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REQUIREMENTS REUSE & SYNCHRONIZATION PLAYBOOK:

A how-to guide to share requirements across projects within Contour.

What is requirements reuse and synchronization? Many organizations are looking for ways to reuse requirements that are common across projects, platforms, or releases. However, it is important that projects maintain their ability to manage aspects of those common requirements within their own lifecycle.

Contour solves these seemingly conflicting goals by synchronizing only specific details, such as the requirement name and description. This frees up the detailed attributes such as status, priority and release to be managed within the specific project. Within this playbook, we provide a step-by-step guide to help you use this feature.

Requirements Reuse – an overview of the process.

1. Create a product line with multiple sub-projects
2. Reuse requirements
3. Make changes to core requirements
4. View changes across projects
5. Synchronize changes across projects

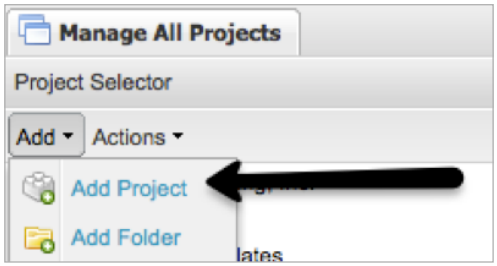
example scenario: Jason Benson is a Product Manager for a mobile phone company. His team will be developing multiple types of phones for a new product line. These different phones all share a core set of requirements. Jason would like to avoid duplicating efforts and losing track of changes to the core requirements. He will use Contour's Reuse & Synchronization feature to manage the core requirements from within a central location.

Kristi Wolf is a Project Manager who will be responsible for the Mobile Phone X, which is a specific phone in Jason's product line. She will need to synchronize the core set of requirements while continuing to manage them through her project's lifecycle.

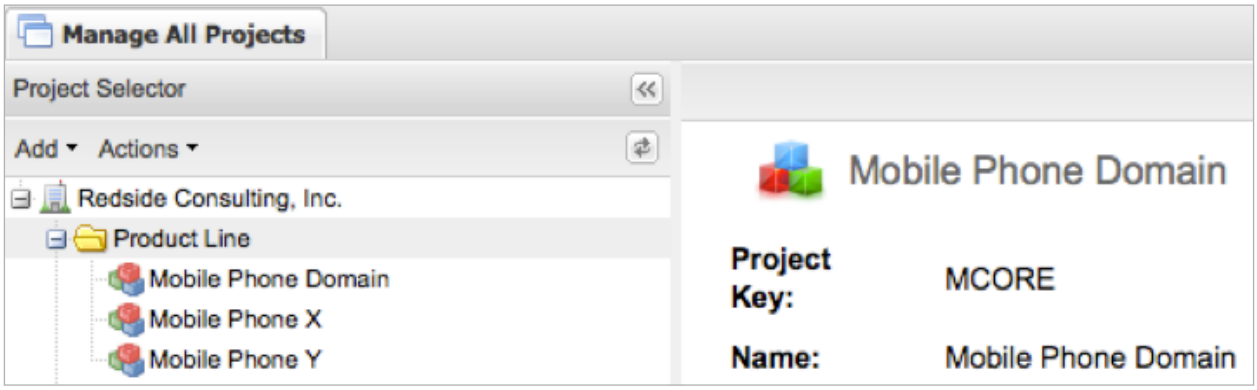
ONE: CREATE a product line with multiple sub-projects.

To begin, Jason will create a core project in Contour. This project will contain the core set of requirements. Kristi will create an separate project, which will represent a single variant of the core project.

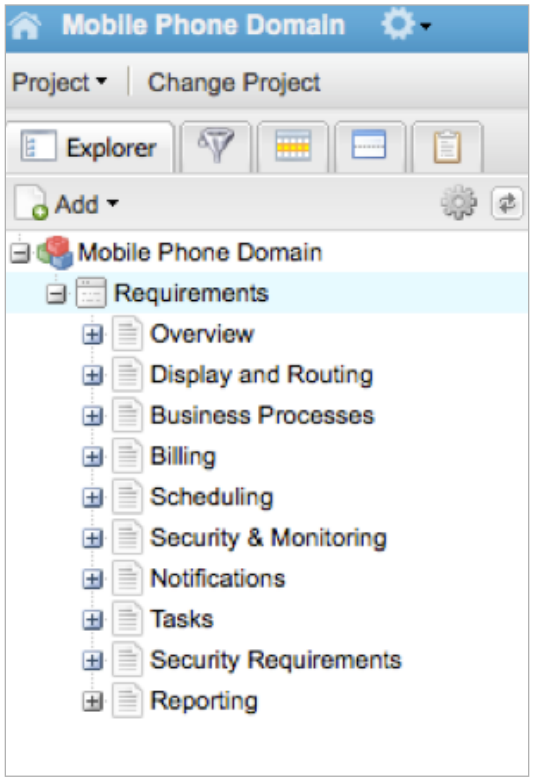
Jason will create a Project in Contour called "Mobile Phone Domain" to store the core Requirements for the entire product line. Jason will also use this Project to define the scope and vision of the mobile phone product line.



Kristi will create an individual Project called “Mobile Phone X”, which will be managed separately but will need to reuse and synchronize requirements from Jason’s project.



Jason will define or import his core Requirements into the Mobile Phone Domain project.



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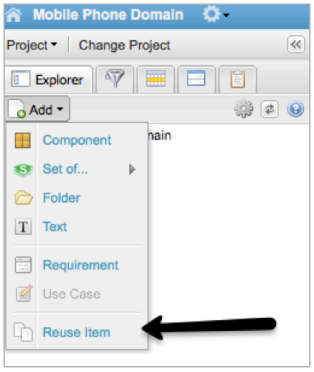
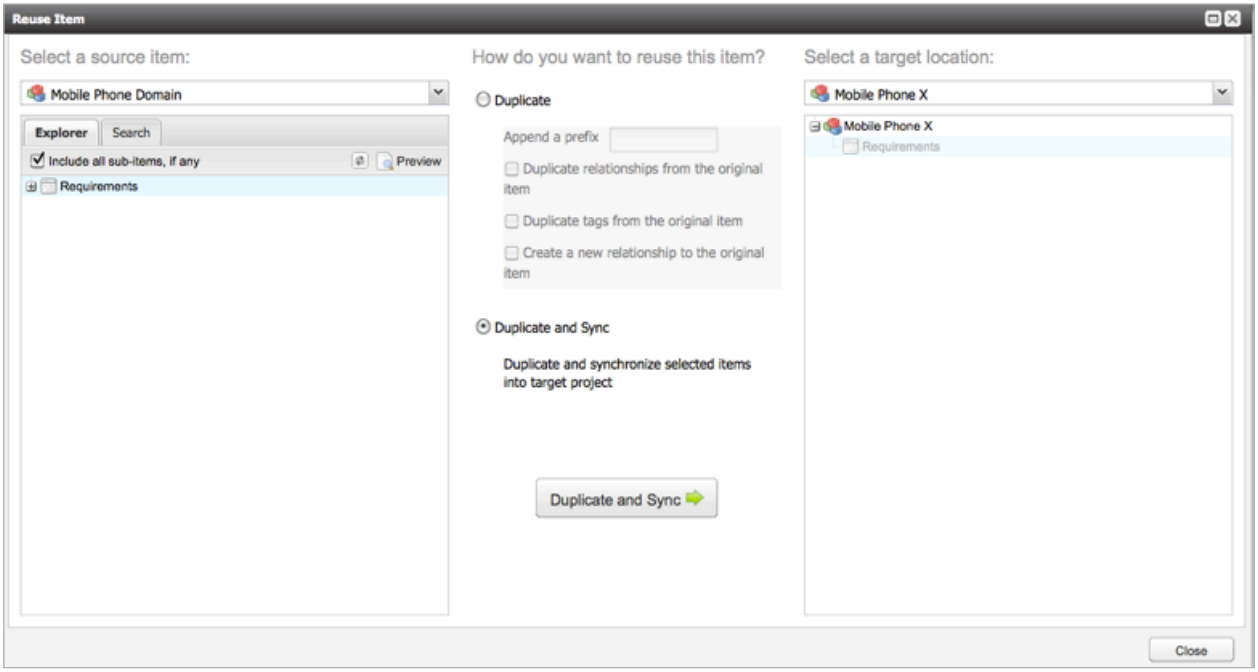
TWO: REUSE requirements. Jason's team of Project Managers (e.g.. Kristi) will begin managing their individual types of phones. They will reuse and synchronize requirements from Jason's product line repository. This will avoid duplicating efforts.

As part of setting up her Project, Kristi will reuse all necessary Requirements from Jason's core project repository.



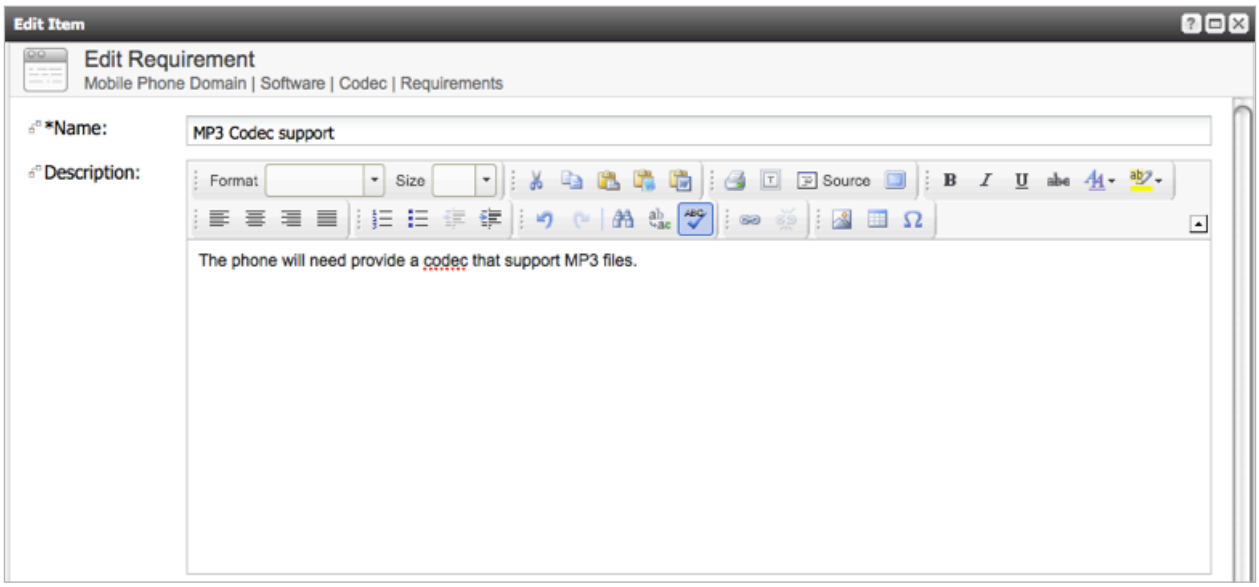
Kristi will do this for all components her particular mobile phone type needs. In this case, she will reuse all the requirements.



Now that Kristi has the necessary core requirements she can begin adding requirements that are specific to her type of phone. The advantage is that the core requirements are now part of her Project and are synchronized with Jason's. This enables her to manage the requirements within her Project lifecycle.

THREE: MAKE changes to core requirements. Jason will continue to manage the core Requirements, making changes based on new rules, feedback from customers or internally driven changes. Jason will need to make sure projects that reuse these requirements are aware of these changes.

Jason has updated a requirement name and description within the core project. He may do this for many requirements.



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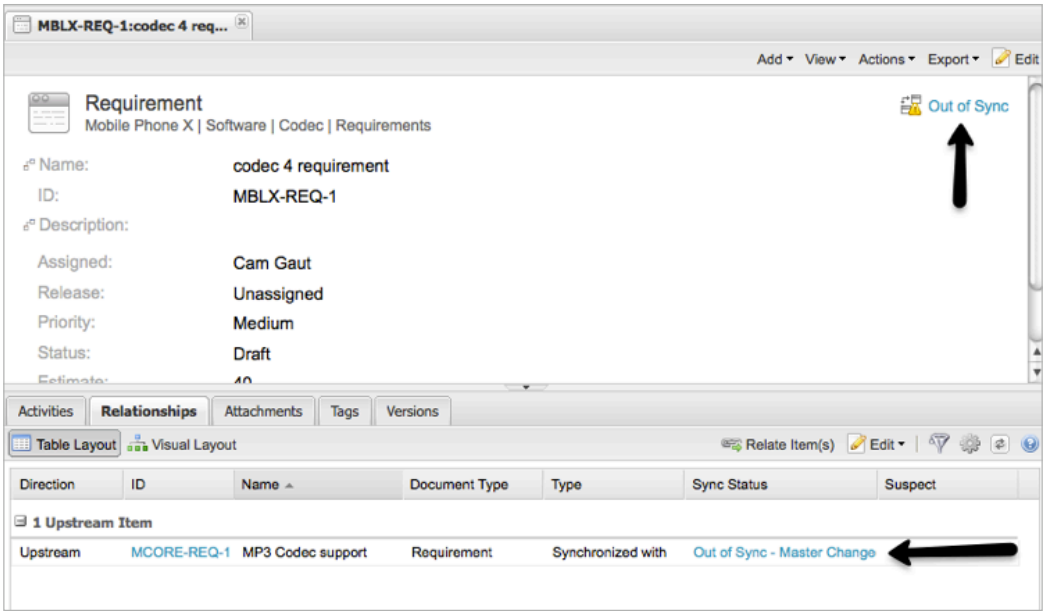
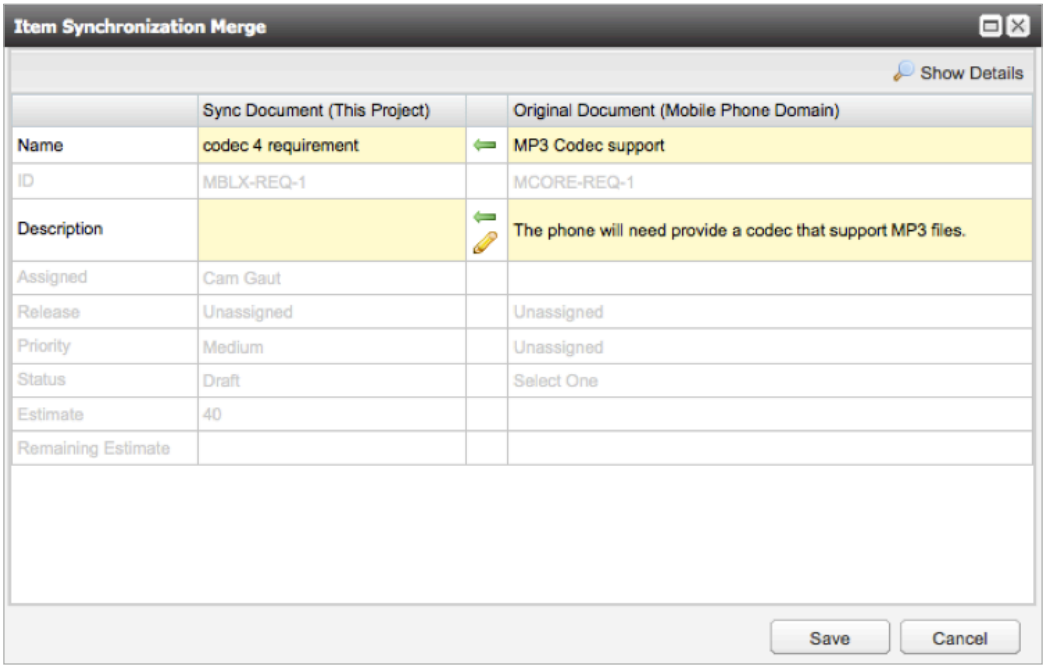
All the projects that are synchronized will be aware of this change. Kristi can quickly see that her requirement is out-of-sync. You can see from the image below that only the Name and Description are synchronized, freeing the other attributes to be specific to Kristi's project.

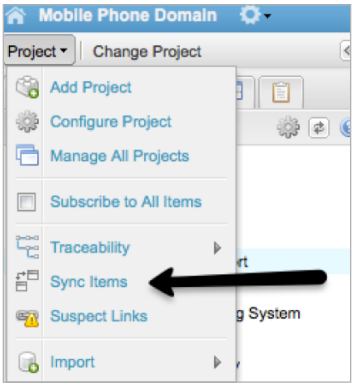


Kristi can view the details of the change in a convenient side-by-side comparison and merge the changes in that make sense. Alternatively, as you'll see in a moment, Jason can also manage those changes from his Project.

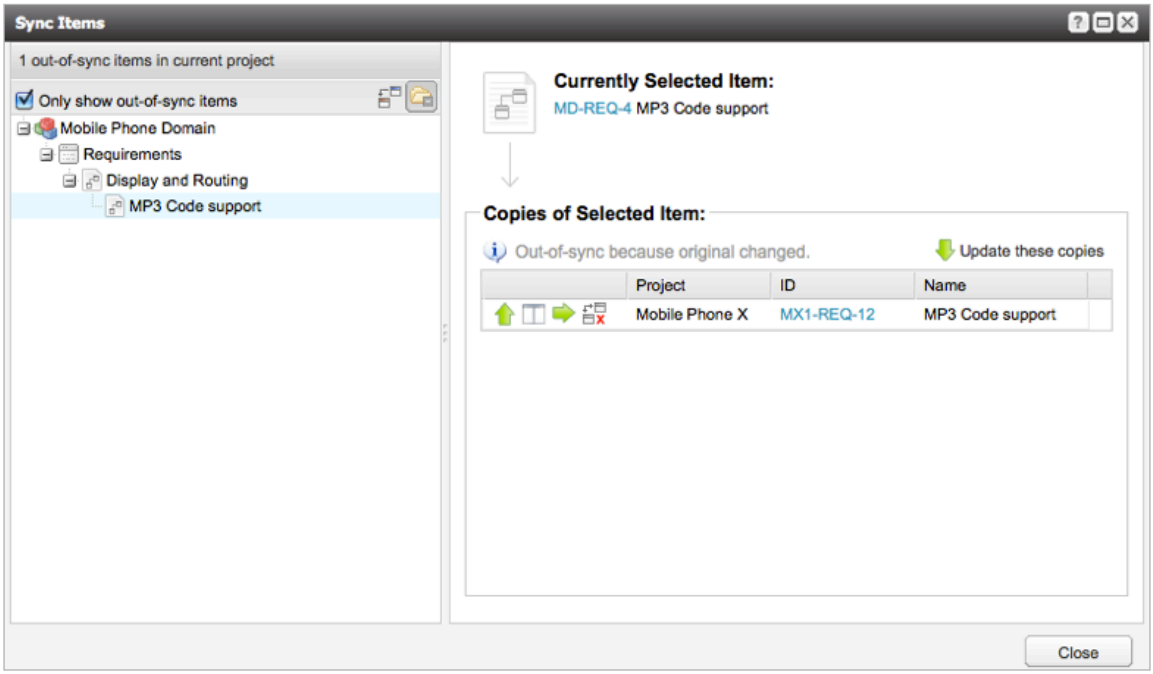


FOUR: VIEW changes across projects. Once Jason has made several changes he will view the changes across all projects. Kristi can also see the changes within her project.

Jason wants to synchronize the changes directly into the other projects. But first he'd like to review the requirements that have changed.

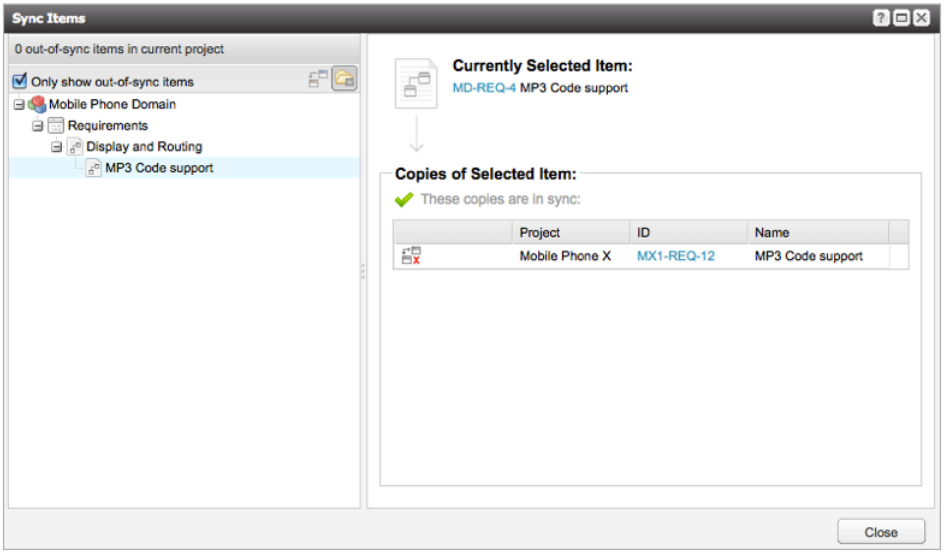


Jason can now navigate through all the changed requirements and quickly see which projects are affected.

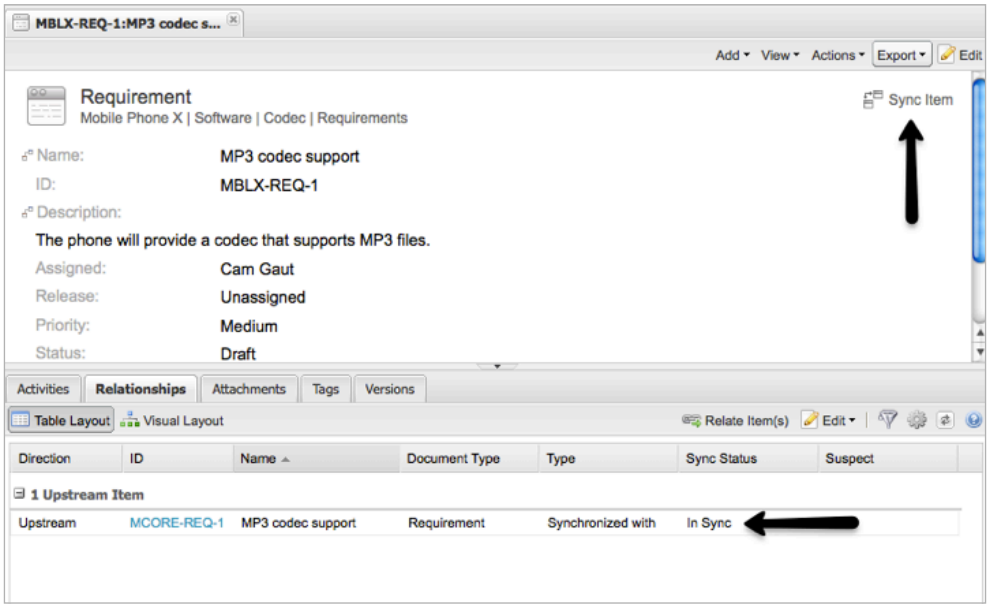


FIVE: SYNCHRONIZE changes across projects. In the final step, Jason will synchronize the changes into Kristi's project thus ensuring Kristi is working on the most current requirements.

Jason will select a requirement or a folder to synchronize the changes.



Kristi will now see that her requirement is in sync with the master.



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Jama Contour, the leading Web-based solution for social product development and requirements management, is now trusted by thousands of users worldwide managing billions in R&D projects. Join us.

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