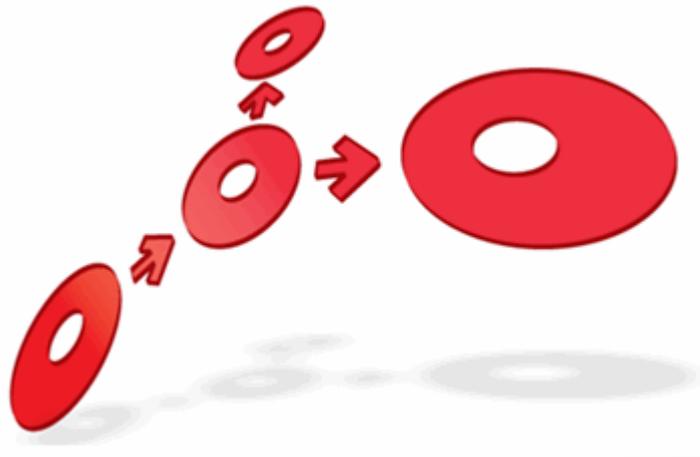


Portrait Foundation



Configuration Comparison Tool User Guide

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Pitney Bowes
Software



Portrait Foundation Configuration Comparison Tool User Guide

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About this document

Purpose of document

This document explains how to install and use the configuration comparison tool application.

Intended audience

This document is for anybody that has the needs to identify differences between Portrait Foundation configuration assets. Readers should have experience of the configuration suite.

Software release

Portrait Foundation 4.4 Update 3 or later.

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1 Introduction

The configuration comparison tool is a cross-release tool to visually highlight what configuration has changed across Foundation repositories, packages or objects.

The tool differentiates itself from conventional text based comparison tools in the following ways:

- Differences in unimportant fields (such as descriptions, and order of certain items) are not picked as false positives.
- Scripts stored in an encoded format are not human-readable; the configuration comparison tool decodes these, then compares the real underlying data, giving more useful results.
- Merging differences using an XML file could ignore constraints imposed by the Configuration Suite, which may result in instability and unpredictable behaviour. By displaying the differences in a user interface tree that is similar to the Configuration Suite, changes can be found using the compare tool, then replicated within Configuration Suite. The ability to compare a full repository, a package or an element within a repository for changes exists. Changes can be investigated in a user interface, that expands on summary changes as the user click on tree items representing packages, then elements, then nodes and node within these nodes.
- Changes can be exported to XML. A sample XSLT file is shipped in the **application's** directory to be run on the XML to produce HTML rendered output. The transformation can be modified to select different parts of the XML output, or display it differently.
- When nodes have specific information, custom views show meaningful change information, for example properties, input/output mappings, script node, models and availability criteria.
- The tool relieves the complexity of comparing a model. This makes performing tasks, like merging, quicker.

2 Installation

The Configuration Comparison tool is supported to run against any Portrait Foundation Core Software install from version 3.1 upwards.

One of these versions must be installed prior to installing the comparison tool. It must also be noted that the tool compares all model nodes, including custom nodes. Any custom nodes contained within the scope of a comparison must be installed.

NB: In Portrait Foundation 4.4 Update 3, this tool is now installed by the Core Software install when the Client Tools feature is selected. In the next major release of Portrait Foundation there will no longer be a separate install for this tool.

To install the Configuration Comparison tool using the dedicated installer.

- Install the relevant Core Software version of the Portrait Foundation.
- Navigate to the folder "**Software\Installsets\ConfigCompare**" on the release CD and run "**setup.exe**".

Once installed, the tool can be launched via the Windows Start menu. Simply select **All Programs > Portrait Foundation > Additions > Configuration Comparison Tool**

3 Using the comparison tool.

Below is an example of the flow used to gain output from the comparison tool:

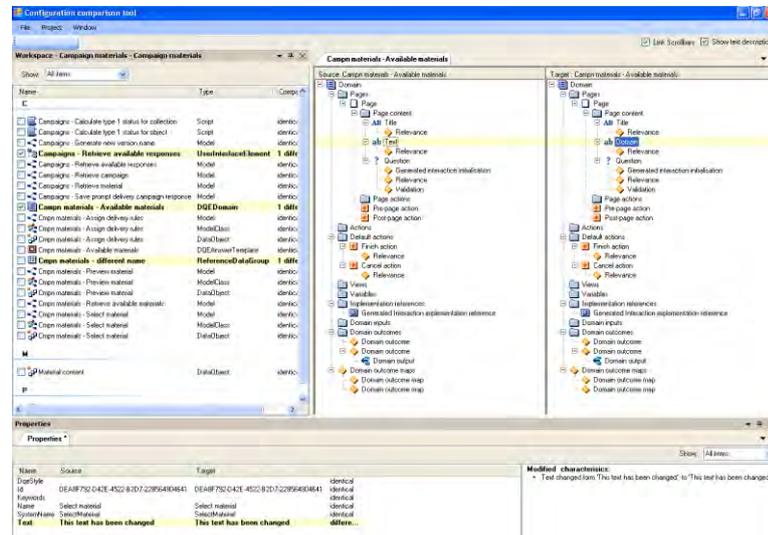
1) Select "New" in the tool bar to start the wizard.

Complete the wizard as described in section 4 of this document. The final page of the wizard shows a progress bar, indicating the progress through the comparison.

2) The changes are shown.

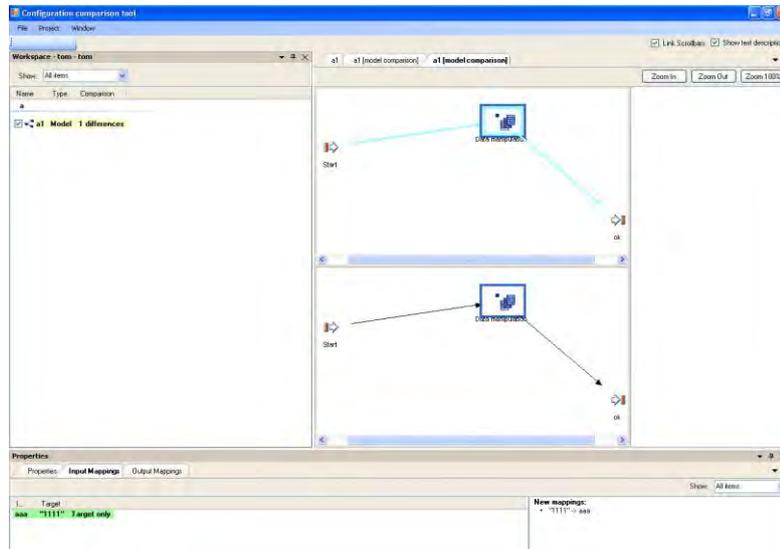
If a repository/package comparison is performed, this is shown in the left pane. Selecting one of these packages shows element changes on the right. Selecting a node shows the node properties on the lower pane.

Custom property tabs will show as needed. These appear as tabs behind the properties tab (e.g. Script, Input/Output mapping, availability criteria and node ordering).



3) Showing model changes

When a model element is selected, pressing "Show model viewer" will present a graphical view of the model changes using the same colours to show changes.



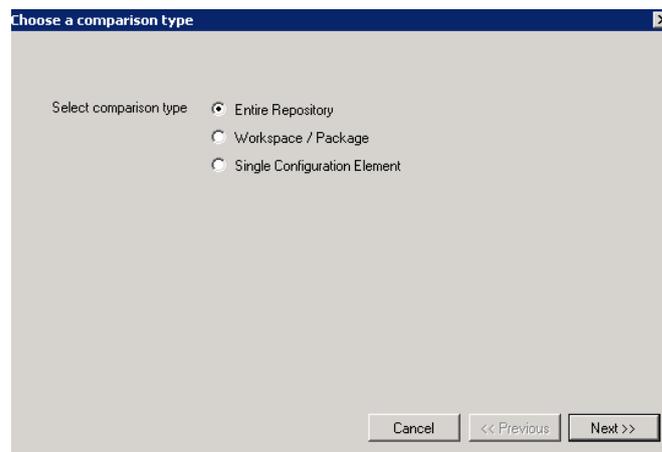
4 Wizard Options.

Step 1 of section 3 shows how to start the comparison wizard. This section describes the wizard pages in detail:

4.1 Comparison type selection page

This page is where the comparison type is selected. Options are:

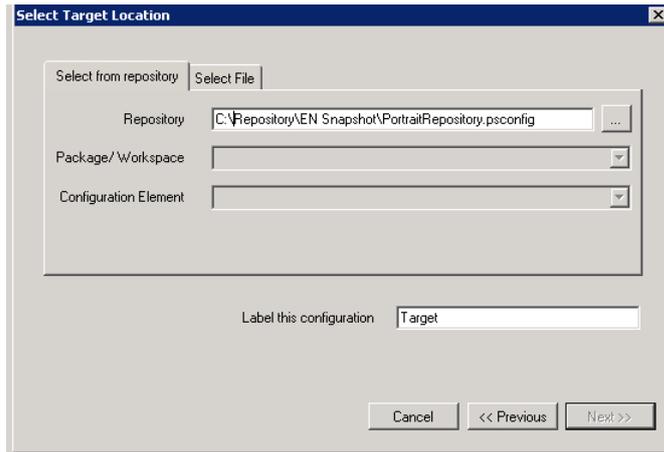
Entire repository	The psconfig file is selected on both the source and the target. All workspaces and packages referred in the policy file are compared.
Workspace / Package	A ppk/pws file is selected on both the source and the target. All the elements in this package or workspace are compared.
Single Configuration Element	A single PCO file (Portrait element) is compared. The selection can be made (later in the wizard) by selecting a PCO file or by selected a repository, package and element tuple.



4.2 Source and target selection page

The second and third pages of the wizard are used to select the source, then target objects of the comparison. Depending on the type of comparison selected on page one of the wizard, various unnecessary input elements might be greyed out. The screen shot below shows the expected greyed out controls for a repository comparison. **If a "single configuration element" compare is being performed, the "select file" tab can be used to find the PCO file directly. The same result can be achieved by selected a repository, package and element tuple.**

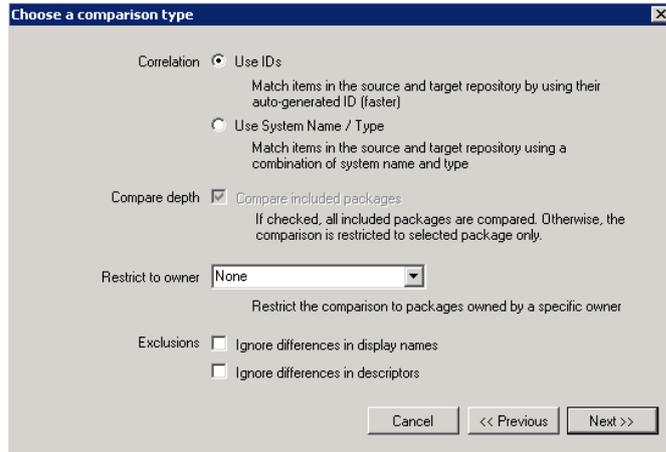
Warning: The results of a comparison might contain GUIDs to referring elements when the selection is made by PCO file selection. The preferred use is to use the primary tab to select a repository, Package and element tuple.



4.3 Comparison options page

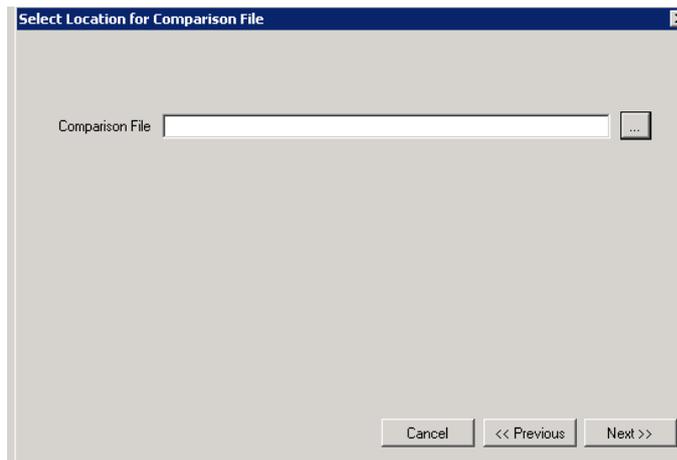
The comparison option page is for refining/filtering the comparison type.

Option	Use
Correlation	Controls how the corresponding target item is found from the source item's details . An abstract example is : To find a person in an address book by looking for them name, or by telephone number. In the Portrait comparison tool, the options for finding the target item are by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Id field or 2) System name and type data couple
Compare depth	This determines if all included packages are searched. This option is only applicable when comparing workspaces or packages.
Restrict to owner	Restricts the comparison to only source items that are owned by the selected repository owner.
Exclusions	The option to disregard changes in display names or descriptions. The reason being that these have no runtime implications.



4.4 Save comparison file page

This page gives the user the option to save the details that have been filled in during the progression of the wizard. This is not mandatory.



5 Export to XML

The results of a comparison can be exported to XML and HTML. This can be done once the comparison wizard has completed. To start the export process, select "*export to XML*" from the file menu with in the configuration comparison tool. At this point a file selection dialog is presented; enter a filename for the XML output.

After the filename has been chosen, a batch process starts where the system prints all the changes to XML. This process can take a long time, with large full repositories selected as at the source and target, it can take up to 30 minutes.

Once the process is completed, an XML file will be produced in the location selected. An HTML representation of the XML is shown within the configuration comparison application. The HTML is also saved to the same directory as the XML, with the same filename, differing by the extension. The XML file will be called [selected name].XML; the HTML file will be called [selected name].html.

The XSLT used to produce the HTML file is shipped in the application's directory to be run on the XML to produce HTML rendered output. The transformation can be modified to select different parts of the XML output, or display it differently.