

# Alfresco by fme

## Open Source Enterprise Content Management

Paper-supported processes still determine the way things are, in spite of all the requirements imposed by internationality and compliance. By contrast, when companies use an IT solution to manage their business processes which are driven by documentation, service and knowledge, they are able to achieve markedly shorter processes and improve processing quality, thus saving on costs. There is a large possible selection of IT solutions. The ECM solutions which have developed over the years, such as supplied by IBM and EMC, now have real competition. Open source has changed the face of the classic IT world and, with its competing approaches, is now dividing up the market afresh. And right up in front: Alfresco.

After making a study of ECM systems, the market research company Forrester Research attests the Alfresco open source solution as having very promising prospects as an ECM alternative. The company was founded in 2005 and built on the expertise of experienced ECM insiders of Documentum and other suppliers. Over three million downloads of the community version and more than 2,000 enterprise customers, many of which are among the global top 2,000 companies, paint a clear picture.

This positive development was built on the expertise of experienced ECM insiders at Alfresco Ltd. and strengthened by former employees of JBoss and RedHat highly experienced in open source applications. Owing to this open source and ECM expertise combined with a modern Java-based and service-oriented architecture, the company has a technological edge over established proprietary platforms. This lead is clearly demonstrated in the company's strong integration skill, flexibility in everyday project activities, and the ability to quickly adapt to the new interoperability standard for content management repositories (CMIS). Alfresco is a trailblazer in these areas, as well as in the adaptation and support of many other standards.

### Strengths of Open Source

- Transparent project development
- The source code is available to everyone
- Development is oriented toward open standards
- Lower licensing costs or even none at all

Alfresco provides the reliability of a solid partner, which ensures support and warranty by means of the dual licensing system principle. The application is freely available, the source code is published under GNU General Public License and is subject to continuous further development. In addition to the free-of-charge version, Alfresco also supplies a purchased version with support at various levels.

### About Alfresco

Alfresco is the leading open source alternative for document management in companies (Enterprise Content Management). Alfresco Software Inc. combines open source innovation with the stability of a high-performance business solution. The technology enables a hitherto unknown degree of variability as well as making possible overall operating costs that are considerably lower than those of proprietary systems. The company was founded by a team of ECM specialists, who include the cofounder of Documentum, John Newton, and the former COO of Business Objects, John Powell. Alfresco has its headquarters in London.



### Social Content Management with Alfresco Share

Many of today's employees have experience working with social software. Comments, rating, likes, and activity streams have revolutionized the Web. Users have recognized the value of these functions and are keen to use them at their workplace. Companies are increasingly catering to this desire by providing social network-oriented systems such as Jive, Salesforce.com, and LifeRay.

According to Gartner, this puts a whole new requirement on ECM systems: »Just like e-mail, which was originally devised for one-time use in asynchronous communication and then rejected, social software applications have the potential to create large amounts of unorganized content that may be relevant in future court proceedings or a regulatory investigation. Being familiar with its nature (be it an interim product, a design, or a »place« to exchange ideas) and knowing its ultimate role (that of a document, possibly even as evidence of formal guidelines for governance and storage)

are key to successfully introducing a system like this.«<sup>1</sup>

This is the challenge for social content management systems. And this is where the worlds of traditional enterprise content management and social software converge. Even content generated in the context of business communication and collaboration has to be managed in a central platform in order to ensure the results and content adhere to compliance regulations.

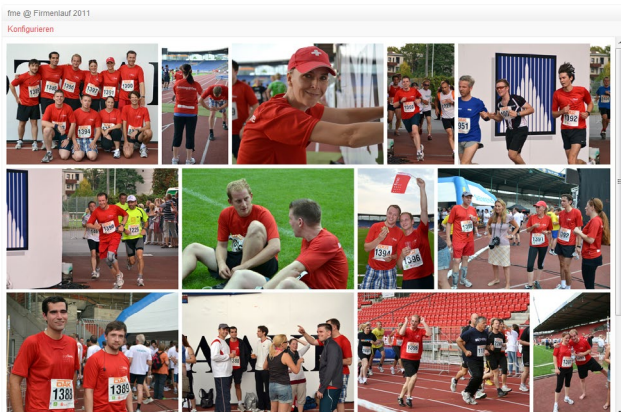
Alfresco is this platform. Supporting open standards such as CMIS or JSR 168 and a flexible RESTful API provide the required flexibility to connect the platform to existing social software. However, connecting to existing social software is often not the task at hand. Many companies rather need to directly support collaborative functions in the social content management client. Alfresco developed the modern Alfresco Share web-based client for this very purpose. Working and research groups can gather in so-called sites and share content there. This content can include anything from documents (including DMS functions such as versioning, check-in/check-out), wikis, blogs, discussion forums, and data lists through to team calendars. User activity is displayed in an activity stream, providing the user with an overview of the activity on his/her sites at all times. There is also an integrated search function to find documents and other content such as wiki pages or discussions.

## fme as an Active Alfresco Contributor

Not only is fme a certified Alfresco Platinum Partner in Germany, it is also actively involved in the further development of Alfresco by returning the expertise we have gained from projects to customers. Our employees are making an active contribution to the core Alfresco product, with a category management tool for Alfresco Share, for example.

The Alfresco team at fme has come out on top in all of the official Alfresco developer contests. The wins are a testament to the ability, imagination, and innovative spirit of our employees.

<sup>1</sup> Gartner »Magic Quadrant for Enterprise Content Management« by Toby Bell, Karen M. Shegda, Mark R. Gilbert, Kenneth Chin, November 16, 2010



The winner of the 2011 Dashlet Challenge – the Gallery Plus for Alfresco

## Alfresco by fme – 5 Good Reasons

- Consultancy. Thorough, honest as well as concentrating on measurable economic benefits. We have such a good understanding of ECM that we know where cost savings are possible.
- All-round service. We cover the complete service range (capturing, managing, storing, preserving and delivering). This means single-source service for you.
- Employees. Our consultants have at their disposal more than 200 person years of ECM experience as well as excellent training.
- Partnership. fme is one of Alfresco's strategic partners for the area covering Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Partnership means that our consultants are always at the state of the art.
- Quality. We are audited by leading pharmaceutical companies. We service long-term client relations with an average of 50 projects among our top 6 clients.

## Sap Archive Link Interface

Thanks to the SAP-certified and tested KGS SAPALink framework and an fme implementation, it is possible to integrate documents generated in SAP into a company-wide ECM strategy. File electronic documents on the compliance of laws and regulations (IT compliance) out of SAP into Alfresco via the SAP ArchiveLink interface. This interface enables business objects within SAP to be linked with documents.

## Fully Automated Migration with migration-center

Introducing an enterprise content management system is a process that rarely starts from scratch. It is almost always necessary to transfer existing content to the new system. Regardless of whether your content is to be migrated to your new Alfresco system from a file share or any other ECM system, our established and adaptable product for the fully automated migration of content helps you populate your new open source ECM system in a quick and convenient manner. A lot more solutions and modules can be found on [alfresco.fme.de](http://alfresco.fme.de)

**We will be happy to provide you on request with detailed information on the products and services concerning Alfresco. Contact us. We look forward to your challenge!**



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