

# Automation Builder

## Software Product Life Cycle Plan

### Product Life cycle

ABB is committed to support our customers' installed system base. We want to maximize the useable life of our customers' system investment and provide our customers with the confidence that there is a well-defined support for, and a path forward for existing ABB systems. ABB's product life cycle policy provides advanced notification of planned changes in product availability and support.

This document describes the current life cycle status for Automation Builder versions, service packs and licenses. This document shall not be understood as legally binding. Future releases and their release dates should be seen as reflecting current release planning, and are subject to change without any other notice. Users are recommended to keep informed about updates by periodically checking relevant life cycle information.

### Predictive releases – continuous delivery

ABB continuously maintains and improves its software products. As part of this effort, we develop and release major versions, minor version and service releases. Major and minor releases focus on new features whereas service releases deliver corrections and quality improvements. A new service release supersedes and replaces existing service releases within the same major/minor release. All releases contain corrections to issues identified both in ABB test labs as well as reported by our customers.

Release Type	Designation example	Purpose and frequency
Major Release	1.x, 2.x	Deliver new features extending Automation Builder scope
Minor Releases	1.1.x, 1.2.x	Deliver new features within current Automation Builder scope
Service Releases	1.2.1, 1.2.2	Deliver corrections, improvements and updates of existing components

ABB aims for continuous, consistent and coordinated delivery of engineering tool versions and device firmware versions. It is recommended to always use the latest release of Automation Builder.

### Version profiles – compatibility with installed base

ABB aims on maximizing availability and performance of the installed base. In this effort we follow two principles: The engineering tool shall provide the latest features in best quality. And the engineering tool and installed based shall always be compatible.

To meet these requirements Automation Builder introduced version profiles. A version profile contains all Automation Builder software components as released in the latest service release of a specific major/minor version, including respective device firmware versions.

Version profiles can be installed with every release of Automation Builder. Multiple version profiles can be installed in parallel. Each version profile goes through all product life cycle phases. Life cycle statements apply for each version profile and corresponding licenses. The availability of a version profile depends on the life cycle phase it is currently in.

All this allows our users to install the latest version of Automation Builder and keep compatibility with the installed base. Updates of the runtime system are avoided. Latest Automation Builder release always contains the best quality for all profiles. Corrections are distributed via releases and not via hard to track patches.

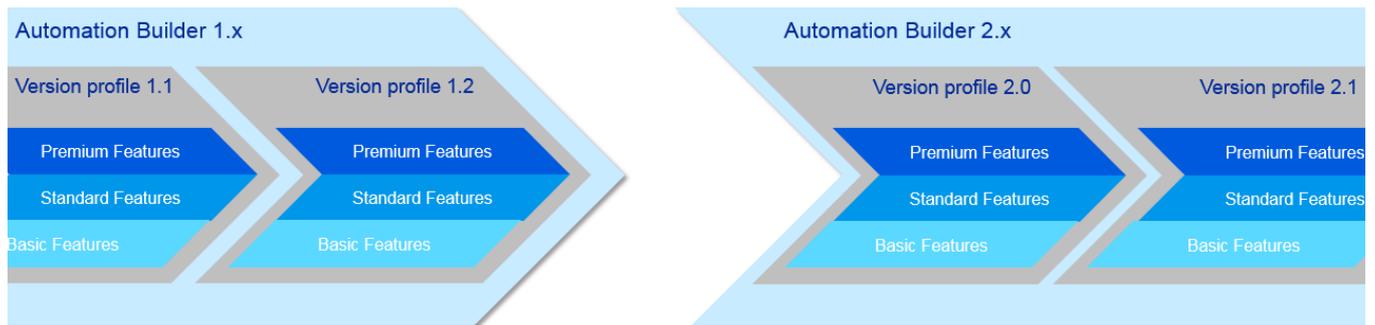
### Automation Builder life cycle management model

The Automation Builder life cycle management model aims to provide service for maximizing availability and performance, support to end-users and a smooth transition to new product versions when the service life of the current product ends.

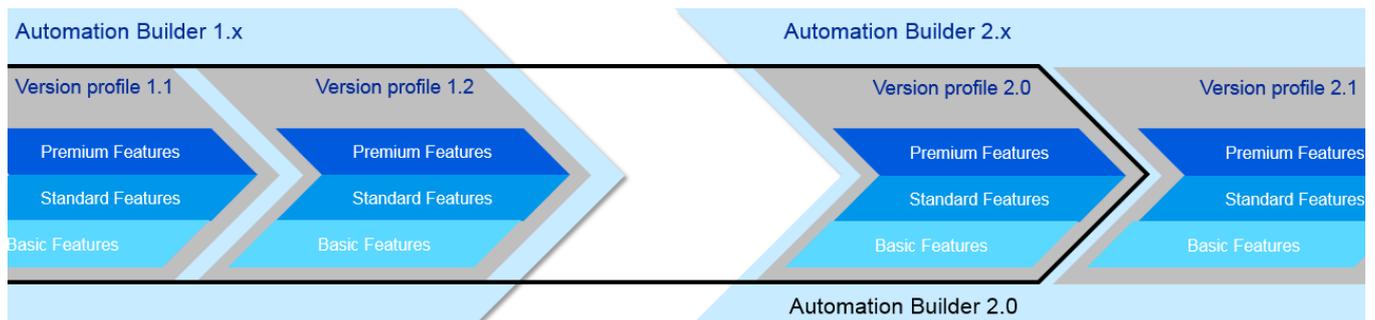
The model divides a product's life cycle into four phases: Active, Classic, Limited and Obsolete. Each phase has different implications for the end-user in terms of software and license availability, services and support provided.

Active typically 1 year	The software product with complete life cycle services is available.
Classic typically 4 years	The software product with complete life cycle services is available for system extensions and spare part engineering.
Limited typically 5 years	The software product is available without maintenance and further corrections. Migration to a newer version is recommended.
Obsolete	Migration to a newer version is recommended.

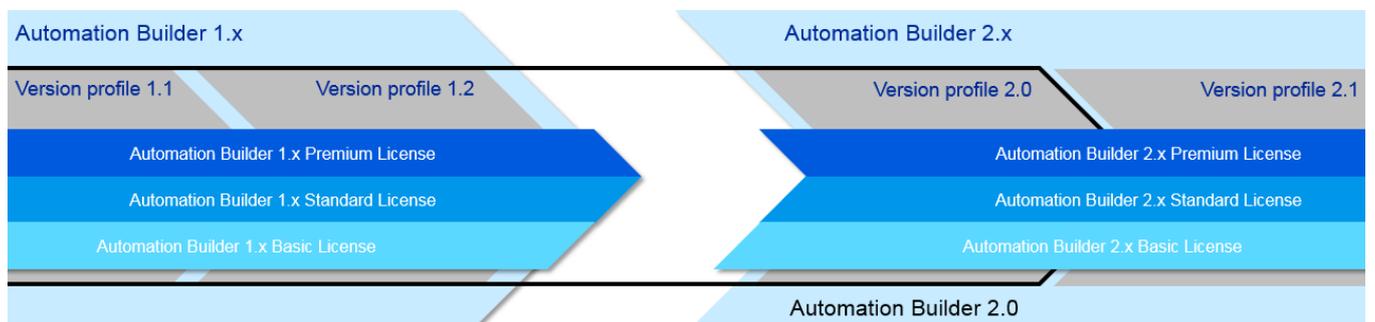
## Version profiles and licenses



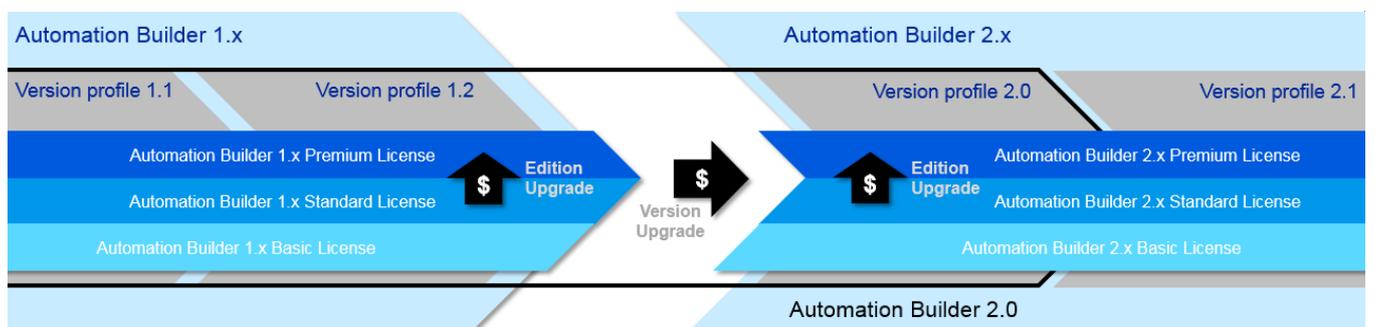
Major versions come in several minor versions, e.g. Automation Builder 1.x comes as Automation Builder 1.1 and 1.2. Version profiles cover different sets of features, e.g. basic, standard and premium feature sets.



An Automation Builder release contains multiple version profiles, each corresponding to a released minor version. E.g. release Automation Builder 2.0 contains version profile 2.0, 1.2, 1.1 and more.



To use a feature a license is required. The license defines which feature set can be used, e.g. a premium license enables you to use the premium feature set. A license corresponds to a major version of Automation Builder, e.g. Automation Builder 1.x Premium license enables to use the Premium features in version profiles 1.1 and 1.2.



There are two different cases where you have to purchase a new Automation Builder license:  
**Edition upgrade:** Commercial upgrade from one license option to a higher value license option within the same major version of Automation Builder, e.g. Automation Builder 1.x Standard to Premium.  
**Version upgrade:** Commercial upgrade from one major Automation Builder version to another, e.g. Automation Builder 1.x to 2.x. – Note: Licenses for Automation Builder 1.x and Automation Builder 2.x can be used in parallel in order to support different version profiles.

## Life cycle phases

### Active

A newly released version profile of Automation Builder starts in life cycle phase Active. During the Active phase the version profile is available with complete life cycle services.

This means the version profile is available via Automation Builder installation manager from abb.com and will receive ABB's normal product maintenance including enhancements and corrections, and third party software updates.

The version is the base for current sales and active price list. Licenses can be purchased. Support and training is provided.

Typically each version profile stays in Active for 1 year.

### Classic

With release of the next minor version the preceding version profile is going into life cycle phase Classic. During the Classic phase, the version profile with complete life cycle services is available for system extensions and spare part engineering.

Classic version profiles are available via Automation Builder installation manager from abb.com and will receive corrections only for critical issues. Classic version profiles are typically available as released in the latest respective service release (and additional corrections). New 3<sup>rd</sup> party products (e.g. OS) are not supported anymore.

Licenses can be purchased (some exceptions apply – see “Classic-Limited”). Training is not available anymore. Support is provided.

Typically each version profile stays in Classic for 4 years.

### Classic-Limited

The Classic-Limited phase corresponds to the Classic phase with the following limitations: Corrections might be available upon request as billable service. Licenses are typically not available anymore but might be available upon request as spare part.

### Limited

During the Limited phase, the version profile is available without maintenance and further corrections. Migration to a newer version is recommended

This means it is no longer available from Automation Builder installation manager from abb.com, but could be obtained as offline installations via support. Corrections might be available upon request as billable service. New 3<sup>rd</sup> party products (e.g. OS) are not supported anymore. Licenses are typically not available anymore but might be available upon request as spare part. Training is not available anymore. Support is provided.

Typically a Limited version profile is available for 5 years.

### Obsolete

When entering the Obsolete phase, the version profile is not supported anymore. Migration to a newer version is strongly recommended.

This means it is not available anymore for installation. It will not receive corrections anymore.

Licenses are not available for purchase anymore. Training is not available anymore. Support is not available anymore.

Typically a version profile enters Obsolete phase after 10 years of its first release (exceptions apply).

## Current version profiles and their life cycle phases

Version Profile	Released	Life cycle status as of beginning of year									
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
<i>Former versions</i>	<i>2010 and before</i>	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
Control Builder Plus 2.1	2011	CL	CL	CL	L	L	L	L	L	O	
Control Builder Plus 2.2	2012	CL	CL	CL	CL	L	L	L	L	L	
Automation Builder 1.0	2013	A	C	C	CL	CL	L	L	L	L	
Automation Builder 1.1	2015		A	C	C	C	C	L	L	L	
Automation Builder 1.2	2015			A	C	C	C	C	L	L	
Automation Builder 2.0	2016				A	C	C	C	C	L	

(as of September, 2016)

- A: Active
- C: Classic
- CL: Classic Limited
- L: Limited
- O: Obsolete

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