IBM

Rational software

IBM Rational Build Forge, IBM Rational Synergy and IBM Rational Change

Highlights

- **Increased team efficiency with centralized build and release management—using the tools you have in place today.**

- **Accelerated build and release cycles through iterative development, parallel processes and efficient use of hardware.**

- **Improved product quality through consistent, repeatable processes and early error detection and troubleshooting.**

- **Enhanced decision making by increasing information visibility through smooth data flow and improved reporting.**

- **Comprehensive traceability between your software and change assets and your build and release artifacts.**

Automate and accelerate build and release processes

Is your software development and delivery process unpredictable? Have you missed deadlines or had to fix faulty software releases? If so, then an adaptive framework to standardize and automate repetitive tasks, enhance hardware resources and connect disparate toolsets will help increase both quality and staff productivity.

IBM Rational® Build Forge® and IBM Rational Synergy software tools compress development cycles and increase software quality by creating an enhanced software development and delivery environment. This product combination can help you overcome manual and cumbersome change, configuration and build processes and formalize an automated process framework for integrated software development.

Reduce the chaos of unmanaged and homegrown build environments

Rational Build Forge software centralizes access and control of your build and release processes. Repetitive tasks can be automated, standardized and reused across projects to facilitate process consistency and reduce new-project setup times. Team hand-offs are automated, which helps bridge information silos and retain critical process knowledge. Processes can be executed based on a specific time or based on source file changes for continuous integration and agile development.

The Build Forge solution is compatible with existing build scripts, batch files, development tools and other processes, and it is designed to easily integrate with IBM Rational Synergy software for software development and source code management and the IBM Rational Change platform for integrated change management.

Rational Build Forge software tracks and stores comprehensive data on processes and related tasks in a detailed bill of materials for better reproducibility and compliance management. Integration with Synergy software, the Change platform and other tools creates a one-stop view that helps allow teams to correlate process artifacts with build and server configuration information Rational Build Forge software also provides a self-documenting audit trail of release contents and user access to the system.

Accelerate release cycles and improve troubleshooting

The Build Forge application can help reduce delays and accelerate build cycles. Diverse tasks are designed to be executed automatically, virtually eliminating time gaps resulting from manual intervention. Jobs can be resumed at a failed step rather than being restarted from the beginning. IBM Rational Build Forge can also help optimize your hardware environment. The configuration of each available server is detected automatically to support dynamic server selection and load balancing. This same capability enables fault tolerance as job steps are automatically redirected to an available resource if a machine goes down. Finally, independent process steps can be further accelerated by running them in parallel.

Build Forge software monitors and logs process tasks step-by-step with automatic alerts and notifications. Custom filters can be used to analyze output to detect specific conditions, allowing errors to be identified and resolved quickly. In addition, when connected to Rational Synergy software and the Rational Change platform, the tasks, objects and change requests that were included in the build are also readily apparent in a bill of materials.

Improve quality, visibility and decision support

To help your team uncover development bottlenecks, determine trends for specific projects and pinpoint areas where performance can be tuned, IBM Rational Build Forge collects valuable information and generates intuitive reports through both report wizards and predefined report types.

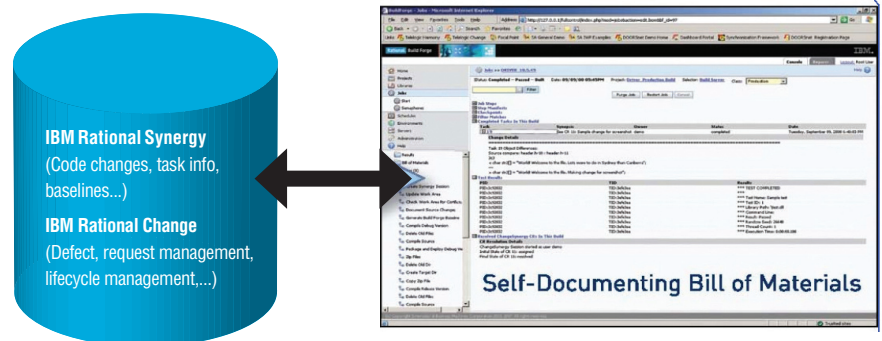### Secure, reliable, repeatable, reusable process automation

Figure 1: IBM Rational Synergy software and the IBM Rational Change platform connect with IBM Rational Build Forge to automatically generate a bill of materials.

Additional reporting features are also available with the Rational Change platform. You monitor the data most important to you, whether you need a high-level view into your development schedule or critical QA metrics. Through powerful visualization and querying capabilities, you can focus on process improvement, reduce project delays and meet time-to-market expectations.

Build Forge software helps facilitate the work of global teams. Its Web-based management console provides a consolidated, realtime view of each project. It can integrate with your existing tools so teams across different sites can share common processes. Comprehensive Unicode support allows you to save and execute content for multibyte character sets. In addition, IBM Rational Build Forge supports your distributed mainframe or midrange platform, giving you the flexibility to support the environments you need, across the enterprise.

How it works

Rational Build Forge and Rational Synergy software, and the Rational Change platform centralize, standardize, automate and enforce a repeatable, predictable application lifecycle management process. In addition, the Build Forge application enables geographically remote users to connect to a central console, which promotes consistency across disparate teams. Build Forge software allows for customizable integration with other proprietary and third-party development tools for additional flexibility, automation and data sharing.

System requirements

- Rational Build Forge Management Console: Red-Hat Linux®, Microsoft® Windows®, Sun Solaris or IBM AIX® platform

- Rational Build Forge Agent: Windows, Linux, IBM System i®, IBM System z®, AIX, HP-UX, Solaris or Mac OS X platform

For more information

To learn more about IBM Rational software, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

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