

Intelligent Configuration Manager for SAP® Ariba® Solutions

The intelligent configuration manager tool for SAP® Ariba® solutions puts the power to control application parameters right where it should be: in your hands. This self-service, persona-based user interface **makes it easy to configure features, analyze and audit changes, and migrate them across environments** without external support, resulting in faster deployments, greater visibility, and lower costs.

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OVERVIEW

What is the intelligent configuration manager tool?

The intelligent configuration manager tool is a self-service, persona-based user interface that lets you easily manage, audit, deploy, and migrate configurations across the entire landscape of SAP® Ariba® solutions. End-to-end visibility and control enable you to configure application parameters and manage operations on your own, without having to rely on external support.

What key benefits does the intelligent configuration manager provide?

The tool provides powerful resources and intelligence that simplify the deployment process, greatly reduce the time and cost required, and eliminate the need to file constant support requests and coordinate changes with SAP Ariba support. Increased visibility, ownership, and control over your solution environments – along with the ability to test and perfect configurations before deployment – allow you to quickly and efficiently optimize their quality and stability.

Which SAP Ariba solutions does the intelligent configuration manager support?

The first release of the intelligent configuration manager supports the SAP Ariba Buying and Invoicing, SAP Ariba Contracts, and SAP Ariba Sourcing solutions.

Do we need to activate the intelligent configuration manager to begin using it?

No, the tool is automatically turned on within the applicable solutions and ready for immediate use.

PERMISSIONS AND CONTROLS

What permissions are required to use the tool and deploy packages to production?

The initial release allows anyone in your organization who belongs to the customer administrator role to use the intelligent configuration manager and deploy packages to production.

Is it possible to restrict access to the intelligent configuration manager?

While the initial release restricts access to those in the customer administrator role, additional access restriction settings within that role are not currently available.

What permissions do users need to work in the test and production sites for the tool?

Users must be assigned to the customer administrator role in your test environment to access the intelligent configuration manager, make changes in your test site, and promote them to production. Since configuration changes cannot be made directly in your production site, the tool is read-only in production, and users must be assigned to the customer administrator role to access this read-only production version.

Does the intelligent configuration manager allow us to change parameters that we can update through the customization manager from administration?

Yes, the tool includes the parameters you can access today through the customization manager from administration. However, this release of the intelligent configuration manager increases the number of parameters you can control by approximately 150%. You can also access all the parameters from the intelligent configuration manager link from administration instead of using the customization manager.

Does the intelligent configuration manager support only out-of-the-box parameters, or custom ones as well?

The intelligent configuration manager currently supports only out-of-the-box parameters.

For which SAP Ariba solutions do these parameters apply?

The available parameters are for the SAP Ariba Buying and Invoicing, SAP Ariba Contracts, and SAP Ariba Sourcing solutions, including some parameters specific to SAP Fieldglass integration. Ariba Network parameters are not supported.

Once I click deploy, how long does it take for my changes to take effect?

Any changes you deploy will take effect immediately.

If a requested change fails the test, can I use the same workflow/request to redo the change, or do I need to create a new request?

You can use the same request. A failed test will go back to whoever created the package. If you created it, you can either discard the package and create a new one, or apply changes to the existing package and send it back for retesting.

CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND FUTURE ROAD MAP

Is there any plan to incorporate the intelligent configuration manager in a development environment?

The first release supports only the test to production flow for a test site that has an associated production site. Our road map for future releases includes support for other site setups that will incorporate the use of development sites.

Is it possible to assign a specific tester to a deployment package?

No, this release does not support the ability to assign a specific tester to a deployment package. In the future we plan to add support for role management, so each of the steps in the workflow – request, test, approve, and deploy – will include an associated entitlement assigned to the task.

Who approves deployment packages? Is it possible to specify a particular approver?

For this first release, anyone assigned to the customer administrator role can approve a deployment package. Since we do not yet support role management, you will need to manage the roles and responsibilities between those in your organization who have the customer administrator role. We plan to add role management capabilities in future releases.

Does the tool support any versioning capabilities related to the package/deployment number?

Versioning is a road map item for the intelligent configuration manager. In this release, you will see the deployment details once you deploy, but if you want to roll back, you will need to take note of what has changed in that deployment and manually make those updates.

Is it possible to delete a package before deploying it to our production site?

Yes, the person who is performing the testing can reject the package and then discard it.

If a package I test gets approved, will it deploy immediately to our production site?

No, once a package is tested and passed, you need to build the deployment and then deploy it to production. Until you do that, the changes will not move to the production site.

Can a deployment be scheduled after approval?

Not at this time, though we have identified this capability for our road map. For now, you can stage the deployment and when ready, simply click deploy.

Is it possible to download the history for a deployment package?

We currently do not support export of the deployment details. However, this capability has been added to our road map for consideration in a future release.

Can we migrate our three-tier landscape from our supplemental site to the test site and then to production?

No, this release of the intelligent configuration manager does not support three-tier landscapes, so you need a test site with an associated production site. Plans to address other site setups, including the use of supplemental sites, are part of our road map.

We have child and parent sites. Do we make changes in our child site or our parent site?

With the intelligent configuration manager, any parameter updates you make in the parent site will replicate to all your child sites. To limit a change to a particular child site, you must make the parameter update within that specific child site.

How is the workflow configured, and who can approve/deny the request?

The workflow supported in the intelligent configuration manager is fixed, with steps for requesting/creating the deployment package and then testing, approving, and ultimately deploying it. Since the first release does not support role management, you will need to manage the roles and responsibilities between those in your organization who have the customer administrator role.

How does the tool handle conflicting changes? For example, can two different people update the same parameter at the same time within different packages?

We do have support for conflict management in the tool. For example, if a package is in progress and another person tries to make the same changes in a second package, the user will be notified that those changes are already included in another package and that they cannot perform the changes until the original package has been deployed. Similarly, if an SAP Ariba support request has been initiated for a specific change, but your organization is also trying to make the same change using the intelligent configuration manager, you will be notified if that change has already been applied to your site before you deploy the duplicate package to production.

Is there a plan to include customization support in the tool?

Though the initial release of the intelligent configuration manager provides support for parameter management only, more configuration elements will be introduced as the tool matures.

Can we enable/disable parameters directly in production?

No, you cannot make parameter changes directly in your production site. You need to first make the change in your test site and then deploy it to your production site.

Learn more

For additional information about how the intelligent configuration manager can benefit your business, go to <https://www.ariba.com/solutions/sap-ariba-platform/extensibility-and-configurability> or contact your customer engagement executive.

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2020enUS (20/02)

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