ActiveControl - Release Notes

8.2 — Last update: Jul 03, 2020

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1. Introduction

ActiveControl 8.2 was released in November 2019.

Previous releases of ActiveControl, Transport Expresso and Transport Express are detailed in separate Release Notes:

- ActiveControl 8.1 – Minor Patch Fix Release *(released August 2019)*
- ActiveControl 8.0 *(released May 2019)*
- ActiveControl 7.2 *(released June 2018)*
- ActiveControl 7.1 *(released April 2018)*
- ActiveControl 7.0 *(released August 2017)*
- Transport Expresso 6.20 *(released May 2016)*
- Transport Expresso 6.10 *(released June 2015)*
- Transport Expresso 6.00 *(released February 2015)*
- Transport Express 5.30 *(released September 2014)*
- Transport Express 5.20 *(released March 2014)*
- Transport Express 5.1n *(released 2013)*
- Transport Express 5.00 *(released 2012)*

2. SAP Certification

ActiveControl is a SAP certified solution:

- Certified for deployment on SAP NetWeaver 7.50 via the SAP integration scenario ABAP Add-On Deployment for SAP NetWeaver (SAP report 12648)
- Certified for deployment on SAP S/4HANA 1809 via the SAP integration scenario ABAP Add-On Deployment for SAP S/4HANA (SAP report 12658)
- SAP Solution Manager Ready functionality

All ActiveControl SAP components exist within Basis Technologies' own namespace /BTI/.

3. ActiveControl (8.2)

3.1. Web UI Enhancements

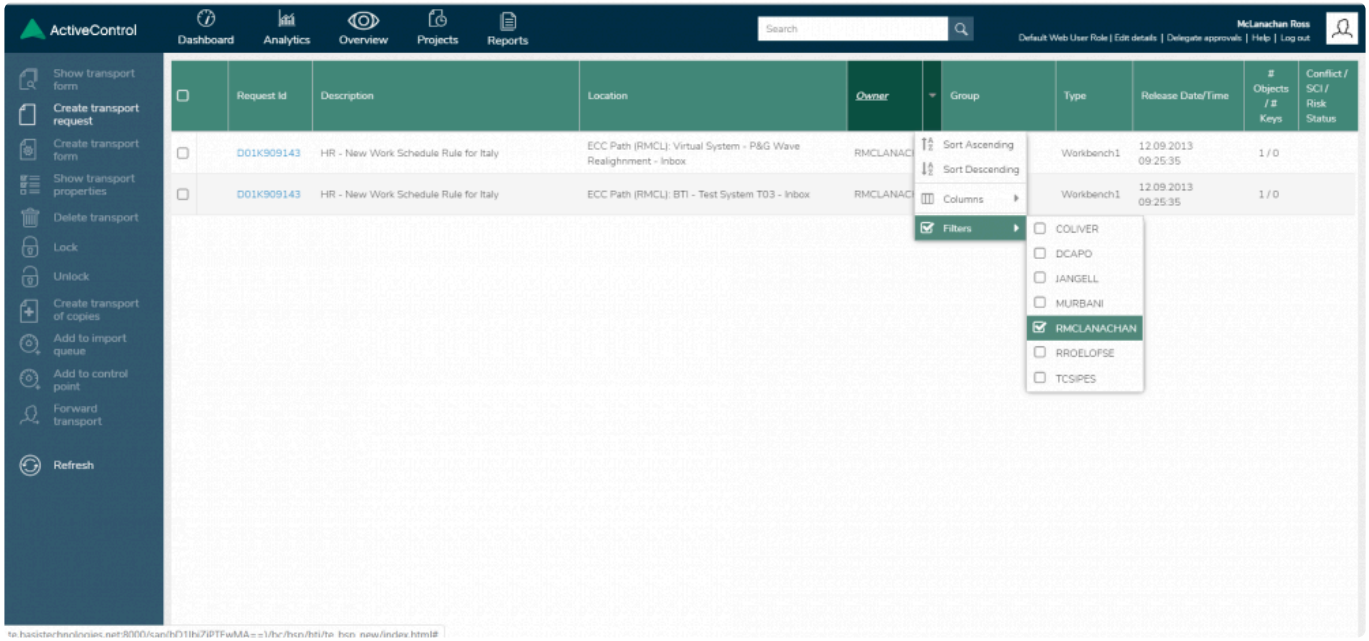
As with all recent new releases, ActiveControl 8.2 introduces more functionality to the Web UI that was previously available in the Windows GUI (or not at all)

3.1.1. Filtering within Transport Lists and Transport Selections

As more of our customers use the ActiveControl Web UI for large numbers of users, Basis Technologies have been hearing increasing feedback relating the User Experience in the Web UI.

One aspect of this was the challenge to easily view the Transports within Approval and Test Queue sign-off screens. This was particularly noticeable in Business Tasks containing 10+ Transport Forms – where some of the information required scrolling, it could become difficult to easily identify what Transports were actually to be approved.

ActiveControl 8.2 has improved this with the ability to Filter on the transport screens. The user will be able to filter by most sensible fields such as Group, Type, Location, Owner that appear on the screen, by clicking the dropdown bit in the field header. It is not possible to filter on fields such as Release Date, Release Time, #Objects at this time.



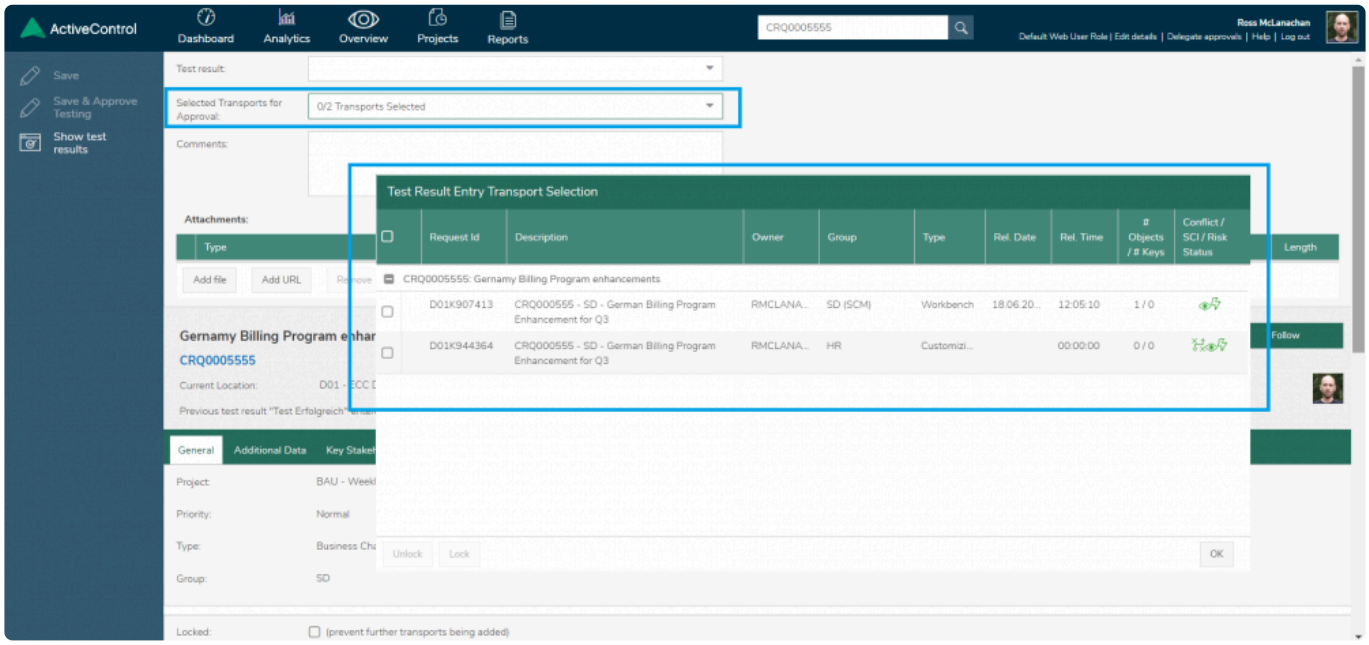
When you have filtered on a field, it will be shown in underlined italics. Any filters should clear on navigating away from the page

3.1.2. Enhanced Test Results Transport Selection

ActiveControl 8.2 provides an improved test results entry process to make the transport selection more transparent to the user.

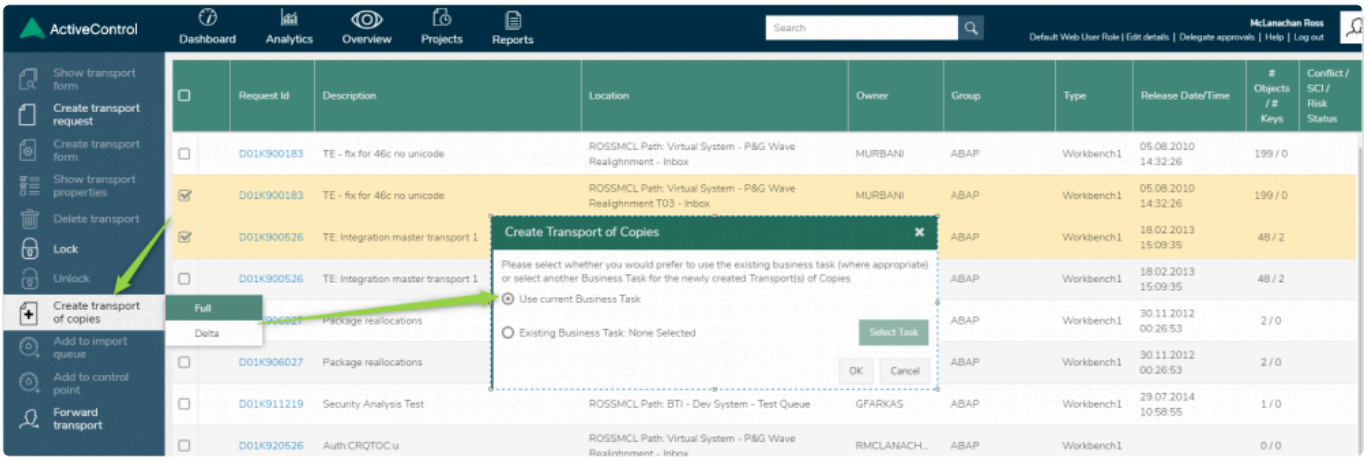
During Test Queue sign-off, *before* clicking on ‘Save and Approve Testing’ it is now possible to review and select the transports to be approved.
(via new ‘Selected Transports for Approval’ field)

- For business task based testing all transports awaiting approval in the test queue will be pre-selected for review.
- For partial testing at transport level it is now possible to review and select the required transports before test approval.



3.1.3. Transport of Copies creation

Prior to ActiveControl 8.2, it was only possible to create Transport of Copies (TOCs) within the Windows GUI, or automatically via User Exit solution. Since many ActiveControl users do not want to deploy the Windows GUI to their Development and Functional teams, ActiveControl 8.2 introduces the ability for customers to also create TOCs via the Web UI if they want to. It is possible to create a Full or Delta TOC of one or more transports sitting in the same location.



Configuration

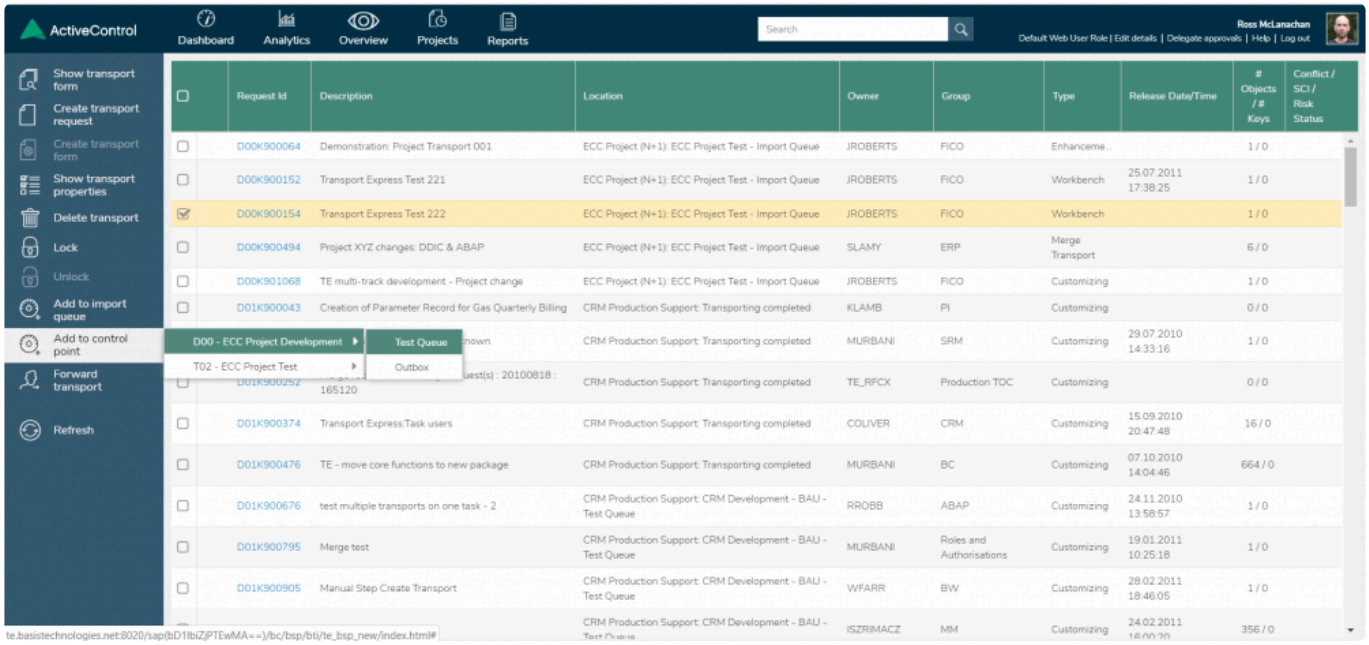
The existing configuration for Transport of Copies is detailed in this Knowledge Article. No new configuration is required to enable TOC creation in the Web UI.

3.1.4. Add to Control Point

‘Add to Control Point’ and ‘Add to Import Queue’ functionality has historically only been possible in the Windows GUI, and the responsibility of Basis teams within most customer organisations.

‘Add to Import Queue’ capability was added to the Web UI in ActiveControl 7.3 earlier in 2019, to help one of our customers decentralise the responsibility of reimporting BW transports back to their BW team.

ActiveControl 8.2 takes this further, by also adding the ability for authorised users to perform ‘Add to Control Point’ within the Web UI.



Please note that this functionality was available as part of ActiveControl 8.0. However there were some minor issues which were addressed as part of AC8.2

3.1.5. DevAnalytics (via PowerBI)

DevAnalytics was added to ActiveControl back in 2017, to provide a more graphical way of interrogating and presenting data held within ActiveControl, via a series of 30+ metric calculations covering topics such as Cycle Times, Rework and Approval Times.

In previous versions of ActiveControl, this data could either be presented in the rather aesthetically limited SAPGUI, or externally via 3rd Party analytics tools like Tableau or Qlik. ActiveControl 8.2 introduces the ability to present a Microsoft Power BI based template directly in the ActiveControl Web UI, giving a wider audience immediate access and visiblity to the DevAnalytics information.

Please note that the WebUI screen is not updated automatically; it still relies on the ActiveControl Administrator refreshing the underlying Power BI template that it is fed from.

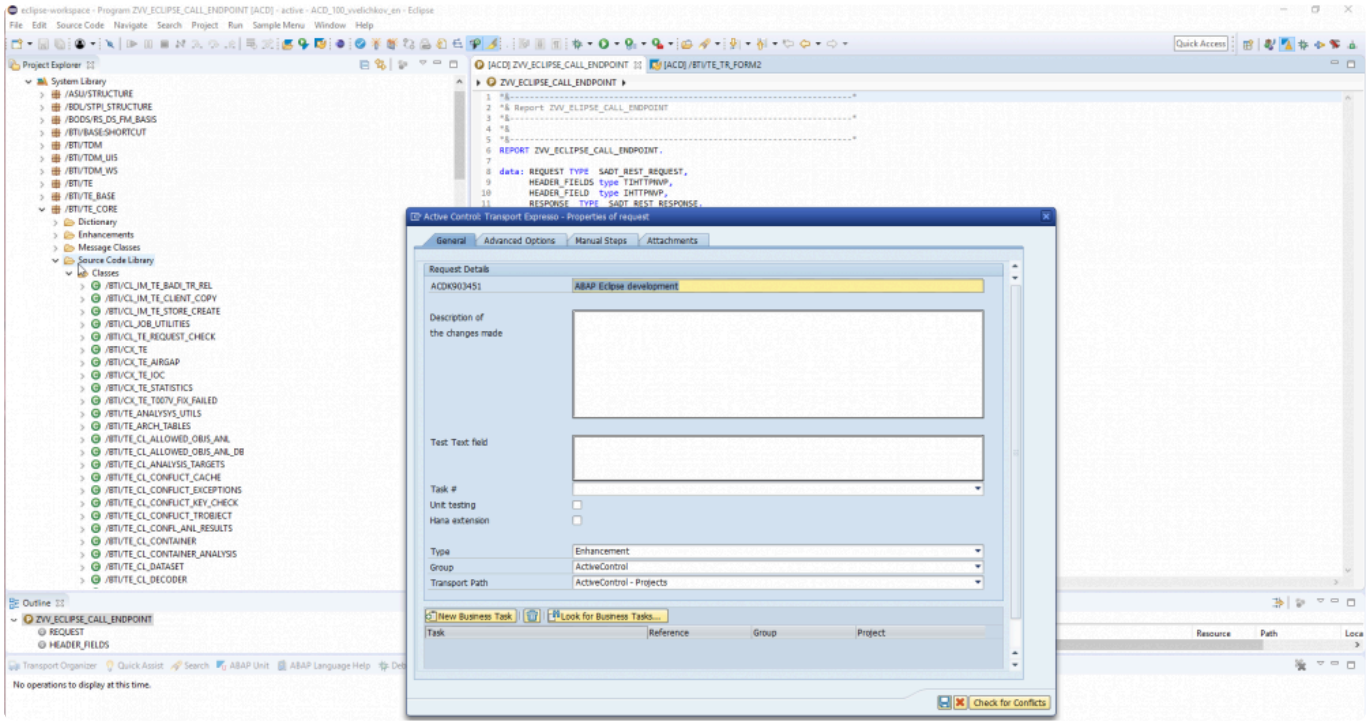
Configuration Steps

1. Setup DevAnalytics as per the existing Setup Guide.
2. Upload the resulting DevAnalyics spreadsheet to PowerBI, as described in this Knowledge Article
3. Publish the PowerBI data,as described in this Knowledge Article
4. Add the published PowerBI data to ActiveControl Web UI, as described in this Knowledge Article

3.2. Eclipse – ABAP Development Tools (ADT)

ActiveControl 8.2 introduces support for ABAP Development Tools (Eclipse), via a new plugin.

This ensures that any SAP ABAP cloud development via the Eclipse IDE is automatically integrated with ActiveControl so that transports can be successfully registered. This also provides support for the in-line conflict and risk analysis.



Configuration Steps

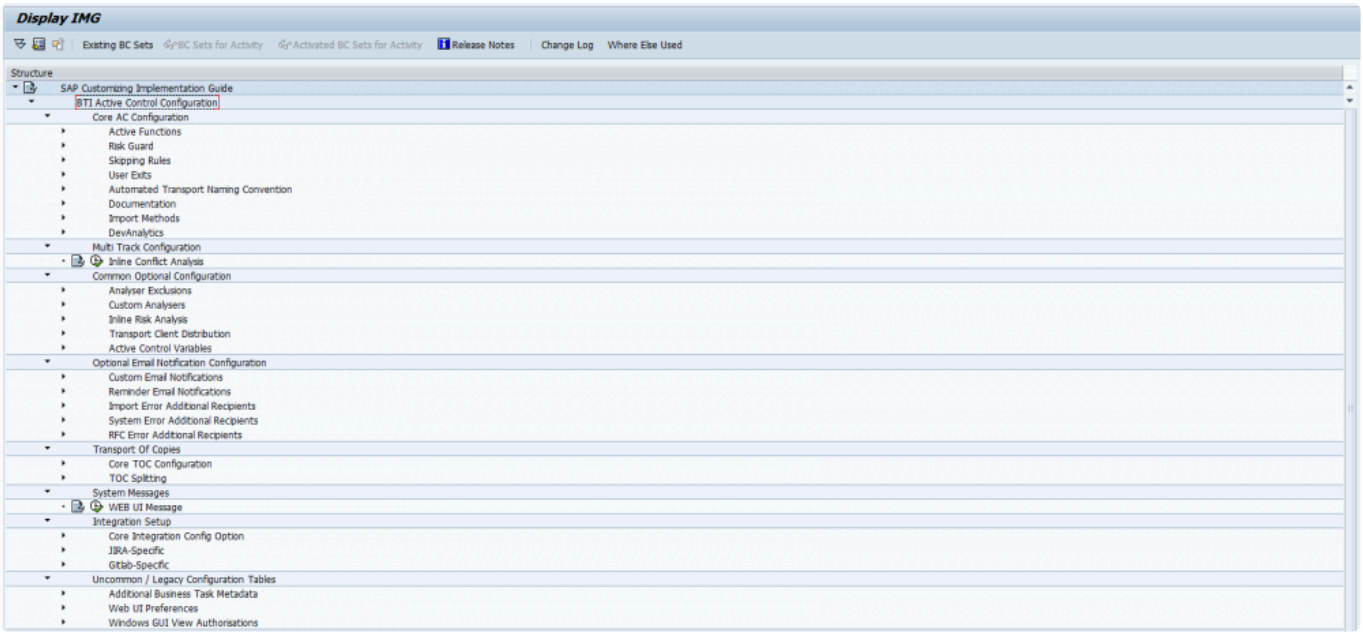
Please refer to this online Knowledge Article for additional information on how to install the ActiveControl plugin within Eclipse

3.3. SPRO configuration menu for ActiveControl

Although most core ActiveControl configuration is done within the Windows GUI, there is some SAPGUI backend table configuration required for some of the advanced / peripheral functionalities available within the product.

Following feedback from existing customers, a SPRO configuration menu has now been added as part of ActiveControl 8.2, to make it easier for ActiveControl Administrators to implement and re-access the various configuration tables themselves.

The SPRO menu is available via transaction SPRO (within SAP Reference IMG > BTI ActiveControl Configuration). Where relevant, the menu also includes documentation links back to our online Knowledge articles where relevant.



4. ShiftLeft Analysers (8.2)

4.1. Enhanced Check Custom Field Entered (0057)

Prior to ActiveControl 8.2, Check Custom Field Entered (0057) analyser only covered Text Fields.

Several customers requested that the analyser be extended to also cover additional field types, and so as of ActiveControl, the following field types are also supported:

- Dropdowns
- Checkboxes

Configuration

No additional configuration is required for the analyser to check the newly supported Field Types.

4.2. Enhanced Test Impact Radar (0043)

Test Impact Radar (0043) analyser has been enhanced in various ways as part of ActiveControl 8.2.

1. Support added for Customising entries
2. Test Script gap analysis functionality added
3. Enhanced to report against actual Production Usage Statistics

The rest of this section details each of these new functionalities.

4.2.1. Support for Customising entries

ActiveControl 8.2 introduces the ability to report on customising transports as part of ‘Top Level Object’ reporting as part of Test Impact Radar (0043), to enable a complete view of all functions impacted by a release that contains both customising and repository objects.

Example. Program 1 code refers to Table 1. If you analyse a transport containing a change to Table 1, Program 1 will now be reported by Test Impact Radar.

Note that the enhanced analyser does not analyse the contents of a customising entry change, it only indicates that a customising change has been made.

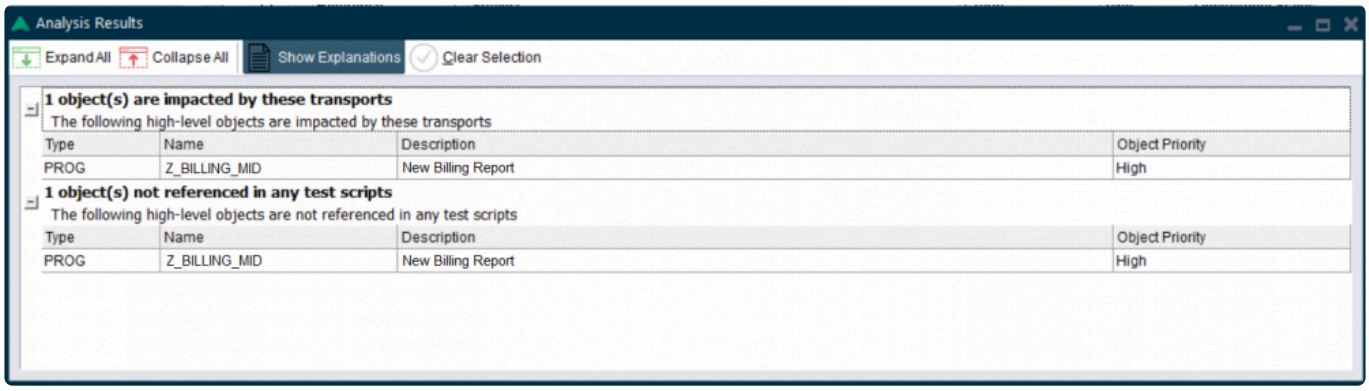
Configuration

The object types to check for must be configured in /BTI/TE_TR_TABTY.

If you leave this table entry, you will get error described in this Knowledge Article.

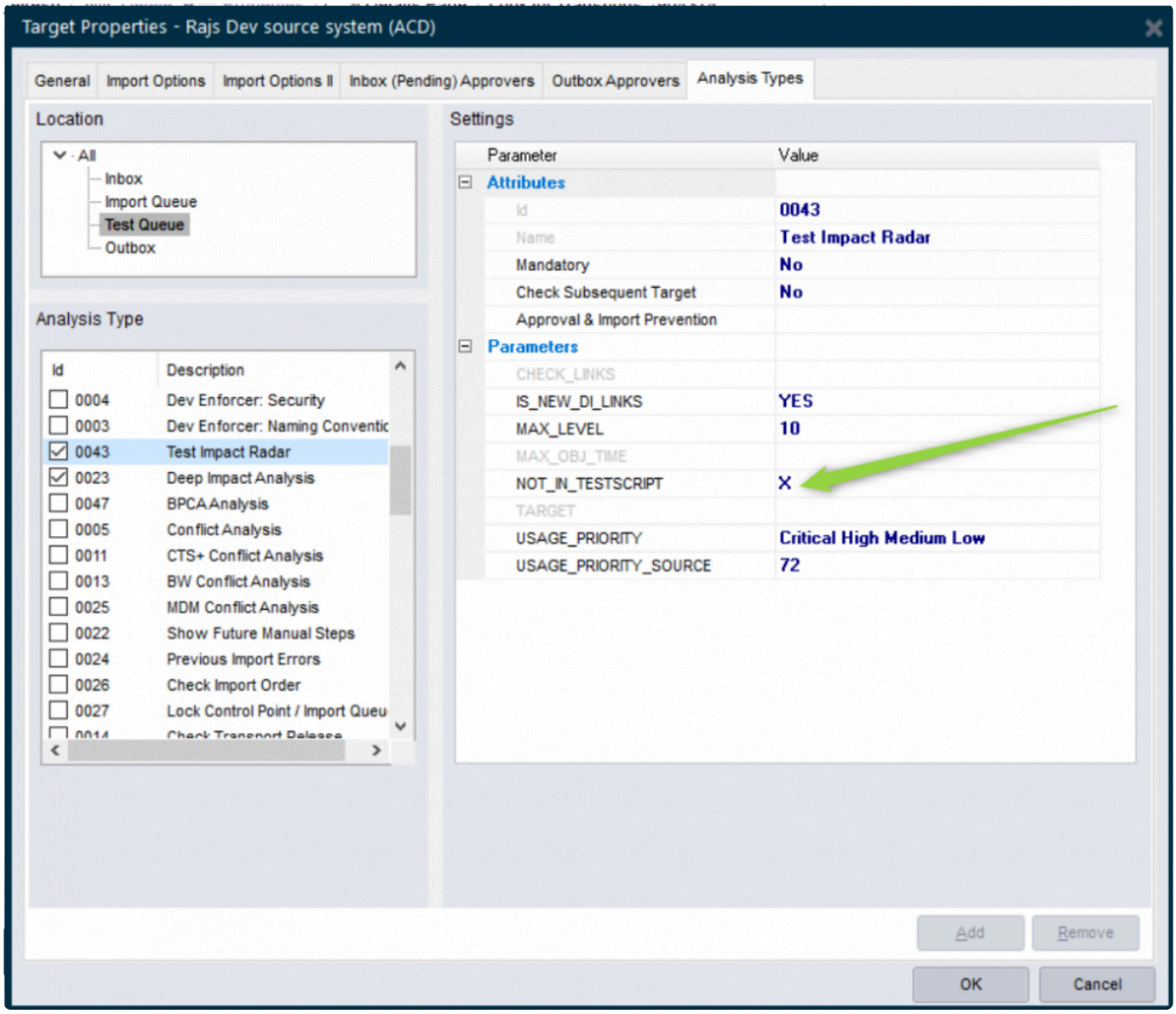
4.2.2. Test Script Gap Analysis

ActiveControl 8.2 introduces the ability for the Test Impact Radar (0043) to report on analysed objects that are not covered by existing test scripts



Configuration Steps

A new Analyser parameter NOT_IN_TESTSCRIPT has been added for customers wanting to benefit from this Test Script gap analysis.



Exclusions from the Analysis can be defined in table /BTI/TE_TIR_XCLD in the Domain Controller.

4.2.3. Report against Production Usage Statistics

Test Impact Radar (0043) has been enhanced as part of ActiveControl 8.2 to report against production usage statistics

This has been added to enable Test Impact Radar results to be cross-referenced with the Production system usage statistics, so that the Approver can better judge the actual severity of the impact. E.g. 20 transactions might be impacted by a change, however 19 of them may not be used so the severity is low.

Configuration

Please refer to this Knowledge Article for details on how to setup this new capability of the Test Impact Radar.

4.3. Enhanced Conflict Analysis (0005 & 0035)

The Conflict Analysis [(0005) and (0035)] analysers have been enhanced to allow Transport of Copies (TOCs) to be excluded from the results.

This is activated via a new optional [EXCLUDE_TOC] parameter in the analyser configuration screen.

4.4. Enhanced CTS+ Conflict Analysis (0011)

The CTS+ Conflict Analysis (0011) analyser has been enhanced as part of ActiveControl 8.2, so that Transport of Copies (TOCs) are excluded from the results.

Configuration

This is enabled via new optional parameter [EXCLUDE_TOC] in the analyser configuration screen.

5. Integration Enhancements

5.1. Auto-add Business Task to Transport Form

When Basis Technologies built the ActiveControl/JIRA integration back in 2017, a custom-enhancement was built for a customer at the time, whereby if the Developer added a Business Task [Reference] at the start of the Transport Description in the SAPGUI, when they triggered the Transport Form, the Business Task would be automatically attached to the Transport Form.

This saved time in an Integration scenario, as the Developer did not need to go and look for the Business Task already created by the Integration.

This functionality has been added to the standard product as part of ActiveControl, to benefit other customers with ActiveControl integrations, and indeed all customers whereby multiple transports might be delivered against the same Business Task.

Configuration

1. Switch on standard user exit /BTI/TE_EXIT_ADDBTTOFORM_0610 into /BTI/TE_EXITC table in the Domain Controller.

5.2. (JIRA) User mapping based on email address

As part of an ActiveControl integration, a Tester has to be assigned to the Business Task being automatically created.

ActiveControl integrations traditionally rely on the username on the ITSM system matching that of the SAP username. Based on this, a user field in the ITSM ticket is then assigned as the Default Tester on the Business Task.

Unfortunately within many organisations, the usernames do not match.

To mitigate this issue as part of our JIRA integration, a user exit solution that was built for a customer in 2017 has now been added to the standard product as of ActiveControl 8.2. These user exits attempt a user mapping based on email address stored against the user in JIRA and in SAP. If these match, then the Tester can be assigned based on the User assignment on the JIRA ticket.

Configuration

1. Add standard user exit /BTI/TE_EXIT_WSCREATESTER_0080 into /BTI/TE_EXITC table in the Domain Controller.
2. Add standard user exit /BTI/TE_EXIT_WSCHNGTESTER_0082 into /BTI/TE_EXITC table in the Domain Controller.

5.3. (JIRA) Actionable WebUI URL in JIRA custom field

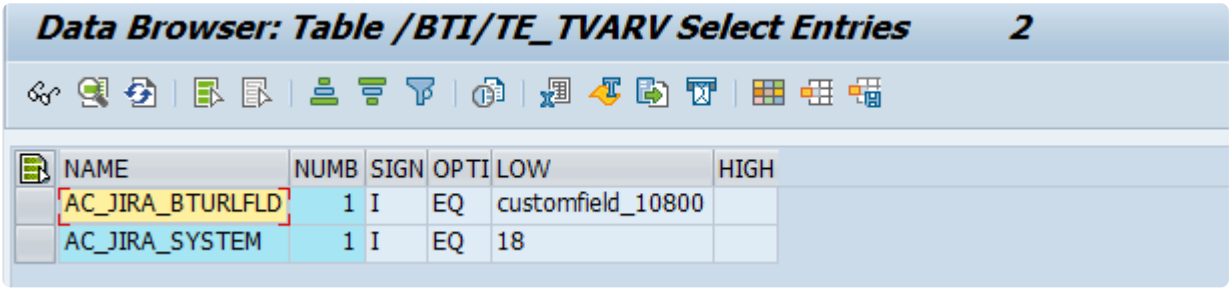
As part of the original ActiveControl / JIRA integration build back in 2017, a custom user exit solution was delivered to enable a customer to automatically populate a Web UI URL into a custom field on the JIRA ticket.

ActiveControl 8.2 adds this functionality into ths standard product via a User Exit solution. Additionally, the format of the URL has been improved to make it a more actionable URL (ie a link to the Business Task within the Web UI from which an Approval or Test signoff can be performed) than was possible back in 2017.

Configuration

1. Configure custom field in JIRA ticket screen where the ActiveControl URL has to be populated via the integration.
2. Add standard user exit /BTI/TE_EXIT_BTLINKJIRA_0040 into /BTI/TE_EXITC table in the Domain Controller.
3. Configure /BTI/TE_TVARV with the following variables:

AC_JIRA_BTURLFLD: Low value should be the JIRA custom field number in format customfield_NNNNN
AC_JIRA_SYSTEM: Low value should be the system number of the JIRA Integration (as per what is configure din /BTI/TE_INT_SYST)



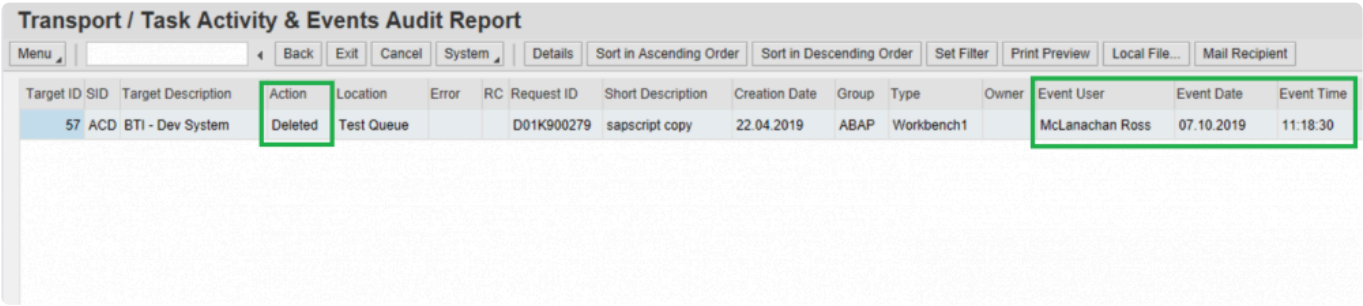
Example configuration in /BTI/TE_TVARV

6. Other Enhancements (8.2)

6.1. Enhanced ‘Transport & Task Activity / Audit’ report

The ‘Transport & Task Activity / Audit’ report has been enhanced as part of ActiveControl 8.2, to indicate any Transport Form deletions.

This was requested by a couple of customers earlier in 2019, to ensure that physical deletions are adequately visible as part of internal/external audits.



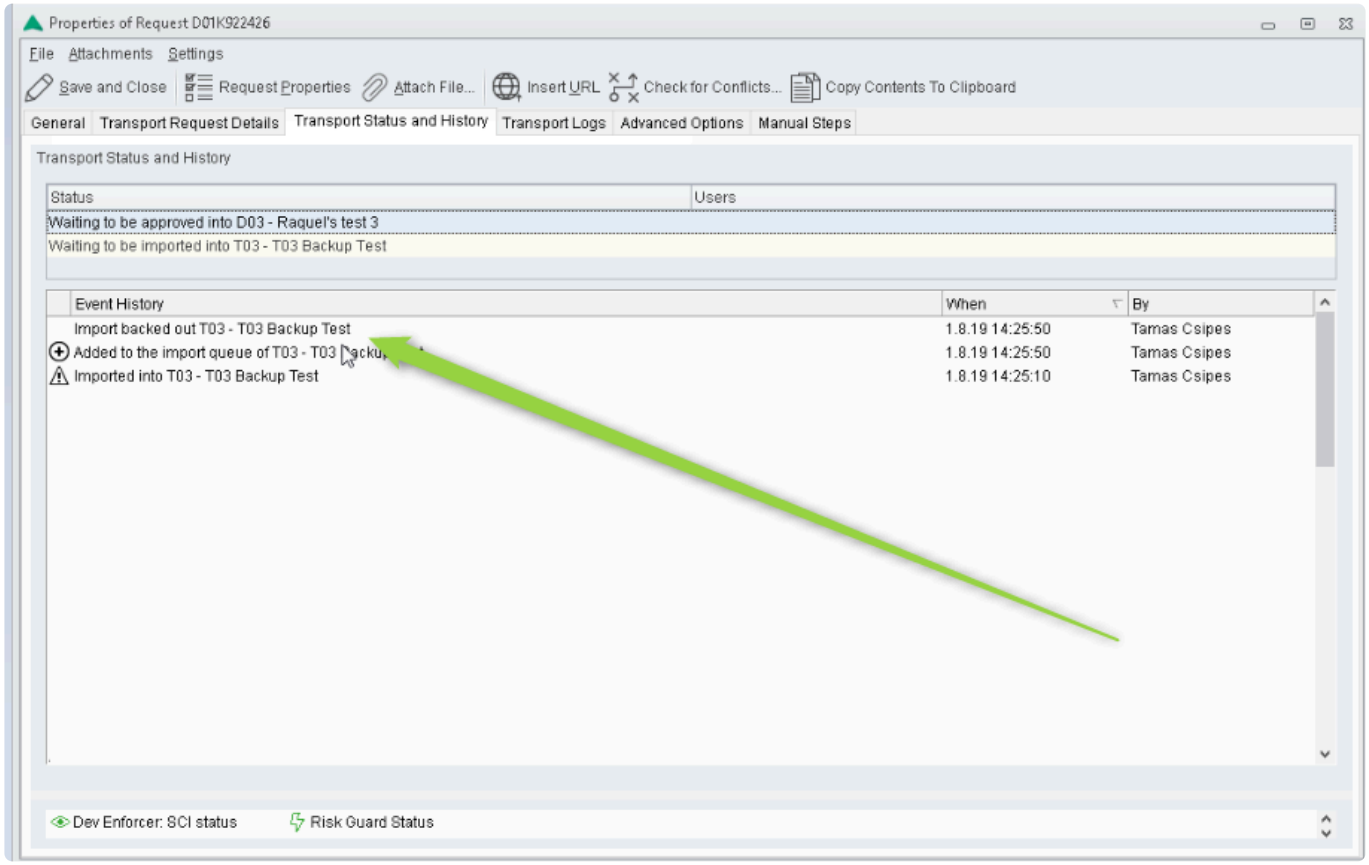
To see deletion information in the Report output, you must tick the [Other Events] checkbox on the Report selection screen. Otherwise, you will not see the Deletion event.

Only ‘Delete from Control Point’ deletions will be seen with this Report. Permanent Deletions will not be seen, as in that scenario the Transport Form is completely removed from ActiveControl.

6.2. New Backout event

Prior to ActiveControl 8.2, there was no indication of Backout being performed on the [Transport Status and History] tab on a Transport Form.

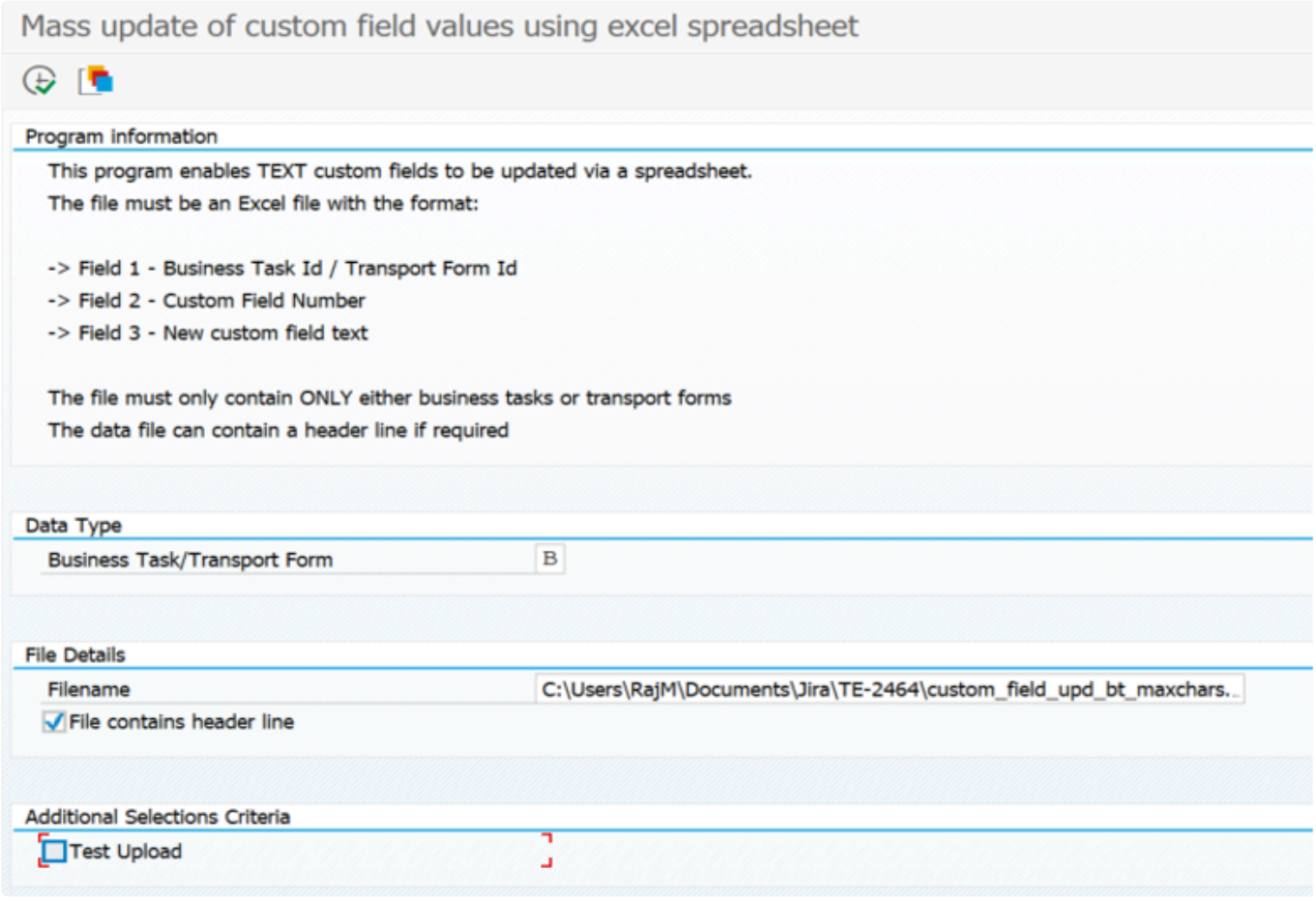
Following feedback from customers, a new event has been added to highlight when Backout has been performed.



6.3. Enmasse Custom Field updates – Utility report

Back in ActiveControl 7.0, utility program /n/BTI/TE_MASSUPD_FLDS was added to help customers to mass updates to custom fields on Business Task or Transport Forms. This program was useful when an ActiveControl user wanted to update many Business Tasks or Transport Forms to have the *same* value in a custom field, but did not help if the requirement was to update *different* values to the custom field on different Business Tasks or Transport Forms.

ActiveControl 8.2 introduces another utility program /BTI/TE_RU_EXCLUPD_CUSTOM_FLDS which can be used to upload a spreadsheet containing the desired new values of custom fields on a list of Business Task or Transport Forms.



Notes:

i) It is possible to perform a mass update on Text Fields only at this time.
ii) File can only contain Business Task *or* Transport Form fields, but not both in the same upload / spreadsheet.

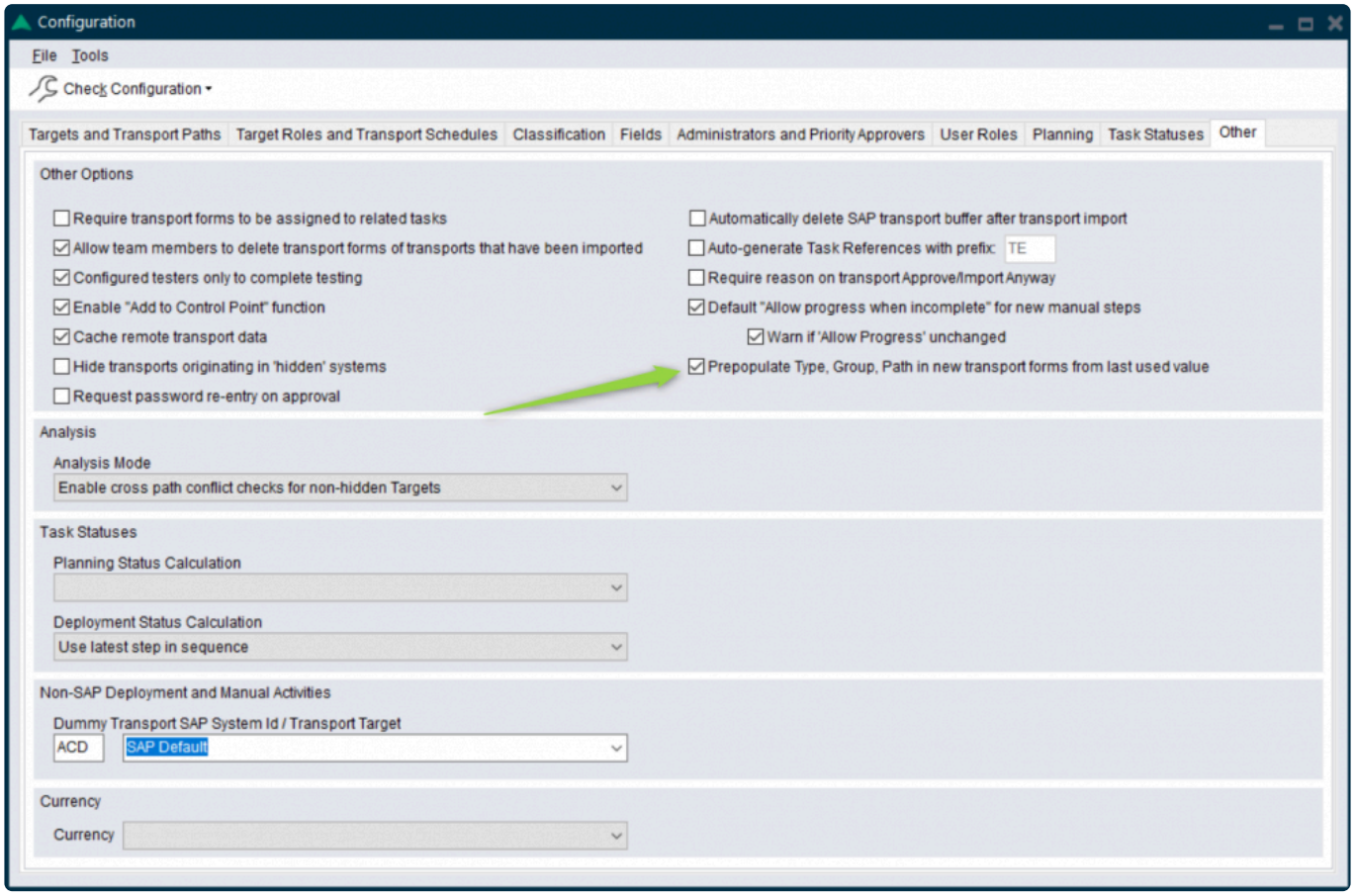
6.4. Prevent auto-population of Transport Form fields

ActiveControl has historically always pre-populated the Type and Group fields (and Path, where only one Path exists with a valid source system reflective of the Transport) on a Transport Form in the SAPGUI, based on an individual users previous field selection.

Some customers fedback that this occasionally resulted in Transport Form inadvertantly going to the wrong Approver, because Development and Functional Teams not setting the correct value on the Form. To avoid this issue, ActiveControl 8.2 introduces a global configuration option where customers can define whether they want these fields to be populated in the SAPGUI or not.

Configuration Steps

This auto-population functionality is now switched on/off via a new [Prepopulate Type, Group, Path in new transport forms from last used value] configuration option. This is a global setting that will affect all Transport Forms.



6.5. SAPGUI 7.60 Support

ActiveControl 8.2 introduces support for the latest SAPGUI 7.60

More information on the new SAPGUI can be found in SAP documentation here.

6.6. Windows GUI tabbing sequence

Prior to ActiveControl 8.2, the sequence when tabbing through fields on the Transport Form was a bit strange. It started at the fields at the top, and then went to the fields at the bottom, and then went back up the fields in the middle of the screen.

A change made in ActiveControl 8.2 means that the tab sequence is from top to bottom on the screen. This includes both standard and custom fields.

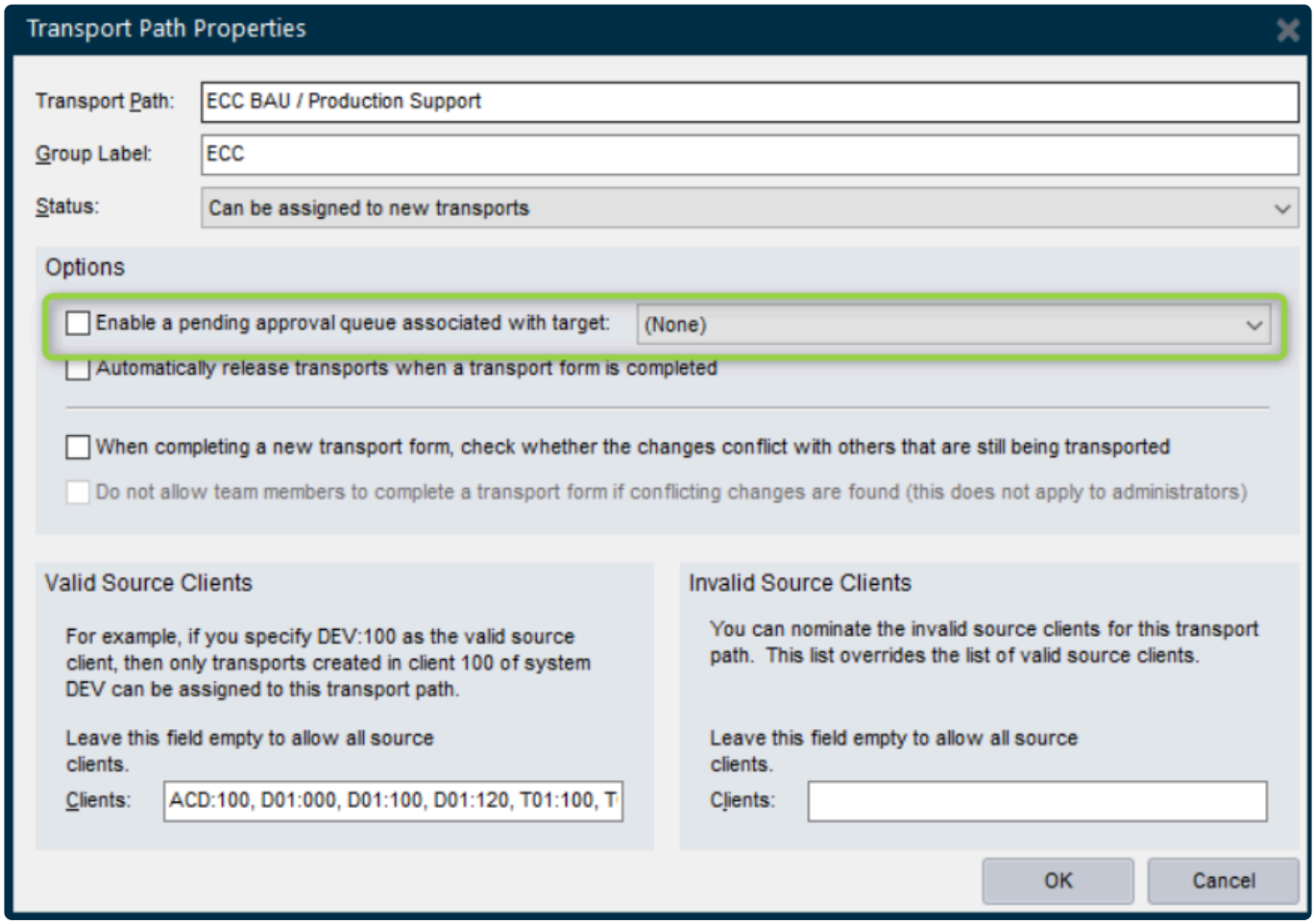
7. Other Product Changes

7.1. Removal of Pending Approval Queue

Older releases of ActiveControl included a ‘Pending Approval’ capability to enable transports to be approved before a particular target (normally Development).

This legacy functionality has not been used at new ActiveControl implementations for several years due to the introduction of Virtual targets and other newer functionality.

As such,Pending Approval capability has been retired from the product as of ActiveControl 8.2, and the associated ‘Enable a pending approval queue associated with target’ configuration option is no longer available within the Path configuration screen.



8. Bug Fixes (8.2)

Since January 2020, Basis Technologies support team have introduced a new Cumulative Patching process for delivering patch fixes to customers.

This means that since the start of 2020, when a new bug was fixed for a customer using ActiveControl 8.2 – an interim patch release (eg AC 8.2.1) was created by Basis Technologies. When a second fix was then required for a second customer, then a new interim patch release AC8.2.2 was created that includes this second fix plus also the fix for the first customer contained within AC8.2.1.

This means that going forward, a customer requiring a fix will always be given a cumulative patch fix containing all fixes delivered by Basis Technologies since the last main Release of ActiveControl.

This new Patching process has been introduced as Basis Technologies were increasingly encountering instances of different customers (both new customers plus existing customers that had upgraded to the latest Release) reporting the same bug issues. By introducing this interim Patching process, we believe it will largely avoid this inefficiency – and even more importantly, mean that Basis Technologies will in many cases already have an available fix that can be quickly provided to the Customer.

As part of this new Cumulative Patching Process, Change Notes will be created by Basis Technologies for every appropriate Change (both Enhancements and Bug Fixes) created by ActiveControl. We are hoping this will improve the visibility of changes being done to ActiveControl within our customer-base that has previously been possible within our long-standing Release Notes process.

Interim Patch Releases – and associated Changes Notes are available via our online Knowledge Base