



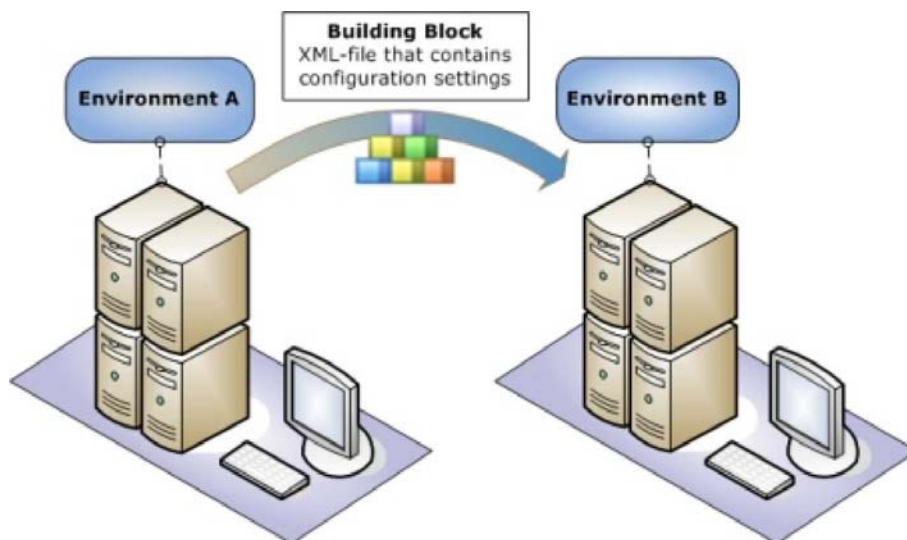
Feature Guide Building Blocks



1 Introduction

Solutions to specific problems are often the result of an investment of substantial amounts of time and money. Because of this investment it would be preferable to be able to reuse and customize these solutions. This often proves to be very difficult, because the solution may include very specific settings and structures that need to be edited or removed. With the Building Blocks feature you are now able to use, reuse, and customize these solutions.

Building Blocks are XML-files that contain all data concerning settings and related configurations. They may include an entire environment or only specific parts of it and can be generated with only a few mouse clicks. Because of their XML-format, Building Blocks can even be created and edited manually. In this way, the Building Blocks concept offers a very flexible, powerful, and easy-to-use methodology. It enables using, reusing, editing, and backing up an entire PowerFuse environment or specific parts of it. This enables you to use Building Blocks as a Backup solution as well as a Change Management solution.



Concept of a Building Block



2 Creating Building Blocks

Entire Environment

When you want to create a Building Block of your entire environment, for example for backup purposes or because some testing needs to be done before implementation, you can do so by selecting all items. When selecting the items for the Building Block, all relevant items are selected by default. The Building Block created will then contain all items in your environment.

Single RES PowerFuse object

When you want to create a Building Block of a single object in RES PowerFuse, for example a PowerZone or an application, just select the node containing this object and click the Building Blocks button. This will create a Building Block of the RES PowerFuse object, including all other referenced PowerFuse objects. When creating a Building Block, it is also possible to select multiple items directly from the tree. The Building Block created will then contain all selected items.



Select specific items to create a Building Block

Generate or Modify a Building Block

Because of their XML-structure, a developer can easily modify or generate Building Blocks. No knowledge of an advanced programming language is needed to understand the contents of a Building Block. Use any XML-authoring solution to generate Building Blocks or to modify existing ones.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!-- RES PowerFuse Building Block --><!-- Copyright (C) 1998-2004 by Real Enterprise Solutions Development
<respowerfuse> <version>7.02i</version>
  <buildingblock>
    <instantmapis>
      <instantmapi required="yes">
        <guid>{E00F1F9C-9195-4124-9B8B-0BA7E7193700}</guid>
        <name>Mapi Profile</name>
        <runonce>yes</runonce>
        <mapitemplates>
          <msexchange>
            <configflags>22</configflags>
            <mailbox>%username%</mailbox>
```

XML structure of a Building Block

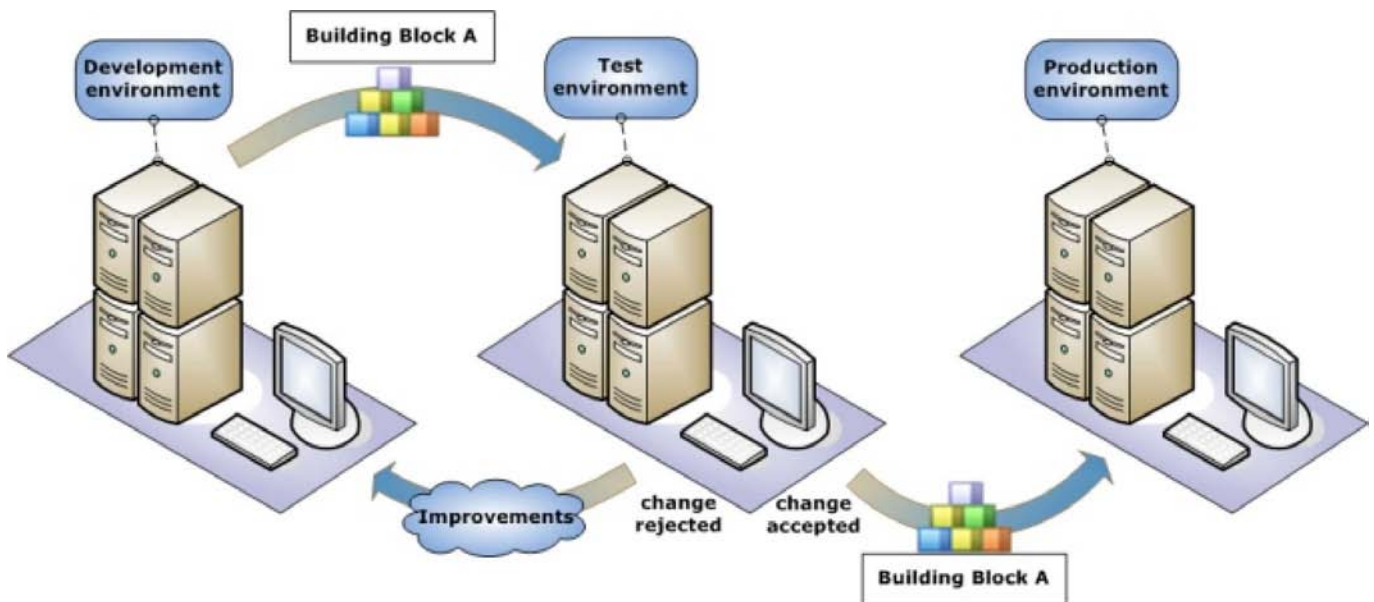


3 Importing and reusing Building Blocks

Change Management

A change in your IT-environment can only be successful if you are 100% certain that the configurations of your development, test, and production environments are exactly identical. However, creating identical configuration settings in your development, test, and production environments by hand is not reliable and takes a lot of time. With Building Blocks this process is fully automated.

Building Blocks are essential for your Change Management policy, because they make it possible to manage modifications to your environment in a very effective and efficient way.



Building Blocks used in a Change Management Process

First create a Building Block containing the configuration of your entire production environment and import it into a greenfield PowerFuse environment. You are now ready to make changes in this new development environment. If you are finished, create a new Building Block containing only the changes made in the development environment. Import this Building Block into your test environment (which is an exact copy of your production environment). This ensures that all changes will be implemented correctly in the test environment: your test results will be 100% reliable. If you rejected the changes in the test environment, import the same Building Block in your production environment. If you accepted the changes, go back to your development environment to improve the changes.

Disaster Recovery

Building Blocks enable you to back up the configuration of your entire environment and store it as a data file. Making paper backups of your configuration becomes obsolete with Building Blocks. With Building Blocks you can make a "snapshot" of the configuration of your entire environment with just a simple mouse click. Creating a Building Block only takes a few minutes, which enables you to create a full backup of your configuration at any moment of the day. In case of a disaster recovery, install a greenfield PowerFuse environment and simply import the recovery Building Block – you do not need to spend valuable time on restoring databases or reconfiguring the environment manually.

System Integration

It is possible to create predefined Building Blocks that are based on best practices. This is very useful for system integrators who set up new environments at customer sites. Because of the way it is built up, a predefined Building Block can serve as a template that can easily be modified to meet the demands of the environment it is used in. Building Blocks make it possible to save configuration time, but also to adopt and take advantage of already existing configurations.



4 Conclusion

Building Blocks offer a flexible and easy-to-use method to create reusable blocks of configuration settings. Building Blocks are unique and easy to implement in your environment. They are a fast and reliable way to backup, develop, and improve your entire environment. Building Blocks create new possibilities and solve common problems in processes like Change Management.

Building Blocks are XML-files, which opens up new possibilities for developers. No additional knowledge of advanced programming languages is needed to take full advantage of Building Blocks.

Building Blocks are essential when you want to create a clear and reliable environment that is easy to manage and easy to change. Building Blocks are essential for any Windows environment.



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