WebCenter 21.11 Release Notes

1. Introduction

This document gives an overview of the new features and changes in WebCenter 21.11. It only covers the changes since WebCenter 21.07.

Note: WebCenter 21.11 is an "Agile Release" and might not fit in the update strategy of all customers. See WebCenter Release Scheme for details before planning an update to WebCenter 21.11.

If you are updating from a version before WebCenter 21.07, we advise that you read the release notes of all versions between your current version and WebCenter 21.11. You can find these on the product DVD and the documentation page of WebCenter:
https://www.esko.com/en/Support/Product?id=WebCenter&ver=21.07

For System Requirements, see: WebCenter system requirements - Product overview page.

1.1. Highlights of the 21.11 Release

With the 21.11 release, the addition of features to the WebCenter Dashboard framework continues with the addition of Visibility rules and important extensions to the Scripting API.

The Packaging Content Management (PCM) module of WebCenter is further improved with more options in workflows and new configuration settings in the Text Content UI. A new default font was introduced for better universal language support.

The Structured Content module introduced in WebCenter 21.07 is extended with text search and improvements to the integration with image and PCM text content. Additional features were added for output to both Microsoft Word (QRD template) and Adobe InDesign (the latter function is requiring the Adobe InDesign Server option together with Structured Content).

A new Configuration Comparison tool has been added to WebCenter to ease the process of moving configurations through a staged setup (e.g. Development, Pre-production, Production). Also supporting easier configuration deployment/update are various improvements to the WebCenter Export/Import tools.

Performance and scalability have been improved with among other things: higher concurrency in workflow engine and significant optimizations of search, dashboard and form rendering.

2. Contents

3. Release Content

The release media of WebCenter 21.11 contains:
- The WebCenter 21.11 DVD (November 2021) that includes WebCenter 21.11 and ArtiosCAD 21.07 Enterprise installers [1)2)3)]
- Esko Software 21.11 (November 2021) Engines Software Installation DVD with Automation Engine 21.11 or later.
- WebCenter Release Notes (this document; also present on the installation DVD)
- ArtiosCAD Enterprise and WebCenter Documentation (PDF format)

1) *An update to ArtiosCAD 21.07 Enterprise build 1872 or later is mandatory for WebCenter 21.11 (on the application server only).*
2) *An update of the License Manager (installed from the ArtiosCAD installer) is mandatory when updating from WebCenter 21.07 or older.*
3) *Installation of boards and ArtiosCAD defaults is mandatory to work correctly with CAD documents in WebCenter.*

4. Licensing and IT Requirements

4.1. Licensing

WebCenter 21.11 requires the WebCenter 21 licenses. You need to install the new ArtiosCAD 21.07 and the new License servers, local License Manager and Network License Manager.

4.2. IT Requirements

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 is no longer supported as of WebCenter 20.0. Microsoft dropped support for this version in 2019:
https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/support/sql/end-support-sql-server-2008

WebCenter 20.0 and later also do not support for Microsoft Windows Server 2008 r2. Microsoft ended support for this version in January 2020: https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4456235/end-of-support-for-windows-server-2008-and-windows-server-2008-r2

For the Oracle database, Oracle 11g (11.2) and 12.c are supported. Older versions are no longer supported by WebCenter or Oracle.

The responsive WebCenter User Interface (UI) is optimized to work on the latest generation of all major browsers (mobile and desktop): Edge, Chrome, Firefox, and Safari.

Internet Explorer is no longer supported as of WebCenter 21.07. The Java viewer is removed as Internet Explorer (IE) and now outdated IE compatible versions of Edge were the last browsers supporting the Java browser plugin.

Also read the Installation Guide and System Requirements. See https://www.esko.com/en/support/product?id=WebCenter.

5. Knowledge Base

You can use the Esko Knowledge Base to find articles containing tips & tricks   to Esko related products.

Esko Knowledge Base (all products):
https://www.esko.com/en/Support/Documentation/

All articles related to WebCenter:
https://www.esko.com/en/Support/SearchResult?product=WebCenter&Keyword=WebCenter
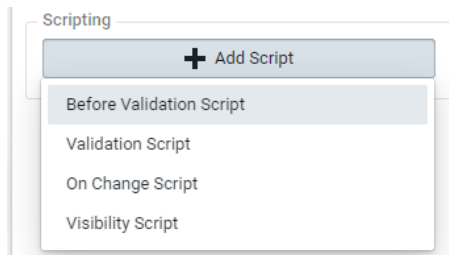
To limit your search, edit the Knowledge Base Search field to contain both WebCenter and your own criteria. The special keywords AND and OR can be used with brackets and wildcard characters (? and *) to refine the search.

6. New and changed features in WebCenter 21.11

6.1. Dashboard Improvements

6.1.1. Scripting API in Dashboards and Search

On Change Scripts

It is now possible to add an On Change script on a dashboard block. The script will be executed when the user modifies the field to which the script is linked. The field should be editable and in Edit or Creation Form, the script will not be executed when doing inline editing.

API changes

The following methods are added to the script API:
- All standard JavaScript functions that take a callback function as parameter (e.g Array.prototype.filter(), Array.prototype.sort(), Array.string.replace()…) are now supported.
- It is now possible to get the referencing item (project, document or task) for a document in a document reference, and other added methods to get more context about the object you are working on. E.g. document.getProjects() to get all the projects that reference your document.

The full documentation of the API is available in the validation package of WebCenter.

6.1.2. Visibility rules

It is now possible to add visibility scripts on a dashboard block. Visibility scripts have access to the scripting API. The return value of a visibility script can determine whether your block is visible (read-only), hidden, editable, or required. Validation scripts that are defined on blocks that are not visible will not be executed.

6.2. Packaging Content Management Improvements

6.2.1. Update Table Document Workflow

Bulk addition of all the missing Table elements into a translation language can be configured in a single row by using a special option "[All Table Elements]" while adding table elements.
Now the workflow is also extended to support the setting for "Inherit Only Smart Text".

6.2.2. Update Text Document Workflow

The Workflow is extended to support settings for text content properties "Allow Single Smart Text" and "Inherit Only Smart Text".

6.2.3. Merge Text Content Workflow

Now it is possible to update the existing translations in the library project. A new checkbox "Ignore Translation Languages" is added in the Merge Text Content node, when it is checked the match will be performed on only the master text and the translation texts will be updated in the library project. Also, the duplicate text content document(s) in source and target projects are sent to dedicated output pins.

6.2.4. Reuse Text Content Node Workflow

Duplicate text content document is now sent to a dedicated output pin. If duplicate Master texts are found in the library project, the input text content document will be sent to "Duplicate files" pin and the library documents will be sent to "Target duplicate files" pin which will help us to identify the duplicate documents in the library project.

6.2.5. PCM Deployment and Configuration Changes

A new option "Auto Addition of languages" is added in the PCM deployment and configuration page, it is used to choose whether automatically add the missing languages in the context to the referenced text content documents in the Documents table.

6.2.6. Content Sheet Block Configuration

Content sheet block is provided with a new configuration to allow user to define saved search for documents selection while using compare feature on content sheet. Default behavior is applied if no saved search is selected i.e all the documents available in the system will be visible.

6.2.7. Text Content Block Configuration

Text Content dashboard block has new display options in the configuration. It is possible to show/hide the text content options Status, Inheritance, Comments and Approval Info. There is also a new option to show only the table content preview in the block.

6.2.8. New Parameters in Create Text Content Documents SDK

New parameters "Inherit Only Smart Text" and "Allow Only Single Smart text" are introduced in create text content documents SDK to set "inherit only smart text" and "allow only single smart text" property of the text content document respectively.

6.2.9. New Parameters in Create Table Content Documents SDK

New parameter "Inherit Only Smart Text" is introduced in create table content documents SDK to set inherit only smart text property of the table content document.

6.2.10. Noto Sans font support for Table Content Preview and Jasper PDF reports

Noto Sans font is now provided as the default font for Table Content Preview and Jasper PDF reports.

6.2.11. Rich text support in CHILI preview

In CHILI side-by-side view, the Rich text styling in Text Content will be applied to the CHILI variable if the variable type is Structured Text

6.3. Structured Content Management Improvements

6.3.1. Searching on Text in Structured Content Documents

Document Search has been extended to allow for searching on text in Structured Content Documents. The "Live Text in Document" search field on the document search setup page previously only searched for live text in PDF and AI files (if enabled). This field is will now also search for Structured Content documents and is renamed to "Text in Document".

6.3.2. Downloading a Structured Content Document

Downloading a structured content document now downloads the document, along with its referenced topics and images in a zip file. To download only the structured content document alone, SDK call must be made use of by passing the "directdownload" parameter as '1'. If the "directdownload" parameter value is '0' or not at all provided, the structured content document will be downloaded in a zip as described above.

6.3.3. Cleaner Structured Content Document History

The information shown in the document history view of the structured content editor is a lot cleaner now. The changes that are shown in the document history now reflect the changes users did to the documents, and no longer technical changes to the document where users had no impact. For example: changes to internal id's in the XML that get added automatically are no longer shown in the document history.

6.3.4. Structured Content Document Word output

Now it is possible to generate Microsoft Word output for structured content document according to EMA QRD specifications.

6.3.5. Improved integration of PCM Statements and Images

Including PCM statements and images in topics is more streamlined now. The reference to an image or PCM statement is now mapped to a dedicated document reference attribute (SC_REFERENCE_IMAGE and SC_REFERENCE_STATEMENT). This allows to create specific UI for each type when showing what content is used in a Topic. It's now also possible to search for in which topics a PCM statement is used, system wide.

When loading the Structured Content Editor there is now also an indication when there is a newer version of a PCM statement available. The author can view the content of this newer version before making the decision to use the newer version.

6.4. InDesign Workflow Support Improvements

6.4.1. Resizing Tables and Images

Now tables and images will be re-sized automatically to fit in the frame while applying contents into InDesign Template while retaining their aspect ratio.

6.5. Performance

6.5.1. Dashboards and Search

The general performance of dashboards and search is improved. Complex dashboards and large search result pages will load and interact faster.

6.5.2. Workflow Engine

Multiple types of workflow nodes like Execute JavaScript, Send Notification and PCM related workflow nodes are made asynchronous to allow more parallel execution and thus allowing higher throughput.

On the Workflow Engine admin page, you can now see:
- Total items in Workflow Step Processing Queue
- Low Priority Items in Workflow Step Processing Queue
- Normal Priority Items in Workflow Step Processing Queue
- High Priority Items in Workflow Step Processing Queue

Note the priority-based counts are only shown when steps with such a priority are executed since the start of the Workflow Engine.

6.6. Deployment

6.6.1. Configuration Comparison

The Configuration Comparison feature is introduced in WebCenter 21.11.

One of the major challenges of using WebCenter in the real world is making sure all your environments (Dev, QA, Production, …) are in sync with each other.

Before WebCenter 21.11 this required a large, manual effort to compare configurations and ensure everything was configured correctly.

That is why we introduce the WebCenter Configuration Comparison Tool, allowing you to automatically compare WebCenter systems with each other. It will look for differences between two systems of the same version and report on these.

The tool can be found in the admin section of WebCenter. A user can connect to another WebCenter by entering the URL and administrator credentials of the remote WebCenter.

Once connected, the tool will start comparing the configuration of both systems.

Two types of comparisons exist:

- Settings or global configuration comparisons (General Preferences, Password settings, email configuration, …): For this type of configuration the tool will simply show all the fields of the configuration that are different.
- Named Configurations (Attributes, Task Types, Restricted Sets, …): For this type of configuration, the following situations can occur and are reported:
    - The Configuration item with a given name cannot be found on the remote system.
    - The Configuration item with a given name cannot be found on the local system.
    - The Configuration item with a given name is found on both systems. The tool will then compare all fields of the given configuration item. Any differences found are reported.

In addition to being able to generate a list of differences between the two systems, a comprehensive printable (timestamped) report can be generated from these results.

Finally, configuration items which are equal on both systems can also be displayed by applying the 'equal' filter setting.

6.6.2. Import/Export

Support for Exporting and Importing Document Characteristics

As of WebCenter 21.11, Document Characteristics will be migrated along when import/exporting documents.

Saved Search migration retains Characteristics criteria

As of WebCenter 21.11, exporting a Project/Document Search that contains Characteristic criteria also exports the referred Characteristics – during an import on another system those Characteristics are available for getting imported and the actual Saved Search retains the criteria (unlike before when Characteristic criteria were removed from the Saved Search upon import).

Import feedback changes

Generic warning messages that were repeated per imported object are now shown in the general feedback area on the top of the page – thus saving space and improving legibility of the import results in general.

6.7. General Improvements

6.7.1. Support for custom onboarding tools

It is possible to add custom onboarding flows using third party user guidance tools. WebCenter provides a hook (through customization folder) to include a snippet to launch the onboarding flows on every page (including the viewer).

6.7.2. Saved Search Audit trail

In WebCenter 21.11 the Global Saved Search events are split from the Personal Saved Search events in the audit trail. This allows administrator to have a more fine-grained control over which kind of events they see when looking up the history of Saved Searches.

6.7.3. Site Service Page

The files with information about the hotfixes on the site service page are now shown in a separate column with a clear division between front- and backend hotfixes

6.7.4. SSO Certificate Expiration warning

The Troubleshooting tool (used by system Administrators to provide feedback on the current state of the WebCenter server and all its setup, resources, and services available) inspects all the SSO implementations deployed and gives feedback about their certificates' expiry date.

7. Known issues and limitations

7.1. Custom reports: Displaying Project or Document thumbnails

For custom Jasper reports using JDBC data source, the project/document thumbnails will be displayed properly in the report only if they are located on the active project/document thumbnail storage location.

7.2. Packaging Content Management: Language list backward compatibility

A PCM language list created before WebCenter 18.0.1 will not contain the optional "FONT_FAMILY" COLUMN. This will result in content loading failure due to missing backward-compatibility support for the language list. As a solution the list has to be updated with all the optional columns as well.

8. Installation and deployment changes

8.1. Improved Microsoft Office Viewing Support

A new module was integrated for viewing Microsoft Office files in WebCenter (option). This module will provide better results, especially on complex files. This new module can also be used on older versions of WebCenter.

9. Additional Upgrade notes

9.1. Cleaning up files managed by FileStore

Before upgrading from WebCenter 21.03 or older, it is highly recommended to run the cleanup tool to remove all unused/release file assets from the FileStore.

If any such asset files are left behind, then after the upgrade they will no longer be picked up by the cleanup tool and WebCenter will no longer be able to remove them by running the cleanup tool.

10. Solved customer issues

10.1. List of resolved Customer issues in WebCenter 21.11

JIRA Number	CS Number	Comment
WCR-46851		Fixed issue when uploading an invalid file (binary instead of xml) on the SAML plugin configuration page could break the configuration page.
WCR-51030	CS01397894	Differences between "Get Projects" and "Get Projects by Name" actions in AE Integrate with WebCenter ticket description improved.
WCR-49967	CS01402280	Some PDF files with special characters caused text extraction to fail and leave processes hanging/blocking on the server.
WCR-46770	CS01412317	Problem with "false positive" barcodes on a modified/invalid code. Global Vision BrailleProof DLL was updated to 3.4.1.7
WCR-46974	CS01419943	The Prepare for WebCenter Viewer task now generates an error when there are fonts missing in the document
WCR-47079	CS01421877	Changes done by user on Task Execution and/or Task Details -> General Info pages are retained when the task completion is protected by password and user enters a wrong username/password.
WCR-47305	CS01422765	Added extra support for editing multiple Attribute Categories in different tabs
WCR-47810	CS01430558	Fixed UI issue with sort dropdown in a search being shown below a table header of another search or document table.
WCR-49791	CS01454784	When a document is referenced/copied to a documents table, Master and translation languages present on documents table are added directly to the document, to avoid this a new profile default value is introduced under "WC_PCM_AUTO_ADD_LANG", if this profile defaults value is '0' then languages will not be auto added to the referenced/copied documents otherwise if its set to 1 or when this profile default is not present in the User's system, languages will be added automatically to the referenced/copied documents.
WCR-50178	CS01462419	ArtiosCAD files were not properly saved, and CAD-X crashed.
WCR-50286	CS01463108	There was a bug in the code which is responsible to log the NextVersionApprovalSetupClearedEvent in the history, which is causing the "Start Approval Cycle" workflow node to fail.
WCR-50204	CS01464708	"Create Project" button is now shown on the various Projects list pages also for a Project Creator
WCR-50417	CS01466079	In CHILI side-by-side preview, the new version of asset will be updated though it has same original disk file name as the previous versions
WCR-50380	CS01466104	Annotation report page has been redesigned to give more space to the annotation comment.
WCR-50556 WCR-50557	CS01466112 CS01467817	Recent implementations of Chrome/Edge updated handling of certain operations, making loading documents in the viewer slow. This fix solves slow loading of document in the viewer in Chrome/Edge
WCR-50345	CS01467552	Text section in the viewer was not translated for several languages.
WCR-50366	CS01467843	Now even special characters like "micro"/"mi:" are correctly handled in Lists and drop-down selectors.
WCR-50394	CS01468211	Fixed the issue that opening an assembly component in the viewer was creating an infinite loop where the 3D rendering were loading again and again.

WCR-51215	CS01469897	Approval action on smartname enabled text content was throwing error related to resolve action even though the save is completed. The issue has already been fixed WCR21.03
WCR-50665	CS01470270	Performance improvement for signed workflow license check
WCR-51053	CS01476350	Fixed bug where random approval tasks go missing in Search Results in WebCenter 21.07.
WCR-51115 WCR-51214 WCR-51210	CS01477776 CS01481158 CS01481938	ArtiosCAD files uploaded from ArtiosCAD are not viewable in WebCenter.
WCR-51007	CS01478042	Changed the loading of users to use batch loading, meaning less data is loaded at once
WCR-51311	CS01482219	Improved handling of errors in nested JavaScript rules of attribute categories and task types.
WCR-51406	CS01486036	When uploading a new version of a document in a task dashboard and saving or completing the task before the document was fully loaded, the document version was ignored.
WCR-51607	CS01488915	No Admin, nor the PM of the project were able to perform operations on projects in the built-in COMPLETED or CANCELED status.
WCR-51817	CS01492619	System goes down when opening a very large Illustrator file in the viewer
WCR-50234	CS01465298	Save button was not available in the CHILI editor.
WCR-49764	CS01459267	When editing an ongoing approval cycle, the email notifications for group/role approvers might not be correct.