

# How Can Your Application Release Practices Keep Up With Agile Development and Customer Expectations?

In this age of digital transformation, a company is only as agile as its release practices.

CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition is an essential release management solution that enables you to advance your continuous delivery journey through holistic release pipeline planning, orchestration and optimization.

# Executive Summary

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## Challenge

Continuous delivery happens when businesses can deliver high-quality apps anywhere, any time—while working toward faster lead times, better quality and greater efficiency. As you cultivate a continuous delivery practice, new pressure points emerge for releasing apps—more dependencies among apps, more contention for the same resources and more teams involved (all owning a piece of the app puzzle and working with their preferred tools). While you may be automating some tasks in the pipeline, delays, errors and lack of visibility still happen.

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## Opportunity

Be more agile in releasing apps—and more responsive to your business and customers. Holistically manage releases in your continuous delivery pipeline with CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition. Ensure the right, high-quality content makes it into the production release. Provide pipeline visibility and tracking to better manage moving parts and keep stakeholders aligned and informed. More easily juggle the breadth of open-source, homegrown and third-party commercial tools and technologies that different teams use in the software development lifecycle (SDLC).

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## Benefits

**Get control over your multi-app, composite releases** with end-to-end planning and management of the pipeline; be more agile in handling dependencies, conflicts and issues that arise.

**Raise the bar on your application release quality** by establishing common criteria, approval gates and quality standards by which all releases are measured.

**Get the most efficiency out of your pipeline and productivity from your people** by enabling faster problem resolution, easier identification of bottlenecks and transparency for all teams.

### Section 1:

## A Journey, Not a Quick Fix

To gain a competitive edge in today's application economy, companies are realizing the importance of embracing continuous delivery to provide superior user experiences and meet the demands of their customers. Yet, continuous delivery isn't a quick fix. As organizations embark on their continuous delivery journey and release volume, cadence and complexity grow, new challenges emerge, including:

- **Application content complexity.** Companies need to more quickly infuse releases with feedback, prioritize deployment of the right content, demonstrate implementation against business requirements and prevent dirty content from reaching production.
- **Multiplier effect on the pipeline.** Enterprises must plan, track and prioritize many complex, multilevel applications and independently developed services; manage dependencies and avoid conflicts; share resources between multiple teams, projects and timelines.
- **Toolchain expansion.** Companies need to effectively juggle a growing breadth of open source, homegrown and third-party commercial tools that development, test and operations teams use across the enterprise.

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### Section 2:

## Take Your Continuous Delivery Journey to the Next Level

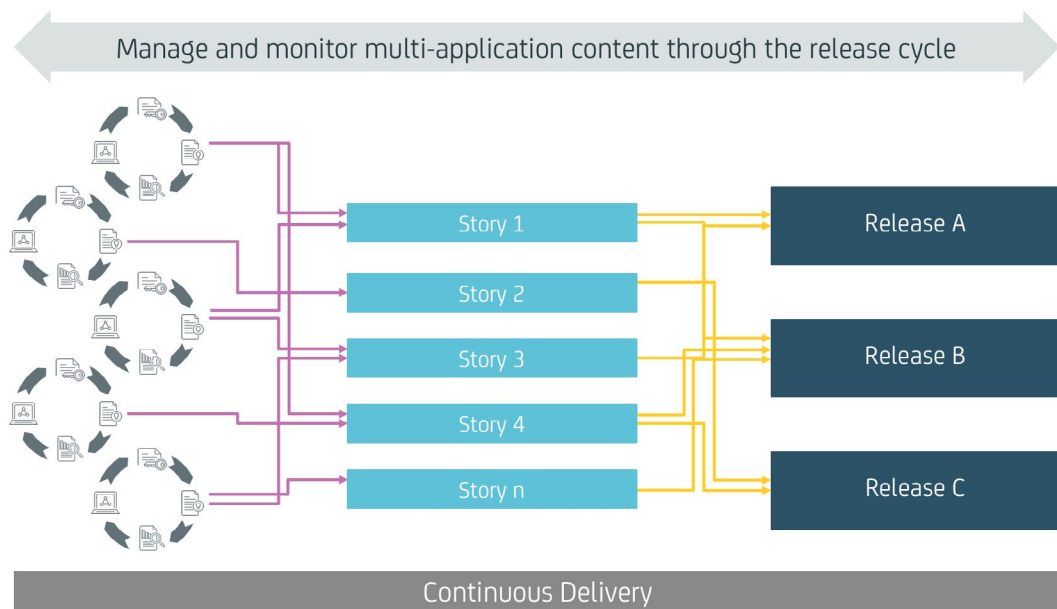
So, how do you manage the new pressure points of modern application delivery to ensure you can achieve the necessary speed and quality required? CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition offers several use cases to address your enterprise release management needs and improve your continuous delivery practice.

### Use case 1: Use agile methods to manage complexity of cross-application releases

- Track user stories, features and bug fixes in the pipeline, importing release content from planning tools like CA Agile Central or JIRA.
- Release and track stories independently or grouped based on business requirements.
- Easily identify and reconcile application dependencies.

**Figure 1.**

Cross-application  
release  
management



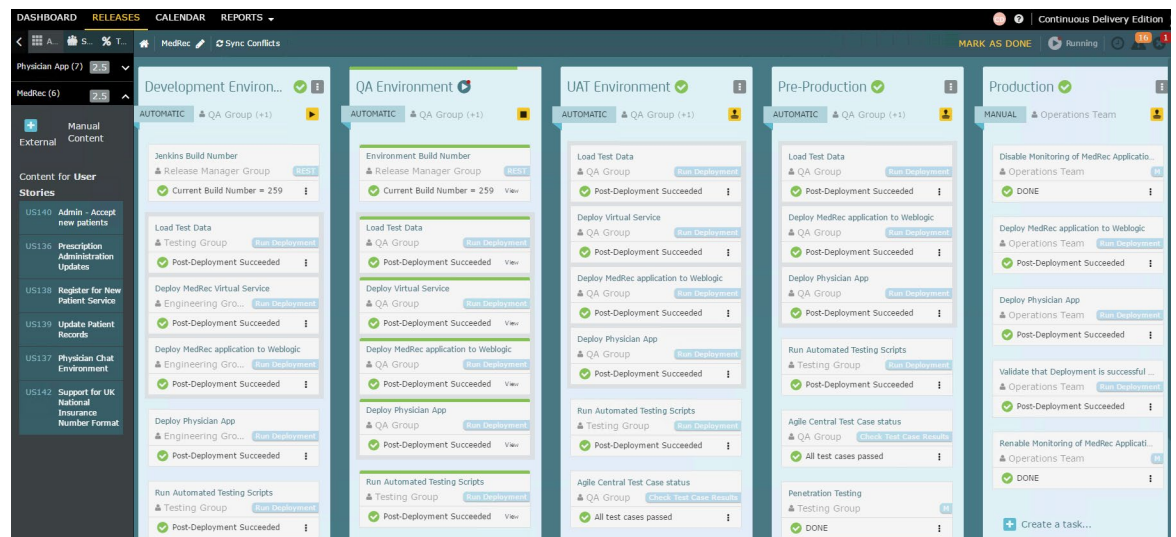
Integrate with application lifecycle management (ALM) solutions like CA Agile Central and JIRA to plan and track multi-application content through the release cycle and accelerate the feedback loop for faster problem resolution and application delivery.

## Use case 2: Embed a continuous delivery discipline across the enterprise

- Create a blueprint of release best practices across all your application delivery teams, including:
  - Release criteria
  - Approval gates
  - Quality control gates
- Automate enforcement to improve quality.
- Teams can use any tools they want, but follow the same release discipline.

**Figure 2.**

CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition—release cycle planning and execution



From a single control point, orchestrate end-to-end planning, scheduling, execution, enforcement and optimization of multiple, concurrent application releases through the continuous delivery pipeline.

### Use case 3: Track, report and analyze releases for pipeline optimization

- Gain end-to-end transparency to drive collaborative DevOps resolution.
- Continually optimize continuous delivery pipeline for quality and speed.
- Identify and resolve release-cycle bottlenecks.
- Suggest fixes based on historical deployment patterns.
- Prevent dirty code in production via analytics on key KPIs (e.g., testing).
- Monitor evolution of continuous delivery maturity of teams.

**Figure 3.**

CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition—dashboard and widgets



Access the data you need to optimize the pipeline and provide business-level visibility into what each release contains.

### Section 3:

## Build an Agile, Scalable and Resilient Continuous Delivery Pipeline

With CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition, companies can scale their release management practices in response to an endlessly growing volume of applications, releases, environments and dependencies. They can effectively plan, execute and govern repeatable application releases as a connected team, making them more responsive to new customer requirements. In addition, they can leverage data in ways that enable continuous improvements to release quality, pipeline processes, time to resolution and team productivity.

With CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition, you can:

- **Design a shared pipeline.** Orchestrate manual and automated tasks within the continuous delivery pipeline, identifying dependencies and criteria for releases.
- **Execute many complex releases at once.** Run through all the release phases from development to test to production for multi-app, multi-team releases. Iterate and improve failed content. Track code changes and automatically promote successful builds through the pipeline.
- **Plan and manage the release timeline.** Schedule and manage multiple apps through multiple phases using a visual calendar. Easily identify resource constraints and conflicts. Set maintenance windows.
- **Assign dynamic teams and increase collaboration.** Assign owners to tasks and use the activity feed to share comments.
- **Manage and track the application content.** Track features as they proceed to production. Have full insight when prioritizing. Get clear business-value implications of a delay.
- **Drive multiple, related releases together to the same production deadline.** Build a shared release track with common milestones. Remove releases that miss milestones or as priorities change. Dynamically prioritize approved releases.
- **Optimize the pipeline.** Get analytics on every release to help detect problems in real time, recognize bottlenecks and ultimately improve your processes and teams.
- **Leverage your continuous delivery toolchain investment.** Integrate ALM, test management, deployment automation and change management tools (among others) to help accelerate the feedback loop, track and report activity, as well as scope future updates.
- **Plot a roadmap to continuous delivery automation.** Plan out release workflows with manual and automated steps. Execute all releases through the single control point. Leverage centralized pipeline measurement to identify bottlenecks and the resulting opportunities for improvement and automation.



## Section 4:

## Essential Building Blocks for Continuous Delivery

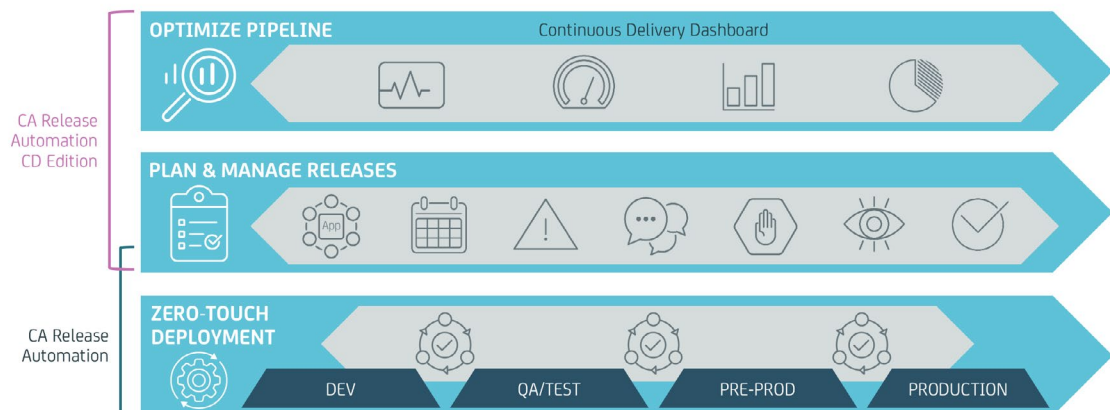
CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition works seamlessly with the CA Release Automation deployment engine to provide a critical foundation for continuous delivery:

- **CA Release Automation deployment engine** automates the full process of provisioning, validating and deploying applications along the pipeline—including the ability to track and visually monitor this process end to end.
- **CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition** provides critical functionality for planning and managing all those deployments through the pipeline, including sequencing deployment dependencies among apps. Plus, you'll be able to effectively track, report and measure pipeline activity.

This comprehensive solution set enables you to build an agile, resilient and scalable continuous delivery process.

Figure 4.

Continuous delivery pipeline management with CA Release Automation solution set

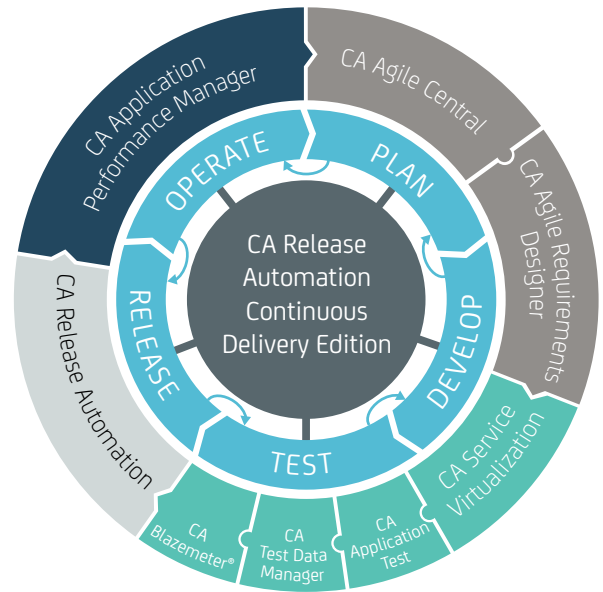


## Section 5:

# The CA Technologies Advantage

CA offers a comprehensive, open and integrated ecosystem of software solutions that cover the full spectrum of the SDLC. This open framework allows DevOps teams to leverage current investments and tools of choice while moving forward in their continuous delivery journey. CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition sits at the hub of this integrated offering, providing planning, orchestration, visibility and analytics to help you advance your continuous delivery journey.

We're committed to ensuring you achieve your desired outcomes and expected business value with our technology. Learn about our customers' continuous delivery successes.



## Section 6:

# Next Steps

To learn more about CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition, visit [ca.com/releaseautomation](https://ca.com/releaseautomation)

Also, check out these key resources:

- CA Release Automation v6.x data sheet
- CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition 6.x YouTube playlist
- CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition community webcast playlist

For product news, visit the CA Release Automation community.

Contact your CA sales representative to discuss how CA Release Automation Continuous Delivery Edition can help transform your application release practices.



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