ALM Octane

Achieving higher levels of agility, traceability, predictability, and velocity is an ongoing journey. But it shouldn’t be rocket science. Recent product enhancements will help you streamline your software factory to deliver better value faster and safer. Learn more about what’s new in ALM Octane.

Key Enhancements in the Last Two Years

Insights and Data Visualization
When data visualizations go beyond basic metrics, development and business stakeholders can spot emerging opportunities they weren’t even looking for. ALM Octane continues to enhance its dashboard and analytics capabilities to help organizations continuously improve.

- Present the most critical information based on the user’s role with new dashboard templates that include preconfigured and editable widgets. Dashboard templates include Quality, Release Management, and Cross Release Trends and Analytics.
- Examine Automation ROI with a new set of analytics that show you how automation affects key indicators, such as the development cycle time and regression cost. You can also pinpoint areas where you should focus your efforts and measure overall automation effectiveness.
- Analyze trends, identify bottlenecks, find correlations, and detect anomalies in your development cycle with ALM Octane’s widgets and insight cards. Micro Focus continues to enrich these elements, and recent additions include resolution time vs. reopen rate, cycle time of features, and resolution time of defects.

Release Management
ALM Octane now includes expanded release management capabilities to gain control and visibility into the activities that make up your release lifecycle. ALM Octane’s release processes allow you to embed quality and quickly identify issues and bottlenecks. You can also examine planned versus actual times for each stage and activity. Thus you can improve the planning for the same processes in the next release.

- Define release process flows that consist of several stages. Each stage contains actions and quality gates.
- Verify that certain criteria are met before moving to the next stage with new quality gates. During the stage’s execution, the quality gate’s owner will evaluate defined criteria.
- Use the release process entity to track, coordinate, and manage all release stages and activities.

Behavior-Driven Development (BDD)
ALM Octane includes a new BDD spec and scenario framework. It provides increased control for users to focus their test and automation efforts on specific use cases—rather than entire Gherkin tests. With new support for testing per scenario, you can link traceability between tests and user stories at the scenario level. This capability provides increased control over test coverage and greater flexibility in choosing which scenarios to automate.

- Use the new BDD framework to run individual scenarios, report on a scenario run level-offering you greater granularity than Gherkin tests, partially automate a BDD spec to only run some of its scenarios, and link specific scenarios to specific backlog items.
- Leverage IDE plugins that populate BDD scenarios. Developers and dev-testers can leverage the increased flexibility and granularity ALM Octane provides through scenarios and specifications in their preferred environment.
- Automate Gherkin tests and BDD scenarios and collect the test results with support for the JBehave framework and Cucumber-JVM.

Pipelines and CI Integrations
CIs and pipelines are the engines that power agile and DevOps transformations. ALM Octane now includes parameter sets when creating a pipeline to make pipelines more dynamic and powerful. When a pipeline job is parameterized, a table detailing configuration parameters can be updated natively in ALM Octane. CI server integration now includes support for multi-branch pipelines in GitLab and Azure DevOps Services. You can also view code coverage and security vulnerability data from Jenkins pipeline-as-code jobs, in addition to freestyle jobs.

Backlogs
Feature planning and prioritization are critical components of any release. ALM Octane simplifies planning and reduces scope sprawl. Users can now set a Red Line across the backlog according to whatever metric you use to define capacity, such as story points. This enhancement ensures planning never exceeds capacity and sets up delivery teams for success.

You can also assign colors to backlog items in the grid and board views according to filter conditions, making it easier than ever to identify and categorize items at a glance. Users may also save their preferences and share them with others.

Work Items
ALM Octane can now identify work item related anomalies based on preconfigured Flag Rules that facilitate easy tracking and filtering. Examples of anomalies that can be flagged, tracked, and filtered are defects stuck in a phase for an extended period, work items whose ownership was reassigned multiple times, and tests that have not been run for an extended amount of time.
“ALM Octane supports our digital transformation objectives by addressing various challenges. We’re producing releases faster and having a single platform makes for easier management and better collaboration between development and testing teams.”

YANN HELLEBOID
Testing Community Manager
Orange Labs

Once you set flag rules, you can track them by adding the flag rule columns to your entity grid. Or filter the backlog based on specific flag rules.

Scaled Agile Framework
ALM Octane continues to expand support for the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe). In addition to Essential SAFe configuration support, ALM Octane now fully supports Large Solution SAFe configuration. We provide explicit capabilities for the solution, program, and team levels. Integration with Micro Focus Project & Portfolio Management (PPM) for portfolio epics facilitates Portfolio to Full SAFe alignment.

Administrators can organize the backlog of a workspace into virtual sub-categories called programs. Within the same workspace, you can also leverage assigned programs for filtering across views, ranking, tracking, and reporting. SAFe Program support has also expanded so that you can assign releases, application modules, tests, and runs to a program.

Synchronization
Enhance ALM Octane’s native integrations with a free synchronization add-on. Micro Focus Connect synchronizes data and relationships and lowers administrative costs by replacing point-to-point integration with a single integration hub and connector framework. The tool not only supports Micro Focus solutions, such as ALM/Quality Center and PPM, but it also supports numerous third-party tools, including Atlassian Jira and Confluence, Broadcom Rally, Azure DevOps, Salesforce and ServiceNow.

ALM/Quality Center Integration
To support ALM/Quality Center customers in their agile transformations, we simplified and strengthened the relationships between ALM Octane and ALM/Quality Center (version 15.5 or higher). The new Test Run Injection engine allows test runs to be automatically reported in ALM Octane. This enables hybrid and bi-modal enterprises to leverage existing assets—like BPT tests—in alignment with the overall delivery process. The engine also provides management with visibility across all projects, regardless of where they are managed.

Collaboration
Working together has never been easier thanks to ALM Octane’s new Microsoft Teams integration. Once enabled, a Discuss in Microsoft Teams button appears on all work items, including epics, features, user stories, quality stories, and defects. Quickly share, ask questions, or just brainstorm with your team to work smarter, not harder.

Administration
We designed ALM Octane to scale from small teams to large enterprises and continue to invest in user-friendly, advanced administration capabilities. We can’t list everything, but we can highlight the most recent enhancements:

- Use the Offline Database Password Update Tool to simplify database password updates in site schema and configuration files.
- View the Activity Log tab for all changes made in a workspace, including the history audit of work entities, such as defects and user stories.

Usability
We always have our end users in mind. Every release includes new enhancements—both small and large—which make it more enjoyable to work with ALM Octane. We encourage you to review the online help to familiarize yourself with the changes in a given release. If you have ideas, please share them in the ALM Octane Idea Exchange so we can continue to improve your experience.

Did You Know?
- Engage and share knowledge on a wide range of topics in the Community Forum.
- Suggest a new idea, and contribute by voting on submissions in the Idea Exchange.
- Learn more about recent releases by reviewing the Online Documentation.
- Keep up to date on the latest news and events with the Application Delivery Management Blog.

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