Rational software

IBM Rational Build Forge Express Edition

Highlights

- *Provide a flexible and robust build automation framework for small and midsize organizations*

- *Enhance visibility and help increase team efficiency with centralized build and release management — using the tools and scripts you have in place today*

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

- *Improve software product quality with consistent, repeatable processes and early detection and troubleshooting of errors*

- *Increase individual productivity with self-service access to preconfigured build processes, integration with popular IDEs and support for RSS data feeds*

- *Enable global adoption with localization in 10 languages and comprehensive Unicode support*

- *Provide a smooth upgrade path to adopt advanced product features over time*

Provide fast, reliable, high-performance builds throughout the software delivery lifecycle

Developers and build engineers in small and midsize businesses (SMBs) face the same pressure to quickly deliver high-quality software as their counterparts in large enterprises. But SMB IT practitioners simply don't have access to the same resources, right? Now, with IBM, they do.

IBM Rational® Build Forge® Express Edition software packages the latest enterprise-grade technologies into a reliable, flexible and robust configuration designed and priced specifically to help SMBs achieve new levels of development efficiency and quality.

Through an adaptive build and release management framework, the IBM Rational Build Forge Express Edition solution can help your development teams standardize and automate

repetitive tasks, optimize hardware resources and connect disparate development tools to increase staff productivity, compress development cycles and deliver better software, fast.

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software also provides consolidated reporting capabilities for better project visibility and insight, so your teams can improve their build and release processes over time. Consistent tracking and documentation can deliver ongoing audit trails for compliance management without manual effort. And with support for a wide variety of platforms, Rational Build Forge Express Edition software provides a centralized solution that can coordinate and execute repeatable build and release processes across your organization.

Realize benefits from day one

To support your need for quick investment returns, Rational Build Forge Express Edition software is fully operatio-nal out of the box. It provides a simple and easy install experience, a full-feature Web interface, a default database and translated content for fast adoption and cost savings from day one. Compati-ble with existing build scripts, batch files, databases, development tools and other processes, the software has no proprietary scripting languages to

learn and no throwaway work. Adaptors are available that integrate the solution with leading source control, testing and defect tracking products for rapid implementation. Sample project templates, plug-ins to integrated development environments (IDEs) and easy access to online help are also provided to help speed solution deployment.

The optional IBM Rational Build Forge Adaptor Toolkit allows for customizable integration with open source, proprietary and third-party development tools for additional flexibility, automation and data sharing. By easily integrating with your current environment, Rational Build Forge Express Edition software enables you to leverage existing investments and get up and running quickly.

Eliminate the chaos of unmanaged and homegrown build environments

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software provides centralized access and control of your build and release processes. Repetitive tasks can be automated, standardized and reused across projects to help ensure process consistency and reduce new-project setup times. Team handoffs and documentation occur automatically, which helps you bridge silos of information and retain critical process knowledge. And with multiple scheduling options, you can execute builds at a specific date and time, or execute builds perpetually based on source file changes for continuous integration and agile development.

Compress release cycles

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software can reduce build-related delays and help you compress build cycles. Diverse build tasks are executed automatically, so there are no time gaps due to manual intervention. Using threading, independent processes can run simultaneously for fast processing and increased performance. And you can resume builds at a failed step rather than restarting at the beginning.

Accelerate troubleshooting and improve quality

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software monitors and logs build and release tasks step by step. When a problem occurs, an e-mail automatically notifies the responsible developer and links him or her to the location where the error occurred. Developers can then view and troubleshoot build issues themselves. Custom log filters can be configured to detect language- or application-specific conditions, allowing defects and other build errors to be identified and resolved quickly. Really Simple Syndication (RSS) data feeds provide additional choice for automatic notification and status.

Empower developers with self-service capabilities right from their IDE

Integration with leading IDEs, including IBM Rational Application Developer, Microsoft® Visual Studio 2005 and the Eclipse framework, allows direct access to build and relase management functions. Developers and build engineers are able to preview local file changes in a staged build environment—without leaving their preferred tools. This preflight build feature means developers can test the code they have been working on using a separate preconfigured build environment to catch potential errors before checking in their code to source control. And because the environment is managed by role-based security, developers see only the projects and steps for which they are authorized—keeping build scripts, servers and projects intact.

Improve visibility and decision support

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software collects valuable build information and generates intuitive reports to help your team uncover development bottlenecks, determine trends for specific projects and pinpoint areas where performance can be tuned. Numerous reports are provided out of the box for fast analysis and insight. A detailed historical record about each build is maintained. A delta report shows details of previous builds and provides performance confidence indicators for how a build will run in the future.

Simplify compliance management

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software tracks and stores comprehensive data on builds, releases and related tasks to provide a detailed bill of materials that documents the contents of each release for better reproducibility and compliance management. Integration with source control, defect tracking and testing tools can create a one-stop view that allows teams to correlate source changes, test results and defect data with build and server configuration information. Role-based security manages and controls user access, and notifications and alerts inform you if someone steps outside your IT controls. Rational Build Forge Express Edition software can also provide a documented audit trail of release contents, process changes and user access to the system, so teams don't have to gather information manually.

Enable global adoption

Rational Build Forge Express Edition software provides international support, so small teams around the globe can take advantage of all the product features, even if English is not the primary language in use. Comprehensive Unicode support can give you the flexibility to save and execute build content for multibyte character sets, and localization support allows you to view screens and read product documentation in a preferred language. Rational Build Forge Express Edition software provides wide platform, operating system and database support, giving you the flexibility to support different environments across the organization.

Access targeted support when and where needed

When you choose IBM Rational Build Forge Express Edition software, you get much more than a product backed by one of the industry's most stable and trusted companies. A global ecosystem of specially trained, experienced Business Partners and service providers—who have built their businesses on serving the needs of SMBs—can help extend your solution value.

IBM

Gain enterprise-grade technologies at prices that fit your budget

The IBM Financing Advantage program offers financing solutions specifically designed to fit the needs of midsize companies. It helps simplify access to new technologies with streamlined applications, quick and simple contracts, easier approvals and competitive rates. You may even be able to finance both IBM and non-IBM software, hardware and services on one contract with one low monthly payment. To see your options, visit:

ibm.com/jct03004c/businesscenter/us/en/financing

For more information

To learn more about how IBM Rational Build Forge Express Edition software can help you automate and accelerate your build and release processes, visit:

ibm.com/software/awdtools/buildforge/express

To learn more about IBM Rational solutions for SMBs, visit:

ibm.com/software/rational/smb