

# **Telelogic® Focal Point™ Baselineing Guidelines**

**Version 2**

**08 October 2008**

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## ***How to use Baselining***

The baselining functionality in Telelogic® Focal Point™ is a powerful way to freeze content of e.g., a requirements specification prior to formal change management. Some of the baselining activities are potentially resource-demanding, and as Focal Point is a server application, all current users share computational resources. Therefore you should read this Baselining Guidelines document thoroughly, before you start using the baselining feature in Focal Point.

Generally, creating a baseline in Focal Point should be seen as a formal step in the development process, rather than a way to store away the last hour's work. A typical usage is to be able to go back and see, for example, what a feature specification looked like before the release was started, and also what it looked like when the release was delivered.

- You should only create baselines on views with a limited number of elements, a couple of hundred elements at most. If possible, create dedicated views for baselining, containing just a few attributes (e.g. ID, title, text and version).
- You should always create baselines at a time when the server normally is used by a minimum of users. This way, a potential server overload will affect as few people as possible .
- To maintain system performance, you should display baselines with a minimum of link usage. To display links in baselines, Focal Point needs to create the element that is linked from the history values of its attributes. This operation takes some time, and if it needs to be done frequently, the server performance will suffer. For example, if you have a table containing 100 elements, with an average of 10 links per element, Focal Point needs to recreate 1000 elements to display these links. When using e.g. traceability matrices, Focal Point needs to recreate even more elements. Thus, you should avoid activating baselines with link-intensive display methods, e.g.. table views, attribute statistics, Gantt charts, relational graphs, and traceability matrices.
- Always wait until the baselining operation has finished before you take any other action in Focal Point. Baselining can be time-consuming. If the action takes unreasonably long to finish, please contact support.

## ***What to Avoid***

- Do not use the baselining feature to save changes several times a day.
- You should, as far as possible, avoid using link attributes in views that will be baselined.
- Do not create baselines on views that contain entire modules. Even if a module is small from the beginning, it could grow quickly.
- Comparing baselines (baseline diff) is a time-consuming operation. The bigger the baseline, the more work for the server. In a worst-case scenario, all users

will experience very long response times while a comparison is made.

**Note:** If you start a baseline diff, there is no way of interrupting before it has finished. Starting a new baseline diff will result in two (or more) comparisons running simultaneously, where you can only see the result of the comparison last made. This applies to all operations in Focal Point, but is especially significant for baseline comparisons.

### ***Possible Consequences of Ignoring these Guidelines***

If several heavy baseline-related operations are started, the server load can result in blocking of all other calls. All users using the same server will be affected, and in worst case, they will be affected for a long time. If this occurs, it might be necessary to restart that server.

## **More Information**

### **Contacting IBM Rational Software Support**

Support and information for Telelogic products is currently being transitioned from the Telelogic Support site to the IBM Rational Software Support site.

During this transition phase, your product support location depends on your customer history.

#### **Product support**

- If you are a heritage customer, meaning you were a Telelogic customer prior to November 1, 2008, please visit the [Focal Point Support Web site](#).

Telelogic customers will be redirected automatically to the IBM Rational Software Support site after the product information has been migrated.

- If you are a new Rational customer, meaning you did not have Telelogic-licensed products prior to November 1, 2008, please visit the [IBM Rational Software Support site](#).

Before you contact Support, gather the background information that you will need to describe your problem. When describing a problem to an IBM software support specialist, be as specific as possible and include all relevant background information so that the specialist can help you solve the problem efficiently. To save time, know the answers to these questions:

- What software versions were you running when the problem occurred?
- Do you have logs, traces, or messages that are related to the problem?
- Can you reproduce the problem? If so, what steps do you take to reproduce it?
- Is there a workaround for the problem? If so, be prepared to describe the workaround.

#### **Other information**

For Rational software product news, events, and other information, visit the [IBM Rational Software Web site](#).

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