

ASG-LIFE CYCLE MANAGER™ TOTAL SOLUTION

For Accurate Change Control in Multiple Software or Document Configurations

OVERVIEW

Companies today use a wide range of solutions to manage and control their code and their application life cycles. These solutions can be one (or more) commercial SCM products (like CA-Endevor, Serena ChangeMan, IBM SCLM or others), or they can be homegrown or manual processes. Any of these can present various challenges to the organization, including being expensive, time-consuming, or error-prone.

In addition, reporting capabilities for management or auditing may range from voluminous, with too much extraneous information, to too sparse, with little or no pertinent information. The ASG-LCM Total Solution can replace any of these other solutions and provide a solid replacement that is efficient and effective in performing the same tasks while providing benefits that are lacking in many of the other solutions.

THE ASG-LIFE CYCLE MANAGER™ TOTAL SOLUTION

The ASG-Life Cycle Manager (ASG-LCM) Total Solution provides an easy-to-use, menu-driven environment for controlling changes to multiple configurations of software or documents, and ensures only authorized changes are incorporated into sanctioned baselines, releases, or production environments. An orderly development process is assured by using ASG-LCM to control the migration of changes throughout the software lifecycle.

The ASG-LCM Total Solution Package includes the ASG-LCM Enhanced Edition. This is a pre-defined packaged solution that delivers an enhanced user interface to the ASG-LCM base product and which can be implemented quickly and simply. It introduces a role-based security model of Developer, Approver and Deployment and enforces separation of duties of these roles. It comprises all the necessary structures, configurations, and processes to manage code into Production environments complete with built in approvals, email notifications, optionally managed by RACF/ACF2/Top Secret security.

The philosophy of the ASG-LCM Enhanced Edition is that the Developer drives the development process. The Developer will export items from Production, make changes, create the package, and import the changed code. The Developer then builds (compiles the contents) the package to generate any executable code. The Developer is the controller of the package and requests the move of the package into the next stage of the life cycle at the appropriate time. After approvals and deployment, the Developer receives notifications from ASG-LCM when the package updates the next stage libraries and again when the package is updated into PROD and the Production Libraries are updated.

BENEFITS

- The ASG-LCM Total Solution is a complete packaged and pre-defined solution
- All definitions, structures and processes are already declared - simply install and go
- Installs and available for use in one day
- Secures production source and executable code – only ASG-LCM can update production libraries
- Versioning of all managed components including executables
- Packaging to manage related changes as a processing unit
- Production backout – reverts production to its previous state
- Online requests, approvals, and automatic email notifications
- Automated build (compile) process with dependency analysis
- Analysis of impact of change
- Component locking/ Concurrent and Parallel Development

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

ASG-LCM can store any machine-readable information, not just source and object code, and track all changes made to that information. It controls access to particular pieces and groups, and maintains a history of who makes changes, as well as when and why they were made. ASG-LCM tracks all changes using a base plus delta technology. Space requirements are greatly reduced because only the changes are stored for each new version.

APPLICATION MANAGEMENT

Within ASG-LCM, information is stored in a hierarchical manner. The various independent applications are stored as systems. Within each system, the z/OS library structure can be mirrored. The ASG-LCM system manager structures the database to match the logical organization of the application being controlled. By using the modules and text structures to organize information, ASG-LCM acts as a repository for applications undergoing development or maintenance. It also provides low-level change control over stored information because every member version is retained in ASG-LCM. Multiple, parallel configurations can be created. This facilitates the implementation of a software lifecycle, and provides staging areas for development and maintenance. These parallel configurations can maintain functional separation between activities such as development, testing, and production. ASG-LCM generates various reports to ensure that management is kept up-to-date, and developers have accurate information to perform their work.

PACKAGE MANAGEMENT

ASG-LCM streamlines the definition of change packages and allows the user to manipulate the package as a single unit. Change packages consist of software components that enter the production environment under the control of ASG-LCM. Using package management control ensures that:

- User-defined approval requirements for migration are enforced
- Application components are logically grouped
- Migration paths can be specified when the package is defined
- Migration tracking is automatically performed
- Change migrations can be automatically reversed

DEPENDENCY MANAGEMENT

As more tools are used in the software development process, and as the development cycle becomes more sophisticated, the number of interrelationships between application components grows exponentially. These interrelationships often define dependencies between the components or between elements of code and other items, such as design documents, program specifications, and database table formats.

ASG-LCM includes Dependency and Build facilities. The Dependency facility automatically detects, tracks, and reports dependencies between components, while the Build facility ensures applications are assembled correctly, and that important components are not inadvertently omitted.

BENEFITS

- Multi-LPAR support
- Automation for DB2 Binds, CICS Newcopy, IMS ACBGEN, etc.
- Access to all facilities managed by external security (RACF/ACF2/Top Secret)
- Allows independent applications to be stored as systems, hierarchically
- Stores any machine-readable information and tracks all changes made to that information
- Maintains an external log of critical database activities
- Allows access through TSO/ISPF panels

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