PRODUCT RELEASE

PTC announces the release of **PTC Implementer v12.6 Change Management for IBM i™** is now Available!

PTC Implementer is the premier software configuration management and deployment solution for IBM i. Utilizing host-based and graphical user interfaces, Implementer provides the simplicity necessary for first time users, and the breadth and depth for more advanced users.

With Implementer, you receive a secure, scalable and flexible solution to protect your production, development, and testing environments on IBM i servers.

- **Developer Workbench -** An intuitive environment to make host-based development faster
- **Parallel/Concurrent Development -** ensures proper controls over initiating and approving changes from multiple developers
- **Packaged Applications -** Integrate and adapt seamlessly to dozens of the most popular applications packages in the market
- **Database Support -** Latest features of both SQL and DDS-based files are supported
- **Developer Tools -** Integrate and adapt to dozens of the most popular IBM i host-based and client-based development tools
- **Compiling-** Ensures the accuracy of compiled objects by retaining the creation command from the last compile
- **Secure Promotion Technology -** Prevents unauthorized access to critical functionality
- **IBM Rational Developer -** Provides developers with seamless, familiar access to the most common Implementer functionality
- **Impact Analysis -** Promotion/deployment scanners ensure all impacted product objects are analyzed and recompiled

Highlights of Implementer 12.6

We have worked hard at getting this release right and ready for our customers. This release took us longer than usual (over a year), but we put a lot into it and tested it thoroughly. Did you know that we have a Japanese version of Implementer, so everything we do, we put into the Japanese version too! Some of the items listed in the Release Notes and in the select highlights below will not be strikingly obvious to our customers, but we built some features and functionality with a forward-looking eye to release 12.7 and beyond. We always try to keep up with any IBMi operating system changes, include customer reported fixes and enhancements and devote development efforts into improving the RDi experience. We regularly survey and ask customers what they would like to see improved or included in Implementer.

PTC is particularly excited to announce progress in our modernization project such that we are starting to release (in beta form) improvements for better visualization (Web UI – read only at this point) and integrations (RESTful APIs) which we will continue to improve and release updates throughout the year as we prepare for Implementer 12.7.

- Implementer 12.6 requires IBM i 7.3 TR5+ or higher along with International Components for Unicode (5770-SS1) licensed product. Even though IBM discontinued support for V7r3 on September 30, 2023, we realize that some of our customers are not upgrading their OS as quickly as IBM would like. We also certify the latest release of Implementer with any newly released OS level by IBM.
- 20 new special command variables were added for checkout, compile and promote. Special commands are available at the global level, at the environment level and can even drill down to the object level – giving you the flexibility to customize your workflow.
- Certified for use with Windchill RV&S versions 13.x.
  - For many years Implementer to Integrity integration worked with older integration APIs. In Version 13 of Windchill RV&S that interface no longer worked. As such PTC used this as an opportunity to not only use a later API version but upgrade to Java 11, Tomcat 9 embedded, and many more. This resulted in a lengthy regression testing period.
- Fixes and enhancements to the Implementer RDi™ plug-in.
  - Tested and certified for use with RDi 9.8 for both English and Japanese.
  - The minimum supported version of RDi is now 9.6.0.7.
  - By "support", in this case, PTC means "does not work" with version 9.6.0.6 and earlier.
  - New workflow streamlining functionality within RDi was added:
  - The creation of an Implementer project can be created standalone or as part of the project selection in various stages of Checkout and Promotion.
  - Request Inquiry capability has been added to avoid switching to the green screen to increase efficiency and improve developer productivity.
- Implementer Server changes:
  - The embedded Tomcat Server within the Implementer Server has been upgraded to 9.0.79.

- Java requirement has changed to version 11 on all platforms for more future proofing.
- Third party java libraries used have been updated to more current, secured versions.
- Log4j in the application has been updated to version 2.17.1. We have removed log4j version 1.
- Scripts added to deploy on Linux and Windows.
- Beta Web UI and RESTful web services were added.
    - We see adding a Web UI and web services for integration to be important improvements over the next few releases, giving us a way to (e.g.) but not limited to:
        - Integrate with other applications, specifically issue tracking software you might already own and use.
        - Allow easy visibility to status for management not familiar with green screens.
        - Ability to display more information on the screen with easier navigation.
- Contact PTC Technical Support if you wish to learn more and enable the beta on your own Implementer Server.
- Implementer Server can be patched such that we can update RDi plugin and the Beta Web UI and RESTful APIs as we make progress towards Implementer 12.7.
- Plus, much more!

Implementer and Security Concerns

At PTC we take software security very seriously; regularly we hear about a company being attacked by ransomware or general malware. And at what cost in money, productivity, and reputation? Now an IBMi is much more secure than your average server, until you start to open TCP ports and expose services to your network. This is starting to occur more frequently E.g.; Implementer Server uses Tomcat (configured to open only 2 ports) and as such PTC ensures that Tomcat and libraries used are up to date at each release.

At PTC we have a process in place to enumerate all third-party software included in each release, including their versions and this list is scanned regularly and proactively for known vulnerabilities and each product using the code is checked to see if the vulnerability is relevant and if so, a patch will be released. Further all developers take training in best practices and modern techniques (including code and design reviews) to reduce the attack vectors. As such there are several Implementer Server upgrades in this release including the use of Java 11 and a later embedded Tomcat and supporting libraries.

As part of the pre-release 3rd party software enumeration, we also validate that all licenses that cover such software are sure to keep intellectual property safe, both ours and yours.

PRODUCT RELEASE

Implementer 12.6 Product Release

For more information and to upgrade

The Release Notes and all documentation for Implementer 12.6 can also be found on the eSupport Portal under the Browse Documentation button.

You can download the upgrade using Implementer Update. The latest version of Implementer Update can be found on the eSupport Portal, Access Download Software under product Implementer.

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