

Overview

Sierra Atlantic has a dedicated practice to make your Agile Product Collaboration implementation and upgrade easy, fast and cost effective. And, with over eighty successful Agile-to-Oracle customer integrations completed, we have a deep appreciation for the day-to-day operational issues faced by configuration managers and document controllers in high technology enterprises.

In these projects, we have successfully streamlined many of the audit and error correction tasks that configuration managers face by automating many of the business rules and data validation steps. Now, we have codified many of the best practices from these efforts in a new software option to our Supply Chain Management Network (SCMnet) for Agile Product Collaboration & Oracle—the Smart ECO Option.

Smart ECO frees up time, talent and management resources while increasing data accuracy, by intelligently analyzing ECOs created in Agile Product Collaboration (Agile) and prevalidating them before transferring them to Oracle E-Business Suite (Oracle).

Smart ECO Business Rules

Revision Management

Revision management is the key issue for document controllers using Agile and Oracle. Oracle requires revisions to have no more than three characters, and enforces ASCII rules for revision serialization. ECO implementation date also disrupts the serial order of revisions. Smart ECO enforces the following business rules and automates revision management:

- ➔ All ECO items have revisions of three characters or less.
- ➔ For all revised items, “New Revision” must be greater than “Old Revision,” in ASCII format.
- ➔ Every affected item on an ECO in Agile must not have any scheduled ECOs in Oracle with implementation date prior to effective date.

Bill Of Material (BOM) Management

As the life cycle status of an item is configurable in Agile, an “Obsolete” component could be added to an active BOM. This causes confusion and high error correction cost. Smart ECO captures such violations early in the ECO cycle by pre-validating the following rules:

- ➔ Ensure that the BOM does not contain any “Obsolete” or “Inactive” components.
- ➔ Ensure that a “Production” assembly BOM contains only components released for manufacturing.

Prototype vs Production

Agile effectively manages all items and BOMs, both in production and in prototype. Agile distinguishes between these two environments by “Life Cycle Phase”. Best practices in configuration management use a different revision management scheme to distinguish between the two. Smart ECO helps to enforce best practices by optionally applying the following rules:

- ➔ Ensure that item revisions in a prototype environment are either numeric or start with a number.
- ➔ Ensure that item revisions in a production environment always start with an alpha.
- ➔ Ensure that a production assembly BOM contains only components that are released for manufacturing.

Item Lifecycle Management

Whenever a part is released in Agile and SCMnet transfers it to Oracle, the “Item Life Cycle Status” also gets transferred. In Oracle, the status controls several key item attributes:

- ➔ Smart ECO compares the old revision in Agile and Oracle for every item in an ECO. If there is a mismatch in life cycle status, it warns the change analyst and disallows the ECO from further processing.

“Sierra Atlantic has proven to be an outstanding partner not just for their technical acumen, but more importantly because they are as committed as Agile is to satisfying customers. More than customers using both Oracle Applications and Agile Workplace attest to the value of the Agile/Sierra Atlantic partnership. At the end of the day, that is the real measure of the partnership’s success.”

Bryan Stolle
Co-Founder and CEO
Agile Software (now Oracle)

Smart ECO Benefits

- ➔ Reduces the need for management attention by ensuring that business rules are validated automatically for every ECO released.
- ➔ Eliminates the risk of out-of-synch conditions between Agile and Oracle.
- ➔ Reduces time spent on any ECO by trapping business rule violations early in the cycle.
- ➔ Reduces the amount of human effort required to sort out ECO failures and resolve errors.
- ➔ Reduces average ECO cycle time.

Sierra Atlantic endorsed at
Collaborate 2007

by **Charles E. Phillips, Jr.**
President, Oracle Corporation

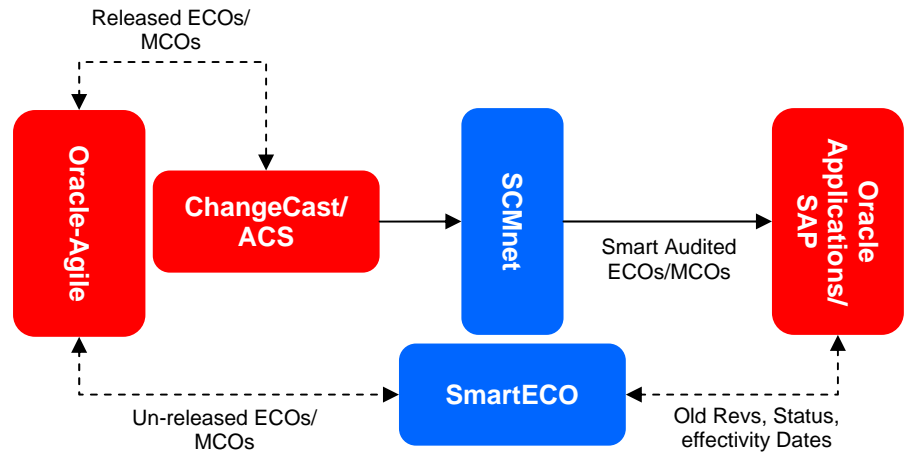
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Smart ECO Business Process

Smart ECO works as an extension of the Change Order Audit process in Agile. It continuously polls ECOs and MCOs in a specified life cycle status and validates all the business rules for items within them.

If any ECO violates any business rule, Smart ECO updates the "Business Rules Complied" field in Agile and displays it as a read only field to users. From here the normal Change Order Audit takes over and ensures that only valid ECOs/MCOs are released and processed.



About Sierra Atlantic Application Networks

Application Networks® are pre-packaged, configurable business process integration solutions that automate business processes spanning best-of-breed packaged enterprise applications for improved customer service, operational efficiencies, and competitive advantage. These innovative solutions leverage our domain expertise, deep enterprise applications knowledge and extensive integration capability. Sierra Atlantic Application Networks enable organizations to realize the substantial benefits of intra- and inter-enterprise, cross-application integration at dramatically reduced cost, risk and deployment time.

Sierra Atlantic currently offers the following Application Networks integrating business processes among Agile, Oracle, PeopleSoft and SAP:

- ➔ Customer Relationship Management Network (CRMnet)
- ➔ ECO Lens
- ➔ Enterprise Services Automation Network (ESAnet)
- ➔ Human Capital Management Network (HCMnet)
- ➔ Portal Network (PORTALnet)
- ➔ Strategic Relationship Management Network (SRMnet)
- ➔ Supply Chain Management Network (SCMnet)

Each Application Network includes:

- ➔ Pre-built business process flows derived from industry best practices
- ➔ Canonical object library (using XML – OAG/RosettaNet/PDX formats)
- ➔ Pre-built transformation maps (using XSLT)
- ➔ Object cross-reference repository, domain value maps
- ➔ Web services support
- ➔ GUI-based business rules configurator
- ➔ A comprehensive deployment guide and a technical reference manual
- ➔ Packaged services offerings for fit/gap analysis and standard deployment
- ➔ Sierra Atlantic product support, maintenance and upgrades leading to lower total cost of ownership

Product Availability & Pricing

The SCMnet Smart ECO Option for Agile Product Collaboration is available today for customers who have purchased our SCMnet integration product for Agile & Oracle or SAP. The price includes software, user documentation, and two days of installation and test support. Product support is covered at no added cost under the SCMnet maintenance agreement



North America: USA (Head Office)

6522 Kaiser Drive,
Fremont, CA 94555
Phone : +1 510 742 4100
Fax : +1 510 742 4101

Europe: UK

116 College Road, Harrow
Middlesex, HA1 1BQ
Phone : +44 (0)208 515 8044
Fax : +44 (0)208 515 6199

Middle East: Dubai

Suite # 15, Boutique Villa # 7,
PO Box 500117, Dubai Internet City,
Dubai, UAE
Phone : +971 4 3616259
Fax : +971 4 3672786



India:

Road # 10, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad – 500 034
Phone : +91 40 6643 6000
Fax : +91 40 6643 6111

Asia Pacific: Singapore

7 Temasek Boulevard # 11 – 02,
Suntec Tower One, Singapore – 038987
Phone : +65 63349356
Fax : +65 63335290

Guangzhou, China

4th Floor, No. 1021, 1023 GaoPu Road,
GaoTang New Zone, Guangzhou,
PRC 510663, China
Phone : +86 20 87072002
Fax : +86 20 87072061

About Sierra Atlantic

Sierra Atlantic is the leader in offshoring enterprise applications and outsourced product development. With expertise derived from deep R&D relationships with enterprise software leaders such as Oracle and Microsoft, we provide full lifecycle product development and IT services including implementation, integration, development, testing and support. Sierra Atlantic is amongst the largest IT services companies, offering services in the "New Oracle Economy", Outsourced Product Development and Microsoft competencies, with global delivery from both India and China. Over 200 active customers currently address their business needs leveraging our Nshore™ methodology and best-in-class Global delivery capabilities. A recognized leader in quality, Sierra Atlantic has been the recipient of many distinguished awards including Oracle Partner of the Year (3 years consecutively), Microsoft Gold Certified and NXT Delivery Partner, IDC DQ Top 20, and Great Places to Work. Sierra Atlantic is headquartered in Fremont, California and maintains operations in 16 countries across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific. For more information, please visit www.SierraAtlantic.com.