

FlexDeploy Differentiators

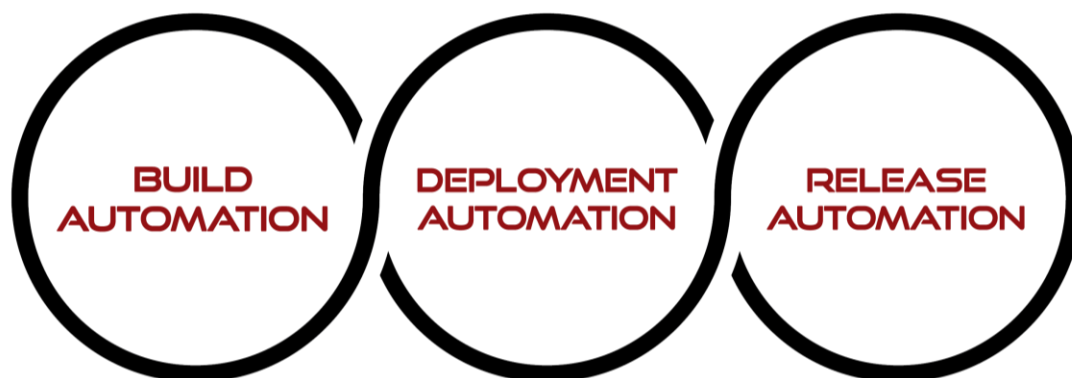


Along with the interest and adoption of DevOps over the last few years, the marketplace has seen an increase in tools related to Release Automation, Continuous Delivery, and DevOps. These tools promise faster, better, and less expensive software delivery, but it can be challenging to understand the differences between the options. In this paper, we review the differentiators between FlexDeploy and other tools in the market, and why they matter.

Build and Continuous Integration tools work well for managing dependencies, building/packaging, and unit testing your applications. However, Build and Continuous Integration are only part of a more comprehensive solution required to effectively Provision, Configure, Build, Deploy, Test, and Release applications across environments.

The Biggest Differentiator - A Comprehensive and Integrated Platform

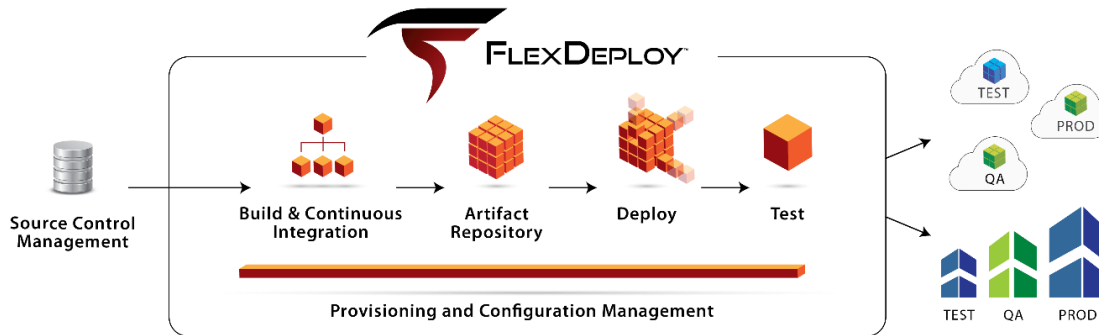
FlexDeploy provides a comprehensive, integrated, yet open platform which includes support for provisioning through release management, including support for the 3 core pillars of DevOps and Continuous Delivery:



Customers have the Flexibility and Choice to leverage FlexDeploy's Build, Continuous Integration, and Artifact Repository features out of the box, or use their existing tools such as Maven, Jenkins, and Nexus in conjunction with FlexDeploy. Flexagon's approach is in stark contrast with competing products which require users to invest in additional tools such as Maven, Jenkins, and an artifact repository. With FlexDeploy, customers have the option to cover the entire software deployment lifecycle as part of the FlexDeploy platform, or the choice to use their existing tools in conjunction with FlexDeploy whenever desired.

Leveraging the integrated FlexDeploy solution reduces overall complexity and cost and helps focus on delivering software faster and more effectively. FlexDeploy minimizes the time required to learn the details of a 'toolbox' of Build, CI, and Artifact Repo tools and extend those tools to perform deployment and release management across environments.

FlexDeploy is the only solution on the market which provides a comprehensive platform for the entire build through release lifecycle, making it easy to use across all teams. You can be building and deploying Oracle and non-Oracle based applications in a couple hours. It's really that simple.



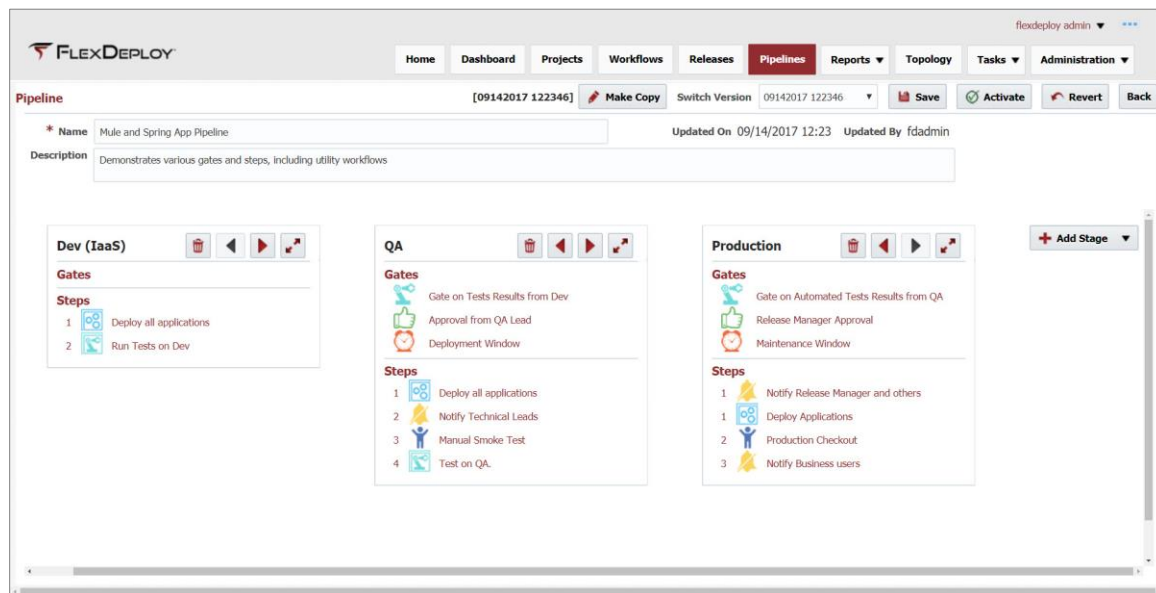
FlexDeploy supports provisioning and configuration management of environments, as well as the entire build through release lifecycle to on-premises and cloud targets.

For customers who have already invested in Build, CI, or Artifact Repository tools, FlexDeploy integrates with them as well. This integration is achieved either via FlexDeploy REST APIs or tool-specific plugins.

Other Key Differentiators:

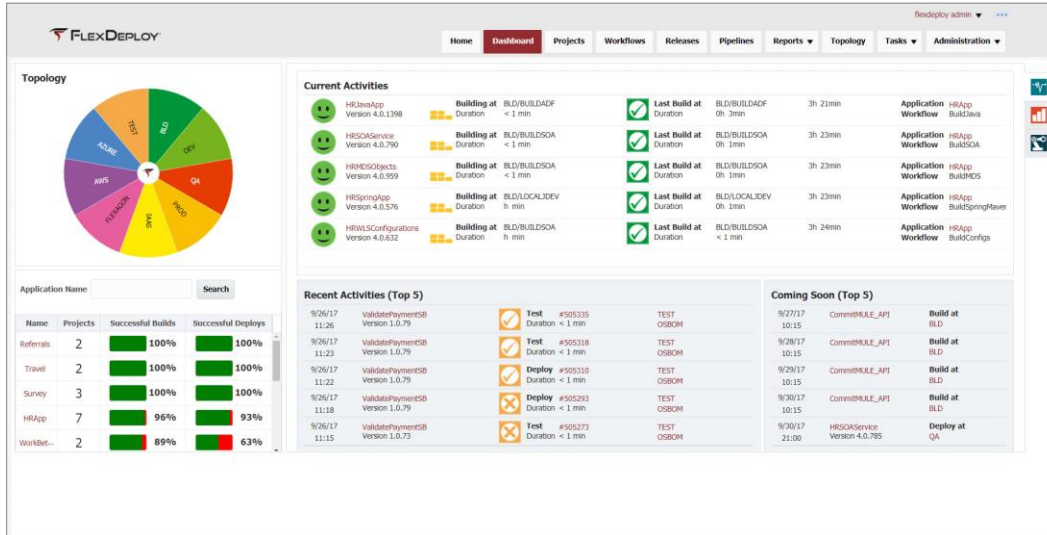
- **Pre-built plugins for Oracle:** FlexDeploy offers out-of-the-box content that provides Provisioning, Build, Deploy, and other Resource Management for Oracle Database, Fusion Middleware, Applications and Cloud Services. The Oracle plugins eliminate scripts that would otherwise need to be created and maintained as part of a solution. For example, if using Jenkins, you would need to create and maintain the scripts to perform the build and deploy operations for the Oracle products mentioned below. When using FlexDeploy, Flexagon creates the plugins (according to best practices), maintains, and supports them so you don't have to. FlexDeploy's extensive plugins and integrations for many technologies, both Oracle and non-Oracle, are second to none and include the following:
 - Fusion Middleware: JDeveloper, WebLogic, SOA, OSB, MDS, BPM, ADF, ODI, B2B, MTF, OBIEE
 - Fusion Middleware: WebLogic Resource Management (Data Sources, JMS, etc.), WebCenter
 - Oracle Database, Oracle Application Test Suite, APEX, Forms
 - Oracle Cloud PaaS: Java, SOA, Database, Application Container
 - Oracle Cloud IaaS: Compute, Storage
 - Oracle Applications: E-Business Suite (EBS) for Customizations and Functional Setups
- **E-Business Suite Support:** While we mention it above briefly, this differentiator is worth repeating. Most tools on the market either don't support Oracle's E-Business Suite, or only support E-Business Suite without supporting other common technologies, resulting in customers needing multiple tools to manage various technologies. FlexDeploy is the only tool on the market that can be used for E-Business Suite customizations, and other Oracle and non-Oracle technologies.

- **Pipeline Management Build, Deploy, Test, and Release:** FlexDeploy provides full support for deploying applications across multiple test environments and into production. FlexDeploy makes it easy for all users (Developers, QA, Operations, etc.) to build, deploy and release software, whether that be on-demand or scheduled, and with the appropriate governance and controls. To the contrary, CI servers such as Jenkins were not intended for deployment and release management and require significant customization to extend their core features to handle deployments across test, stage, and prod environments.



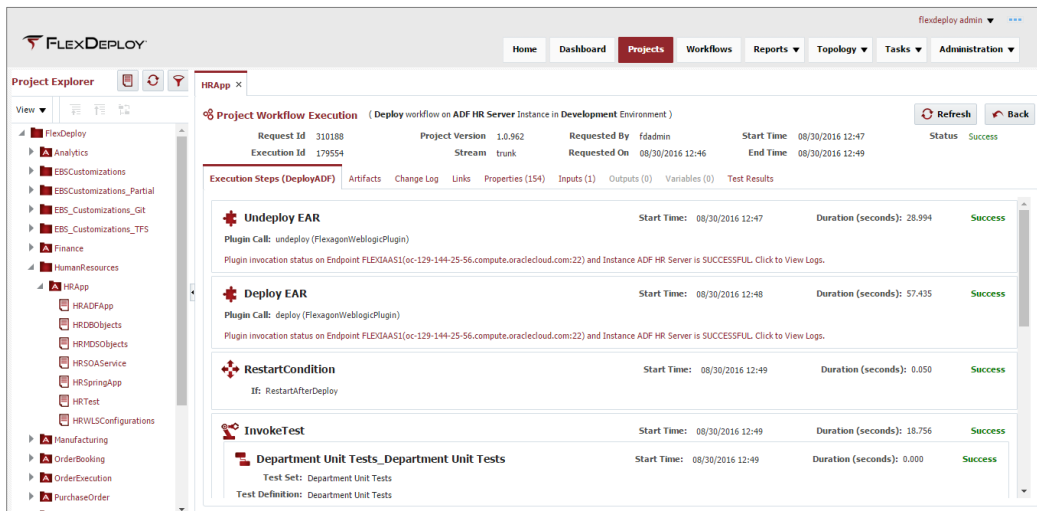
Pipelines define the gates and steps orchestrated across the environments in your software delivery lifecycle

- **Agentless Architecture:** FlexDeploy communicates to endpoints/targets via an agentless architecture across Windows and Unix. This eliminates the need to manage proprietary agent software on every target. Not only does this help during the initial setup/configuration, but also eliminates the need to maintain the agents during upgrades and other maintenance activities. The majority of tools in the market are agent-based, and therefore require administrators to deal with the installation and administration challenges which are avoided when using FlexDeploy. Additional information regarding the benefits of an agentless architecture details can be found [here](#).
- **Visibility across environments, applications, and projects:** FlexDeploy provides real-time and historical information regarding what's running across all environments as well as what has been running in the environments over time. Dashboards, reports, and notifications help make it fast and easy to gain the proactive insight needed to effectively deliver and maintain IT solutions. Drill into the details by environment, application, etc. With CI servers, it's difficult to quickly see what version of which application is running where, the status, or to drill into details when there are problems.



FlexDeploy's dashboards provide the information needed to make proactive and informed decisions.

- **Property/Configuration Management:** Most customers want to get away from manual or home-grown techniques for managing properties. FlexDeploy offers excellent control and granularity for properties used in the deployment process. Whether the properties are specific to an environment, workflow, application, or project, FlexDeploy can manage them, store them, and reference them throughout the lifecycle. Unlike other open source and commercial tools, FlexDeploy enables easy configuration and management of properties and other information.
- **Graphical Workflow Editor:** FlexDeploy's graphical workflow editor is easy to use, even if you are new to the technology which is the target of provisioning, build, testing, or deployment. With most open source products, the scripting is complex and hard to read, modify, and support. A graphical process is easier and more effective.



FlexDeploy's Graphical Workflow Editor is the definition of "easy to use."

- **Test Automation Framework:** The test automation framework and test plugins integrate seamlessly into the provisioning, build, deploy, test and release lifecycle. This solution provides the ability to define test cases and test sets and associate them to FlexDeploy projects. The test cases are implemented natively in your favorite testing tool, and FlexDeploy orchestrates the execution via test workflows and test plugins. Tests can be executed manually through FlexDeploy, or executed systematically through a deployment workflow; a key component of Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery Pipelines. Test qualifiers allow project owners to decide what dictates a successful test execution (e.g. 70% passed). Whether executed manually or as part of a deployment, the test results are visible through FlexDeploy's dashboard and reports. The comprehensive and integrated approach to test automation differs from solutions requiring users integrate test tools themselves or the purchase of a separate product. The latter being an example of how many commercial tools approach the problem space.
- **Affordability:** FlexDeploy's comprehensive and integrated approach provides all core capabilities out of the box, driving down initial implementation and ongoing support and maintenance costs. With an open source approach, you are rolling your own, writing a lot of scripts, and ultimately requiring significant time and money to implement and maintain a solution. With other commercial solutions, you may need to purchase three or more separate tools to do the work of FlexDeploy, and the overall cost of software licensing and implementation can be significantly higher. FlexDeploy's subscription based licensing model (software, support, and maintenance) makes FlexDeploy an affordable reality for companies, from SMBs to the largest enterprises.

Conclusion

FlexDeploy's comprehensive, integrated, yet open ARA platform includes support for provisioning through release management; including a Continuous Integration server and Artifact Repository out of the box. When paired with the additional differentiators described in this paper, FlexDeploy customers gain significant value in simplification and ease of use, lower total cost of implementation and maintainability, and market leading out-of-the-box support for Oracle Database, Fusion Middleware, E-Business Suite, and the Cloud.