

SOLUTION SNAPSHOT™ REPORT:

HP – Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) 11

By Theresa Lanowitz | February 3, 2011



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◎ SUMMARY

Application lifecycle management (ALM) is a term that expresses the people, processes, and solutions used in creating, managing, and delivering software during all phases that software travels through during its existence.

HP has long been at the center of ALM. With the market-defining Quality Center and Performance Center, HP changed the landscape from one in which organizations focused on the software development lifecycle (SDLC), with development being the operative word, to one that embraced ALM.

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EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

Software plays a dominant role in business, regardless of the vertical market or core competency. Executives at every level of an organization must be able to guarantee high quality, working software to fully deliver brand promise. Software does not run the business, working software runs the business. Now more than ever, software is a critical component of delivering brand promise. To meet the expectations of customers and shareholders alike, businesses must be able to deliver high-quality, working software. As software transforms the world of business, all companies creating software must transform their own ability to create and manage software.

Application lifecycle management (ALM) is a term used to express the people, processes, and solutions used in creating, managing, and delivering software. ALM is an inclusive term of all phases that software travels through during its existence. Embracing ALM practices and solutions enables software teams to meet the high expectations and demands of the business.

Stakeholders in the application lifecycle, both IT and the line of business alike, must communicate, collaborate, and connect to ensure that every aspect of the software will meet the rigorous demands the business will place upon it and expect of it. It is necessary for each and every organization to embrace ALM. Without ALM, the business risks associated with software become too great to manage.

The line of business should demand and expect nothing less than software that will enable the business to thrive and deliver the brand promise of the organization.

MARKET CONTEXT

ALM is a dynamic and evolving term. Each vendor with an “ALM” offering approaches the market differently, depending upon its own core competency within the lifecycle. The concept of ALM is far more significant than how the term may vary among vendors. At the heart of ALM are the successful cross-functional practices used by commercial software companies. With the pervasiveness of software creation in all organizations, enterprise organizations must accept and recognize the cross-functional nature of software creation and transform their organizations to employ the best practices of commercial software companies.

This need for lifecycle transformation is essential because:

- software complexity continues to grow,
- stakeholders in the creation, production, delivery, and maintenance phases of software expand, and
- externalities associated with software such as compliance and regulation evolve and mature.

These factors will also drive the evolution of ALM solutions to enable this dynamic lifecycle.

Ultimately, an ALM solution facilitates predictability, repeatability, quality, and change readiness in both the IT organization and the line of business. Communication, collaboration, and connectivity between IT and the line of business are central to the notion of ALM; without it valuable resources are wasted, time-to-market is stalled, and business outcomes are unknown.

To be competitive and deliver high quality working software that delivers the brand promise, organizations need the benefits of predictability, repeatability, quality, and change readiness that are the hallmark of ALM. ALM works well for organizations that must follow compliance guidelines, those that are regulated, and those that must produce effective documentation. Do not fall prey to development-centric methodologies when software is the single most important component of modern business. Achieve business agility through the cross-functional benefits of an ALM solution.

HP'S APPROACH TO ALM

HP, a trusted provider of enterprise software, has long been at the center of ALM. HP is the purveyor of market-defining solutions Quality Center and Performance Center; both are focused squarely on the automated and performance testing arenas. These two products forever changed the landscape of what was expected in the area of software delivery. HP's Quality Center and Performance Center broadened the dialog of software delivery to include more than just the writing of code and putting it into production with the hope of the software working.

HP's products identified the need for specialization of skills and separation of activities in the software lifecycle and were the catalyst in the ALM movement. Prior to the market revolution the HP products caused, organizations focused on the software development lifecycle (SDLC) with development being the operative word. Quality assurance and testing organizations were either non-existent or relegated to the end of the development process, provided there was sufficient time prior to meeting a production schedule.

HP solutions changed this linear and development-centric way of thinking and expanded the idea of the SDLC to ALM. HP introduced solutions that assisted and enhanced every role of the software process, from the business analyst to the operations professional to the service desk. HP was at the forefront of defining what ALM would come to mean in the market. HP solutions expanded how the SDLC was used. Because of the platform-independence of HP solutions, any SDLC could be supported through the HP offerings. HP consciously chose to remain platform-independent and deliver a broader lifecycle experience through its solutions.

As HP continued on its journey of providing solutions for all stakeholders in the lifecycle beyond just developers, the market realized the need for the communication, collaboration, and connectivity of not only stakeholders in the IT community but also stakeholders in the business community. Along with this need to shatter silos through communication, collaboration, and connectivity in both IT and the line of business, the removal of these barriers delivered predictability, repeatability, quality, and change readiness—all hallmarks of software designed to deliver better business outcomes.

HP ALM 11 is the result of HP's perseverance at delivering specialized offerings to multiple stakeholders across the lifecycle. HP ALM 11 is the first solution in the market to hold the descriptive title of "ALM". It is easy to identify exactly what this offering is for and about. HP ALM 11 is known immediately as an application lifecycle offering and will forever change the competitive landscape of the ALM market.

SOLUTION ANALYSIS

HP ALM 11 meets the needs of the modern application lifecycle by providing increased alignment between teams, including integration into strategy and planning teams, an offering of best practices to spur innovation and prevent tactical delays, and a bridge to the critical last mile of the operations organization.

HP ALM 11 is a unified platform designed to master the application lifecycle from end to end. The architecture of HP ALM 11 is comprised of the following functionality and integration points:

Application lifecycle management

- Project planning and tracking
- Enterprise release management

Requirements

- Requirements definition — HP ALM 11 and HP Quality Center 11.0
- Requirements management — HP ALM 11 and HP Quality Center 11.0

Development management

- Developer integrations — Various products and platforms including Source Control Management and Integrated Development Environment (IDE): Eclipse, Microsoft Visual Studio, and Collabnet
- Defect management — HP ALM 11 and HP Quality Center 11.0
- Secure development — Fortify SCA (part of HP Software)

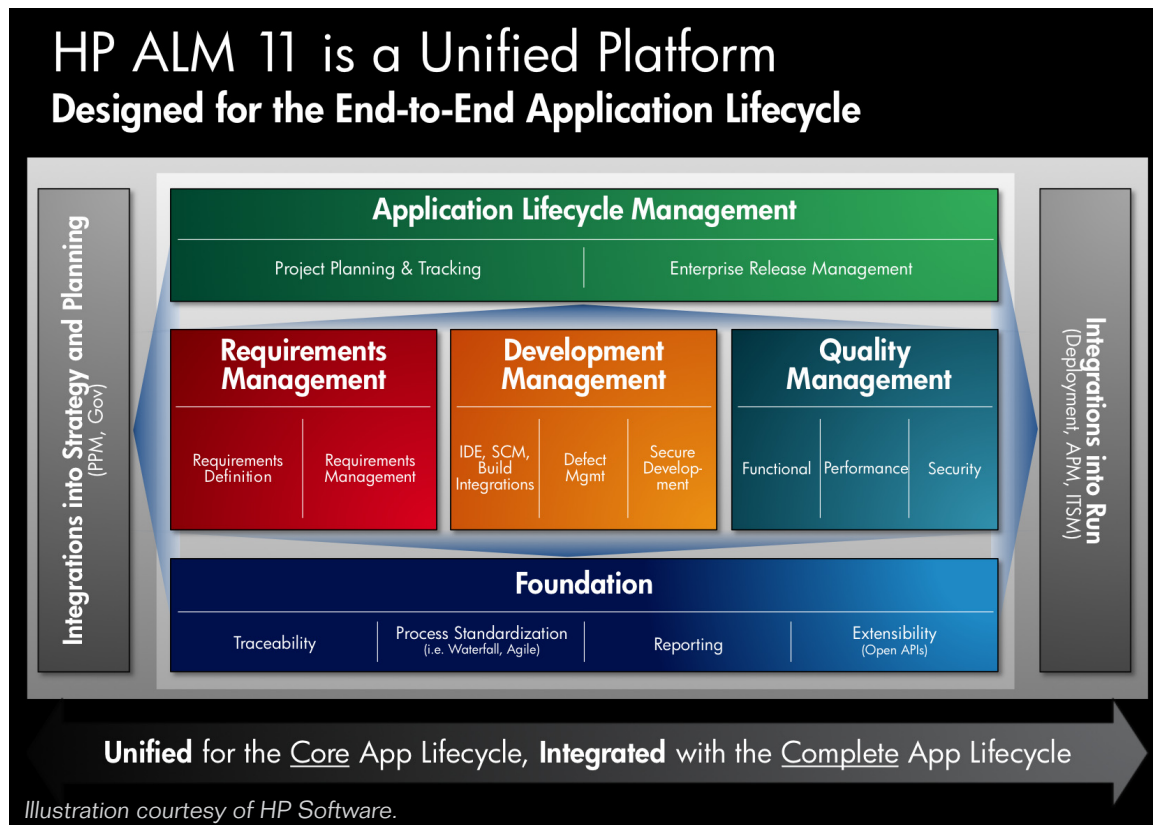
Quality management

- Functional — HP Quality Center 11.0 and HP Unified Functional Testing (UFT)
- Performance — HP Performance Center 11.0 and HP LoadRunner
- Security — HP QA Inspect 8.0 and HP Web Inspect 8.0

Application lifecycle foundation — HP ALM 11

- Traceability
- Process standardization
- Reporting
- Extensibility

This core set of ALM offerings from HP seamlessly integrates with both the left and right side of the ALM equation. To the left side of the ALM equation, HP ALM 11 integrates with strategy and planning teams and into the HP project portfolio management and governance offerings. To the right side of the ALM equation, HP ALM 11 integrates with the operations team and into the HP offerings for application performance management and ITSM.



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Roles

HP ALM 11 offers solutions to a wide array of application lifecycle stakeholders including:

- Vice president of applications
- Business analyst
- Development director
- Quality Assurance director

HP ALM 11 offers a unified platform and key features to all lifecycle stakeholders such as:

- Cross-project planning and tracking
- Asset sharing and reuse
- Multiple methodology process support
- Traceability
- Integrated developer task support
- Quality planning and management
- Manual and automated testing

HP ALM 11 with its core functionality and integrations represents the most well architected and planned ALM solution on the market. Organizations looking to invest in a complete end-to-end ALM solution can easily identify the HP solution as one that will deliver a wide variety of solutions for specialized professionals involved with the creation, development, testing, management, and maintenance of software—the most strategic asset of the modern business.

Strengths

- Platform neutral
- Process neutral
- Open API support
- Extensible and dynamic — ready to adapt to the dynamic nature of ALM
- Common platform for all HP solutions
- Easy integration from any software solution — open source or proprietary
- Incremental move to ALM from other HP offerings
- Complete lifecycle approach and solution
- Application security for developers and testing professionals

Weaknesses

- Lack of significant integration with industry standard project management solutions.
- Lack of an integrated virtual lab management solution to deliver a hub for application lifecycle management by virtually connecting all stakeholders and constituents of the application lifecycle. HP offers a virtual lab management solution through partnerships with Citrix, Quest, and VMware.

We expect rapid adoption of HP ALM 11. Organizations that have moved beyond the tactical task of reducing both capital and operational expenditures and are focused on the strategic activity of optimizing efficiency to deliver repeatable and predictable business outcomes will gravitate to HP ALM. Organizations focused on strategic activities have arguably removed barriers between IT and the line of business. These types of organizations are in need of solutions to assist with complete visibility into the application lifecycle as software moves from a liability to a strategic and business-critical asset.

Organizations that have moved from the burdensome view of IT being a cost center to IT being a profit center will also seek out the benefits of HP ALM 11. The product is architected to have a visible market presence for the foreseeable future and to incorporate the needs of a dynamic ALM market.

HP ALM 11 enables organizations to focus on delivering world-class business results.

BENEFITS

The HP ALM 11 platform is common throughout HP application lifecycle and HP quality offerings. A common platform for ALM and quality, including security, means that integration with any of the HP offerings is seamlessly architected into the product. The ability for third-party integrations to share a common HP platform further entrenches HP ALM as the tool of choice for business-minded IT organizations.

The primary benefits of HP ALM 11 are:

- **Increased time-to-market** — delivered through HP ALM 11 project planning and tracking. Capabilities include defining and monitoring project milestones, dynamic health assessment, and automatic project updates with respect to milestones.
- **Just in time data delivery** — delivered through HP ALM 11 cross-project reporting. Capabilities include customizable visibility into application projects, trending analysis and insight, dashboard, and aggregate data and metrics for quality, requirements coverage, defect trends, and release readiness
- **Rework reduction** — delivered through HP ALM 11 asset sharing and reuse. Capabilities include centralized libraries for managing requirements, test scripts, and

test resources, change and configuration management, and maintenance of shared asset traceability including execution history for test assets.

- **Best practices for business demands** — delivered through HP ALM process standardization. Capabilities include definition of standardized lifecycle process, enforcement of consistent best practices, centralized customization of project templates, and automatic update push to projects at change time.
- **Methodology preference match** — delivered through HP ALM 11 multi-methodology process support with HP Agile Accelerator. Capabilities include capturing and tracing user stories to development tasks, tests, and defects, tracking and managing project milestones.
- **Support for the critical link between business needs and application delivery** — delivered through HP ALM 11 traceability and requirements. Capabilities include Business Process Modeling (BPM), tracing relations between requirements, process paths, defects and tests, and link requirements to test developer tasks, and defects.
- **Developer efficiency and higher quality delivery** — delivered through HP ALM 11 traceability and defect sharing. Capabilities include consistent management process across projects, aggregated defect metrics across projects (central defect repository), reporting and measurement of cross-project defect trends, tracing defects to tests and requirements.
- **Alignment of quality effort with business outcome** — delivered through HP ALM 11 quality management. Capabilities include assessing and prioritizing high-risk requirements, automatic calculation and fine-tuning test efforts, testing resource allocation guidance, and assessments calculated by business criticality, failure probability, and functionality complexity.
- **Satisfying business expectations across functionality, performance, and security** — delivered through HP ALM 11 complete test planning. Capabilities include designing, building, and managing manual and automated test cases, single place to manage tests for functional, performance, and security, leveraging test cases from Microsoft Word and Excel, ensuring coverage through linked traceability to requirements, managing requirements updates and changes, and version control.
- **Efficiency for manual testing** — delivered through HP Sprinter and integrated with HP ALM 11. Capabilities include testing actions and results automatically recorded within HP ALM 11, instant annotation and reporting of defects discovered to quality assurance and development teams, accelerating test execution through automated injection of data, simplification of testing processes with screen capture and annotation, and testing multiple platforms with a single click through HP's Mirror Testing.

ASSESS YOUR ORGANIZATION

Ultimately, every organization will come to the realization that an ALM solution is the best and most efficient way to deliver predictable and reliable business outcomes. HP ALM bridges the gap between the point products that many organizations use for different phases of the application lifecycle and an integrated solution for all stakeholders in the application lifecycle.

Assess the readiness of your own organization to adopt an application lifecycle solution.

1. Are you using point products, i.e., testing tools, requirements tools, et cetera, for some or all of the phases of your application lifecycle?
2. Is your line of business demanding more predictable results from the software used to run the business?
3. Is software a critical part of your business?
4. Do you have stakeholders who need to share information or assets related to the software being built, delivered, or maintained?

If you answer “yes” to any of the above questions, your organization is ready, at some level, to embrace an ALM solution.

If your organization is not quite ready to embrace a complete ALM solution in practice, continue to monitor the market as well as your own organization to determine the best point of entry.

NET/NET

Competitively, HP has catapulted far ahead of the competition. The simple name “HP ALM 11” describes at once the brand promise of a trusted enterprise software company—HP—and the simplicity of what the product delivers—application lifecycle management.

With HP ALM 11, HP is challenging enterprise IT organizations to deliver value to the line of business. HP ALM 11 also challenges the line of business to embrace the power and value its software delivers to the brand. Executives of organizations of all sizes will benefit from adopting an ALM solution to some degree and fostering its maturity over time.

HP ALM 11 is a category-defining product for its simplicity in design, yet a full-powered and heterogeneous application lifecycle solution that enables organizations to deliver on a brand promise through software.

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