

Which IBM Rational requirements management tool is best for your teams?

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This paper introduces IBM® Rational® DOORS® and IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation, identifies the types of teams that use those tools, compares their functional differences, and summarizes integration scenarios.

Trademarks and notes

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Executive summary

Which IBM Rational requirements management (RM) tool is best for your teams? Your answer depends on how your teams work and what they value most.

IBM Rational DOORS, which is currently available in version 9, has been the market-leading RM solution for years. It offers the deepest RM capabilities in the marketplace, a rich scripting language, many integrations with other products, and a large and active user community, especially in industries where teams create complex and embedded systems. Rational DOORS has been proven by the largest programs and projects as well as small teams.

IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation (Rational DOORS NG) offers a simpler user experience and deployment. It is designed for teams that collaborate in complex and embedded system engineering as well as complex IT projects and programs, often in a regulated environment. Its web client includes capabilities for RM and more, including visual definition, task management, and planning. It runs as a native application on the Jazz integration server.

Rational DOORS NG can be used with Rational DOORS or as an alternative to it. However, Rational DOORS NG is not a direct replacement for Rational DOORS in all cases. Rational DOORS NG can extend deployments of Rational DOORS capabilities to teams not served by Rational DOORS.

Rational DOORS NG is included as part of Rational DOORS 9.5 and later. This makes purchase decisions easier for new customers, and it will make it easier for existing Rational DOORS customers to evaluate, pilot and deploy Rational DOORS NG. You can use both flavors, because interoperation and data exchange scenarios are supported. And migrating data from Rational DOORS to Rational DOORS NG is supported as well.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is help you decide which Rational requirements management tool is best for your teams. To make an informed decision, it is necessary to understand the differences in capabilities and product evolution between Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS Next Generation.

Process considerations

A well-defined, well-tailored, and well-implemented development process enables teams to accomplish their objectives. There is no one right requirements process for everyone. The optimal requirements process involves doing only what you need to do to achieve your objectives. The right balance for any team is influenced by many factors, including these:

- Organizational culture
- Size or distribution of team
- Complexity of the project or program
- Duration of the project or program
- Compliance and reporting requirements
- Cost of failure, in terms of human or environmental safety, fines or reputational risk, lost opportunity, and cost of repairing the failure

In general, where those factors are significant, it makes more sense to put more effort into creating, analyzing, and reporting on requirements. In fact, this larger effort can be essential to success.

By contrast, a lighter-weight requirements process is better when teams are small, projects are not complex in relative terms, cost of failure is low, or the project is a project of discovery (the requirements are not well known).

This dynamic does not assume any one methodology, such as waterfall, iterative, or scrum. All of the IBM Rational RM tools can be configured to support any of these methodologies.

Rational DOORS is for teams who are creating complex products and services or are working in a high-compliance environment. Teams that use Rational DOORS tend to bring an engineering mindset to the requirements process.

Rational DOORS is likely your best choice if your teams value these factors the most:

- You are part of a development program that uses a Rational DOORS infrastructure that is likely to stay in place as-is for a long time.
- You are part of a supply chain that mandates the use of Rational DOORS.
- Your organization has been using Rational DOORS for some time and is reliant on functionality which is not yet included with Rational DOORS Next Generation. In particular, your teams use significant product customizations, integrations, or automation that is based on DOORS eXtension Language (DXL).
- You operate at extreme scale; for example, your projects or programs have tens of millions of requirements.

Rational DOORS NG is for teams who are creating complex products and services, undertaking complex IT projects or programs, or are working in a high-compliance environment. It is likely your best choice if your teams value these factors the most:

- Simple on-ramp from Microsoft® Word and Microsoft Excel®
- Built-in visual notations for collaborating on requirements
- Built-in capabilities for task management and planning
- Built-in support for parallel work on different versions of requirements by using both Configuration Management and Change Management processes
- A solution that uses a commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) database
- A web-based RM solution that offers the most up-to-date web UI experience
- A single-server solution that is native to Jazz™ Team Server, so that you can easily deploy a multi-product solution with tools such as IBM Rational Team Concert™, IBM Rational Quality Manager, and IBM Rational Rhapsody® Design Manager. Together these applications provide Collaboration Lifecycle Management (CLM).
- You currently use Rational DOORS and want to initiate new projects by using the new capabilities and user experience in Rational DOORS NG.

Rational DOORS NG is also a good choice for teams that seek lighter-weight requirements processes, typically in an IT environment. Some teams that use Rational DOORS NG are dealing with compliance, contracts, and complexity, but to a lesser degree, and this is reflected in their requirements process and

the demands they place on their requirements tools. The mindset of the people who participate in the requirements process might lean more towards business analysis than systems engineering.

Rational DOORS NG is likely your best choice if your teams value these factors the most:

- You want to address the [Five Imperatives for ALM](#), and your teams are implementing IT systems or are engaged in IT consulting.
- You or your teams are seeking to be “more agile” as you collaborate around requirements without being specification-oriented.

What if my requirements are in the form of user stories in a backlog?

Some development teams work with a just-in-time approach to requirements, expressing requirements in user stories. The Scrum development process takes this approach and has been successfully implemented in many organizations with Rational Team Concert. This works in cases where user stories can be closed and forgotten. If your teams have a need to reuse user stories, then you can use Rational DOORS NG together with Rational Team Concert, using CLM work flows to link user stories in the RM application with the user story plan items that developers work from.

A note on modeling and visual notations

Rational DOORS NG includes a lightweight diagram editor. Teams use these diagrams as part of the requirements definition process, particularly in the early stages of ideation. These tools enable RM team activities:

- Explore/sketch ideas and concepts visually in the context of your engineering projects and programs
- Provide context for requirements
- Improve collaboration related to requirements definition

Teams may subsequently trace requirements to objects in specialist tools and notations such as Rational Rhapsody for SysML, UML, model simulation, and embedded software generation.

A note on Rational RequisitePro

Rational DOORS NG is the replacement for Rational RequisitePro. It includes a migration utility that automates most tasks that are related to migrating data from Rational RequisitePro.

Capabilities of the tools

Rational DOORS

Rational DOORS has been commercially available since 1991 and has been recognized as the market-leading requirements management tool. Rational DOORS is used in the development of complex projects that range from planes, trains, and automobiles, to mobile phones and medical devices, and many others.

Rational DOORS grew up in the days of client/server computing. Following the paradigm of those times, the Rational DOORS business logic is mostly built into the rich client, which runs on Microsoft operating systems.

The rich client offers a fully user-programmable, extensible API called the DOORS eXtension Language (DXL), which provides an unmatched degree of customizability. DXL can be used for automating administration, creating custom multi-level traceability views, calculating metrics, implementing custom business logic, extending the user interface, and implementing integrations with other tools.

Rational DOORS offers powerful views that you can use to deal with large amounts of information that are linked to other related information. This approach is applied in the RM domain and across the development lifecycle. For example, you can link to validation and verification information in a test management tool such as Rational Quality Manager.

The Rational DOORS Web Access web client offers a way to accomplish review and common editing use cases without installing the Rational DOORS rich client onto a workstation. Rational DOORS Web Access will continue to be the web user interface for Rational DOORS, and it is sold separately. If no Rational DOORS Web Access licenses are available, Rational DOORS Web Access will consume Rational DOORS user licenses.

Rational DOORS supports Rational Jazz integration patterns that are based on Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC). Those integration patterns enable additional cross-tool usage scenarios with tools such as Rational Team Concert, Rational Quality Manager, and Rational Rhapsody Design Manager.

Rational DOORS Next Generation

Rational DOORS NG is a next-generation requirements definition and management solution that brings the best of Rational RequisitePro and Rational DOORS to the Jazz platform and introduces new functionality that is not available in either of these older products. Built natively on the Jazz integration server, Rational DOORS NG is a web-based tool for RM that places extra focus on (1) the earlier phases of the requirements lifecycle: the collaborative explorations that are essential to achieving consensus before requirements are finalized; and (2) visibility and collaboration across the development lifecycle that is so important to project success.

Rational DOORS NG was first released as Rational Requirements Composer in 2008 and has been under active development since then.

Most recently, Rational DOORS NG has been extended to include both Configuration Management and Change Management of requirements directly in the tool without the need to purchase a separate CM system. A full task management system for tracking and planning is included as part of the Collaborative Lifecycle Management products, including Rational DOORS Next Generation, Rational Team Concert, Rational Quality Manager, Rational Design Manager. This combination of task management and

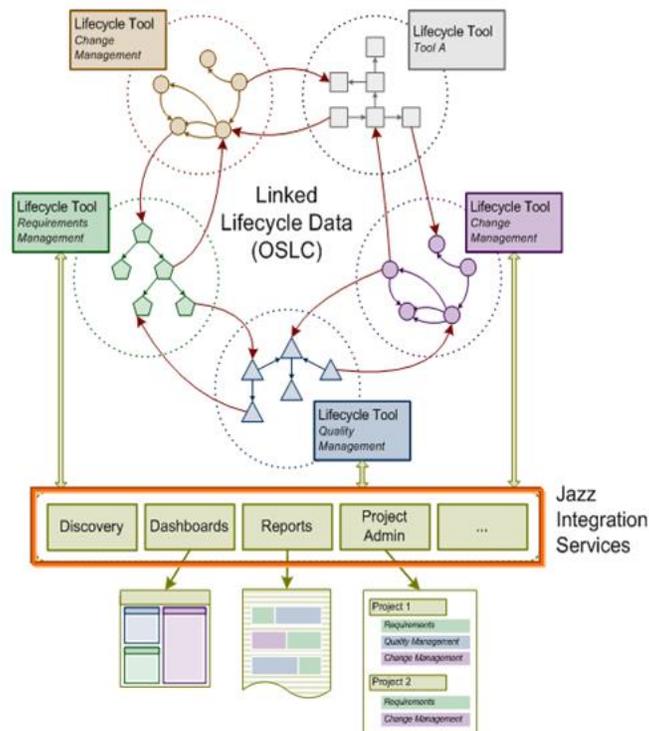
Configuration Management capabilities offers significant benefits as organizations use this RM tool to describe the scope of a project and to control changes to that scope over time.

Teams can migrate data to Rational DOORS NG from Rational RequisitePro by using a built-in migration utility. They can migrate data from Rational DOORS by using migration packages that are created in Rational DOORS, or they can use the ReqIF data exchange capability.

Linked lifecycle data: An Internet-inspired approach to data integration

Open Services for Lifecycle Collaboration (OSLC) provides a set of specifications for representing, relating, and acting on product development data. It extends the concepts of linked data to linked lifecycle data. The tools that implement these specifications provide REST services in a Service-Oriented Architecture paradigm. For a good introduction to linked lifecycle data, OSLC, and the advantages of this approach, see the introductory material at <http://open-services.net> and the on-going specification development at <https://www.oasis-open.org/>.

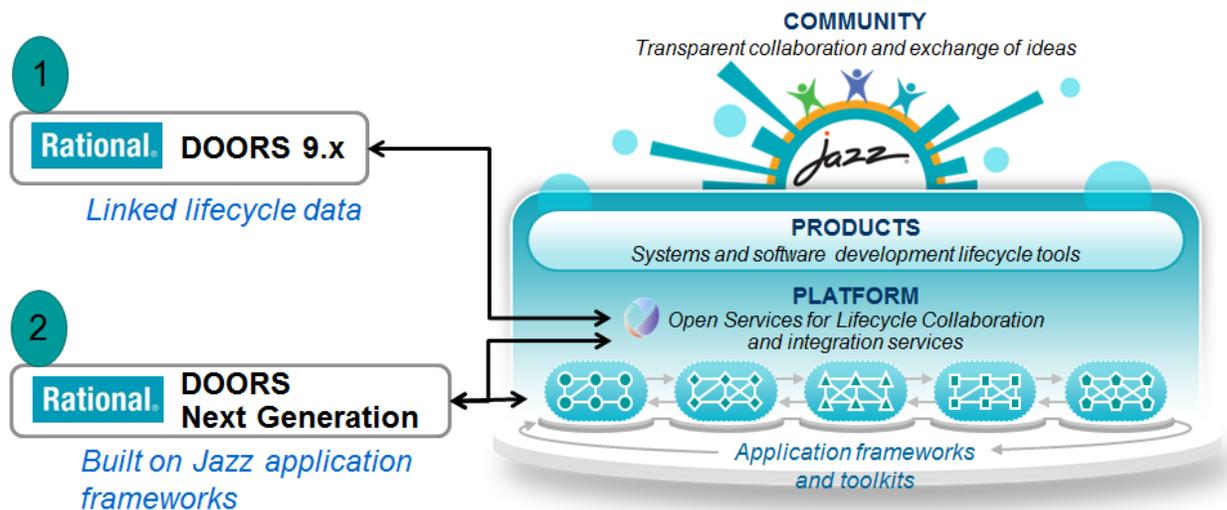
Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG implement OSLC specifications. These tools are providers of OSLC-RM services and consumers of other services, such as OSLC-CM, OSLC-QM, and OSLC-RM.



The Jazz integration approach

Two common levels of product integrations exist: (1) using OSLC services and (2) building on Jazz application frameworks to take advantage of common services supplied by the Jazz Team Server. The

first level enables cross-tool user scenarios, data visibility across repositories, and relationships among data expressed in links. The second level provides common user administration, searching, UI widgets, and UI conventions that provide a streamlined user experience. In addition, this second approach enables the sharing of capabilities in more than one product license. For example, a Rational DOORS NG Analyst license includes full use of the Jazz work item system, including change management and planning capabilities, and contributor-level access to quality management and design management artifacts.



Rational DOORS implements the first approach; Rational DOORS NG implements both approaches.

Data integration by indexing federated data

An emerging third level of integration is offered by Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager.

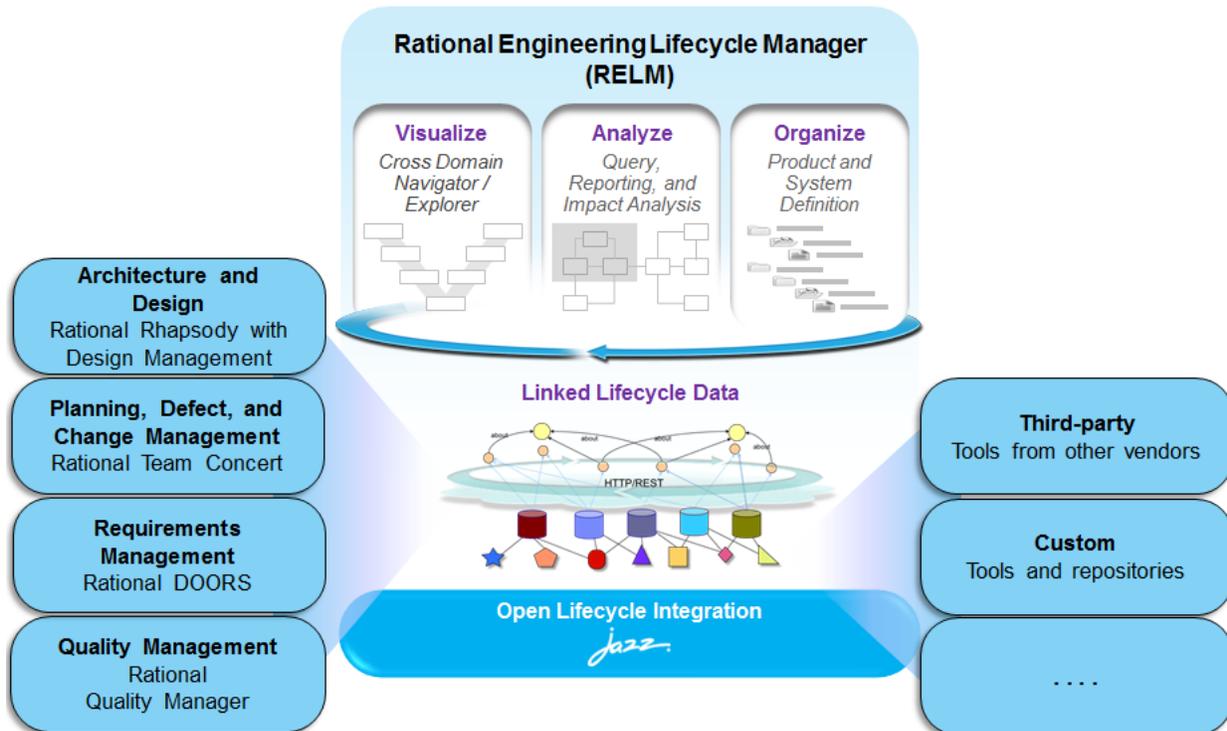
Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager extends the Rational solution for systems and software engineering to make multi-dimensional views of your engineering data available, and thereby enable multi-disciplinary engineering teams to be more productive and make better decisions.

The key innovation of Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager is that it indexes data from many engineering repositories, and that the data is represented as Linked Lifecycle Data, which can be mined in new ways. The data is federated rather than synchronized between tools. It's not necessary to store the data in one giant multi-purpose database, which means this solution can be implemented in finite time and with finite on-going maintenance effort, which is less true of the alternative approaches.

Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager indexes data from the tools of the Rational solution for systems and software engineering and stores them in a *lifecycle index*. In addition it could index data from third-

party and custom-developed tools, which requires the development of lightweight connectors for each repository.

Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager provides process-, product-, and role-based views of data. Users can navigate from these views to data in the native user interfaces of the indexed tools.



Rational DOORS 9.4.0.1 or DOORS NG 4.03 are the minimum levels needed to work with Rational Engineering Lifecycle Manager.

Reporting: Jazz Reporting Services

Rational DOORS NG and the other CLM products now include a self-serve web-based reporting service called Report Builder, which is part of the Jazz Reporting Services. The Report Builder makes use of linked data stored in the lifecycle index as well as the data warehouse.

Co-usage scenarios

Using Rational DOORS Next Generation and Rational DOORS

Rational DOORS NG can extend deployments of Rational DOORS in the following scenarios:

- **Jump-start project teams:** Make data in Rational DOORS available to teams that use Rational DOORS NG.

- **Collaborate on requirements across a supply chain:** When suppliers make updates, merge changes into the system of record in Rational DOORS.
- **Reuse requirements information:** Trace from requirements artifacts in Rational DOORS NG to existing standards, policies, requirements, and other information in Rational DOORS.
- **Cross-repository reporting:** Generate documents with data coming from multiple sources, including Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG.

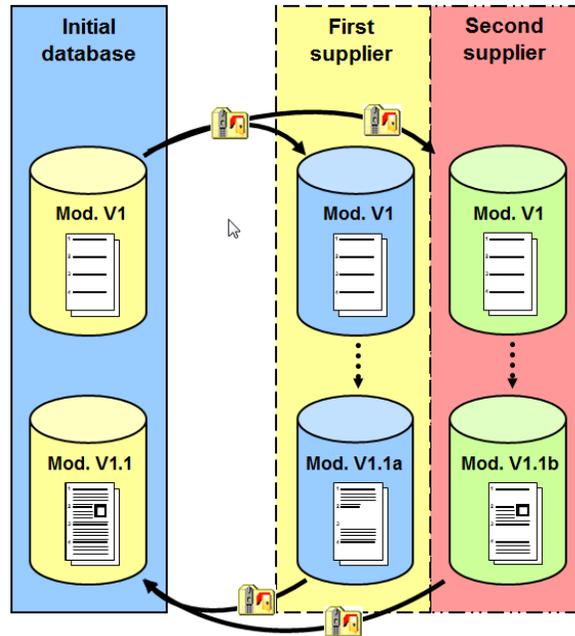
Product licenses

Rational DOORS NG is part of Rational DOORS 9.5 and later. If you have active Rational DOORS subscription and support or if you purchase Rational DOORS, you have license to install and use Rational DOORS, Rational DOORS NG, or both. An entitlement to use Rational DOORS applies to either Rational DOORS or Rational DOORS NG. If you use both flavors of Rational DOORS at the same time, you will consume two Rational DOORS entitlements. If you have a token contract with IBM that includes Rational DOORS, then you can also use Rational DOORS NG, since it is a part of Rational DOORS. Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG will each reserve the appropriate number of tokens when you log in. The Rational License Key Center provides Flex licenses for Rational DOORS and Jazz licenses for Rational DOORS NG.

Additionally these RM capabilities are available as part of the CLM Practitioner license. For information on client access licenses and corresponding user roles in Rational DOORS NG and CLM, see the help topic [Client access license management overview](#).

Data exchange

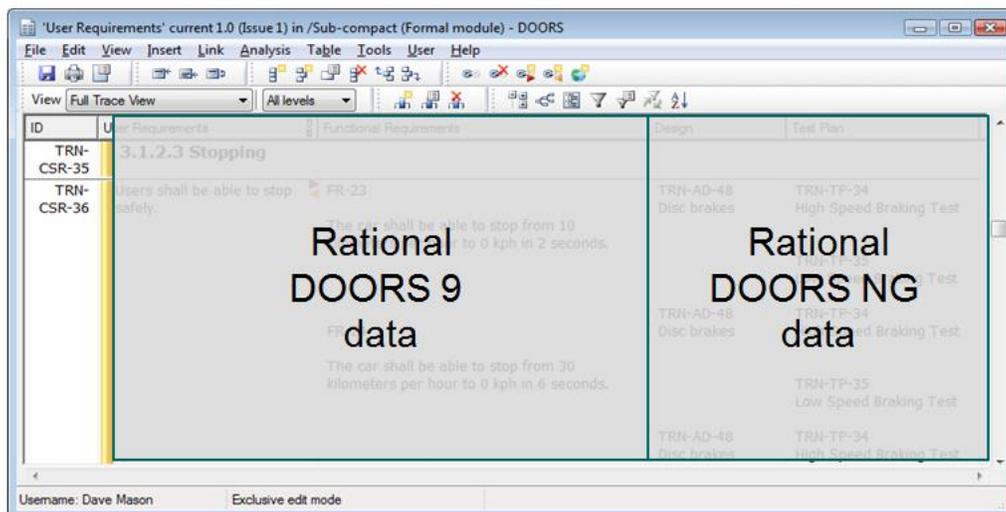
The Requirements Interchange Format (ReqIF) specification facilitates collaboration across a supply chain through the exchange of requirements information. This specification identifies roles for the home and away database. Multiple away databases can exist; typically, one away database exists per supplier. In the example below, the V1 module is sent to two suppliers, which made updates, and those changes are consolidated in a V1.1 module in the home database.



Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG support both use cases where either DOORS or DOORS NG is the “home” database with a second repository acting as a supplier. These scenarios are relevant within an organization using both products or across an actual supply chain. They also provide a method for seeding new projects in DOORS NG with data from DOORS, or taking existing project data from DOORS and moving them into DOORS NG (then setting the data in DOORS as read only).

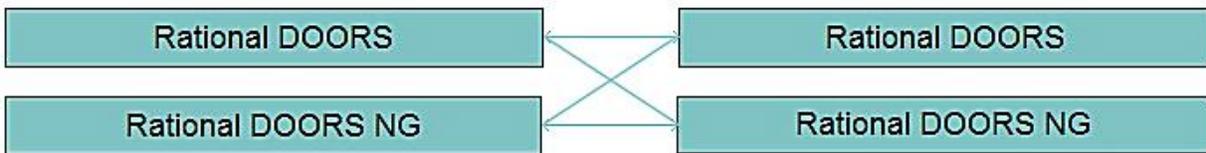
Linking across systems

You can create links between artifacts in Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG projects and show related traceability in columns of a Rational DOORS or Rational DOORS NG module view. For example, this module in Rational DOORS includes some columns with data coming from Rational DOORS NG:



Co-usage when RM projects are on different servers

This section is relevant to all of the product combinations. The latest versions of each product offer the best integration support.



Trusted linking between RM systems is enabled by OAuth relationships. After a relationship is established, a user can create Reference links between artifacts in the two projects.

Features that work the same regardless of server configuration

Dashboards

Dashboards can contain widgets that display data from multiple projects. These projects can be on the same server or different servers.

Reporting: Document generation

All of the RM products embed IBM Rational Reporting for Document Generation. A template pulls data from one or more data sources, which can be on the same server or a different one. Rational DOORS NG offers reportable REST APIs. Information in Rational DOORS reporting data sources is also available to the reporting engine but is represented differently. You can use the Rational Publishing Engine (sold separately) to create your own templates or to modify the document templates provided as part of the RM products.

Reporting: Development intelligence in executive dashboards

All of the RM products can supply requirements information, including metrics, to Rational Insight and its data warehouse. Additionally, licenses for Rational DOORS NG include the Rational Reporting for Development Intelligence component, which is a subset of Rational Insight. Rational Insight is required if you want to collect data from Rational DOORS or create custom extract, transform, and load (ETL) operations to collect data from other tools or repositories.

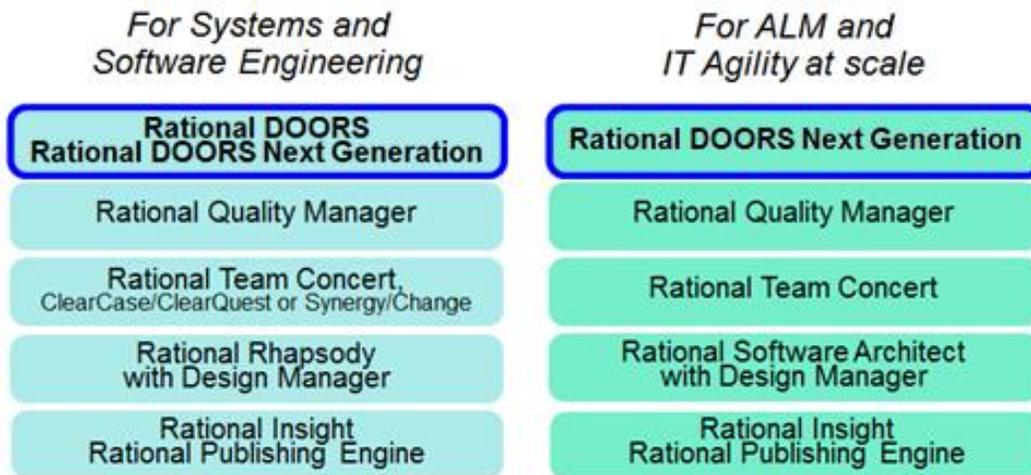
A key decision criterion: Which tools need to link or share data?

An RM process is most valuable when the requirements are traced across the development lifecycle so that project dependencies can be effectively managed and project status is easily visible. Common patterns exist in the tools that are used together to create, manage, and report on this traceability.

Rational tools

Considering only Rational tools for a moment, two patterns are the most significant:

- Continuous Engineering is an approach to systems and software engineering
- IT agility at scale is the objective in DevOps



The integrations that are available for Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG as of December 2014 are summarized in the next table.

Table: Rational tools integrations with Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG

Domain	Product	Works with Rational DOORS 9.6.1?	Works with Rational DOORS NG 5.0.2?	Notes
Change and configuration management and task management	Rational Team Concert	Yes using OSLC	Yes using OSLC	The Rational DOORS NG license includes the work item and planning system that is also part of Rational Team Concert. [See Note 1]
	Rational ClearQuest	Yes using OSLC	Yes using OSLC	
	Rational Change	Yes using OSLC	Yes	

Domain	Product	Works with Rational DOORS 9.6.1?	Works with Rational DOORS NG 5.0.2?	Notes
Quality management	Rational Quality Manager	Yes using OSLC-based starting in 9.4	Yes using OSLC	[See Note 2]
	Test practitioner tools, such as IBM Rational Functional Tester and IBM Rational Performance Tester	Yes, through Rational Quality Manager	Yes, through Rational Quality Manager	
	HP QC or HP ALM	Yes through an optional Rational DOORS-HPQC adapter sold by IBM	Yes, using OSLC. Available as part of the Rational Lifecycle Integration Adaptors	HPQCI is only supported in DOORS 9.6.0.1 and earlier, because it requires the 32-bit DOORS client, which is not included in DOORS 9.6.1. HPQCI support for the 64-bit client is under consideration for future fix packs.
Modeling	Design Management for Rational Software Architect	Yes using OSLC	Yes using OSLC	
	Rational Rhapsody Design Manager	Yes using OSLC or through Rhapsody Gateway synchronization	Yes using OSLC	
	Rational System Architect	OSLC or sync through native API	Yes using OSLC (link from SA to DOORS NG)	
Reporting: Document Generation	Rational Publishing Engine	Yes through a Rational DOORS connector that ships with Rational Publishing Engine	Yes through a reportable REST API	
Reporting: Development Intelligence	Rational Reporting for Development Intelligence	Yes, in conjunction with Rational Insight	Yes	Included as part of Rational Team Concert, Rational Quality Manager, Rational Requirements Composer, and Rational DOORS NG
	Rational Insight	Yes	Yes	Note [2]
Other	Rational Focal Point	Yes using sync through a native API.	Yes using OSLC	

Domain	Product	Works with Rational DOORS 9.6.1?	Works with Rational DOORS NG 5.0.2?	Notes
		[Support using OSLC to be confirmed]		
	Rational Asset Manager	[To be confirmed]	Yes using OSLC	
	Rational Engineering Lifecycle Management	Yes	Yes	

Notes:

[1] In Rational DOORS, a change management tool can be used to drive a custom process for requirements change requests. This functionality is not yet available in Rational DOORS NG. Both Rational DOORS and Rational DOORS NG enable requirements-driven development, which involves traceability between requirements and implementation tasks.

[2] Quality management scenarios focus on requirements-driven testing, which involves creating traceability between requirements and test artifacts. For more information see this video: [IBM Rational DOORS and IBM Rational Quality Manager](#) [youtube.com]

[3] Rational Insight: If you want to collect data from Rational DOORS or your own tools, you need Rational Insight, which is a superset of Rational Reporting for Development Intelligence that provides additional data collection utilities.

Tools from other vendors

Most enterprises use tools from multiple vendors. This makes traceability across tools more challenging. Over the years, many vendors have implemented integrations across key product development domains, including modeling and design, product definition management and product line management, and testing. Many organizations that use Rational DOORS have implemented custom integrations that are based on DXL to make use of data in other tools and repositories.

The Ready for Rational program recognizes vendors and their tools that have undergone qualification testing of specific product integrations. The majority of vendor-supplied integrations to Rational DOORS are not RFR-certified.

Most of these integrations use DXL to synchronize data between repositories. Integrations based on OSLC and linked lifecycle data are becoming more common, and we expect to see this trend continue.

The following list shows a few of the integrations to Rational DOORS that other vendors develop and distribute. The integrations are not necessarily compatible with the latest versions of Rational DOORS, and IBM offers no direct support for these products or integration components. In addition to the

integrations shown below, Rational DOORS can embed information that is generated by products that support OLE on Microsoft Windows systems, such as Microsoft Visio.

Table: Tools from other vendors that integrate with Rational DOORS

These integrations are not provided by IBM, and those that have completed the Ready for Rational validation program and are listed in the RM section of the [RFR web page](#) as of December 2014 are noted with “RFR.” For more information and for the latest status regarding integration support for Rational DOORS NG, check with the vendor.

Category	Product that integrates with Rational DOORS	Integration	Integration vendor	Notes
CASE	SCADE Suite, SCADE Drive	SCADE Requirements Management Gateway	Esterel Technologies	sync
CCM	AllChange	AllChange integration with DOORS	Intasoft Ltd	sync
CCM	JIRA (Atlassian)	Go2Group DOORS plugin	Go2Group Inc	sync
CCM	Rational ClearQuest	ClearTrace	Ring-Zero Software, Inc.	RFR sync
EA	MEGA Suite	MEGA Requirements Tracker	MEGA International	sync
EA	Sparx Enterprise Architect	MDG DOORS Link	SPARX Systems	sync
EDA	Various Mentor Graphic tools	ReqTracer	Mentor Graphics	sync
EDA	DOORSConnect	DOORSConnect for Capital	Mentor Graphics	RFR OSLC
IDE	Eclipse environments	Sodius MDConnect for DOORS	Sodius	RFR sync
IDE	Sodius DOORS DXL Editor	Sodius DOORS DXL Editor	Sodius	RFR sync
Integrations	agosense.symphony Integration Platform	Adapter for IBM Rational DOORS	agosense	sync
Integrations	Various systems, including HP Quality Center, Microsoft TFS, Serena Team Track, RallyDev, VersionOne, Jira	OpsHub Integration Manager for DOORS	OpsHub	RFR sync

Category	Product that integrates with Rational DOORS	Integration	Integration vendor	Notes
Modeling	Artisan Studio	Artisan Studio Integration	Artisan Software Tools	RFR sync
Modeling	INCHRON Tool-Suite	INCHRON Tool-Suite Integration to DOORS using OSLC	INCHRON	RFR OSLC
Modeling	MagicDraw	Cameo DataHub	No Magic Inc.	sync
Modeling	MATLAB, Simulink	MATLAB SystemTest, Simulink Verification and Validation	Mathworks, Inc.	sync
Modeling	medini analyze	built-in	ikv++ technologies ag	sync via Requirements Interchange Format
Modeling	Rational Software Architect	MDConnect for DOORS – RSA Extension	Sodius	sync
Product Line Engineering	Gears	DOORS/Gears Bridge	BigLever Inc	RFR sync
Product Line Engineering	Pure::variants	Synchronizer for DOORS	pure-systems GmbH	RFR sync
PLM	Dassault Enovia (including Catia and MatrixOne)	OpenDXM	ProSTEP AG	sync
PLM	Oracle/Agile PLM	XOpenDoor	usb Management Consulting and System Development GmbH	sync
PLM	PTC Windchill	PDMLink	Stoneworks Inc	RFR sync
PLM	Siemens Teamcenter Enterprise	Teamcenter Enterprise DOORS Integration	Siemens PLM Software	sync
PLM	Siemens Teamcenter SE	Integrator	Asaro Systems Ltd (acquired Integrator from T-Plan Ltd.)	sync
Project Management	Microsoft Project	PMConnex for RM	PMC - Project Management Center	sync

Category	Product that integrates with Rational DOORS	Integration	Integration vendor	Notes
Project Management	Primavera	PMConnex for RM	PMC - Project Management Center	RFR sync
RM	Ambiguous Words Detector	Ambiguous Words Detector	River North Solutions Inc.	RFR add-in
RM	ComplyPro	ComplyPro	ComplyServe Ltd	sync
RM	Foresight Tool Suite	Requirements Traceability Interface	Foresight Systems M & S	sync
RM	RAWeb	RAWeb	Emphasys Group	RFR sync
RM	Reqtify	Reqtify	Dassault Geensys (formally TNI-Software)	sync
RM	Requirements Quality Analyzer	Requirements Quality Suite	The REUSE Company	RFR sync
RM	Requirements Authoring Tool	Requirements Quality Suite	The REUSE Company	RFR sync
RM	Traceline	Traceline for DOORS	Integrate Systems Engineering Ltd	RFR sync
Testing	LabVIEW, LabWindows™/CVI™, NI MATRIXx, NI TestStand	NI Requirements Gateway v1.0	National Instruments	sync
Testing	LDRA Testbed, LDRA TBrun	TBReq	LDRA Software Technology	RFR sync
Testing	Rational Test Manager	Test Input Adapter	Ring-Zero Software, Inc.	sync
Testing	T-Plan Professional	T-Plan Professional	T-Plan Ltd.	sync

More information

<http://ibm.com/software/awdtools/doors/>

<https://jazz.net/products/rational-doors-next-generation/>

<http://ibm.com/software/awdtools/rrc/>

<https://jazz.net/products/systems-engineering-and-embedded-software/>

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