TopBraid EVN is becoming TopBraid EDG-Vocabulary Management

As you may know, TopBraid Enterprise Data Governance (EDG) is our flagship solution. Our former standalone products such as Enterprise Vocabulary Net (EVN), and Reference Data Manager (RDM) are now available under TopBraid EDG as one of its standard packages.

TopBraid EDG-Vocabulary Management (TopBraid EDG-VM) offers the same capabilities as TopBraid EVN and it uses the same codebase as EVN. The only differences between them are in the package names and the fact that certain additional features are only available in EDG-VM. Thus, we will no longer offer TopBraid EVN as a standalone package under its own product name. Starting with the 6.0 release of in June 2018, TopBraid EVN will be offered only as TopBraid EDG-Vocabulary Management (or TopBraid EVN in EDG)

Users of EVN will find that EDG-VM has all the same Capabilities - *plus more!*

TopBraid EDG-VM offers the same capabilities such as vocabulary creation, management, and maintenance, as well as the same user-interface. As explained above, the codebase is the same. Additionally, TopBraid EDG offers some functionality that was not previously available to users of EVN, such as "Search the EDG" - a global search function created to improve the findability of resources managed within TopBraid EDG. You will also be able to seamlessly add additional packages available in EDG (e.g., Metadata or Reference Data Management), should you need to.

From the user interface perspective, the only difference will be in the home page where you will see the TopBraid EDG logo as opposed to the TopBraid EVN logo. Because TopBraid EVN code has and always been part of EDG, everything else will remain the same for its users including any customizations you may have done for EVN. The change is primarily in the marketing and documentation.

Of course, with every new release TopQuadrant continues to improve its product line. You will see usability and scalability improvements as well as some new features in the 6.0 release. We hope you will enjoy them. As always, all changes will be documented in the release notes. At the end of this e-mail, we provide a short preview of highlights expected for 6.0.

Time Your Migration to EDG-VM when you are Ready to Upgrade to New Release

We will continue to provide support and maintenance for EVN per our existing agreements. However, when you are ready to upgrade to the 6.0 release, your upgrade path will be to EDG-VM. You can also upgrade to EDG-VM right away - as part of your 5.5 upgrade.

We recognize that upgrading your installation to new releases requires careful planning. You may not want to upgrade to EDG-VM from EVN until you are ready to move to a new release – and this may be some time from now. When you are ready to upgrade, we want to make that process as simple and risk free as possible and TopQuadrant's support department will be there to guide and help you every step of the way as needed.

Upgrading from let's say 5.4 release of TopBraid EVN to 5.5 or 6.0 release of TopBraid EDG-VM will not be in any way more difficult than your past upgrade experiences across EVN releases. In fact, with each new release we strive to improve the upgrade experience for our users.

Migration from EVN to EDG-VM is Simple Process
Below the body of this email is a step-by-step guide to walk you through the migration. Here are a couple of the common questions we have started to receive regarding the transition:

1. Does switching from EVN to EDG-VM imply a change of price?
   No. The price of EVN and EDG-VM will remain the same and the standard annual Technical Support & Maintenance (TSM) cost also remains the same. When you want to transition we will provide a TopBraid EDG-VM license to replace your EVN license, at no cost.

2. Should we expect compatibility issues between EDG-VM and our customizations implemented using TopBraid Composer?
   No. You should expect full compatibility with the migration to EDG-VM. The customization upgrade process will be the same going to EDG 6.0 as it would have been going to a new version of EVN. Please refer to the migration steps below.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if are interested in migrating your existing copy of EVN to EDG-VM. If you are interested in learning more about TopBraid EDG and the additional capabilities we are happy to set up a demo at your convenience.

Step-by-Step Migration

Below are detailed instructions on upgrading from EVN to EDG. The upgrade process is the same as if moving to a newer version of EVN. Use the same application data storage and workspace for seamless migration. Please read these instructions prior to beginning to ensure you understand the migration steps and can apply them to your environment.

1. Shutdown your application.

2. Perform backups of your workspace and database using this document as guidance: TopBraid Backup and Restore.

3. Backup application server filesystem by copying webapps to a temporary location.

4. Clear webapps/*, work/*, and temp/* directories from tomcat.

5. Install edg.war file in tomcat, startup tomcat to deploy the war file.

6. Shutdown tomcat, and copy your saved webapps/evn/WEB-INF/web.xml to the new webapps/edg/WEB-INF/web.xml.

7. Update any server URL rewrites for /edg/tbl instead of /evn and /evn/tbl

8. Log into the application as an administrator role and update the product registration with new EDG license.

9. Your existing workspace and database will remain valid for use in EDG from EVN. Existing customizations (if remaining on the same version) will also remain. One

exception to this is overriding the logo file. Please replace the EDG logo (.edg-product-logo) instead of the EVN logo.

10. To use the new Search the EDG feature, please have an administrator configure it for users of the application. See the following for guidance: Search the EDG configuration.

11. For questions or issues, please contact support@topquadrant.com.

Summary of key new features planned for 6.0

- Support for GraphQL. All information you are managing in EVN will be accessible through GraphQL. GraphQL Schemas will be auto-generated from ontologies.

- Automated creation of crosswalks between two vocabularies.

- Ability to run inference rules.

- Improvements in the overall navigation. The "management pages" for a vocabulary are no longer separate from the edit pages for its content.

- Enhancements to RDF export: faster, support for TRIG format for export of RDF datasets.

- Ability to directly edit RDF content, ability to add and modify prefixes.

- Improvements to pages displaying user information.

- Improved configuration of metrics and dashboards.

- Improvements to ontology editing and visualization.

In case you have not yet upgraded to 5.5 release we are also including a summary of key new features in 5.5:

- The My Dashboards page allows users to see metrics dashboards for workflows, subject areas and asset collections in which they participate.

- The Constraint Violations Report is now interactive and has been renamed to Problems and Suggestions Report.

  o Users can edit the flagged resources directly from the interactive report editor and download results.

  o Users can also disable certain shapes directly through the report. This disabling is local - for a given vocabulary only.

- The SPARQL endpoint GUI has been updated to use syntax highlighting, syntax checking, auto-completion for prefixes, auto-completion for variable names, export as Excel, chart creation from result sets.

- Role-based forms. It is now possible to hide certain properties from EVN forms for users in specified governance roles (via edg:hiddenPropertyForRole). This means, for example, that a form displayed to a data steward may have more (or different) details than a form displayed to a subject matter expert.

- Spreadsheet import for tabular (no hierarchy format) now lets users create relationships by matching on selected property values

- SKOS constraints previously implemented in SPIN were replaced with SHACL equivalents. "Hard coded" SKOS forms were replaced with SHACL-based. This makes forms for SKOS concepts more easily configurable. Users can now not only easily add new fields, but also disable some of the pre-configured SKOS properties if desired.

  - To optimize EVN performance, separation of ontology schemas (classes and properties) from taxonomies (instances) is now encouraged. It can be turned off in the Administrative console.

- Added SHACL-based triples generator for creation of test data. Available in TBC under Model -> Generate random triples … and in all TopBraid products using the SM module sml:GenerateRandomData.

- New constraint components in TopBraid/SHACL/strkind.shapes.ttl namespace. They allow users to check for adherence to common patterns such as e-mail addresses, credit card numbers, etc.

- Improvements in the performance and scalability of the pages displaying the lists of all vocabularies e.g., all taxonomies, all ontologies.

- Improvements in the performance of class forms that have a large number of property shapes.

New features in 5.4 can be seen here https://www.topquadrant.com/release-notes-topbraid-5-4/

A major new addition in 5.4 was support for workflows together with support for the governance roles and subject areas (business areas and data domains).

Data replication and high availability server (Data Platform) were also first released in 5.4: https://www.topquadrant.com/technology/topbraid-data-platform/.