

# TFS Integration

TPG PSLink®: The Integration of Work and Project Management



**COMPATIBILITY:** Microsoft Project Online, Microsoft Project Server 2010-2016, Microsoft SharePoint Online, Microsoft SharePoint 2010-2016, Microsoft TFS, Microsoft VSTS

As of Version 2017, Microsoft no longer supports the native integration of Team Foundation Server (TFS) with Microsoft Project Server (PPM). If you are using this integration with one of the earlier versions of TFS, it will stop working after an upgrade. But it is possible to fall back on third-party suppliers to resolve this.

For 20 years, TPG PSLink has been a proven middleware product for the data exchange between different enterprise systems. It also supports a bidirectional integration with TFS. If you plan work with VSTS / TFS or with agile methods, the integration with Microsoft Project Server or Project Online makes sense. It gives your portfolio and program managers with an overview of the project portfolio.

Only Microsoft PPM contains all the projects. Likewise, the overview of all required and available resources is only available in Microsoft PPM. With the integration of TFS / VSTS, you increase the productivity. At the same time, you ensure that all involved are working with the tool that is optimal for them.

Its high configurability ensures that TPG PSLink is implemented very quickly. After that, each role, developers as well as project managers, work on the same data base. Always with the tool best suited to their needs. Plus, TPG PSLink enables several business cases outlined in the following pages.

## Key Benefits of VSTS / TFS Integration Using TPG PSLink:

- ▶ All staff work with the system that is best for their role (= high level of acceptance)
- ▶ Up-to-date information facilitates decision-making for team leaders, product owners, project managers, financial controllers and management
- ▶ No need to enter the same data several times
- ▶ Data consistency across all systems involved
- ▶ Basis for meaningful reports
- ▶ Can be adapted to a company's individual processes



**BUSINESS CASE 1: Synchronization of Structures from Microsoft Project to TFS / VSTS**

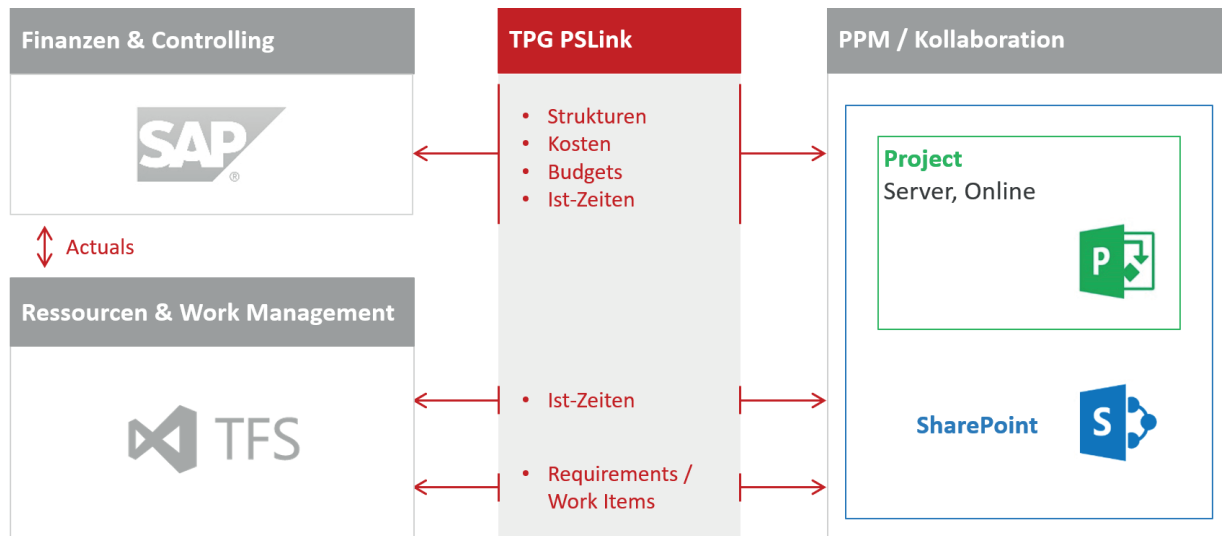


Image 1: Synchronization of Structures from Microsoft Project to TFS / VSTS

The project manager structures the projects in Microsoft Project. Thus, a structure can be created in TFS from Microsoft Project: The Microsoft Project summary tasks

become features in TFS; the subtasks become requirements. The project manager can decide individually which tasks to synchronize to TFS.

**BUSINESS CASE 2: Importing Work Items from SharePoint to TFS / VSTS**

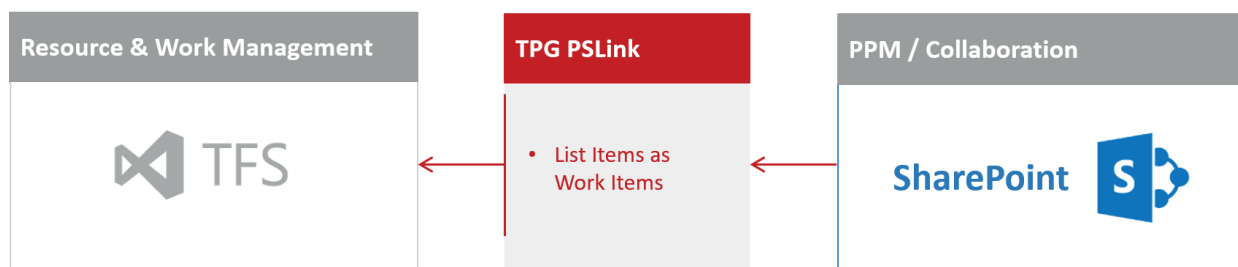


Image 2: Importing Work Items from SharePoint to TFS / VSTS

The work packages of the projects repeatedly involve the same to-dos. The team member has to work through them again and again. Often, they have to be created manually. Standardized to-do lists / checklists are a way of simplifying repeated processes. A SharePoint list is the suitable solution to this scenario.

It includes the contents of the to-dos to be completed on the TFS side. The contents are also easy to update in case anything changes. There are no limitations for the structure of the checklists. PSLink ensures this, as it permits the free assignment of SharePoint fields in the integration.

**Synchronization of Information from TFS / VSTS:**

The synchronization between Microsoft PPM and TFS occurs via the publicly available REST API. The latter makes the object model of the TFS available for the integration with other systems. The API consists of documented and quality assured web services, which Microsoft offers in many products.

### SYNCHRONIZATION OF INFORMATION FROM TFS / VSTS:

TPG PSLink® ensures the consistency of data being shared across the systems involved.

TFS Objects	Data Sharing
Features	- Create, Read, Update, Delete - All fields
Requirements	- Create, Read, Update, Delete - All fields
Work Items	- Read (update actions possible)

### BUSINESS CASE 3: Synchronization of Progress from TFS / VSTS to Microsoft Project



Image 3: Synchronisation des Fortschritts aus TFS / VSTS nach Microsoft Project

Once the stakeholders have created their individual work items in TFS, the execution of those items begins. It is possible to communicate a status to the project manager both in TFS and in Microsoft PPM. To this end, various attributes are maintained. These include:

- ▶ status
- ▶ work performed
- ▶ scheduled completion date, etc.

These data are aggregated and transferred from TFS to Microsoft PPM. This results in an up-to-date and lean project plan. For you avoid transferring all details from TFS. This is a huge benefit for project managers, as their planning remains concise.

### BUSINESS CASE 4: Showing Details in Microsoft Project



Image 3: Showing Details out of Team Foundation Server in Microsoft Project

Even though the project managers may not want to have all the individual activities from TFS in their project plan, it can be helpful to show them. This makes the dependencies better to understand. To this end, it is possible to display all details from a selected task of the project.

The tool **TPG ProjectDetails** collects these from (even several!) external systems and shows them in a dialog field. If required, this solution also allows you to carry aggregated data (e.g. the latest date or the sum of the actual hours) over to the project plan.

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