Best Practices for Configuration Management in Innoslate®

Configuration management is essential for maintaining the integrity, traceability, and control of project data throughout the systems engineering lifecycle. Innoslate® by SPEC Innovations provides robust tools for configuration management, including project branching, baselining, and comprehensive entity views, ensuring your projects remain organized, auditable, and adaptable to change

Branching

- Branching creates a duplicate (child) project linked to the original (parent), allowing independent modifications while maintaining a relationship between versions.
- Use branching to experiment with changes, develop features, or support parallel project tracks without affecting the main project.

Forking

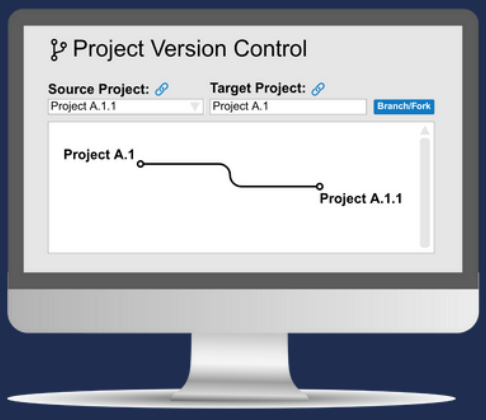
- Forking duplicates a project without maintaining a relationship to the original, enabling completely separate development paths.
- Ideal for creating new projects based on existing templates or for divergent development needs

Merging

- Merging integrates changes, additions, deletions, and restores from a source project into a target project, but only between projects with a direct parent-child relationship.
- The system displays differences in a table, allowing you to review and confirm merges, ensuring data integrity and minimizing conflicts.

Visual Project Structure

- Projects and their branches are displayed in a tree chart, providing a clear overview of parent-child relationships and project evolution.
- Quick navigation links and difference tables streamline the process of managing and merging project versions.



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Baselines: Capturing Project Snapshots

Creating Baselines

- A baseline captures a snapshot of a document's entities, relationships, and attributes at a specific point in time, preserving the state for future reference and audits.
- Only users with the 'Owner' role can create baselines, which are initiated from the 'Baseline' option in the document toolbar.

Reviewing and Editing Baselines

- Baselines are listed in the Baselines Tab, showing creation date, time, and e-signature details.
- Selecting a baseline allows you to view all entities and their relationships as they existed at the time of the baseline.
- Baseline details (name, description, metadata) can be updated without altering the document's content, supporting version control and project documentation needs.

Baseline Indicators

- Entities included in a baseline are marked with blue indicators, making it easy to identify which parts of a document are baselined.
- All baselines are read-only; to resume editing, switch back to the current version

Manage & Track Project Data

- The Entity View provides a comprehensive overview of all entities within a project, including their attributes, relationships, and status.
- Use the Entity View to monitor changes, ensure traceability, and maintain configuration control across the project lifecycle.
- This view supports efficient navigation, filtering, and analysis of project data, enhancing your ability to manage complex configurations.

Configuration Management Checklist

- **Branch strategically:** Use branches for feature development, experimentation, or parallel workstreams.
- **Baseline regularly:** Capture baselines at key milestones to preserve project history and support audits.
- **Review before merging:** Always review differences and confirm merges to maintain data integrity.
- **Leverage entity views:** Use entity views for ongoing monitoring, traceability, and configuration control.

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