

Working with Vendor Products from the Technopedia® Repository

Software AG provides an interface to the Technopedia® repository of software and hardware products. The Technopedia capability allows vendor products to be captured in a standardized manner and the technology information to be aligned across the enterprise. The catalog of structured information about the IT infrastructure ensures a unified language and discipline to manage and plan the technology portfolio. With consistent naming and standardized data, the complexity of the IT landscape can be reduced, overlapping technologies eliminated, and existing and known technologies reused. If interoperability with Technopedia is supported by your enterprise, Alfabet users will be able to create vendor products in Alfabet based on Technopedia software products and/or hardware products.

Technopedia® has a two-level taxonomy comprised of product categories and sub-categories that contain the Technopedia products. Software AG does not own the Technopedia® taxonomy and using the Technopedia® taxonomy may result in a structure that is different from your enterprise's technology domain structure. Typically, the entire repository of Technopedia® product categories would be imported to Alfabet. Existing vendor product categories already defined in Alfabet will remain in the Alfabet database but will not be available in the Technopedia selector available in the Alfabet user interface that allows users to import Technopedia hardware and software products. The top level of the Technopedia® product categories will be imported to the top level of the vendor product hierarchy and subordinate categories will be displayed below their parent vendor product category.

The imported vendor product categories will initially have no vendor products assigned to them. In other words, the vendor products must be explicitly created based on the software/hardware product in the Technopedia repository. The software and hardware products in the Technopedia® repository can be selected on a category-by-category basis in order to create vendor products in Alfabet. The vendor products that are created based on Technopedia products are saved to the Alfabet database and can be further defined as needed. When the new vendor product is created, the vendor defined for that Technopedia product will be automatically assigned to the new vendor product in Alfabet. If the vendor does not already exist in the Alfabet database, it will be created in Alfabet along with the new vendor product.

If an existing vendor product is already mapped to a Technopedia software or hardware product and the user selects the same Technopedia product and its `id` property matches the `TP_ID` property of the existing vendor product, then the existing vendor product will be updated and a new vendor product will not be created.

A subscription concept can also be implemented whereby Technopedia products associated with an ICT object can be automatically added to Alfabet and regularly updated. In this case, ICT objects are created in Alfabet based on software and hardware products in Technopedia. The ICT objects based on Technopedia products are versionless and thus may serve as a subscription to a Technopedia product. The versions of the Technopedia product that the ICT object is based on can be imported to Alfabet as vendor products when the ICT object is updated.

To implement the subscription concept, the **Subscribe to Technopedia** checkbox must be selected in the **ICT Object** editor (`ICTO_TP_Editor`). If selected, vendor products will be created for any new Technopedia product versions that are associated with the Technopedia product that the ICT object is based. The vendor products will be added to the **Vendor Products** page views when the ADIF job `ALFABET_TECHNOPEdia_UPDATE` is executed.



This documentation primarily describes the creation of vendor products based on Technopedia software and hardware products. However, some enterprises may prefer to implement the Technopedia capability to create components rather than vendor products. This will depend on the methodology implemented in your enterprise. Please note the following regarding using

components instead of vendor products:

- The Technopedia® product categories will be mapped to component categories and the hardware and software products will be mapped to components.
- The object class `Component` must be specified in the XML attribute `ClassMapping` in the XML object `TechnopediaConfig`.
- For each component created in Alfabet based on a Technopedia software or hardware product, an object in the object class `VendorProduct` will first be created and then an object in the object class `Component` will be created. For more information, see the section *Understanding the Mapping of Technopedia Products to Vendor Products in Alfabet*.
- The relevant page views must be made available to the user community as described in the section *Making the Technopedia Capability Available to the User Community*.
- The predefined ADIF import scheme `ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE` is only relevant for the update of Alfabet vendor products. You must configure an ADIF import scheme in order to synchronize Alfabet components with the current information in Technopedia.



The configuration of the Alfabet solution to interface with the Technopedia API as well as a subscription to Technopedia services is required in order to access the Technopedia repository and create vendor products based on the software products and hardware products stored in Technopedia.

The following workflow is recommended when working with Technopedia:

- **Configuring Technopedia Interoperability** : Configuration is primarily carried out in the XML object `TechnopediaConfig`. If your enterprise plans to base new vendor products on both hardware products and software products from Technopedia, then it is recommended that object class stereotypes are configured for the object class `VendorProduct`. For more information about the configuration requirements as well as the mapping of Technopedia classes and attributes to Alfabet classes and attributes, see the section *Configuring Interoperability with Technopedia* in the reference manual *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand*.
- **Importing Vendor Product Categories**: Typically, the entire repository of Technopedia® product categories should be imported to Alfabet. This is carried out in the *Root Categories Page View* page view available on the root node of the **Vendor Products** explorer. Each vendor product category will be associated with a Technopedia ID. While it is technically possible to create vendor product categories in Alfabet and create new vendor product categories by importing product categories from Technopedia®, it is recommended that your enterprise use only one source of vendor product categories.



Please note that the product category hierarchy in Technopedia® consists of two levels and that software products and hardware products are assigned only to the leaf-level product categories. The top level of the Technopedia® product categories will be imported to the top level of the **Vendor Products** explorer in the Alfabet interface and the subordinate product category will be nested below. Vendor product categories that have been imported via Technopedia® will initially have no vendor products assigned to them. In other words, you must explicitly create the vendor products in Alfabet based on the Technopedia products for each relevant vendor product category, as needed. Users may assign new vendor products based on Technopedia products to any vendor product category in Alfabet.

- **Creating Vendor Products Based on Technopedia Software Products**: New vendor products based on Technopedia software and hardware products are created in the *Vendor Products Page View* available for a vendor product category as well as for an ICT object, domain, component, or vendor. The vendor product and vendor can be further specified as needed in the context of the Alfabet user interface. For more information about the mapping of properties, see the section

Configuring Interoperability with Technopedia in the reference manual *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand*.

- **Synchronizing Vendor Products in Alfabet with Technopedia Products** : A predefined ADIF import scheme `ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE` is available to updated the vendor products and vendors based on Technopedia products with the current data in the Technopedia repository. When executed, the ADIF import scheme reads the configuration specified in the XML object `TechnopediaConfig` and updates any vendor products and vendors in Alfabet that have been changed since the last time the ADIF import scheme `ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE` was executed. For more information about updating the vendor products and vendors based on Technopedia products as well as the criteria that must be met for the update, see the section *Updating Technopedia Products in Alfabet via the ADIF Import Scheme ALFABET_TECHNOPEDIA_UPDATE* in the reference manual *Configuring Alfabet with Alfabet Expand*. Please note that a license to the tool Alfabet Data Integration Framework (ADIF) is necessary to synchronize the vendor products with Technopedia products. The Technopedia products can be synchronized by a user with an administrative user profile in the *ADIF Jobs Administration Functionality*. For more information, see the section *Executing and Controlling ADIF Jobs* in the reference manual *User and Solution Administration*.