Deprecation and Removal
IFS Product Policy

Updated: 29 November 2023
Valid for: IFS Cloud (23R2 and subsequent updates)
Approver: RnD Senior Leadership Team

Introduction

As all software, IFS Cloud is continuously evolving with new features being introduced in release updates twice each year. Inevitably over time some features also need to be removed or substituted with others.

To help customers plan their evergreen journey with IFS Cloud, this document outlines IFS R&D policy for how features of IFS Cloud are deprecated and subsequently removed.

Definitions

For the purpose of this document:
- **Feature** refers to a sales part (SKU), component, significant application or platform feature that can be deprecated in accordance with this policy.
- **Deprecated** means that a feature is still available and fully usable in a release update, but IFS has a Deprecation and Removal Plan (DARP) to remove it in the future. Any planned replacement or alternatives to the deprecated feature are outlined in the plan.
- **Removed** means that a feature has been removed in a release update.
- **Obsolete** means the feature is deprecated and that alternatives are available.

Example: In release update R "tax report A" was deprecated. In release R+1 a new "tax report B" was introduced and used in IFS Cloud instead of "tax report A", which remained as obsolete for customers who continued to use it. In release R+2 "tax report A" was removed.

General Policy

Features available in any given release "R" will continue to be available and functional in that release for a period of 24 months from general availability (GA) of R, in accordance with our product lifecycle policy. During this time IFS intention is that features as well as supporting APIs and data models retain full compatibility, except where that is not possible e.g. in order to fix high severity faults or security vulnerabilities.

Deprecated features remain fully supported in line with our product lifecycle policy until they are removed.

A feature that is designated as deprecated in a release "R" or in a service update of release "R" may be removed in the subsequent release "R+1" or a later release. When a deprecation is announced it is recommended that customers transition their business, configurations and integrations to use alternative features, which will typically be available in release "R".

While for many deprecated features there is a planned replacement, that is not the case for all deprecated features. Any replacement or advice for alternative approaches is described in the deprecation and removal plan (DARP).

Features made available as limited access or on an alpha, beta, or trial premise may be removed without any advance deprecation notice.

How deprecations are communicated

All deprecations of features are listed in an IFS Cloud deprecation log published in the IFS Community knowledge base at the time of Early Access (EA). For each deprecated feature, a deprecation and removal plan is provided which outlines alternative approaches and general advice to customers.

A deprecation announcement will be made on IFS Community in conjunction with each release update, summarizing the deprecated features in that release update.

Deprecations only applicable for developers are communicated in the IFS Cloud technical documentation available at https://docs.ifs.com.

Additional Specific Policy

APIs

Premium APIs (as defined in the API usage policy) are deprecated according to the general policy. Their status as deprecated in indicated in the API Explorer.

For Standard APIs deprecation in advance of removal it typically not done. Standard APIs are not removed in service updates. Information about removed standard API in release updates is supplied together with the respective release update.

Like-for-like SKU substitution

Deprecation in advance of removal of SKUs is typically not done when the SKU to be removed is replaced like-for-like with one or more SKUs and the substitute SKU(s) are provided to customer automatically, without degradation of capability, and without the customer needing to take any action.

This could happen for example if the capabilities included in one SKU are split into two new SKUs and the customer is automatically provided those two new SKUs.

Limited Access

Features designated, in accordance with the IFS Cloud product lifecycle policy, as Limited Access may be removed without prior deprecation. Where Limited Access features are available to a specific and named set of customers only, notification about deprecation and removal will typically be made direct to those customers.