EIGNER PLM 5.1
RELEASE NOTES

April 22, 2004

Eigner PLM 5.1 represents both: a service release and a feature release. This document outlines improvements as well as major enhancements and additions that can be installed optionally.

A primary objective for Eigner PLM 5.1 was to add support for additional platforms, allowing customers to update their hardware/operating system or database version.

Next to this, a large number of bug fixes have been rolled up in Eigner PLM 5.1.

The Web Client in its current form has was initially introduced with Eigner PLM 5.0.1. Some improvements and bug fixes had been made available in a patch (Eigner PLM 5.0.1 PA 1) before and become available – along with additional enhancements – in Eigner PLM 5.1.

Since the release of Eigner PLM 5.0.1, many features have been developed – most of which become available with the next major release only. Some of these features however are optionally available in Eigner PLM 5.1 already, so you can benefit from these enhancements immediately.

Contents

Extended Platform Support

For a complete and most current list of all officially supported platforms, please visit the Platform Support page on our website at http://eignersupport.agilesoft.com/index.asp (you will need a password to enter the support website).

Support for additional Operating System Releases

Several new releases of operating systems are officially supported with Eigner PLM 5.1. These include Solaris 9, AIX 5.2 and SuSE SLES x86. For a complete overview, please visit the Platform Support page on our website at http://eignersupport.agilesoft.com/index.asp.

Support for Netscape 7.1

With Eigner PLM 5.1, the Web Client supports Netscape Navigator 7.1. The release of Netscape Navigator 7.1 included a number of DHTML incompatibilities with Netscape 7.0. Both of these browsers are now supported in Eigner PLM 5.1

Support for Oracle 9.2

Oracle 9.2 is now officially supported on most platforms, including HP UX 11i, Solaris 8, Solaris 9, Windows 2000 Server, AIX 5.2 and SuSE SLES x86.

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2000 SP3

On Windows Server platforms, Microsoft SQL Server 2000 SP3 is now officially supported.

Improvements (mandatory)

Bug Fixes

Eigner PLM 5.1 rolls up a number of bug fixes that have been implemented since the release of Eigner PLM 5.0.1. None of these bugs has been significant enough to cause an earlier service pack, however you may have received patches or hot fixes that included fixes. When installing Eigner PLM 5.1, all fixes associated with interim patches or hot fixes are included.

Adaptation to Agile layout

As part of a brand consolidation, the Agile branding is introduced with Eigner PLM 5.1. You will experience changes mainly in the following areas:

- ❑ Windows icon for Eigner PLM

- ❑ Splash screen

- ❑ Eigner PLM desktop background

- ❑ Info window

- ❑ Reference to Agile website

Web Client Enhancements

Hyperlink access enhancements

Eigner PLM 5.1 supports hyperlinks to make it easier to traverse directly to the following

- ❑ a file associated with a document

- ❑ an object based on its revision or its release state

- ❑ a tab in a mask other than the default tab

For details on Eigner PLM hyperlink syntax, please review the documentation "Customizing the Web Client" included in this release.

Drag and Drop

Drag and Drop is now available between the Explorer pane and the Main pane. This allows users to edit structure by dragging and dropping items, documents, etc from the Explorer view to an item, document, etc in the Main pane, or from an item, document, etc in the Main pane to the Explorer pane.

This feature was also included in Eigner PLM 5.0.1 PA 1.

Change Text Size

The user interface scale factor can now be controlled by setting the option "View/Change Text Size…" to either Small, Medium, or Large.

This feature was also included in Eigner PLM 5.0.1 PA 1.

Sorting by column

Lists of information can now be sorted by column by clicking on the column header. This feature, long available in the Windows client, is now available in the Web Client as well.

This feature was also included in Eigner PLM 5.0.1 PA 1

Scrollable Longtext Fields

The Eigner PLM 5.1 Web Client supports scrolling in a Longtext field, WITHOUT the need to put the mask into Edit mode.

This feature was also included in Eigner PLM 5.0.1 PA 1

Support for Variant Management

The Variant Management module has been certified with the Eigner PLM 5.1 Web Client. This module can now be turned on for Web Client users.

New Features (optional)

Web Development Toolkit

The Eigner Web Development Toolkit (EWDT) can be used to create web-based solutions that adhere to your corporate user interface and style guidelines for the web thus further leveraging product information throughout the extended manufacturing enterprise. Information securely managed within Eigner PLM can be accessed for a custom web experience and also combined with other systems of record such as financial, MRP/ERP, and CRM to create focused, composite applications. Examples include spare parts catalogs, shop floor drawing distribution, project dashboard, and supplier portals.

Pre-defined tags to access and present Eigner PLM product data enable web page developers to quickly define web-based applications using Java Server Page (JSP) technology. Features include insert, read, and update of database records, execution of user exits, and accessing of files stored in the vault. Standard user presentation formats are also supported including fields, drop down selection lists, tables, and menus. Web pages can be branded to company standards to simplify common tasks and ensure desired look and feel.

For details on EWDT, please review the documentation "Customizing the Web Client" included in this release.

This toolkit requires an additional license agreement, please contact an Agile sales representative.

Web Integration with Agile Program Execution (PE)

The EIGNER PLM 5.1 release supports the integration with Agile 9 Program Execution. This is a Web Client based integration where the Web-based PE client interacts with the Eigner PLM system and can invoke the Eigner PLM Web Client to display affected objects.

Lightweight Reporting

Lightweight Reporting is a new reporting facility available with the Eigner PLM 5.1 release. This facility is a simple, easy to use, mechanism for generating reports in HTML to be viewed in the Web Client.

Based on standard Web technologies such as XML and XSL, this facility allows administrators to construct custom reports from the Eigner PLM system.

This facility supports all standard and customized data models of the Eigner PLM system.

Also, this facility can be triggered from the Windows Client. When a report is invoked from the Windows client, it will launch a special session of the Web Client to display the requested report.

In the 5.1 release, the Lightweight Reporting facility is included, but in an unsupported category. It is suitable for use in customizing engagements.
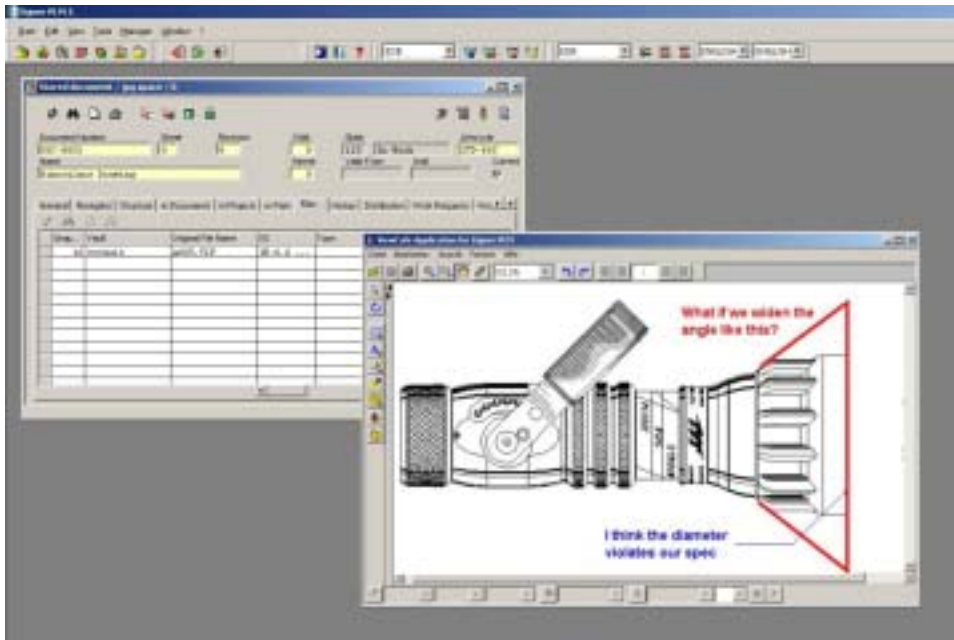
Redlining Integration

Eigner PLM is now tightly integrated with the ViewCafé View and Markup Solution from Spicer. It replaces the previous redlining integration with Spicer Imagenation and EDS VisView (see also important statement in De-Support section).

The ViewCafé viewing and markup client can be launched from the Eigner PLM Web Client and Windows Client. Viewable files will automatically be checked-out from the Eigner PLM

File Vault and provided to ViewCafé Client for viewing and markup purposes. Markup data (XML) created inside the ViewCafé client is automatically checked back in into the EIGNER PLM File Server.

The markup session can either be started from the Work Request/Work Order form or directly from the document form.

The integration will include ViewCafé version 3.2. All viewing and redlining functionality as provided in ViewCafé 3.2 is supported by this Redlining Integration.

The Redlining Integration comes on a separate installation CD.

Office Suite

Saving without Fileguard in Office2000/XP

It is now possible to save a document in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Powerpoint without using the Fileguard process. In this way the user can save the document on a local disk without checking it into Eigner PLM immediately. The file can then be checked into Eigner PLM at a later time. The configuration parameter FILEGUARD should be switched off for Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Powerpoint.

Configuration Parameter in File Type

❑ CHECK_OLE: Available for Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint to configure if linked document should be checked or not

❑ FILEGUARD: Define if this file type should be controlled for UPDATE, DELETE, INSERT.

❑ GUARDTREE: If file type folder is configured.
FILEGUARD=yes, the folder tree is controlled.
FILEGUARD=no, the folder tree will not be checked for modification.

Filter for document template

The new default GDM-TEMPLATE-PROC defines a procedure to filter the selection of a document template (e.g. GdmMask/CreSite). The template will show only documents assigned to the company the user is assigned to.

To activate this GDM-TEMPLATE-PROC must be configured with the name of a LogiView procedure (example GdmMask/CreSiteTemplate).

Default OfficeSuite-Version

The new default GDM-OFS-VERSION contains the current OfficeSuite version number.

Visio

It is now possible to use the properties exchange with Visio (standard properties like Creator etc.) in a Visio document. They will be refreshed during checkout.

Fulltext Search

Improved creation of indices for Microsoft Word documents.

Changed Dialog Flow

The check-in dialog has been arrange in a more logically way,

- ❑ first you are asked if you want to continue working on the document

- ❑ second your are asked if the document should be deleted.

Desupport of Microsoft Office 97

The Eigner PLM 5.1 Office Suite does not longer support Microsoft Office 97.

Eigner Integration Platform 1.2

Enhanced Exception Handling in Controller

- ❑ **Guaranteed Response**
  The controller (kernel) of the Integration Platform now guarantees a response, even if a technical error (e.g. transformation failure) occurred during the transfer. The original XDO, which was sent by the source connector, will be sent back including some information about the type of transfer failure.

- ❑ **Automatic Reconnect**
  The controller does now recognize, when an Application Connector lost its connection to the application system (e.g. EIGNER PLM, SAP R/3). When configured in the eai_ini.xml file, the controller will call the respective connector to reconnect. In the case, this is not possible anymore, this specific connector will be disabled and cannot be used anymore.

- ❑ **Mail Notification**
  The controller can be configured to send an e-mail notification when a connector had to be disabled.

Eigner PLM Web Client Support

❑ **Support of Eigner PLM Web Client in synchronous transfer mode**
The Eigner PLM Web Client now allows calling synchronous transfer operations of the Eigner PLM Connector. The transfer results will be shown in special display forms, in the same manner it works for the Windows Client. Some administration functions may not be accessible in the Web Client though, e.g. showing the Transfer Queue.

Enhancements in axalant and EIGNER PLM Connector

❑ **Renaming files during check-out**
The axalant and Eigner PLM Connectors can be configured to rename files during the check-out operations. The rename schema can be configured dynamically e.g. use the Document ID and Version as the new file name.

❑ **Multi-File Check-out**
Multiple files assigned to a document in axalant or Eigner PLM can now be checked out in one operation. The meta-data of all checked-out files will be written to the XDO generated by the axalant and EIGNER PLM connectors. This feature does also work in combination with the file rename feature (see above)

❑ **Support of Version View**
The axalant and EIGNER PLM Connectors do now explicitly support the Version View concept. It is possible to set the Version View (Development, Production or Global) and Production Date in the axalant/EIGNER PLM internal Transfer Queue, which will be used by the Connectors for retrieving the correct data based on the view.

❑ **Support of Classification Lists**
The EIGNER PLM Connector (not the axalant Connector though) does now support reading from and writing to Classification Lists.

Enhanced Queue Management

❑ **Archive and Cleanup Function in Admin GUI**
The Graphical Administration GUI does provide two additional buttons: Archive and Cleanup. The Archive button saves the XDOs of all completed transfer operations into a specific directory (one file per queue entry). The Cleanup button purges all entries of finished transfer operations.

❑ **Storage of each XDO as separate version in Queue**
Each XDO is now stored as a separate version in the Queue. This allows to see each state of the XDO (e.g. before transformation, after transformation, request XDO, response XDO) in the queue, which simplifies tracing and debugging.

❑ **Support of Oracle and SQL-Server DBMS**
Besides the internal, file-based Database Hypersonic SQL, the queue of the Integration Platform does also support Oracle 8.1.7 and SQL-Server 2000. Though, it needs to be considered that the usage of the Oracle or SQL-Server DBMS will require additional installation and configuration effort, which is not the case with the internal database.

System Administration Support

❑ **Startup of the Integration Platform as Windows Service**
On MS-Windows Operating Systems, the Eigner Integration Platform process can now be started as a service.

❑ **Process Monitoring Capabilities**
Additional capabilities in the Eigner Integration Platform process as well as an additional ping-tool are provided to "ping" the server process. This tool gives you the status of the Integration Platform in total as well as of each connector. It can be called by shell scripts for automated status detection.

Enhancements in SAP-Connector

❑ **Support of SAP Load Balancing Server**
The SAP-Connector can now connect to a SAP R/3 Load Balancing Server.

❑ **New version of RFC-Function for updating Bill of Materials**
The RFC-Function /EIGNER/ COMPLETE_BOM_CHANGE has been improved to support internal as well as external Material IDs.

❑ **Enhanced mapping for long text support**
The mapping file axa_r3.xsl has been enhanced to map axalant/EIGNER PLM long text field values to R/3 long text.

Enhancements in File Connectors

❑ **Optimized write operation in all File Connectors**
The File Connectors do now write into temporary files first. When the write operation is completed, the temporary file will be renamed to the file name as set up in the configuration file eai_ini.xml. This ensures that newly written files are not blocked anymore by the File Connector.

❑ **New Data File Conector**
The DataFile Connector is a new specialized connector, which allows to perform an XSL Transformation just before writing the XDO data into a file. This can be used, for example, to transform the XDO into HTML before writing. The Data File Connector is a write-only connector.

❑ **Support of multiple lines in one record element in ASCII File Connector**
The ASCII File Connector does now write and read all records of an XDO into/from the ASCII file as separate lines.

General Enhancements

❑ **Changed encryption algorithm**
Due to the usage of a different Encryption Library, all passwords in eai_ini.xml are encrypted and decrypted with a different algorithm. Upgrade to version 1.2 requires to regenerate all passwords again.

❑ **Display font of Administration GUI**
The character font and size of the Administration GUI can now be configured in the file eai_ini.xml.

De-Support

Spicer Imagenation

Eigner PLM 5.1 is now tightly integrated with the ViewCafé View and Markup Solution from Spicer.

Spicer Imagenation is no longer bundled with Eigner PLM software and if you have been using an integration with Spicer Imagenation, where the license for Spicer Imagenation was provided as part of the Eigner PLM software, you must replace Spicer Imagenation with Spicer ViewCafé.

Graphical Editor for Release Procedures

The Eigner PLM Graphical Editor for Release Procedures is no longer shipped as part of Eigner PLM.

File Server – 3rd party Archive systems

The integration of **FMS Archive Link** and **FMS CE Archive** into the Eigner PLM Fileserver is no longer shipped with Eigner PLM.