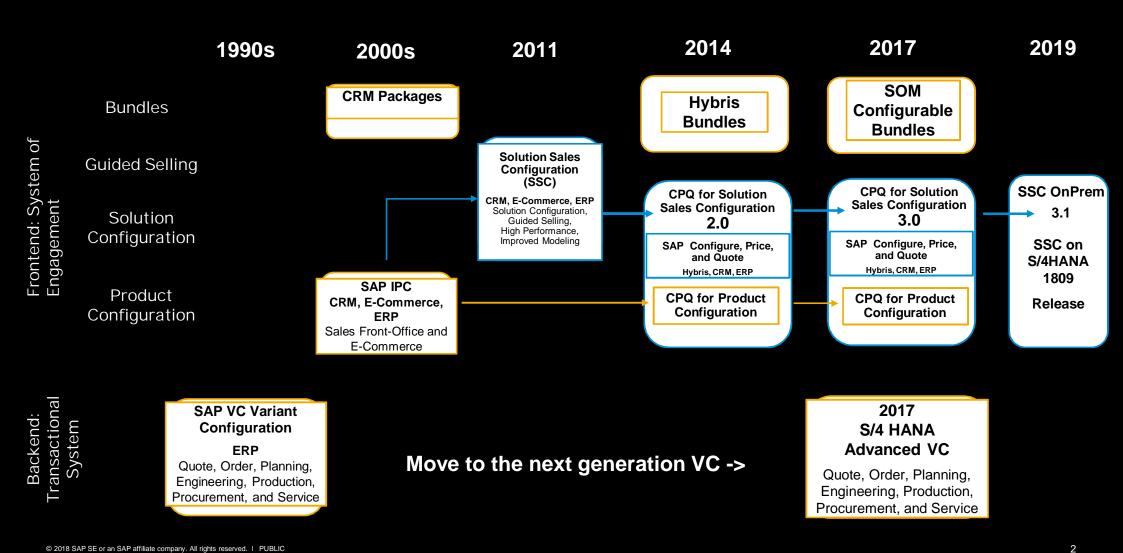
SAP Solution Sales Configuration SCE and SME Overview



**PUBLIC** 



## **Product and Solution Configuration with SAP: On-Premise**



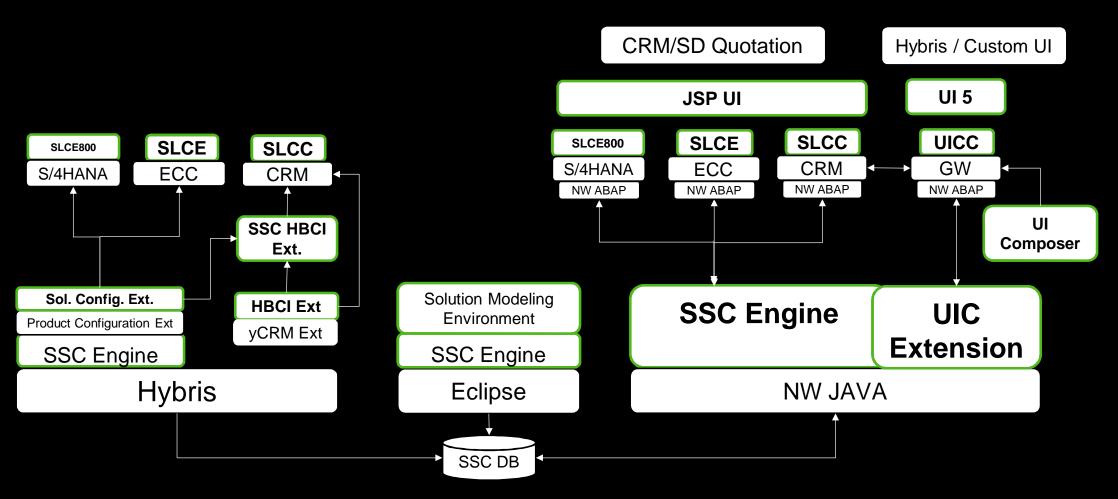
## **SAP Solution Sales Configuration (SSC)**

SSC enables customers to build complex configurable solutions comprising of 'any type' of products and services across all SAP sales processes in 'Standalone' mode.

### It comprises of:

- Solution Configuration Engine(SCE): Advanced inference engine, object oriented, and automated reasoning based upon declarative constraints.
- Solution Modeling Environment (SME):
  - Eclipse plugin for offline development and testing in distributed development setup.
  - Customizable and open development environment for specialized needs.
  - Devops support to ensure consistent performance and quality rollouts continuously.
- Sales and Service Process Integration: Seamless Integrations into SAP CRM, ERP, S/4HANA, and SAP Hybris Platforms

# **SSC**, HBCI, and UIC Integrations Overview



# Solution Configuration Engine

## **Advanced Mode for Bottom-Up Configuration**

Classical Mode: Top-Down Configuration

Maximum Bill Of Material: Traditional super BOM

Advanced Mode: Bottom-Up Configuration

- Dynamic Bill of Material
  - Multi Instantiation: Multiple sub-components under main or root item at same BOM position.
  - ❖ Abstract Data Types: Link or group instances through reference cstics (ADT's)
- Attribute Facets in Constraints: Enhanced constraints process to consider attribute facets such as invisibility, assigned value, dynamic domain, user domain, persistent or sticky default, and not specified.
- \* Add Non-Parts: 'Non-Part' is an item that is not in a bill of material. They are related to other items, but not as component parts and relationships expressed using ADT's. (e.g. a service is not part of the items it serves, but does have a 'service relationship' with each of them)

### **Declarative Constraints and Rules**

- Declarative: Define logic of computation without defining the control flow. Both constraints and rules are declarative in nature since they are triggered simultaneously when their trigger conditions are met.
  - Constraints: A relationship or condition that must hold true for configuration instances and their characteristics. Used to derive or infer contradictions or conflicts, Value Assignments, Domain Restrictions and exclusions, PART\_OF instance hierarchy, Specialization of an instance etc.
  - Rules: Procedural form of dependency which are used for aggregations, access and modify external data and trigger any built in or user defined functions

### **Knowledge Base Decomposition, Orchestration and MCI**

### KB Decomposition

- Possible to break down big monolithic KBs into smaller KB. Easier management with relatively smaller unit of work.
- Distributed, independent, and collaborative development

### KB Orchestration

- Interlinking between two different KBs in a coordinated manner.
- Unified representation of interlinked configurations.
- Enables reuse of classical KBs within a solution model

### Multi Configuration Instances

Instances which can be made accessible in more than one configuration object simultaneously.

### **User Domain Calculations**

User domain is set of allowed values in a restrictable cstic's domain resulting from restrictions triggered by the values of all other characteristics. Two modes are supported:

- One at a Time: For the restrictable cstic selected by user, domains are calculated for that particular restrictable cstic. This is enabled by setting 'userDomainPreview' flag as true, and is the same as in IPC.
- ❖ All at Once: New algorithms enables SSC to:
  - \* Calculate user domains for every restrictable cstic at once, resulting in a simplified UI experience.
  - Handle domain conflicts, remove duplicates, and flag them adequately.

This is enabled by setting 'userDomainCalculation' flag as true in SSC.

Irrespective of the mode, it is possible to see the set of disallowed values in SME for easier modeling purpose.

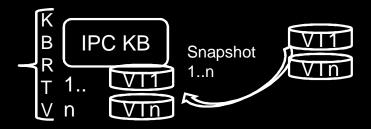
Care should be taken to limit the number of cstics to be restrictable to one's which are used for user inputs on the UI to avoid performance degradation.

### **External Variant and Text Tables**

External Variant Tables enables business users to maintain configuration data without the need of regenerating the configuration model.

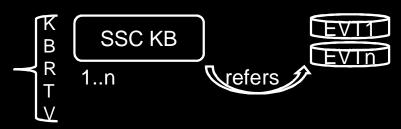
Similarly, External Texts enables management of Language text without generating the KBs again.

#### Classical Embedded Tables



- Requires KBRTV generation for any change in variant table data
- Multiple copies exists in the database and in SSC engine cache

### **SSC External Tables**



- ❖ EVT's can be mapped to a database table.
- Only one copy exists in db and in SSC engine cache
- KBRTV is not required to be generated for any change in data by business users
- Effectivity of the data is controlled by SSC\_FROM\_DATE and SSC\_TO\_DATE

## **Exclusions, Restrictions, Conflicts and Aggregations**

- Exclusions: Exclude features which are incompatible with already selected features.
  Supported through 'excluded values' attribute facet which can also be filled dynamically.
- \* Restrictions: Restrict possible feature selections to only those which are compatible with already selected features. Supported through 'dynamic domain' attribute facet which can also be filled dynamically.
- Conflicts: Selection of a feature which is incompatible with previous selection results in a conflict. Flexible messaging capability with any number of message objects dynamically created with guidance on why this is an incompatible selection and how it can be resolved.
- Aggregation: Attributes of individual parts can contribute to summation at different levels, for example, weight, length, height, depth, bandwidth, capacity, number of ports, and number of slots etc. SSC provides reliable and declarative syntax for calculating aggregations.

### **Configuration Restore**

SSC allows a user to quickly start a new configuration process based upon a previous saved configuration. Configuration is restored against the current valid KB and only valid options are listed. Two modes of restore are supported:

### Classical Restore

- Default saving of configuration state. Final state of configuration is saved in xml.
- Does not require modeling changes as instances are created and deleted dynamically during restore process by SSC engine.
- Suitable for most configurations without many custom user exits.
- Restore performance degrades with extremely large configuration due to heavy engine activity.
- If custom user exits are used, then special handling of restore scenarios need to be accounted for .

### **User Input Based Restore**

- Specialized saving of 'User Action' in configuration xml.
- Requires small modeling change to uniquely identify the instances during restore.
- Accomplishes restore by way of executing the recorded configuration steps in sequence.
- Simplifies custom user exit development process since restore specific coding is not required
- Performance consistent to initial configuration in case steps are optimized.

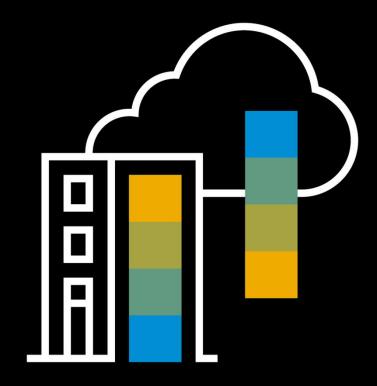
### **Modeling Frameworks and Engine Extensions**

- Frameworks: To reduce redundant and repetitive model development activities, a set of core models carrying definitions and behaviors can be grouped together which can act as a base framework. This framework can then be used by other models simply by project referencing capabilities of eclipse workbench.
- Engine Extensions: SSC engine provide special hooks or user exits for customer specific and general purpose extension of SSC engine.
  - Using these hooks, it is possible to provide triggers to the customer specific code to meet any specific requirements.
  - Since custom code might change frequently, it is possible to deploy these changes without requiring a system restart.

## **Scaling and Performance**

- Industry standard AI algorithms have been significantly modified and improved for performance and memory optimization.
- Delta Bean concept for data transfer optimization for each update.
- Dynamic variant table views to limit set of data to be processed by constraint or rules for faster processing.
- On-demand instantiation of data objects.
- Significant enhancements in basic data structures used in algorithms for performance.
- Hyper scaling through NW Java or Hybris clusters.

# SAP SSC Solution Modeling Environment



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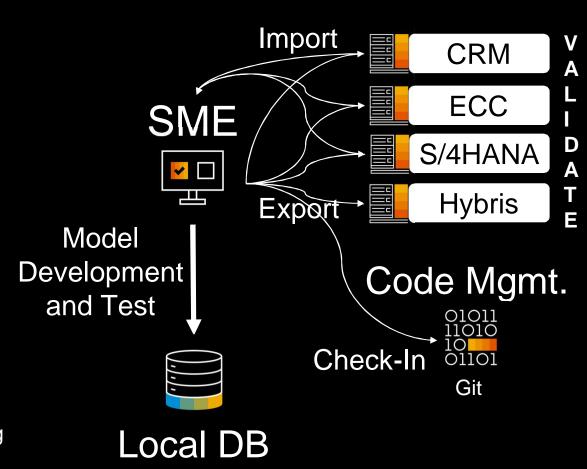


## **About SSC Solution Modeling Environment (SME)**

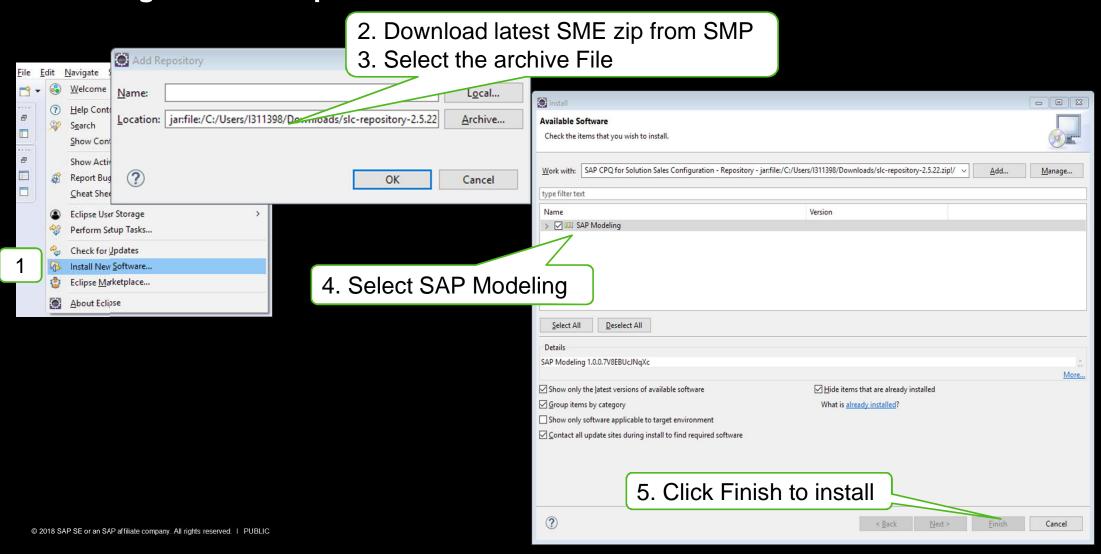
- Eclipse plug-In facilitating building of complex solution configuration models.
- Enables development in both online and offline modes.
- Modeler's working in distributed development environment setup can collaborate in agile mode to build big and complex solutions.
- VC and IPC models can be reused and wrapped in solution models.
- Devops support for automated continuous build and regression testing of solution models.

### **Solution Model Development Process**

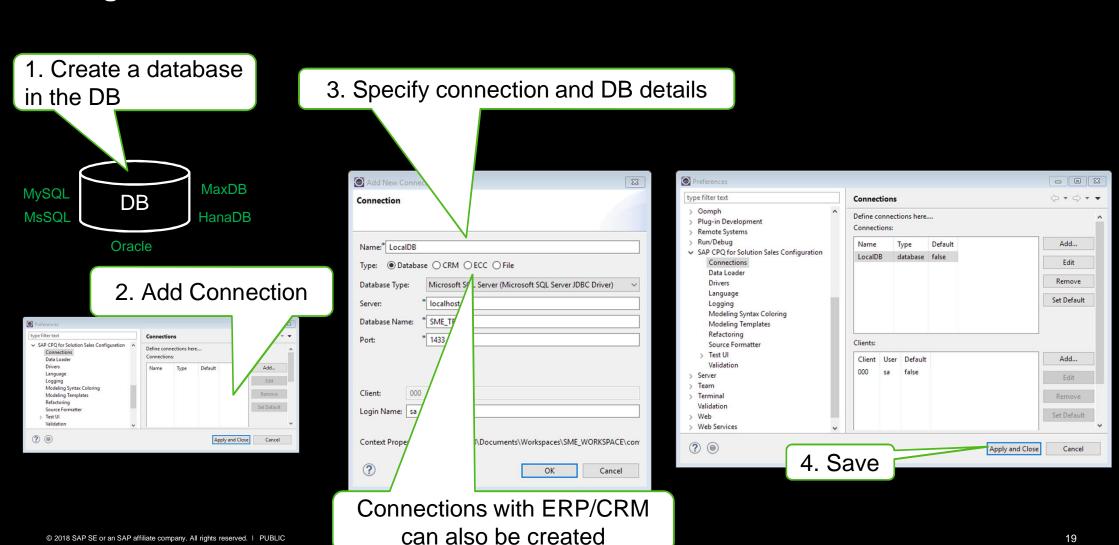
- Master data can be downloaded from S/4HANA, ERP, or CRM systems.
- Solution models can be developed and tested against a local database.
- Models can be versioned in source code management repositories, like Git, for collaboration with other modeler's.
- Solution models can be exported to backend systems where they are integrated with NW Java or Hybris.
- Solution models can be exported to a database connected with NW Java or Hybris in 'Ready To Integrate' scenario mode.
- SME can operate in 'headless' mode, supporting automated KB generation/export and testing.



# Installing SME in Eclipse

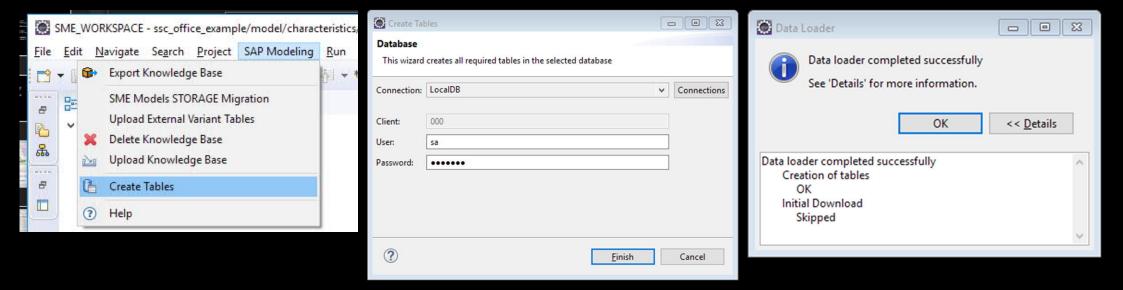


# **Setting Local Database and Connections**



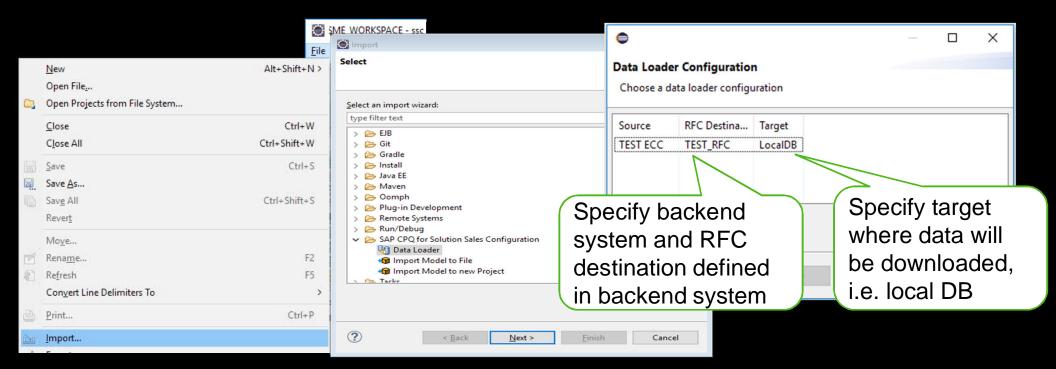
### **Initializing Local Database**

Initialize the database with SSC schema and tables for a knowledge base to be exported for testing



## **Downloading Master Data**

- Dataloader is integrated in SME and can be use to download VC/IPC/SSC KBs and materials from an ECC/S4/CRM backend to the local database.
- Enables reuse of VC/IPC models (configurable products) in solution models for faster development and testing of the complete solution involving knowledge base orchestration.

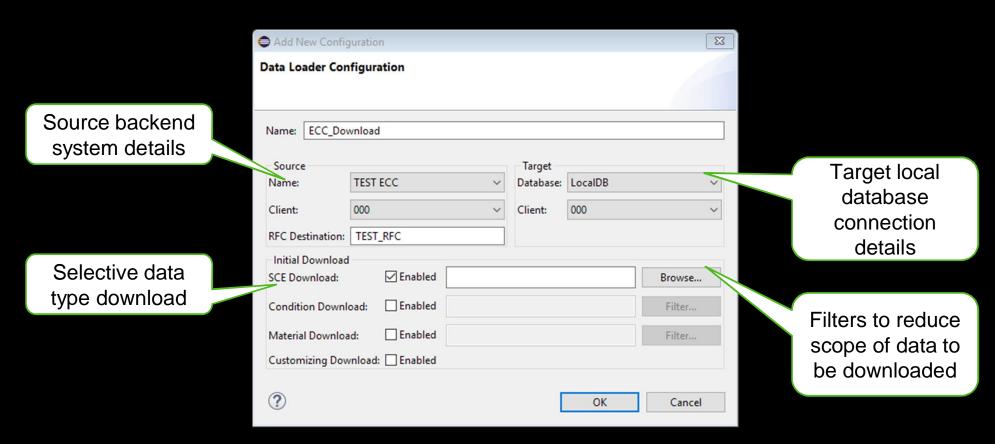


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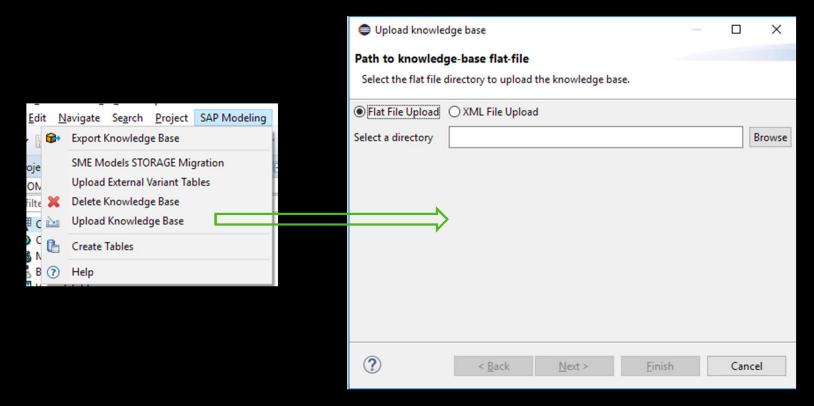
### **Configuring Data Loader**

Data loader enables fetching of master data from ECC/CRM systems into Local database for solution model development and testing.

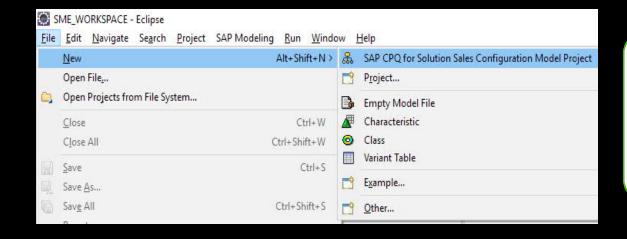


# **Uploading Classical KBs Manually**

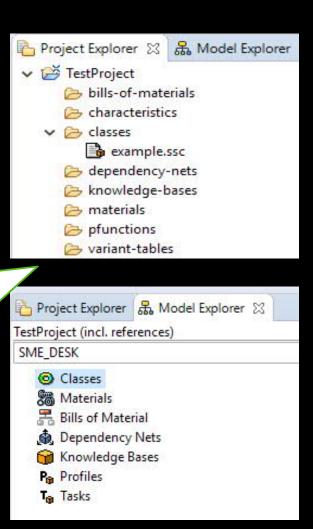
In case needed, VC / IPC KBs can be downloaded from backend in xml/flat file formats and uploaded to local DB for development and testing purposes.



# **Creating a New Model Project**

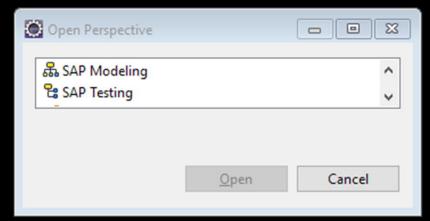


Creates
basic
project
structure

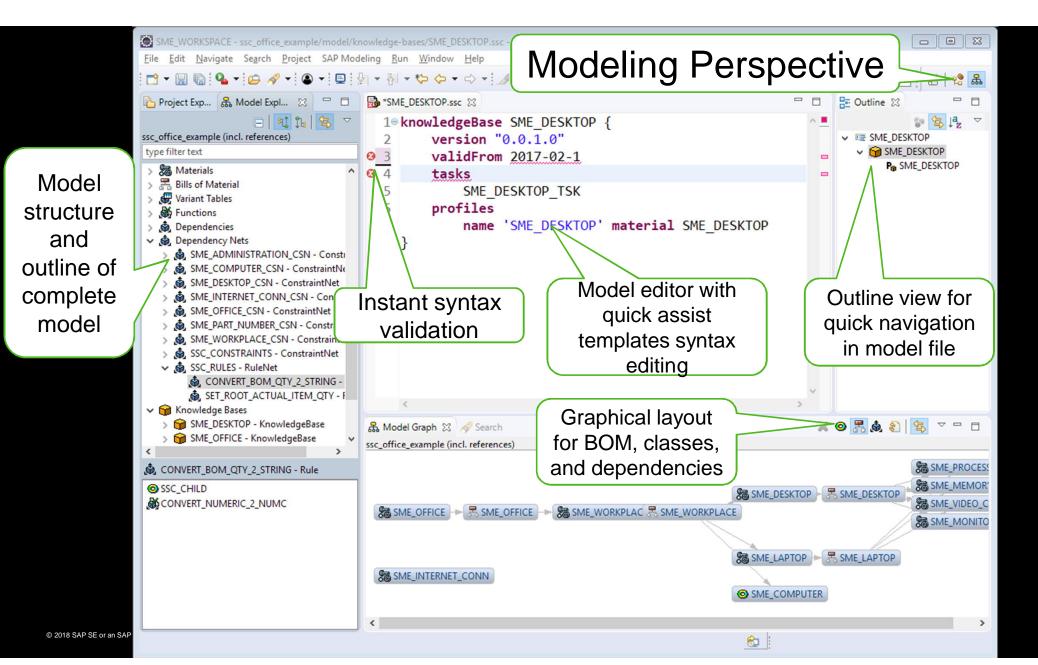


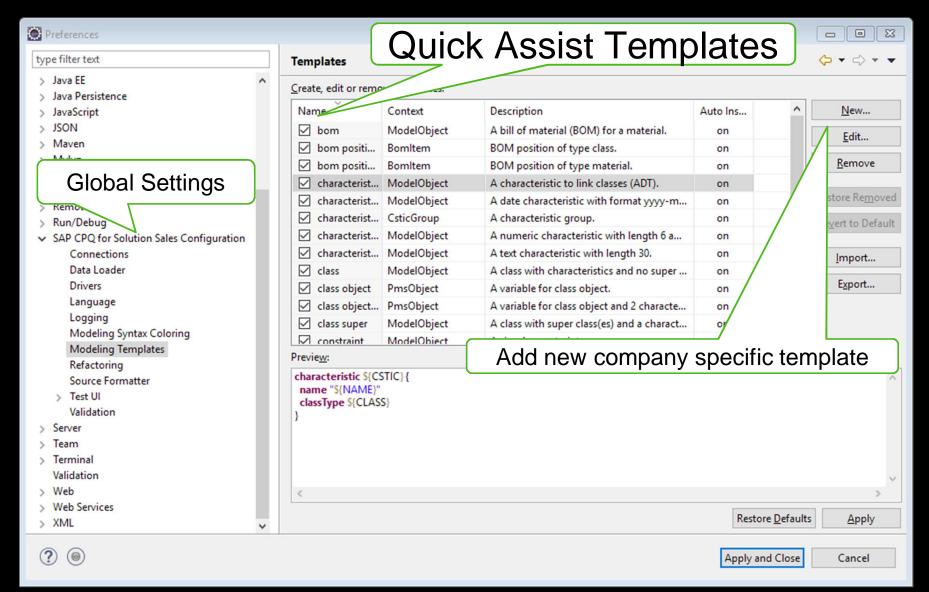
### WorkBench

- Modeling Perspective: Collection of views facilitating development of a solution model
  - Model Explorer
  - Model Editor
  - Model Graph
  - Model Outline
- Testing Perspective: Collection of views facilitating testing of solution model
  - Test Runner
  - Conflicts and Justifications
  - Profiling and Tracing



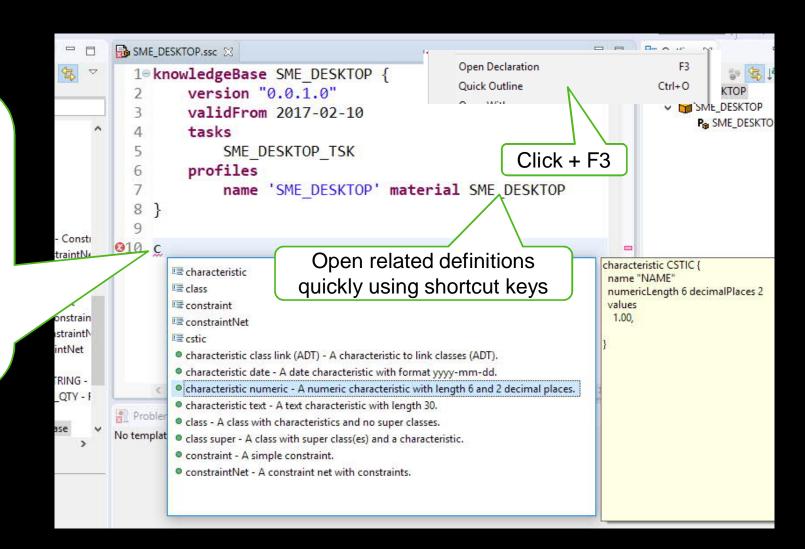
# **Modeling Perspective**

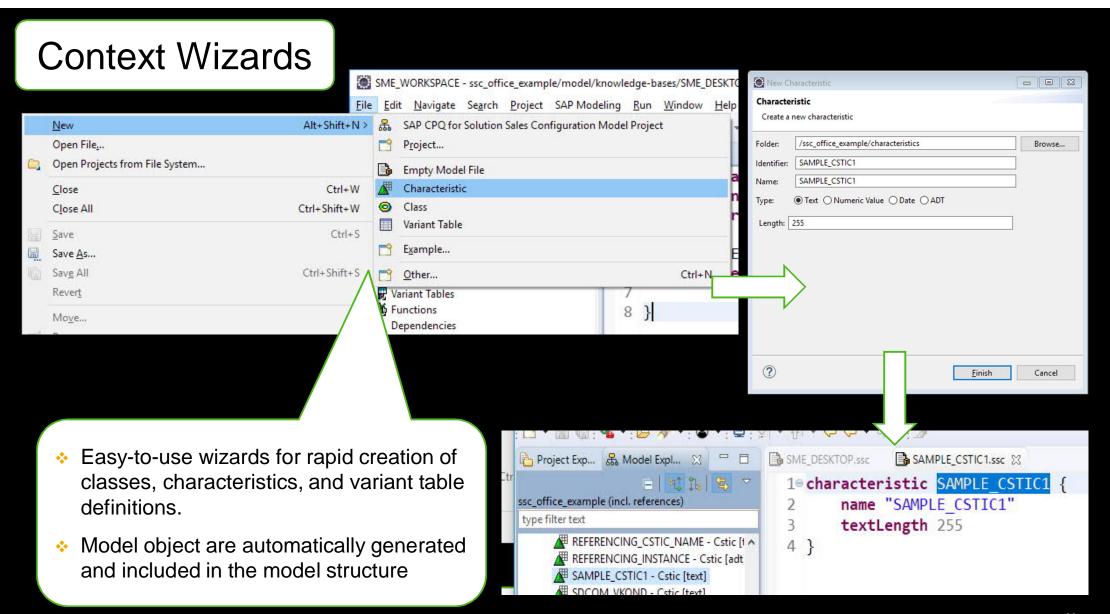




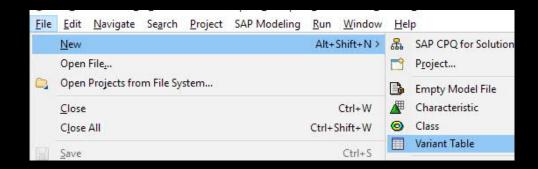
Quick Assist can be invoked using Ctrl + Space in the model editor.

All possible template options are shown with details and relevant selection can be made for faster creation of model constructs.

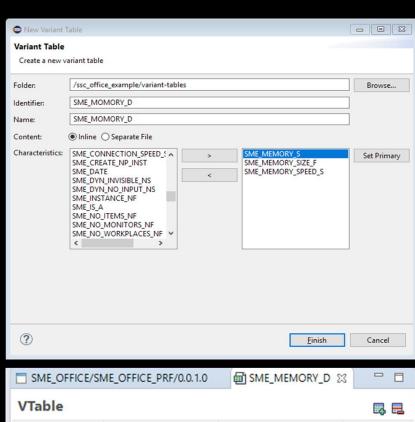


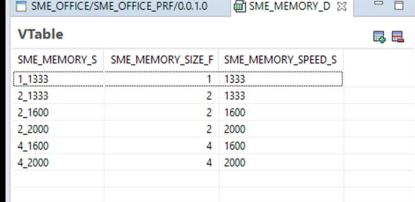


### **Variant Table Wizard**

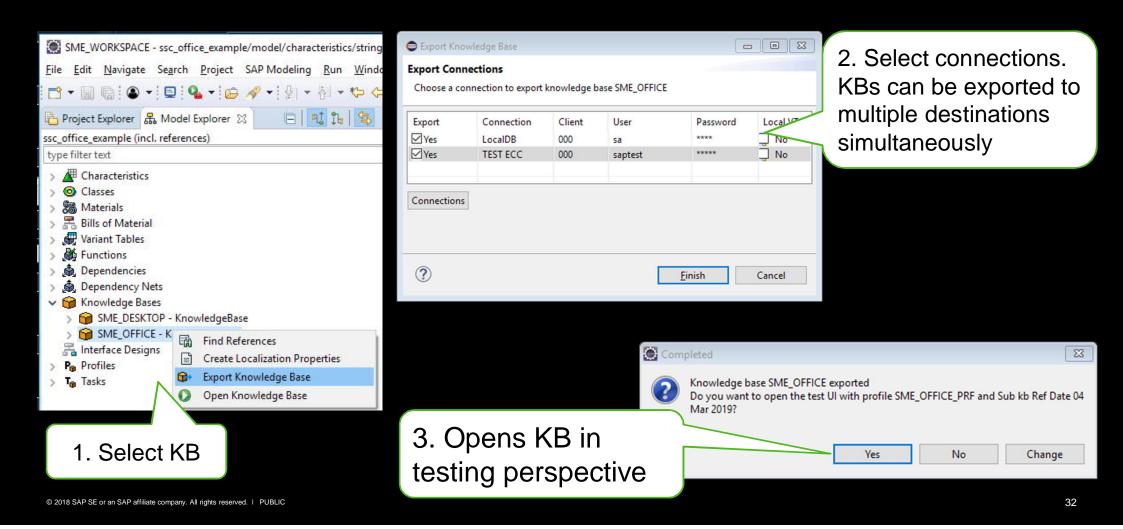


Easy-to-use wizard for creation and maintenance of variant tables



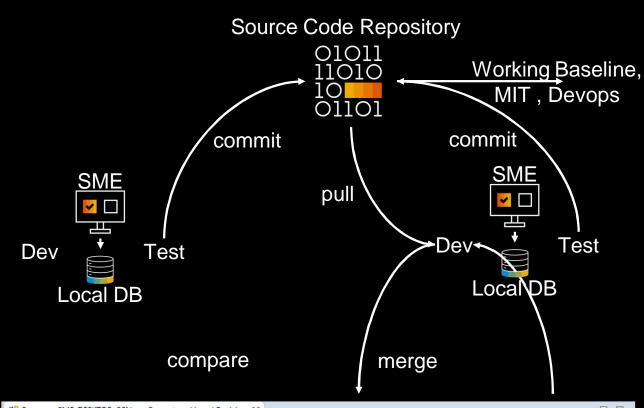


# **Exporting Solution Models to Generate Runtime Version (KBRTV) for Testing**



## **Collaborative Development**

- Developers can collaborate through any source code repository like Git :
  - Split large solution model development amongst modelers
  - Develop and test Individually .
     Commit working model and tests into repository
  - Merge your changes with changes from other modelers. Test and commit
  - Create baselines of working software in repository
  - Setup devops process on the central repository



```
Compare SME_DESKTOP_CSN.ssc Current and Local Revision 🛭
Text Compare >
                                                     Local history: SME_DESKTOP_CSN.ssc Apr 11, 2019, 5:03:34 PM
Local: SME_DESKTOP_CSN.ssc
                                                     1 constraintNet SME DESKTOP_CSN {
 1 constraintNet SME DESKTOP CSN {
       name 'SME DESKTOP CSN'
                                                           name 'SME DESKTOP CSN'
       constraints
                                                           constraints
            SME PROCESSOR IN DESKTOP CS,
                                                     4
                                                                SME PROCESSOR IN DESKTOP CS
           SME VIDEO CARD IN DESKTOP CS,
                                                                SME MEMORY IN DESKTOP CS,
           SME MONITOR IN DESKTOP CS,
                                                                SME VIDEO CARD IN DESKTOP C!
           SME MONITOR SURCHARGE CS
                                                                SME MONITOR IN DESKTOP CS,
                                                                SME MONITOR SURCHARGE CS
 8}
```

# **Testing Perspective**

### **Solution Model Testing Process**

SME facilitates the iterative mode of model development process which is usually the norm. Development through SME involves:

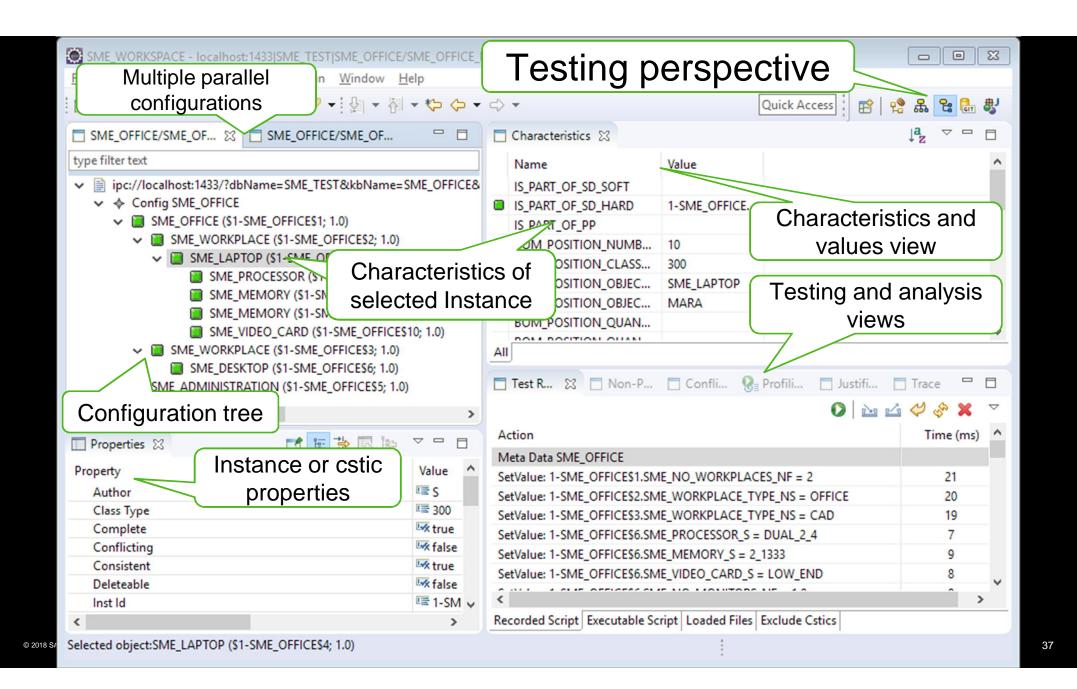
- Development of a feature, its runtime version generation by exporting to a local database.
- Testing of feature for functional and performance aspects.
- Regression testing of existing solution model using recorded test scripts.
- Test scripts generation/enhancement of existing scripts for subsequent regression.

Above steps can be repeated till the desired functionality is achieved and solution models are rolled in production.

Subsequently, the setup of continuous delivery pipeline using devops support can ensure faster delivery of changes into production with high quality.

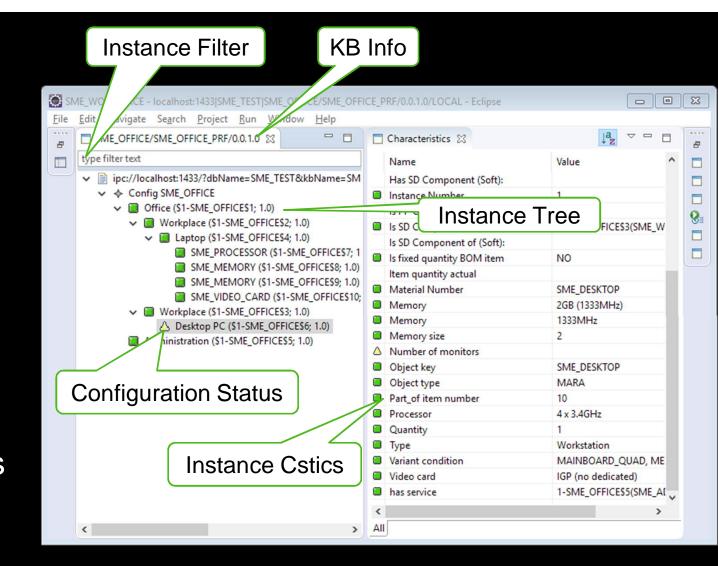
### **SME Testing Perspective**

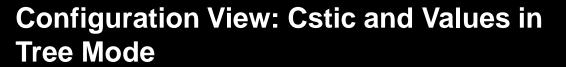
- Standalone testing workbench for testing of solution models. Use same engine as used in NW Java server thus ensuring same behavior.
- Record and replay of configuration steps and values for automated regression testing
- Debug and analysis views provide deep insights into runtime behavior of developed solution model. These views are:
  - Configuration Editor: Details about configuration hierarchy and instance relationships
  - Properties View: Details about instance/class /cstic properties
  - Test Runner: Recording and replaying of configuration steps. Performance measure of each step.
  - Conflicts: Detail about conflicting 'facts' during configuration steps.
  - Justifications: Details about 'facts' which justify a configuration value.
  - Profiling: Performance indicators for dependencies which can help in performance optimization.
  - Tracing: Detailed engine logs to trace root cause of any undesired behavior.



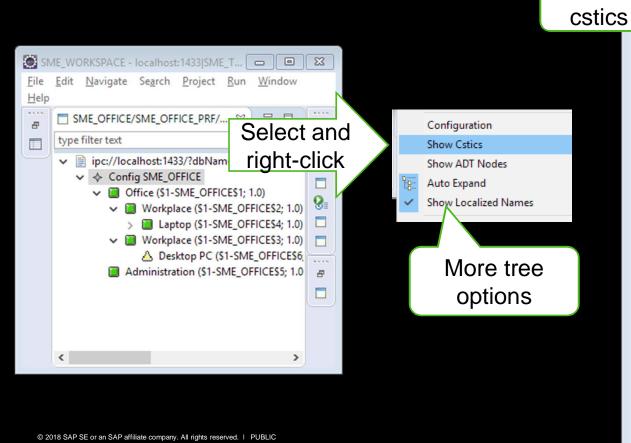
## **Configuration View**

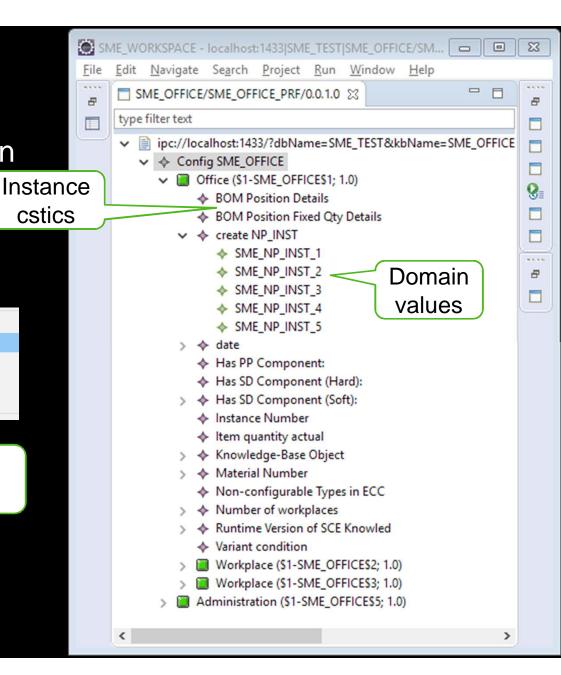
- Tree type layout for easier navigation through multi-level configurations.
- Multiple configurations can be instantiated in parallel.
- Filters for instance types for quick search in case of very large trees.





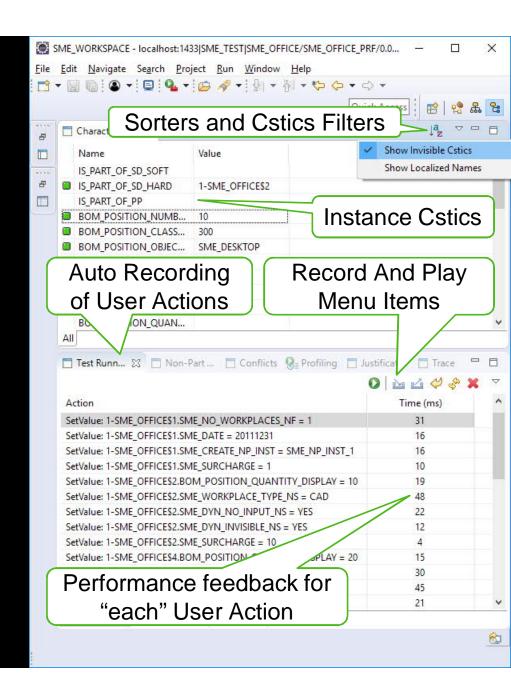
Cstic's and its values can be displayed in the tree for quick analysis.





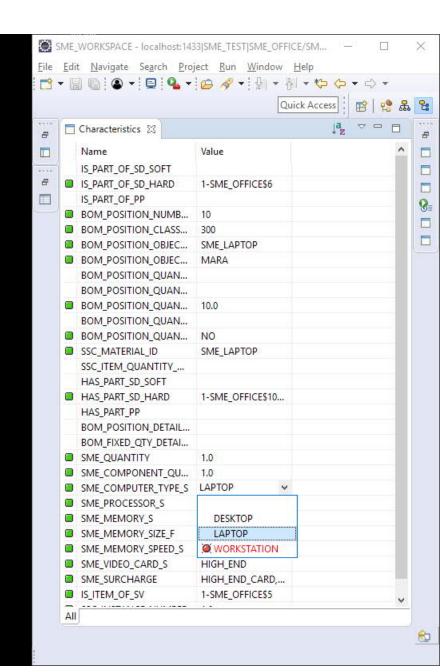
#### **Characteristics and Test Runner View**

- Characteristic view shows visible cstics of the instance selected in the config view. Invisible cstic and localized names can be shown if needed.
- Values which are set on the cstics are automatically recorded in the Test Runner view which can be exported if needed.
- Time taken by engine for each action is shown along with the action. This gives immediate feedback to the modeler for any performance improvements.



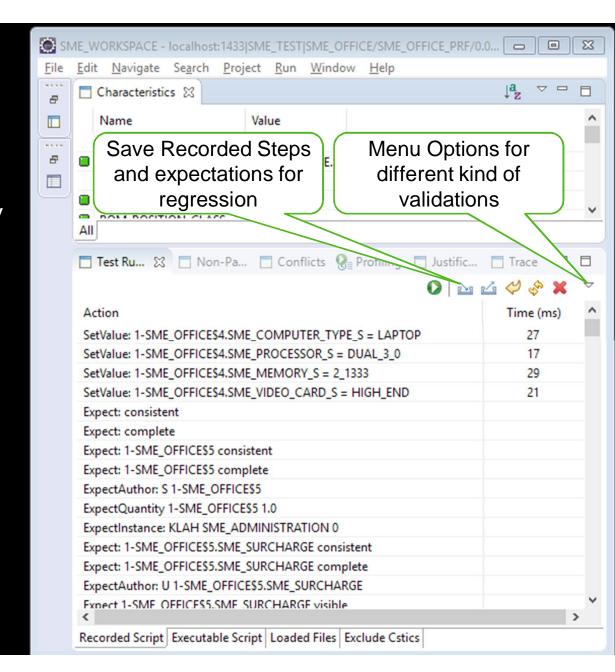
#### **Cstics View: Selections and Restrictions**

- In the characteristic view, values can be selected/unselected using easy to use dropdowns.
- \*Restrictions are shown in 'red' color.
  They can be selected but it will lead into a conflict situation, that is, more than one contradictory fact has been detected in the engine.
- Conflicts and justifications views provide more insights into this "Why Not?" situation.



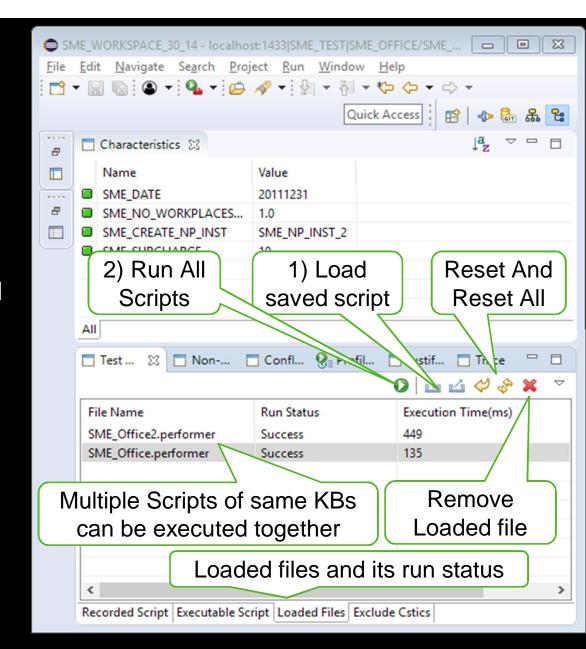
#### **Test Runner View**

- Test Runner enables faster testing of solution models :
  - User action on cstics are automatically recorded which can be saved (.performer) for regression testing later.
  - Config state, that is, expectations are also captured automatically. Expectations are asserted/validated upon rerun of the test scripts against the new configuration created in engine to highlight any discrepancies which might arise due to changes in solution model.
  - Different kind of validations can be enabled/disabled through menu options.



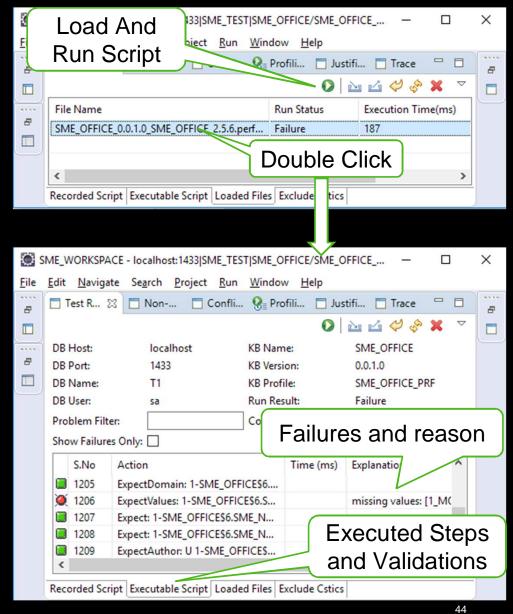
### **Test Runner: Regression Testing**

- Two Step Process: Load and Execute previously saved scripts.
- More than one test script can be loaded and executed at same time, that is, bulk regression.
- Test scripts of different KBs can be loaded and executed to validate if related models are impacted with recent changes.
- Configuration tree is created and displayed for each execution.
- Execution can be repeated after reset/resetAll of loaded configurations
- Total execution time can be monitored for each script to verify any performance impact.



### Test Runner: Verifying Execution Result

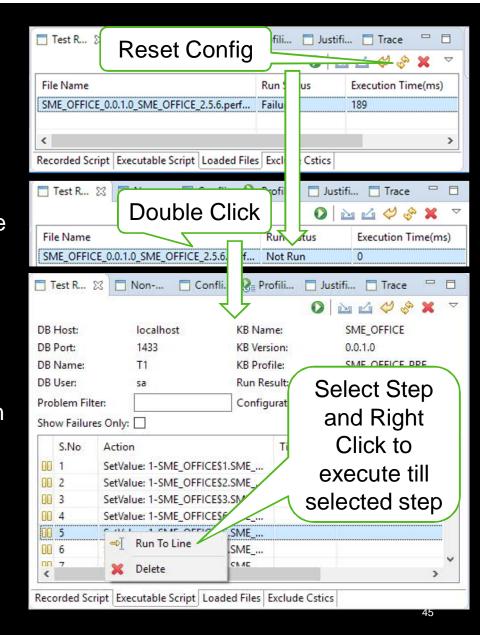
- Upon script execution, for each configuration step, it's execution result is validated against previously saved values.
- Execution results are shown in Executable Script Tab, which shows step-wise execution time and its validation success or failure.
- Explanations are also provided for the reason of failure.



## Test Runner: Adding New Configuration Steps

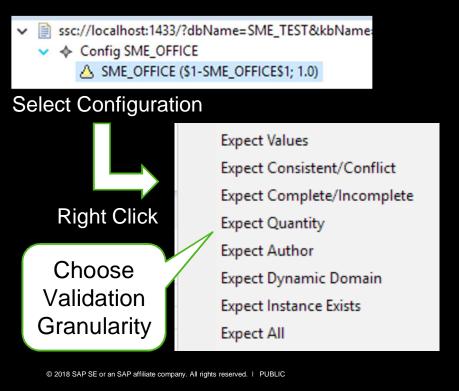
To reduce tedious manual effort of executing preceding configuration steps in order to add new steps or a new test case, configuration step execution features can be used:

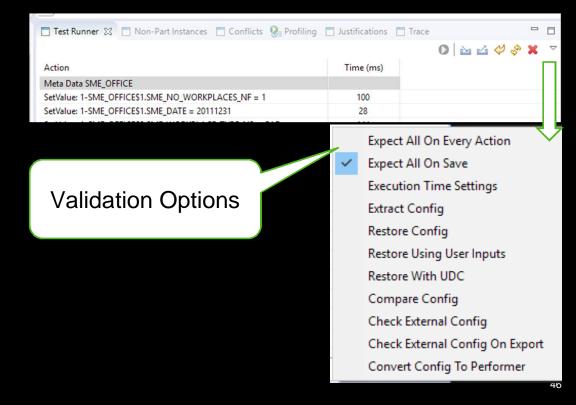
- Reset the configuration for which a new test steps is to be added.
- Double-click on the script to load all executable steps.
- Identify configuration step till which the configuration should be done.
- Select the step -> Right-click -> Run To Line. This will execute all preceding steps and prepare the configuration for next steps.
- Make changes in the configuration as needed. Steps will be automatically recorded.
- Save the new test script.



#### **Test Runner: Validations**

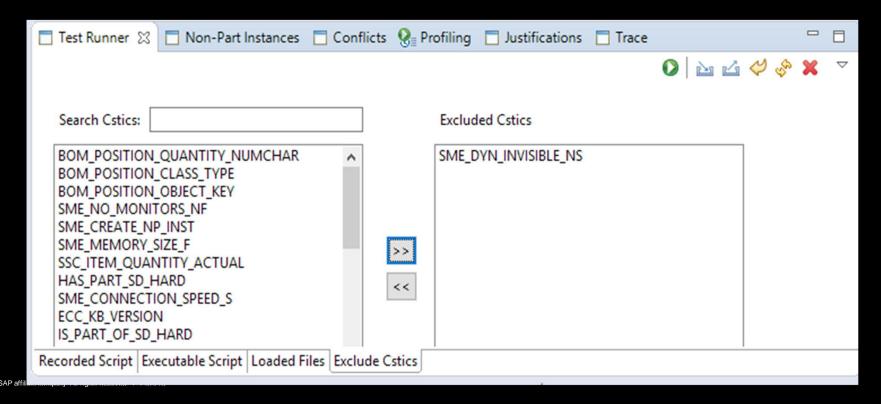
Configuration state validations are supported through concept of 'expectations' which are data records containing what is to be expected after execution of a configuration step. These validations can be applied at instance level selectively and can be automatically recorded after each step or at end of entire configuration.





#### **Test Runner: Excluding Cstics**

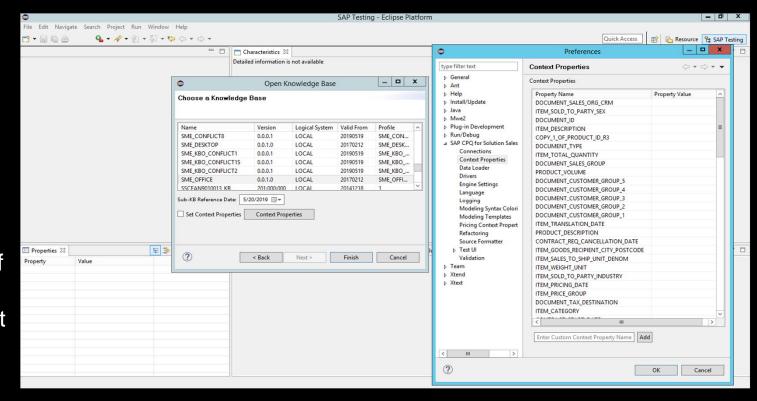
In certain situations, cstic values can be dynamically calculated randomly in each configuration. Thus, the same cannot be validated and test scripts would fail. Thu, these cstic's do not contribute actively in configuration and can be excluded. Test runner provides mechanism to exclude such cstics.



### **Test Runner: Configuration Context Properties**

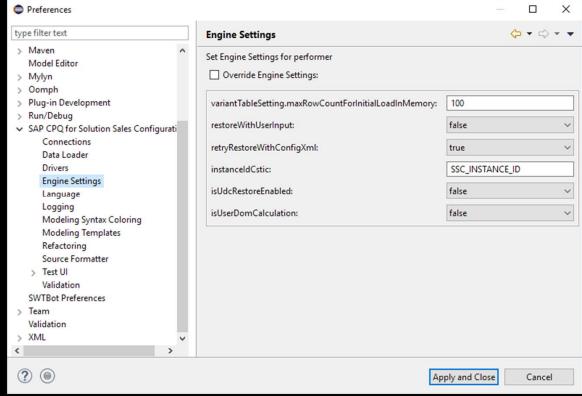
To enable testing of configurations which depend upon context properties injected by system at runtime, context properties can be maintained in SME during testing process.

Recorded test scripts store the context properties and its values, enabling simulation and testing of different scenarios within SME itself, thus saving significant effort of cycles of test and fixing with the backend system.



### Test Runner: Engine Flags

SME is shipped with default engine settings by SAP. However, deployments in productive environment can be different or might need to be tuned in accordance with the solution model being developed. For quick testing, engine flags can be changed.

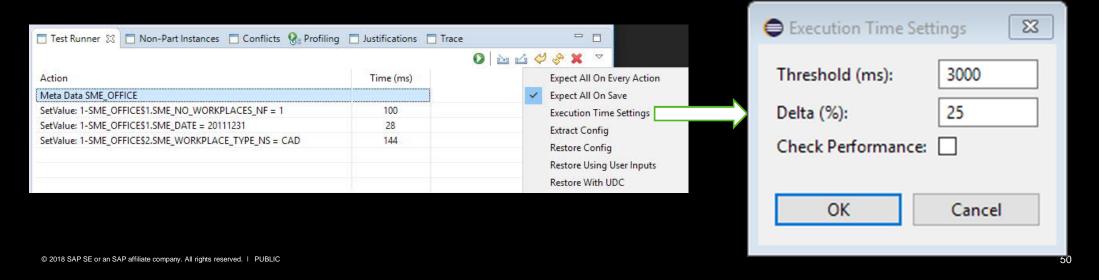


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#### Test Runner: Auto-Performance Validation

While configuration state, which is binary can be easily asserted through expectations, the same cannot be done in straightforward manner for asserting performance. Test runner provides an approximate way to control performance issues:

- Maximum acceptable performance degradation can be defined in SME as threshold both in absolute or % terms.
- During test recording, time taken for each action is saved in the performer file.
- During rerun, actions taking more than the 'Threshold' time plus delta would be highlighted in red but will not fail test.
- If "Check Performance" is selected, then test script would fail.

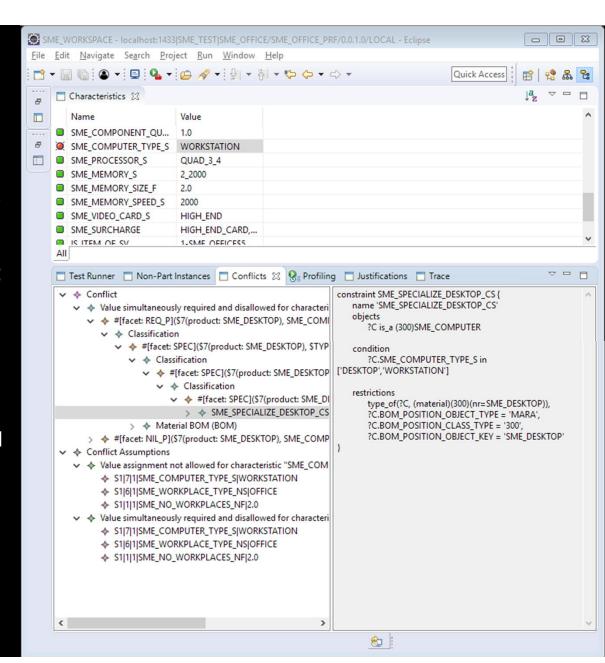


#### **Test Runner: Performer Script Structure**

```
kbName "SME_OFFICE";
kbVersion "0.0.1.0";
kbProfile "SME OFFICE PRF";
databaseName "SME TEST" ;
databaseHostname "localhost";
databasePort "1433";
databaseUser "sa" ;
setValues "1" onCharacteristic "SME_NO_WORKPLACES_NF" inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$1" obyKey "SME_OFFICE" obyType "MARA"
occurrence 0 time 28;
setValues "SME NP INST 1" onCharacteristic "SME CREATE NP INST" inInstance "1-SME OFFICE$1" obyKey "SME OFFICE"
obyType "MARA" occurrence 0 time 38;
expect consistent ;
expect complete ;
expect consistent inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType "KLAH" occurrence 0;
expect complete inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType "KLAH" occurrence 0;
expectAuthor "S" inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType "KLAH" occurrence 0 ;
expectQuantity inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType "KLAH" occurrence 0 quantity 1.0;
expectInstance obyKey "SME ADMINISTRATION" obyType "KLAH" occurrence 0;
expect consistent on Characteristic "SME_SURCHARGE" in Instance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType
"KLAH" occurrence 0 ;
expect complete onCharacteristic "SME_SURCHARGE" inInstance "1-SME_OFFICE$5" obyKey "SME_ADMINISTRATION" obyType
"KLAH" occurrence 0 ;
```

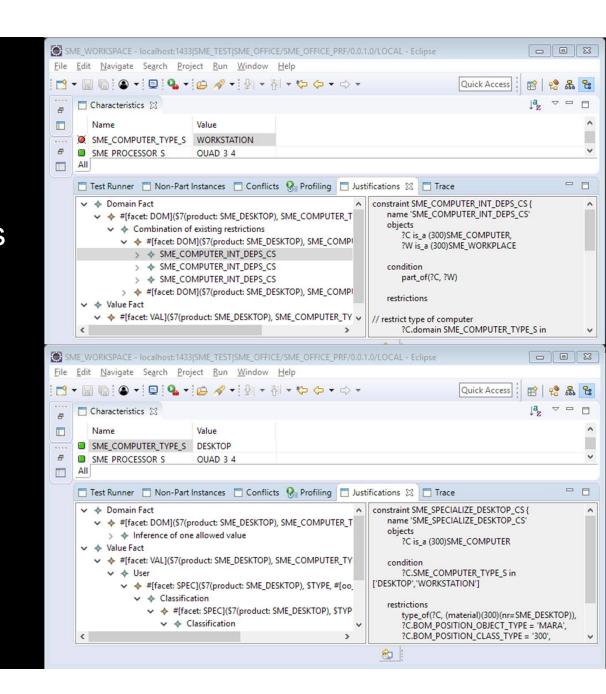
#### **Conflicts View**

- When a conflict gets triggered during the configuration execution, detailed explanations are displayed in the conflicts view.
- For the conflicting cstic, conflicts view shows:
  - Conflict: Description and chain of events leading to conflict. It also shows the source code of dependency leading to conflict for quick analysis.
  - Conflict Assumptions: Suggestions on how a given conflict can be solved. Depending upon type of conflict and involved instances, cstics and values, the engine might suggest to change or delete a cstic, or delete unspecialized instance



#### **Justifications View**

- Each Instance or characteristic value is justified by a set of facts asserted by the user or by dependency.
- Justifications for the setting of any characteristic values, for example, either by user, or by system, or component instantiation is displayed in the justification view.



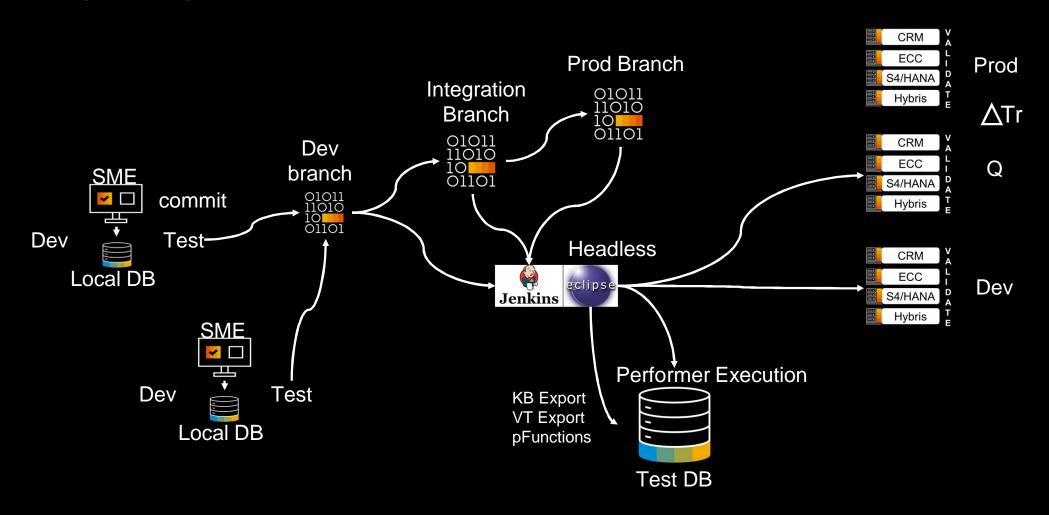
## **Solution Modeling Devops**

### **Devops Support In SSC**

Implementing devops practices helps reduce time between making a change in a solution model and moving this change into production while ensuring high quality. SSC provides full support for devops practices:

- Solution models can be maintained in any source code repository which enables baseline creation and change management.
- Headless mode, which is, the execution of functions without GUI in automated manner is provided for setup of continuous build, deploy, and testing pipelines.
  - \* Latest changes in solution models can be exported to a test DB or to a backend system.
  - Test scripts can be executed to ensure behavior consistency.
  - Any open source build server like Jenkins or simple scripting can be use for daily build and testing.
  - Any issues can be highlighted earlier and fixed adequately to ensure good quality roll out in production system

## **Devops Setup**



### **Devops Process in SME**

#### **Build Phase**

- Headless Export: Solution models are compiled and validated before export.
- Headless Export of Variant/External Variant Tables

### **Regression Test Phase**

- Headless Execution of Performer Scripts: Execution status codes for success/failures printed in console logs enabling easy dashboard reporting.
- Headless XML Restore: Multiple combinations are supported to test different scenarios at the same time.

## **Headless Commands Sample**

Simple commands which can be executed through cmd / shell scripts, and can be included as part of Jenkins build server for automated deployment, testing, and notifications.

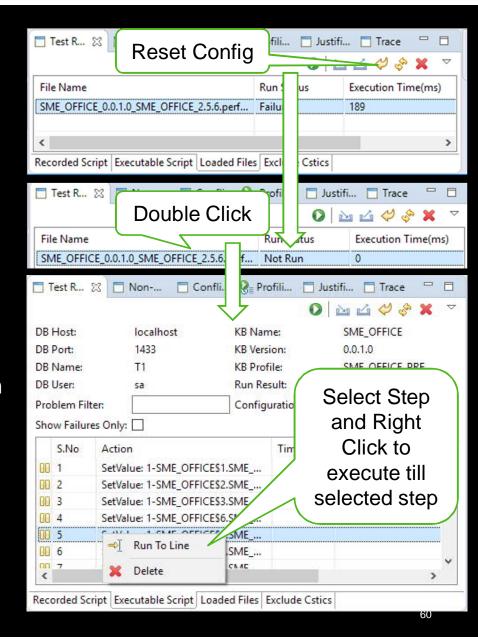
```
eecho off
set data=%1
set project=%2%
set project=%2%
set sto=%3%
set system=%4%
set conDriverLocation=%5%
eclipse\eclipse\config - nosplash - consolelog - kbValidate - kbConsolelog - kbData %data% - kbProject %project% - kbName %kb% - conFile "config/%system%.xml" - settingsFile "config/settings.xml" ^
-conDriverLocation %conDriverLocation% - vmargs - Xms40M - Xmx2512M - XX:PermSize=128M - XX:MaxPermSize=256M
REM - Xdebug - Xnoagent - Djava.compiler=NONE - Xrunjdwp:transport=dt_socket,server=y,suspend=y,address=5005
if "%errorlevel%" neq "0" exit /B %errorlevel%
echo.
```

## **Debugging Solution Models**

## **Debugging Solution Models Configuration Preparation**

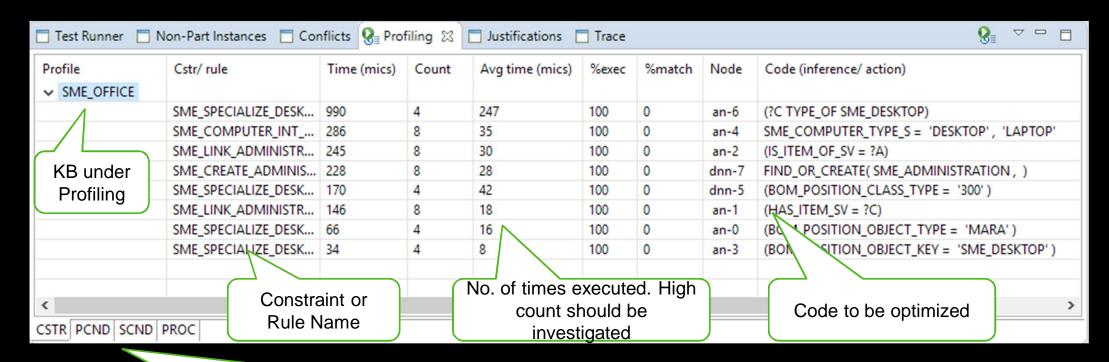
To reduce tedious manual effort of executing preceding configuration steps before a problematic area can be profiled, configuration step execution features can be used:

- Reset the configuration which needs to be profiled.
- Double-click on the script to load all the executable steps
- Identify configuration step till which the configuration should be done.
- Select the step -> Right-click -> Run To Line. This will execute all preceding steps and prepare the configuration for next steps.
- Now, profiling and tracing can be activated to debug the problematic area.
- Subsequent steps can be selected and executed. This can help updating the configuration in steps/batches.



## **Debugging Solution Models Profiling**

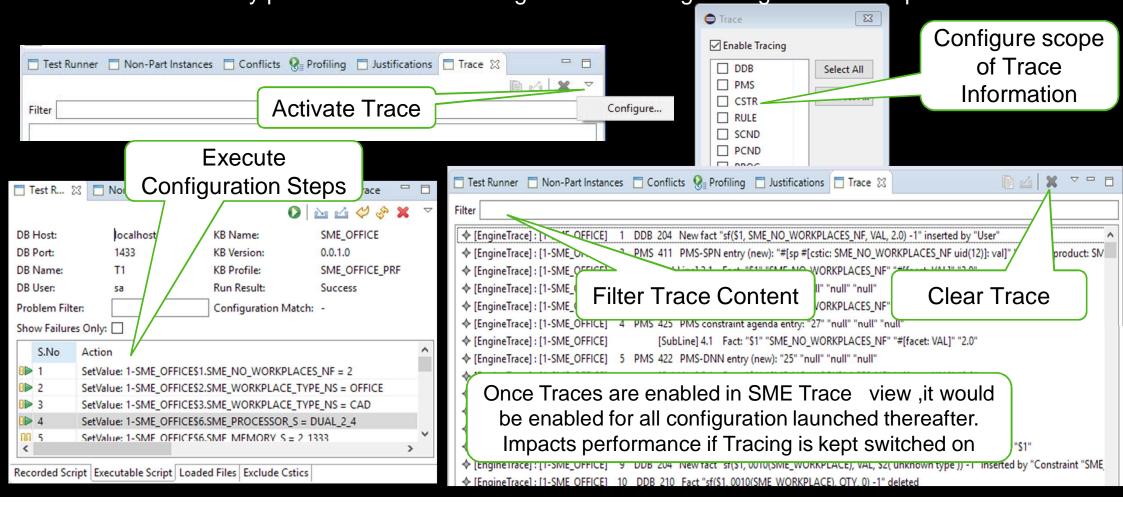
Profiling provides detailed information about how a solution configuration model behaves from performance perspective.



CSTR: Constraints | PCND: Preconditions | SCND: Selection Conditions | PROC: Procedures

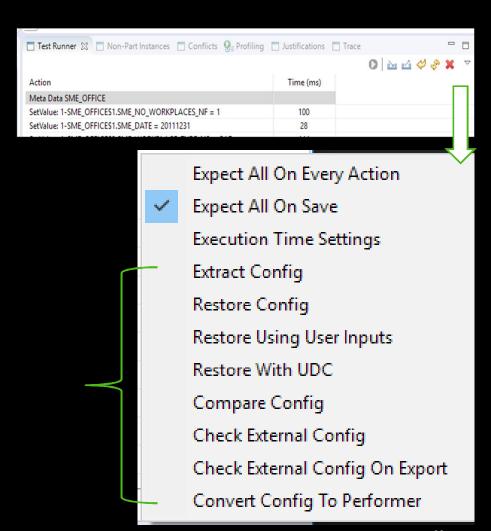
#### **Debugging Solution Models: Tracing**

Tracing feature helps in understanding processing of dependencies for a Solution Configuration. Trace can be activated at any point in time of the configuration enabling management of scope of the trace.



### **Test Runner View: Additional Test Options**

- Extract Config: Test configuration can be extracted in xml form for restoring in test systems
- Restore Config: Configuration extracted from productive systems can be restored in SME for test and debug purpose
- Restore Using User Inputs: Recreate configuration using alternate user input restore mechanism
- Compare Config: Two configuration xml files can be compared for any differences
- Check External Config: The configuration result which is submitted to backend system can be verified.
- Check External Config On Export: Verify config result during export only.
- Convert Config To Performer: Converts the configuration result file extracted from backend systems into performer file format for easier debugging and testing



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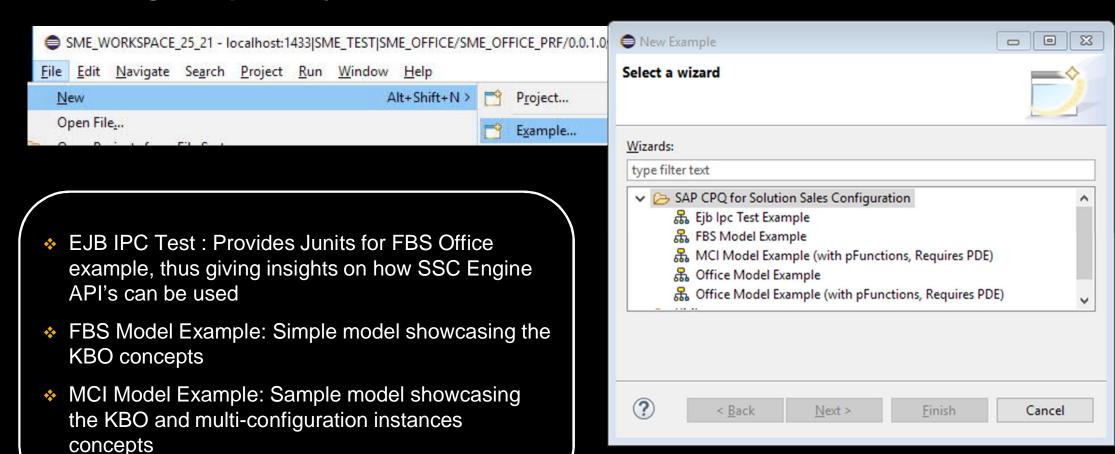
## Solution Model Examples

### **Solution Model Examples**

To help modelers quickly get started and understand concepts of solution modeling, some example projects are shipped along with SME. These are:

- SME Office: Simulates configuration of an office. Also, demonstrates how custom user exists can be written. This is also accompanied along with a Junit project which lists all the engine API and it usage via testing of the SME office solution.
- \* KBO and MCI: Elaborates concepts of knowledge base orchestration and multiconfiguration instances. A document is also provided along with as reference guide to this example.

### **Installing Sample Projects**



# Thank you.

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