



Modern Requirements4DevOps NextGen 2026

Product Release Notes

New User Edition

Confidential — For internal distribution and new user onboarding only.



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1. Introduction

Welcome to **Modern Requirements4DevOps NextGen (MR NextGen)** — a comprehensive requirement engineering and traceability platform built natively on **Microsoft Azure DevOps**. MR NextGen empowers engineering, product, and compliance teams to author, manage, trace, review, and report on requirements entirely within the Azure DevOps ecosystem, eliminating the need for disconnected third-party tools and manual handoffs.

This document serves as the 2026 Release Notes for MR NextGen. It provides new users with a clear, practical introduction to each module in the product — explaining what each module does, the key problems it solves, and the capabilities it delivers. Whether you are onboarding to MR NextGen for the first time or exploring a newly available feature, this document is your starting point.

The **2026** release includes the following modules and features:

Module / Feature	Purpose
General Features	These features are available across all modules in MR NextGen; Smart Report, Favorites tab, Smart Edit, Filter.
Version Package	Versioned work item packaging with variant and comparison support
Smart Docs	Structured requirements authoring, versioning, and document management
Review	Formal review and approval workflow with full audit trail
Traceability	Bidirectional traceability matrices with coverage analytics
Baseline	Immutable point-in-time snapshots with comparison and difference reports
Document Management System	Secure document storage and versioning
Admin Panel	Organization-level licensing, configuration, and module settings for administrators
Copilot4DevOps	AI-powered requirements intelligence — elicit, analyze, diagram, chat, and more
ADO Context Menu	Native ADO Context Menu integration is also covered, enabling one-click access to MR NextGen features from anywhere in Azure DevOps.

Getting Started

All **MR NextGen** modules are accessible directly from your Azure DevOps project. Follow the steps below to get up and running quickly:

1. Navigate to your Azure DevOps project and open the MR NextGen extension from the left navigation panel.
2. Select any module from the MR NextGen menu to open its browse page.
3. Use the Discover On/Off within each module for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.
4. Contact your Collection Administrator to confirm your permission or license allocation if any module is unavailable.

Tip: Each module section in this document includes a **Discover** option. Use the (**:menu**) at the module's browse page to access it for contextual, step-by-step guidance at any time.

General Features

Features available across all modules

The following features are available across all modules in MR NextGen.

1. Smart Report - *Automated Document & Report Generation*

Smart Report is the reporting engine built into both Smart Docs and Traceability, allowing teams to generate polished, formatted documents directly from their work item data. You select a template and stylesheet, preview the output, and export in the format you need — **Word, PDF, HTML**, or saved to the **Document Management** Library. Templates can be created and customized in the built-in **Designer** tab, where you choose which work item types, fields, and sections to include.

This means teams no longer need to manually copy data out of ADO into a report document. A traceability report for a compliance audit, or a formatted requirements document for customer delivery, can be generated in seconds from the live data already in the system. Custom Word templates can also be uploaded for organizations that require branded or regulated document formats — ensuring every export meets the expected standard automatically.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Generate formatted reports directly from Smart Docs or Traceability matrices
- Export to Word, PDF, HTML, or save directly to the Document Management Library
- Built-in Designer tab for creating and managing report templates and style sheets
- Upload custom .dotx Word templates for branded or regulated output formats
- Preview report output before exporting to confirm layout and content

2. Favorites Tab

Every module in MR NextGen has a **Browse page** — the main listing view where you see all your documents, matrices, packages, baselines, and reports. At the top of each Browse page, you will find a **Favorites tab**, which acts as your personal quick-access area. Mark any item as a favorite and it will appear here, saving you from scrolling through a full list every time you return to something you use regularly.

Managing your favorites is simple — you can add or remove items at any time, keeping your quickaccess list relevant as your work evolves. The Favorites tab is personal to your account, so each user has their own set of bookmarked items independent of their colleagues.

3. Smart Edit

Smart Edit is a unified work item editing experience in MR NextGen. It brings everything you need to view, edit, and manage a work item into a single, organized window — so you never need to navigate between multiple screens to complete a task. You can edit all work item fields directly, manage **Links** and **Attachments** through dedicated editable tabs, and access **Linked Artifacts** from its own tab for structured cross-item navigation.

A Variants Hierarchy tab gives you a visual overview of related variants and their relationships at a glance. **Tags** and **Discussion** fields are visible inline without leaving the view.

Up and Down navigation arrows let you move through work items in sequence without reopening each one individually. When editing HTML fields, you can mention team members using **@** and reference other work items using **#**— consistent with the native Azure DevOps editing experience.

4. ADO-Style Filter Panel

Every module in MR NextGen includes an **ADO-style filter panel** that makes it straightforward to find exactly what you are looking for — even when working with large datasets. The filter panel supports multiple search criteria simultaneously, letting you narrow results by work item type, state, assigned-to, tags, and more, presented in a clean and organized layout that will feel immediately familiar if you have used Azure DevOps before.

Whether you are searching through a list of documents, a traceability matrix, a version package, or a baseline, the filter panel helps you locate the right items quickly without scrolling through long lists. Filters can be combined and adjusted freely, and the panel collapses when not in use to keep the workspace uncluttered.

Version Package

Versioned Work Item Packaging & Variant Management

Version Package enables teams to group related work items into a managed, versioned package — typically representing a product release, system configuration, or requirements set. A package is built from a query that automatically populates its work items, and can then be **locked**, versioned, and compared at any stage of the delivery lifecycle. Packages support variants, allowing teams to maintain parallel configurations of the same requirement set for different products, regions, or customer targets.

The real power of Version Package is its comparison capability. You can compare a package against a previous version to see exactly what was added, changed, or removed, and compare a package against one of its **variants** side by side using a clear color-coded difference view. Packages can be locked to prevent unintended changes, and variant relationships — both source and target — are visible on the Variants tab, giving teams full visibility into how configurations relate to one another.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Group work items into query-driven packages that auto-populate on Run
- Create and manage variants for parallel product or customer configurations
- Compare two versions with color-coded diff view (added, changed, removed, moved)
- Compare a package against a source or target variant side by side
- Lock packages to prevent unintended edits at key milestones

? Discover: Use the **(menu)** at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help (🔗)** for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Smart Docs

Structured Requirements Authoring

Smart Docs is Modern Requirements4DevOps NextGen's structured requirements authoring environment, built directly on top of Azure DevOps. Instead of managing work items one by one in ADO, Smart Docs lets you create, organize, and edit them inside a document-style interface — complete with hierarchy, indentation, and configurable column layouts. You can build requirement documents from scratch or from reusable templates, and work item fields are editable inline or through the **Smart Edit** side pane without ever leaving the document.

Beyond authoring, Smart Docs supports a full document lifecycle. You can compare any document against a saved version to see exactly what changed, clone it to another project, capture its contents as Baseline, or send it for review with a single action. Export to Word or PDF is available at any time via Smart Report, and every structural change is tracked through **Version Management** — giving teams a reliable, auditable history of their requirements documents.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Create and edit work items in a structured document layout with full hierarchy support
- Build from reusable templates and configure column layouts per document
- Compare document versions side-by-side to identify exactly what changed
- Clone documents across projects and send directly for formal review or approval
- Export to Word, PDF, or save to Library via Smart Report at any time

? Discover: Use the **(: menu)** at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help** (🔗) for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Review

Formal Review & Approval Workflow

The Review module provides a structured, traceable workflow for collecting feedback and formal sign-off on work items. A review request can be created from any Smart Doc or work item set, with designated reviewers and approvers, a due date, and an optional description. Once sent, each recipient receives a notification and can access the request directly from their **Reviews Assigned To Me** queue — without needing to navigate to the source document.

Reviewers work through assigned items one by one, adding comments and submitting their response before clicking **Mark as Reviewed**. Approvers can **Approve, Reject**, or act on all items at once with Approve All / Reject All. A comment is required on any rejection, creating an automatic audit trail. The Response panel can be filtered to show your own responses, all reviewer feedback, all comments, or a full summary — making it easy for request owners to track progress and close out reviews.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Create review requests with designated reviewers, approvers, and due dates
- Reviewers submit per-item comments and mark the review as complete
- Approvers approve or reject individual items or the full set in one action
- Rejection requires a comment, creating a mandatory, traceable audit record
- Response panel filters: My Response, All Responses, All Comments, Summary

? Discover: Use the (: menu) at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help** (🔗) for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Traceability

Requirements Traceability Matrix

The Traceability module lets teams build and maintain bidirectional traceability between any two sets of ADO work items — for example, Features to User Stories, or Requirements to Test Cases. You configure a matrix from the **Editor** tab by choosing an **Intersection Matrix** (to map two work item types against each other) or a **Horizontal Matrix** (to expand a hierarchy of linked items). Matrices can be built from area and iteration paths, saved queries, or multiple query sources, and are regenerated on demand with the Run button.

Once generated, the Traceability Matrix tab offers three views: **Grid View** shows a compact two-dimensional grid with checkmark cells where links exist; **List View** shows each row item as a card with linked items as chips and flags uncovered items with an N/A badge; and **Heatmap View** provides a color-coded coverage bar per row item — Grey (0%), Teal (1–49%), Orange (50–79%), Green (80–100%). Links can be added or removed directly from Grid View, and the Analytics tab provides gap analysis by work item type.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Intersection Matrix maps two work item types (e.g. Features vs User Stories)
- Horizontal Matrix expands linked item hierarchies across configurable columns
- Grid, List, and Heatmap views for different analysis and coverage review needs
- Add and remove relationships directly from the Grid View without leaving the matrix
- Analytics tab shows coverage percentage, gap analysis, and state distribution

? Discover: Use the (: menu) at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help** (🔗) for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Baseline

Point-in-Time Snapshot & Compliance Tracking

Baseline captures a snapshot of a set of work items at a specific point in time, preserving the exact state of requirements, features, or test cases for audit, compliance, or milestone tracking purposes. Creating a baseline is straightforward — you define the scope from the Editor and run it. Once captured, a baseline is **immutable**, giving teams a reliable reference point they can return to at any stage of the project.

Baselines support a full range of operations beyond simple capture. You can copy a baseline to another project, reuse work items from an existing baseline into a new one, or merge two baselines together. The **Compare** tab shows the current state of all constituent work items against the baseline, and you can compare two baselines directly to see what changed between them. A **Difference Report** can be generated from any comparison — producing a structured Word document that records every change, making Baseline an essential tool for regulated industries that require formal change records.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Capture immutable snapshots of work items at any project milestone or audit point
- Copy baselines to other projects and reuse items from existing baselines
- Merge two baselines into one consolidated baseline
- Compare against current state or another baseline using the Compare tab.
- Generate a Word-format Difference Report documenting every change between baselines

? Discover: Use the (: menu) at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help** (🔗) for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Test Case Management

Extended Test Management via Virtual Work Items

Azure DevOps provides a standard testing hierarchy of **Test Plan → Test Suite → Test Case**, which covers basic test organization but leaves significant gaps for teams that need richer insight into test execution — such as who ran which test, what the outcome was at each step, and which bugs were raised as a result. MR NextGen addresses this with a **Test Case Management** capability that extends the native ADO testing model through **Virtual Work Items**: Requirement Category, Test Point, Test Run, Test Result, and Test Step Run. These virtual items sit alongside your real ADO work items and are connected to them through **Virtual Linking**, giving you a complete, end-to-end view of the test lifecycle — from the original requirement all the way down to the individual test step outcome and any bugs filed — without requiring changes to your existing ADO process.

Each Virtual Work Item carries a rich set of properties. Together these virtual items give teams a fully traceable, auditable record of every test execution — data that ADO alone does not surface in a structured, reportable form.

All virtual work item data feeds directly into the **Traceability** and **Smart Report** modules. In Traceability, you can build a Horizontal Matrix using the dedicated **Test Reporting** option — selecting a specific Test Plan, one or more Test Suites, and test configurations — to generate a full traceability view across the testing hierarchy. In Smart Report, test data can be reported from the ADO Test Hub, the Queries tab, or directly from a Smart Docs document, using the Report Designer to choose exactly which virtual work item fields and sections to include in the output. This makes it straightforward for new users to produce compliance-ready test reports or coverage analysis from live ADO data, without manual data extraction.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Extends ADO testing with Virtual Work Items: Test Point, Test Run, Test Result, Test Step Run
- Virtual Linking connects requirements, test cases, test execution, and bugs in one traceable chain
- Capture rich test execution data including step-level outcomes, comments, and attachments
- Support for multiple iterations, screen recordings, and user action log attachments in Test Results
- Full integration with Traceability and Smart Report for compliance-ready test reporting.

? Discover: Use the (**:** menu) at the module's browse page to access **Discover Help** (🔗) for step-by-step how-to guidance on every feature.

Copilot4DevOps

AI-Powered Requirements Intelligence

Copilot4DevOps is an AI-powered requirements intelligence companion embedded directly within MR NextGen. Accessible from Smart Docs, Version Package, and the ADO work item context menu, it provides a unified AI workspace organized into four capability groups. **Refine & Transform** covers Elicit (generating backlog and test items from requirements), Analyze (evaluating requirements against 6C's, INVEST, and MoSCoW frameworks), Convert (expressing requirements as user stories or use cases), and Transform (summarizing, paraphrasing, elaborating, or translating content). **Visualize & Design** adds Diagram (visual requirement diagrams) and Mockup (instant UI wireframe generation).

The **Assistant & Support** group provides a conversational Chat interface, a Q&A Assistant for eliciting detailed requirements through structured questions, and an Impact Assessment tool for evaluating how a proposed change affects existing work items. **Advanced Tools** round out the offering with Generate (translating requirements into pseudocode, test scripts, or AI specs), Dynamic Prompt (custom prompt templates for repeatable AI workflows), and SOP/Document Generator (producing structured documents in seconds). All capabilities operate on your live ADO data, meaning AI suggestions are grounded in your actual requirements and can be applied back without leaving the platform.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Elicit backlog items, test cases, tasks, and bugs directly from requirement descriptions
- Analyze requirements against 6C's, INVEST, and MoSCoW quality frameworks
- Generate diagrams and UI mockups from requirement text in one click
- Chat with an AI assistant to create, refine, query, or convert requirements
- Evaluate change impact, generate SOPs, and create reusable Dynamic Prompts

AI Edit

AI-Powered Work Item Editing from ADO

AI Edit is a focused AI editing panel available directly from the ADO work item context menu. It opens alongside any selected work item, giving users an AI-powered workspace to improve, refine, and enrich work item content without leaving ADO. The left panel presents four structured modes: **Explore and Review Work Item Content** (to understand what is already in the item), **Edit Descriptions and Details** (to update and improve field content with AI assistance), **Refine Specific Sections** (to target a particular area for refinement), and **Get AI-Powered Suggestions** (to receive proactive improvement recommendations).

At the bottom of the AI Edit panel is a free-form **Ask anything** chat input, allowing users to have a direct conversation with the AI about the selected work item — requesting rewrites, adjusting reading level, changing length, adding acceptance criteria, or applying polish — all without switching tools. Edits are saved directly back to ADO using the **Save Changes button**. AI Edit is designed for users who need a quick, in-context AI boost on individual work items without opening the full Copilot4DevOps interface.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Launch directly from the ADO work item context menu — no module navigation required
- Four structured modes: Explore, Edit Descriptions, Refine Sections, Get Suggestions
- Free-form "Ask anything" chat to converse with AI about the selected work item
- Save AI-assisted changes directly back to ADO with a single click
- Complements Copilot4DevOps for quick, individual work item improvements in ADO

ADO Context Menu

Native ADO Extension Points & Cross-Module Quick Actions

MR NextGen extends Azure DevOps natively by embedding a set of quick-launch actions into the **ADO work item context menu**. Users working in any query result list, backlog, or board view can right-click a work item — or use the : options menu — to access MR NextGen functionality without navigating away from ADO. These integration points bridge all core modules, allowing teams to initiate complex workflows such as a review, baseline, or package snapshot with a single click from wherever they are already working.

The available context menu actions are: **Copilot4DevOps** — launch the full AI assistant; **AI Edit** — open the AI work item editor; **Smart Edit; Smart Report** — generate a report for the selected item; **Send for Review** — initiate a formal review request in the Review module; **Create Package** — create a Version Package from the selected items; **Create Baseline** — capture a baseline snapshot; and **Reuse Work Items** — copy selected work items into the project.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Launch Copilot4DevOps or AI Edit from any ADO work item in one click
- Open Smart Edit to update work item fields via the Smart Docs side pane
- Send for Review to create a formal review request without leaving ADO
- Create Package or Create Baseline to kick off versioning or snapshot workflows instantly
- Reuse Work Items to copy selected ADO items directly into an existing baseline

Admin Panel

ADO Organization-Level Configuration & License Management

The **Admin Panel** is the central configuration console for MR NextGen, accessible to **Collection Administrators** at the Azure DevOps organization level. It provides administrators with a single location to manage **licensing**, configure product-wide settings, and control the behavior of individual modules across the organization. The panel is structured into dedicated tabs: the Licensing tab displays current license status and seat allocation, and the **General** tab covers organization-wide settings that apply across all modules.

In addition to the general settings, the Admin Panel includes module-specific configuration tabs for **Smart Docs, Baseline, Review, and Copilot4DevOps** — each exposing the settings and defaults relevant to that module. Administrators can use these tabs to enforce field requirements, set default templates, configure integration options, and manage which features are enabled for end users. This ensures all teams work within a consistent, governed configuration without requiring individual setup per user or per project.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Licensing tab shows live license status and seat usage across the organization
- General tab covers product-wide defaults and integration settings
- Dedicated tabs for Smart Docs, Baseline, Review, and Copilot4DevOps configuration
- Control field requirements, default templates, and feature visibility per module
- Accessible to Collection Administrators from the Azure DevOps organization settings

Document Management

Document Storage, Versioning & Collaborative Review

The **Document Management module** brings comprehensive document management capabilities designed for the DevOps environment, giving users seamless uploading, organizing, and management of documents and folders directly within **ADO and MR NextGen**. Documents are organized into **My Documents** (a personal workspace) and **Shared Documents** (a team-accessible library), with support for favorites, keyword filtering, and folder-based navigation. The intuitive interface enables viewing, renaming, and removal of documents and folders, providing a streamlined experience for all Azure DevOps users.

Collaborative work is supported through **check-out and check-in** functionality, ensuring smooth version control in distributed environments where multiple stakeholders or teams work on the same documents simultaneously. Full **document versioning** allows teams to track every change, select any previous version for review, and roll back to an earlier state when required. Document Management also provides a powerful **comparison capability for MS Word documents** — users can compare all different versions of a document at the same time, giving teams complete visibility into what changed between any two points in a document's history.

KEY CAPABILITIES

- Upload, organize, and manage documents and folders within ADO and MR4DO
- Check-out and check-in for collaborative version control across distributed teams
- Full document versioning with rollback to any previous version
- Compare all versions of MS Word documents simultaneously in one view
- My Documents and Shared Documents workspaces with favorites and keyword filtering