What's new in Opcenter RD&L v8.2

Enhancing nutritional rollup, ingredients declaration and personal filters

Benefits
- Faster time-to-market
- Rapid exchange of product data with partners
- Reduce administrative tasks and errors
- Maintain product quality and compliance
- Reduce costs in new product development and introduction
- Standardize intellectual property throughout the company

Summary
Opcenter™ Research Development and Laboratory (Opcenter RD&L) software version 8.2 is the new release on the platform formerly known as the Simatic IT® Research and Development Suite. Opcenter RD&L represents a major technological evolution, providing lightweight client applications to users while employing web technology and HTML5. This release focuses primarily on enhancements to nutritional rollup, ingredients declaration and personal filters. Opcenter is a part of the Xcelerator™ portfolio, a comprehensive and integrated portfolio of software and services from Siemens Digital Industries Software.

Capabilities
Improvements in Opcenter RD&L v8.2 include:

- General
  - Next steps in user interface alignment to product lifecycle (PL) guidelines
  - Extension to glossary synchronization module
  - Iterative search
  - Ability to save personal filters

- Laboratory
  - Enhancements in measurement ranges configuration
  - Support of translations for units
  - Enhancements to equipment management

- Specification management
  - Improvements to nutritional and ingredients declaration
  - Support for yield
  - Enhancements in approval logic
  - Replacement of RDL material by enterprise resource planning (ERP) SAP® material code
  - Support for cross-contamination per line

- Formula workbench
  - Vertical tree view for bill-of-materials (BOM) explosion
  - Easy insert of additional levels

- Integration and prerequisites
  - Extension to the generic integration layer
  - Enhancement to data migration toolkit
  - Support for installation on Microsoft® Azure
  - Support for SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) on Amazon Relational Database Service (RDS)

Learn more about the complete list of enhancements and features through the software release notes.

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Enhancement in nutritional rollup and ingredients declaration

A list of enhancements are included in Opcenter RD&L v8.2 to better support nutritional calculations. The main purpose of these enhancements is to generate nutritional fact declarations for products of food and beverage industries.

Usage of intermediates nutritional data in the rollup

The nutritional calculation is based on the BOM explosion: it returns the cumulative list of all nutritional values found within the BOM explosion result set, either down to the lowest level or from an intermediate level. These intermediate specifications are usually already configured with BOM and BOM items. If, besides the BOM, they also have a correctly configured property group (PPSG) in them carrying the nutritional values, then the nutritional calculation procedure can collect nutritional data from them.

Capability to define a yield in each BOM item

The yield is the percentage of the BOM item quantity that remains after the production process takes place, and that goes into the final product. By considering how much is lost during production, the BOM item quantities can be adjusted to equal the originally intended total base quantity. The yield is taken into account for each BOM item quantity to give the correct nutritional values and ingredient labels.

Cross-contaminant allergens on plants and lines

The label declaration functionality takes into account the allergens linked to the components. These are directly present allergens. The label declaration functionality can also take into account indirectly present allergens. These are cross-contaminants that can be present in a product not from its ingredients but from a plant or production line. Opcenter RD&L v8.2 adds the capability to define the cross-contaminant per line.

With these configured, the label declaration procedure will:

• Collect all cross-contaminant allergens assigned to plant locations or line locations selected for inclusion

• Rollup all cross-contaminant allergens found within PPSG info fields configured for this purpose within the specification BOM
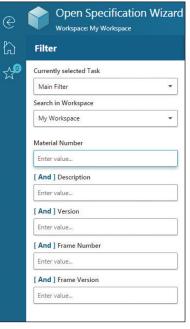
And many other improvements like providing an intermediate step in component declaration to group ingredients, exposing the regulatory BOM explosion into the customization layer and allowing integrators to define custom rules for ingredient declaration.

Dynamic and personal filters

Several new features are added for the flexible tasks and filters in Opcenter RD&L v8.2. The first one is the capability for an end-user to save a filter modified to a personal list. The personal filters are added in the filter list for later usage. Removal is available to clean up filters that aren't needed.

AND and OR operators can be defined in configuration and in operational filter edition. Boolean logic precedence rules apply, where the AND operator takes precedence over the OR operator. When needed, a user can explicitly apply grouping. Groups are visualized with vertical blue colored bars.

Grouping is done by selecting which keys belong together and pressing the corresponding group icon. Users can create up to four subgroup levels. The colored icon inside the group allows the user to ungroup.

Iterative searching is enabled in RD&L v8.2 by restricting the scope of a query in a single workspace. It allows, for example, the user to search for a specification that is part of a workspace instead of an entire system search. This is available for tasks of type specification list, specification approval, request list and sample list.

Filters are also extended allowing the search on component attributes and apply not contains criteria.

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