release visibility, increase release flow, reduce production downtime, and simplify

compliance. Customers who are using Micro Focus’s comprehensive release management solutions are already realizing dramatic results—much shorter deployment times, greater visibility, fewer application errors, and complete auditability.



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