



# What's New in ActiveVOS 7.1

Includes ActiveVOS 7.1.1

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## ActiveVOS 7.1/7.1.1 at a Glance

ActiveVOS™ 7.1 offers:

- *ActiveVOS Central – A Business Process Management Application.*  
ActiveVOS Central – a rich Internet application - now consolidates in one place the ability to initiate processes via a request, perform lookups for status of a request, carry out tasks, and access reports to help users and managers better manage work
- *Create Process Request forms, Reports, and Task forms* using ActiveVOS Designer and deploy them to ActiveVOS Central
- ActiveVOS Designer and Server now support Java 1.6
- ActiveVOS Designer improves process validation and deployment archive generation
- ActiveVOS Server improves storage management, process persistence and server configuration export and import

ActiveVOS™ 7.1.1 offers in addition:

- *Multilingual Support ActiveVOS Central and Forms*
- *ActiveVOS Central Customization*
- *Service and Task Operation Drag & Drop for ActiveVOS Central Request and Task Forms*
- *New Platform Support*

## ActiveVOS Central

As process-driven human tasks become an increasingly common part of day-to-day work, the ability to link these tasks with the request that initiated them becomes more important. Having the ability to look up progress for ongoing work is equally important. When reviewing tasks, it is also likely that work might need to be initiated for others to carry out. And, it is necessary to be able to see reports that detail status and throughput. In other words, as process applications become more and more common, users need a central place to interact with these business processes, to check on their status and to manage additional work that processes may require.

To meet these needs, ActiveVOS 7.1 includes ActiveVOS Central – a rich Internet application - that consolidates in one place the ability to initiate processes via forms or perform lookups for status of a request, carry out tasks, and access reports to help users and managers better manage work.

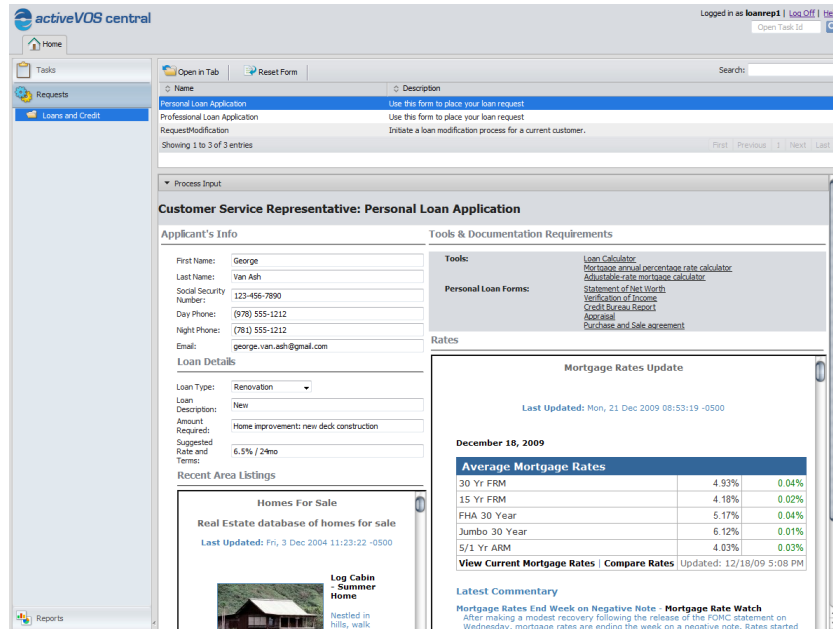
ActiveVOS Central is configurable and role-based. Through configuration, you can organize navigation and make relevant to your users their tasks, reports that are pertinent to them and specific forms they can use to start a particular process.

### **Initiating Processes**

ActiveVOS Central's request navigation pane is used as a launch pad for users wanting to initiate work by invoking a process. Users do so by selecting a request form from one or more folders that have been created for them. These folders are configured on a per-user basis by an administrator or a developer using ActiveVOS Designer. In addition, roles

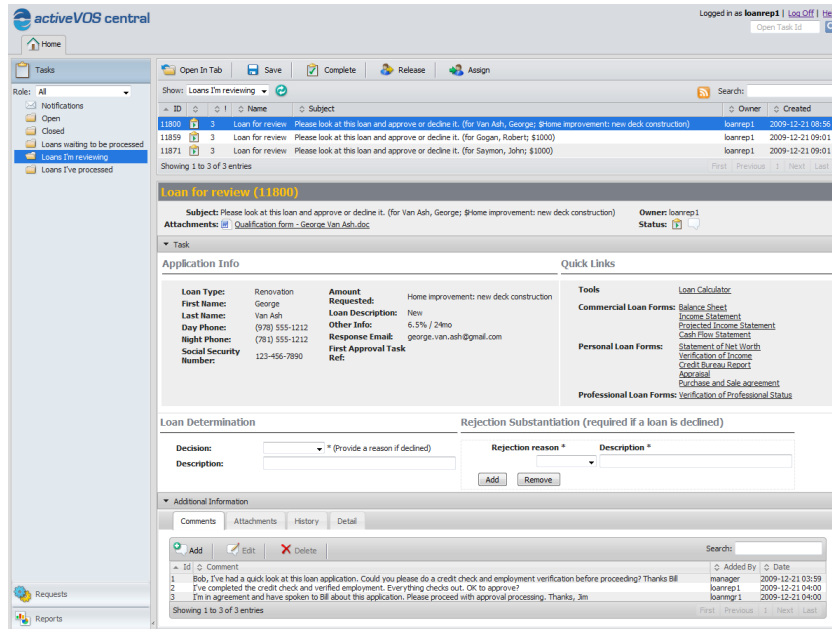
can be associated with forms to make it possible to enable role-based task initiation.

The image below illustrates using the request navigation pane users navigate to locate a form of interest.

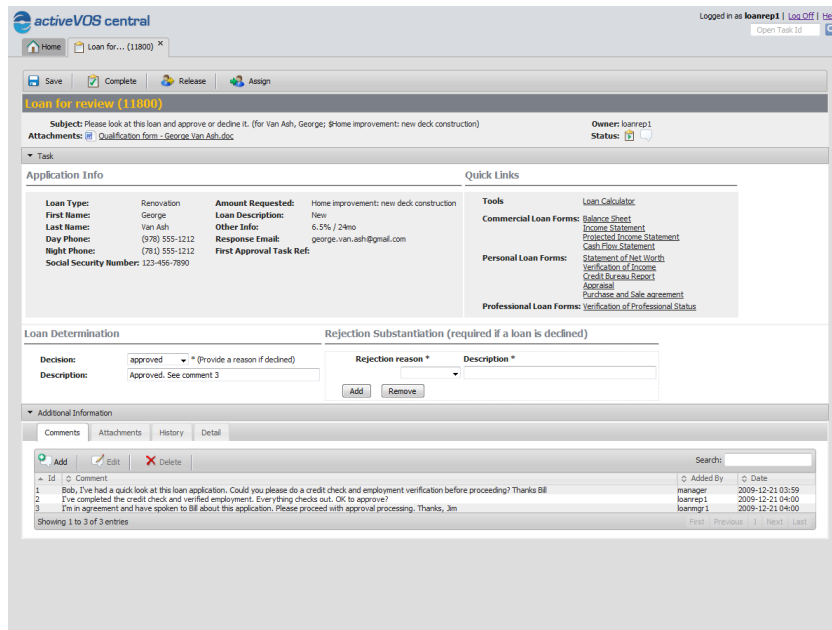


## Completing Tasks

ActiveVOS Central's tasks are a significant evolution of previous releases' Inbox functionality. A number of improvements have been made in ActiveVOS 7.1.



When a task is selected, the form is displayed in a preview pane (shown above) and the user can process the task. Double-clicking or selecting the “Open in Tab” action on the toolbar opens the form in a new tab.



*Improved navigation.* Now users can:

- Filter and organize tasks using simple filters for open tasks, closed tasks or filters pre-configured in the process

- Filter tasks by role
- Filter tasks by state using a simple “show” drop-down selector

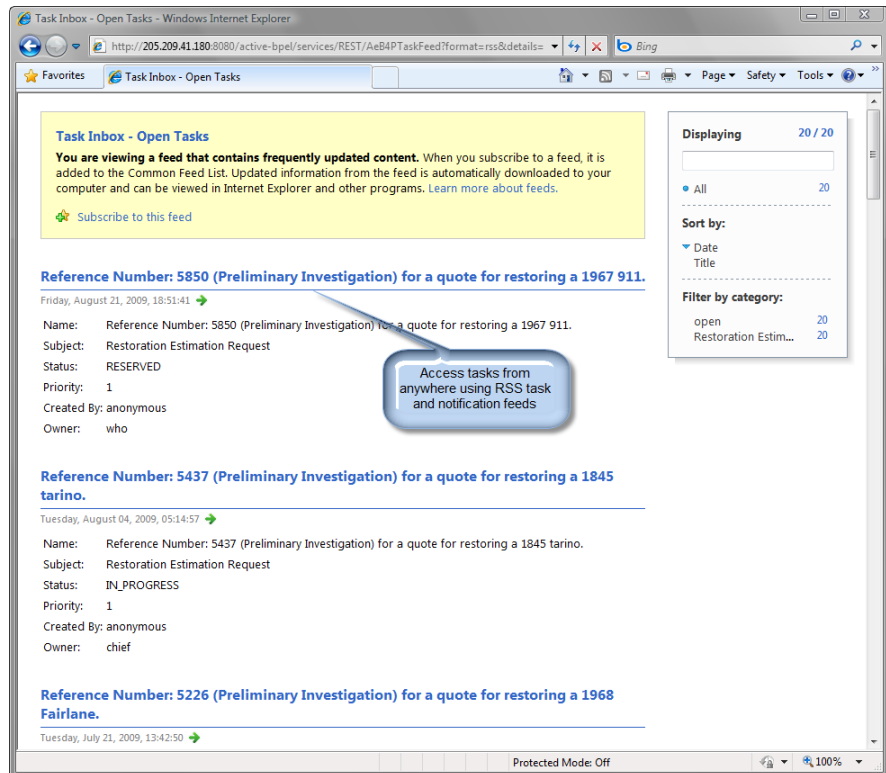
*Improved usability.* Users can:

- Preview tasks
- Open multiple tasks in separate tabs allowing work on multiple tasks at once

*Richer development and user experience:*

- ActiveVOS Designer makes it easy for developers to create attractive, easy-to-use forms that have a standard look and feel
- ActiveVOS Designer makes it possible to embed content from other Web pages or to invoke services from within a task form to populate form fields for example delivering context to the task a user is working on and/or reviewing.

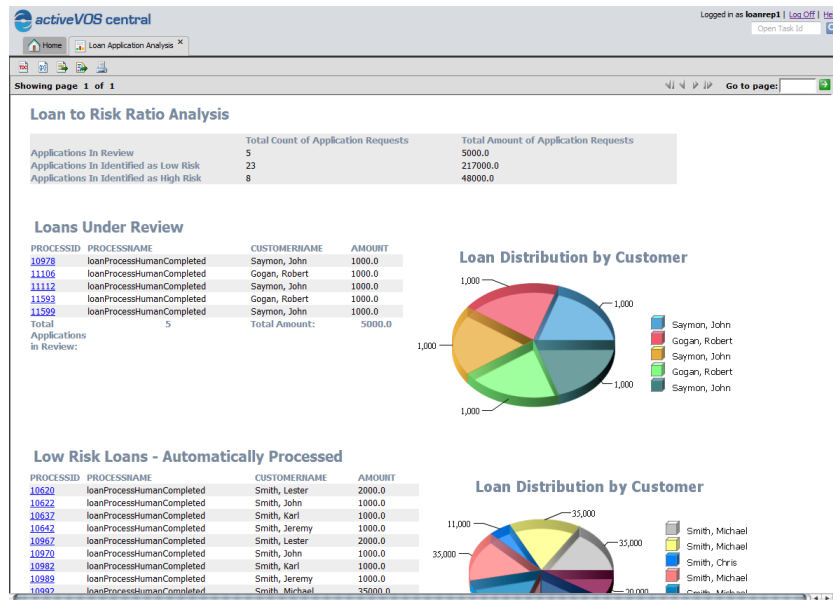
*Access to tasks and notification through various means such as RSS*



## Visibility through Reports

The reports navigation pane consolidates access to ActiveVOS's dashboards and reports. As is the case for other ActiveVOS Central navigation panes, report availability can be configured by user role.

Developers creating new reports using ActiveVOS Designer's Eclipse-based Business Intelligence and Reporting Tools (BIRT) reporting framework can easily configure access to their reports for users' convenience in ActiveVOS Central.



Developers can also integrate ActiveVOS reports in portals and Web pages using ActiveVOS's ability to expose report execution or access to a cached report via a URL. ActiveVOS can also be used to generate reports and email these to users according to a schedule. Among a number of options is the ability to specify optional report output format, allowing the report to be exposed as .pdf, .doc, .xls, .ppt, or .xml formats, in addition to the default HTML format.

## Auto-generated Task and Process Invocation Forms

The forms exposed to users in ActiveVOS Central are created by ActiveVOS Designer. ActiveVOS Designer auto-generates task and process invocation forms. ActiveVOS forms are comprised of auto-generated HTML and JavaScript. These forms use modern and standard approaches to constructing HTML pages that are styled through CSS style sheets.

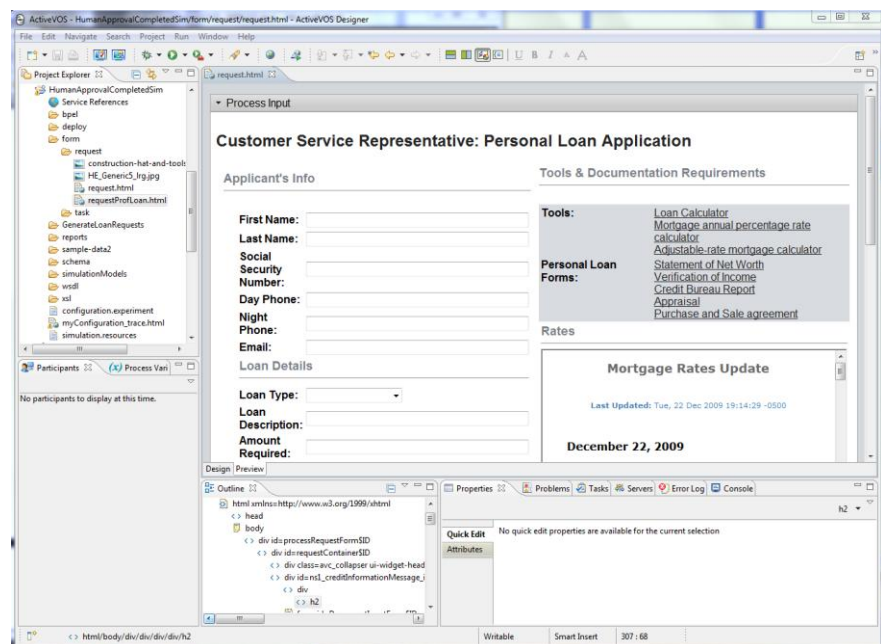
HTML allows developers to leverage the skills they have today to create attractive task and process forms. HTML allows developers and the Web developers they work with to modify and visually enhance forms using the built-in HTML editor or any HTML editor of the user's choice.

ActiveVOS Designer makes it possible to create information-rich forms. Forms can mashup information from different sources including Web

pages via iFrames or web services. This provides users with contextual information that helps them complete a task or initiate a process.

Auto-generated forms can be deployed to the server as is, without any change – no coding is required. It just works. The use of auto-generated jQuery-based JavaScript makes it easy for developers to create sophisticated forms and customize them at will.

ActiveVOS Designer gives total control over the form's content, such as the ability to expose collapsible sections or tabs. Using ActiveVOS Designer or a favorite Web page designer, developers can create a compelling and rich UI with little effort.



Task forms call directly into the WS-HumanTask service. This eliminates the need to build and maintain a separate presentation tier for form and task handling on the application server. Process invocation forms invoke the process and services in the same manner.

In ActiveVOS Designer, developers can customize ActiveVOS Central for end users, individualizing their experience. A configuration template provides options for role-based access to categories of requests, tasks and reports.

## Form Creation

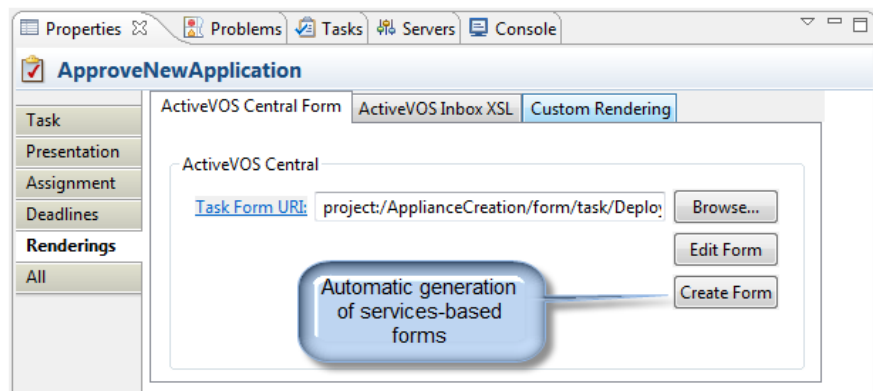
Forms design is fully integrated within the development environment in ActiveVOS 7.1. Using ActiveVOS Designer, a developer creates process request forms to initiate a process or perform a status lookup of a running process, or task forms used to complete tasks.

Editing label text, selecting column styles, organizing content of the form and incorporating rich controls are performed directly on the canvas and property sheets.

Forms are saved within the workspace in which they are defined and are packaged and then deployed to the ActiveVOS Server Catalog along with the process.

## Task Forms

To start creating a task form, a developer selects the “Create Form” button from the task’s “Renderings” tab, as shown below. The form is ready to use and deploy immediately.



## Process Request Forms

ActiveVOS Designer makes it easy for a developer to select a service interface and start designing the form. It does so by automatically inspecting the task’s or service’s schema which it presents to the developer as a list of input and output elements that is used to auto-generate the form used to invoke the process or call an operation of the process to obtain status information for example.

## Multilingual Support for ActiveVOS Central and Forms

ActiveVOS 7.1.1 adds multilingual support to ActiveVOS Central and its forms, reports, and help documentation. In addition to language packs

that Active Endpoints will be shipping in the future, you can create language-specific versions of ActiveVOS Central as well as the forms and reports that are deployed to it. Based on the language and locales deployed to ActiveVOS, ActiveVOS Central and its forms now display according to a Web browser's preferred language.

Multilingual support is provided by the ability to externalize ActiveVOS Central and forms strings and deployed language property files. For details on configuring multilingual support, see the following [ActiveVOS Infocenter](#) topics:

- Displaying ActiveVOS Central in a Web Browser's Preferred Language
- Adding Multilingual Support for Request and Task Forms
- Adding Multilingual Support for an .avconfig File
- Adding Multilingual Support for Reports
- ActiveVOS Central Advanced Configuration

## ActiveVOS Central Customization

In addition to providing multilingual support for ActiveVOS Central, ActiveVOS 7.1.1 provides the means to:

- Customize ActiveVOS Central logo and icon images
- Customize and deliver multilingual online help for end users

## Service and Task Operation Drag & Drop

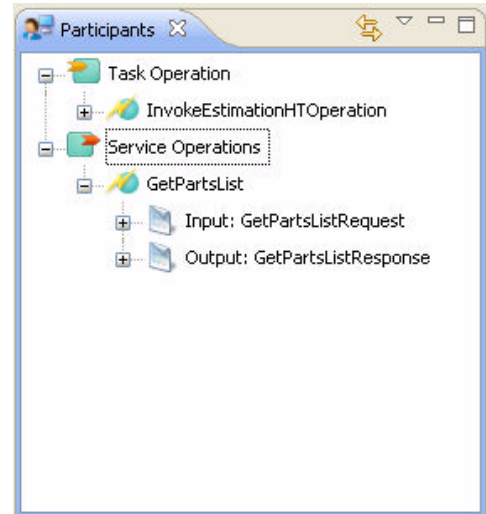
ActiveVOS Central provides the means by which to invoke services within Request and Task forms. ActiveVOS 7.1.1 helps you incorporate service invocation and perform form updates more easily using new drag & drop capabilities from the ActiveVOS Designer's Participants View.

There are several use cases for adding new task and service operations. Here are some examples:

- If you have an existing task or request form, but the schema for the task or service operation has been updated, you can modify or add the additional fields to your existing form by dragging and dropping them into the form

- Enhance the functionality of form fields by calling a service. For example, if the form field is “Select a Country,” call a service to provide a drop-down list of country names.
- If desired, you can modify an existing request or task form by adding fields and functions generated from service operations.

A service operation is a WSDL operation from a Workspace WSDL that represents the endpoint of a process running in an ActiveVOS server. You can use a process to wrap any Web, REST, JMS, EJB or POJO based service.



## JSON Binding

ActiveVOS Server 7.1 now exposes all its processes and services via the JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) binding in addition to SOAP, REST and JMS. The JSON binding is used by all ActiveVOS Central forms.

This makes it easy for developers already familiar with JavaScript to invoke processes and obtain responses from them, freeing them from the need to learn and obtain SOAP libraries to build applications that leverage ActiveVOS service-based processes. JavaScript developers can now use various libraries such as [jQuery](#) that ships with ActiveVOS or others such as those offered with Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 to build process-enabled applications. Of course, developers familiar with XML can continue to use the SOAP, REST and JMS bindings.

## ActiveVOS Designer Improvements

### New Validate Designer Menu Item

We found that many developers were using “Save” as a way to validate their process design. When working with very large processes, the time to save, validate and build a process can be long. To speed up

development, ActiveVOS 7.1 offers a new “Validate” button on the button bar.

### **New BPR/BPRD Generation**

ActiveVOS 7.1 changes the BPR archive and BPRD Ant script export wizard to browse for archive file location within projects rather than the file system. ActiveVOS 7.1 also changes the default suggestion to use the current project’s name as the archive filename and BPRD filename, and makes this selection *sticky* to the project and not the workspace.

This enhancement prevents the user from accidentally overwriting archives and BPRD Ant scripts in other projects.

### **JRE6 Support**

ActiveVOS Designer now supports and bundles JRE6.

## **ActiveVOS Server Improvements**

### **JDK6 Support**

ActiveVOS Server now supports JDK6 as well as JDK5.

### **New Intraday Storage Management Scheduling**

ActiveVOS 7.1 now permits scheduling intraday deletion of completed/faulted processes with granularity down to minutes. High-volume environments will benefit from this because this will help control growth of the database.

### **New Flexible Persistence Level Settings**

ActiveVOS 7.1 provides additional persistence level settings that balance the need for visibility of running processes without requiring the full overhead of “Full” persistence. These are configured in the Admin > Configure Server > Logging Properties page as shown below.

Persistence affects the storage of processes deployed to a server. When a process runs on the ActiveVOS server, all state and variable data is stored in the server database by default. However, for performance reasons and database size considerations, it may be desirable to set the level of persistence.

You can make persistence setting selections as follows:

<b>Full</b>	<p>The default setting. For each process instance, all state information is stored for a running, faulted and completed process. In the event of a server failure, a running process can be fully recovered. The recovery is possible because ActiveVOS maintains journaling (a journal of the changes intended for the database) for this setting.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> If the process uses a WS-ReliableMessaging (WSRM) invoke handler for a partner role or a WSRM policy assertion on a <i>My role</i>, you must select this setting.</p>
<b>Persist</b>	<p>Same storage setting as Full, but without journaling. A running process is suspended. The process is recoverable if the system goes down, but needs to be looked at since no journaling was done, so recovery marks this type as suspended.</p>
<b>Final</b>	<p>Stores only the final state of the process (completed or faulted) and process variables. On a server failure, a running process is terminated. This setting makes fewer database writes than the settings above, but allows you to view a graph of the process on the Active Processes detail page in the ActiveVOS Console, where you can see the execution path and final values of process variables. A process runs only in memory, and the Server Property called Process Idle Timeout has no effect on this persistence level.</p>
<b>Brief</b>	<p>This is the minimum level for process logging (described in the section above), but does not allow for viewing a graph of the active process. Stores only the start and completion times as well as final state (completed or faulted). Stores state and process variables only if the process faults. A process runs only in memory, and the Server Property called Process Idle Timeout has no effect on this persistence level.</p>
<b>None</b>	<p>No process information is stored in the server database when a process terminates. The process instance is not listed in the Administration Console's Active Processes page.</p>

## Server Configuration Export/Import

It takes time to enter server configuration information in the ActiveVOS admin console. Configuration data is usually different from environment to environment, so this work has to be done for each environment. With an import and export capability for this information, it is possible for:

1. Export configuration data that has been entered manually can be reviewed, stored, and reused

2. Configuration data can be imported from an XML file, avoiding manual re-keying of the data, allowing offline editing of the data and allowing automated or scripted configuration of the server
3. Users to maintain or create different configuration file versions for different deployment environments. This allows not just efficiency during setup of new environments, but also better control and monitoring of the configuration data as it relates to each environment.

Configuration parameters now imported and exported now include:

- Server properties such as process run-time and tuning options
- Function context
- Alert service
- URN mappings
- Identity service
- JMS configuration and more

By making ActiveVOS server configuration information externally available for editing, review and for automated or scripted installation, customers will find it easier to deploy ActiveVOS into test, pre-production and production environments.

## New Platform Support

As of ActiveVOS 7.1.1 the additional application server platforms are now supported and certified. These include:

- Apache Tomcat 6
- RedHat JBoss Server 5
- IBM WebSphere Server 7

Visit the [Supported and Certified Systems page](#) for a full list of platforms and versions supported by ActiveVOS.

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## About Active Endpoints

Active Endpoints' ([www.activevos.com](http://www.activevos.com)) ActiveVOS is the business process management system (BPMS) that development teams will love. ActiveVOS empowers project teams to create business process management (BPM) applications using services, making their businesses more agile and effective. ActiveVOS promotes mass adoption of SOA-enabled BPM applications by focusing on accelerating project delivery time with a complete, affordable and easy-to-use system. Active Endpoints is headquartered in Waltham, MA with development facilities in Shelton, CT.