IBM

Rational® software

Improve Microsoft team effectiveness with solutions from IBM.

Highlights

■ *Integrates Microsoft development and desktop tools with a common repository for improved development collaboration*

■ *Increases efficiency with integrated work-item, source control and build management capabilities from within Microsoft Visual Studio software*

■ *Breaks down barriers and improves communication between developers and business stakeholders by integrating with Microsoft SharePoint software*

■ *Extends Microsoft investments and streamlines development*

■ *Supports flexible, customizable processes based on your team's requirements*

Do more with less

The order of the day for software development teams is to build solutions faster, better and with fewer resources. With this directive, finding new ways to improve development efficiencies and cut costs is imperative.

In response, many development teams are pursuing agile methods and distributed development and consolidating their application lifecycle management infrastructure across heterogeneous platforms to reduce costs. Teams using Microsoft® Visual Studio software may think their options for agile development are limited—but that's not the case.

IBM Rational® Team Concert™ software can help Microsoft shops support agile development. In a single product, the Rational solution provides integrated project reporting, iteration planning, automation of best practices, work-item management, source control and build management. You gain realtime visibility and comprehensive project collaboration—across virtually all major platforms—to help drive higher productivity and lower administrative costs.

Figure 1: Rational Team Concert helps facilitate software development innovation through collaboration.

Integrate Microsoft development and desktop tools to enhance collaboration

Scores of developers, business stakeholders and development managers may participate in the development lifecycle. So timely, accurate communication among disparate teams is critical to controlling project timelines, risks and costs. Rational Team Concert provides customizable Scrum and agile development process templates, planning tools, work items and reports optimized for each person's role.

- *Supports integrated work-item, source control and build management with a common repository for cross-platform team collaboration*
- *Enables business stakeholders and developers to collaborate and link existing Microsoft SharePoint communities into the development lifecycle*
- *Provides development managers with consolidated, realtime, browser-based development status via dashboards, plans and work items without disrupting ongoing work*
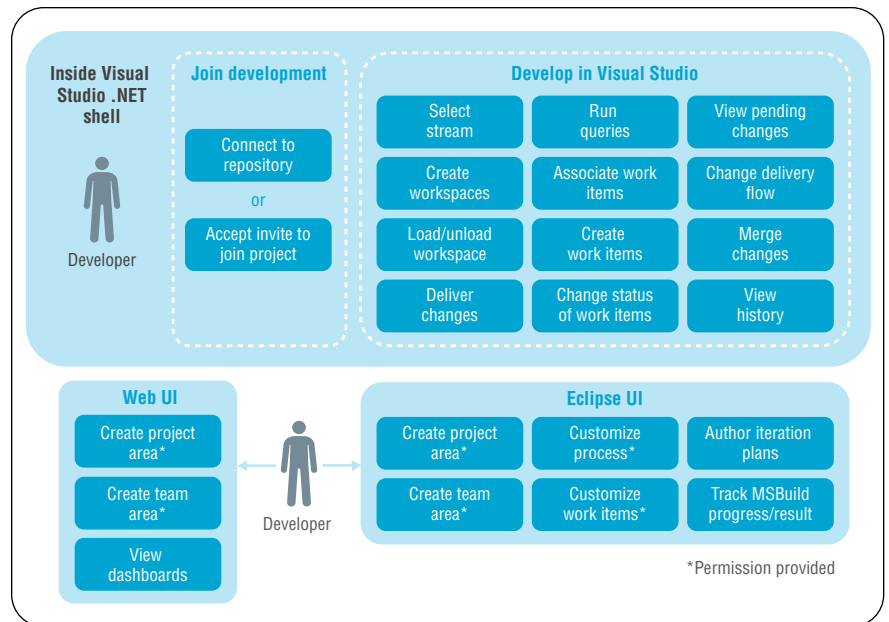
Figure 2: With the help of Rational Team Concert, teams can directly access developer-focused SCM and work-item features from the Microsoft Visual Studio IDE.

Accomplish more within Visual Studio

Toggling between Visual Studio and other tools to manage work-item status, report defects, check in code changes and collaborate with peers not only frustrates developers — it also stunts productivity. The Rational Team Concert client for the Microsoft Visual Studio integrated development environment (IDE) provides an integrated solution for work-item, source control and build management so developers can stay focused.

- *Integrated work-item management and planning — automatically creates and tracks the progress of individual work items; captures and maintains work-item relationships to other artifacts; and provides iteration plans via browser-based interfaces to trace and track work items for each milestone and keep teams on track*

- *Integrated stream-based source control — provides essential software version control, workspace management, and stream-based and component-based parallel development support; and comprehensively integrates software configuration management (SCM) into work items and build management for continuous insight*
- *Integrated build management — supports scheduling and execution of software build processes to implement continual integration using MSBuild or Apache Ant; enables use of multiple servers using MSBuild or Apache Ant command-line interface; supports cross-platform build processing; and provides traceability to help ensure build integrity*
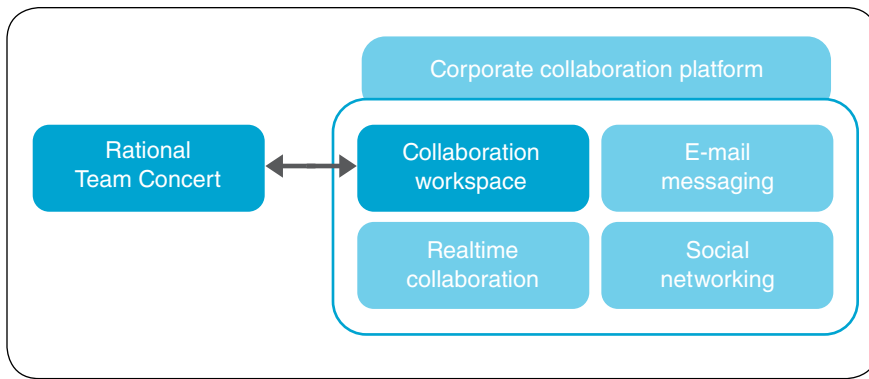
Figure 3: Rational Team Concert works with corporate collaboration platforms, including Microsoft SharePoint.

Meet less—develop more

Development managers are in a constant race to stay on top of project progress, troubleshoot problems and correct issues earlier in the project lifecycle. Fortunately, Rational Team Concert can automate data collection and reporting across Microsoft .NET, Java™, open source and legacy environments. And, via graphical dashboards, the Rational software can give users realtime insight across software projects, helping to reduce time-consuming reporting tasks and status meetings.

Implement your processes your way

No doubt, your budget is tightening. So why is Rational Team Concert still a good investment? It supports process automation, guidance and customization to help you enforce just enough process to facilitate predictable results. You can implement agile principles to create a high-performance software team—with shorter iteration cycles, frequent customer involvement, and more frequent and automated builds. Start with out-of-the-box agile process models, and then define and refine rules on the fly—or build your own. No matter what your process, Rational Team Concert is customizable to address your needs. And, because it's available in three editions, it's cost-effective for virtually any size team.

Break down barriers between developers and business stakeholders

Collaboration with business stakeholders is essential to delivering high-quality products. Traditionally, the use of disparate collaboration tools among teams has complicated communication between the IT and business components, which inevitably leads to more meetings and e-mails, increasing the potential for miscommunications that delay or jeopardize projects.

Bring development teams and business stakeholders together with the help of Mainsoft Document Collaboration for Rational Jazz™ software, which connects IBM Rational Team Concert software using the Eclipse user interface to your existing corporate collaboration workspaces, including Microsoft SharePoint. Benefits include enhanced collaboration by providing direct, per-project links to Microsoft SharePoint libraries and the ability to define, automate and streamline time-consuming document reviews.
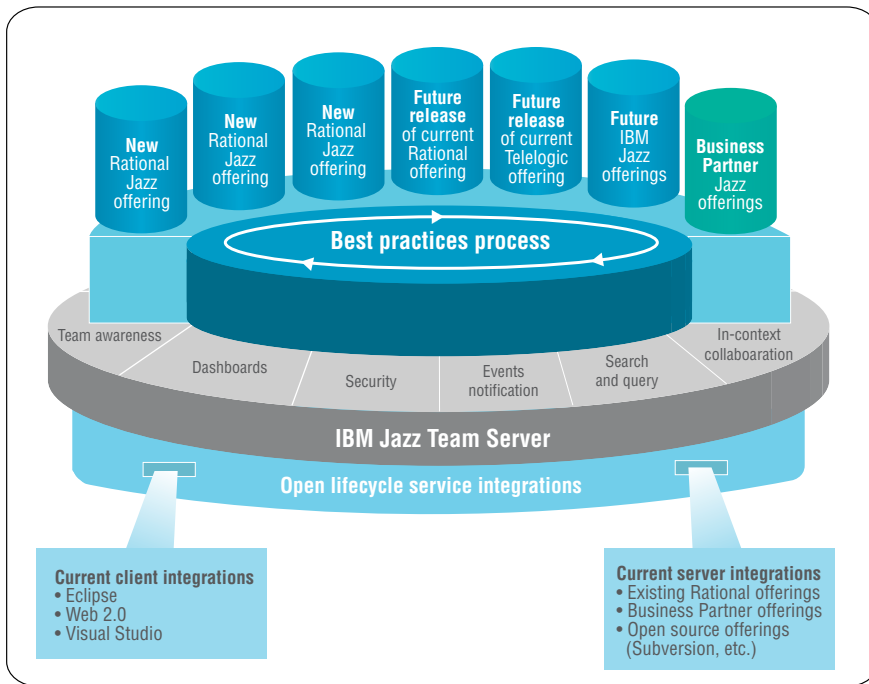
Figure 4: The Jazz platform architecture provides an extensible framework that dynamically integrates and synchronizes people, processes and assets associated with software development projects.

Open platform, database and extensibility: extending Microsoft investments

Consider your development team. Does it only develop for Microsoft Visual Studio .NET? Or does it also develop for Java Platform, Enterprise Edition (Java EE), C and C++ or legacy platforms?

Chances are your answer today won't be the same in a few years. Rational Team Concert is based on IBM Jazz technology, the next-generation, open technology platform for collaborative software delivery. Jazz technology provides a common development platform that can unify heterogeneous development teams, break down communication barriers and smoothly work across multiple

environments as your needs change. The benefits? You can leverage existing technologies to reduce costs, implement consistent project governance and share core assets across disparate development teams. Jazz also allows you to integrate with open source tools such as Subversion.

For more information

To learn more about software development solutions from IBM, contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

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