

IBM® Engineering Lifecycle Management (ELM) Future Forward User Day

March 2026 | Event Highlights



Introduction to IBM® ELM

IBM® ELM is designed to support teams facing modern day engineering challenges, particularly in complex, domain driven environments.

IBM® ELM provides a unified solution to increasing complexity, providing teams with a data driven approach.

Key Challenges Addressed:

- Lack of end-to-end traceability
- Fragmented Toolchains
- Increasing systems complexity

Delivering core benefits:

- Manage complex projects
- Improve collaboration across teams
- Maintain compliance and traceability



ELM Capabilities and Evolution

ELM continues to evolve, receiving regular updates so that teams can benefit from new capabilities without disrupting existing workflows.

Digital threads: Connect requirements, models, code, tests, and defects so that teams can trace decisions end-to-end and understand the impact of every change.

Agile engineering: ELM supports agile planning and work tracking across disciplines, so that engineering teams can deliver faster and stay aligned even in complex, multi-team environments.

Model Based Systems Engineering: ELM provides integrated SysML/UML modelling, so that teams can design, analyse, and validate complex systems early, reducing rework and improving system quality.

Configuration Management: ELM manages versions, variants, and baselines of engineering artefacts, so that teams can reuse work confidently and maintain control across product lines and releases.

Reporting and compliance: ELM automates the creation of audit-ready reports and compliance documentation, so that teams reduce manual effort and meet regulatory requirements with confidence.

IBM® ELM is evolving into a cloud-native, scalable platform with a strong focus on usability, seamless tool integration, and continuous AI-driven enhancements to improve engineering productivity and efficiency.



AI Hub

AI in ELM acts as an assistant that augments engineering decisions, so that teams can work faster and with higher confidence without replacing expert judgement.

Key Capabilities:

- Custom AI agents using MCP and ELM data
- Flexible model integration (bring your own LLM)
- Scoped data access for relevance

New AI Agents

- Work Item Agent: Faster creation of features, tasks, defects
- Requirements Agent: Detect duplicates/conflicts and enable reuse

AI Use Cases

Automated classification and tagging

Natural language requirements analysis

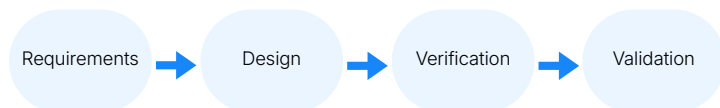
Predictive lifecycle insights

AI enhances productivity and decision quality without replacing engineering expertise



Data-Centric Engineering & Digital Thread

Engineering data is positioned as a strategic asset



Benefits:

- Custom AI agents using MCP and ELM data
- Flexible model integration (bring your own LLM)
- Scoped data access for relevance

Leveraging the digital thread enables complete traceability and better decision-making.



Reporting Mastery Session

Matt Hirschfield | Senior Consultant | Optimise Engineering

Who are Optimise Engineering

A UK systems engineering consultancy that helps organisations improve requirements management, traceability, and digital engineering delivery through systems engineering expertise, IBM ELM tooling, and specialist training.

Reporting with IBM® ELM focuses on aggregating, correlating and visualising lifecycle data to support evidence-based decision making for teams

Key Principles

- Reporting must be context-aware (audience-driven)
- Dashboards are central to effective use

Tools

- **Standard:** Jazz Reporting Service, Report Builder
- **Extended:** Engineering Insights, IBM Publisher

Data Sources

- Data Warehouse: Historical, daily updates, trend analysis
- LQE: Real-time lifecycle data

Best Practices

- Define reporting strategy early
- Design data models carefully
- Avoid overcomplicating dashboards

Effective reporting relies on strong data design, not more tools.

Key Takeaways

- ELM helps manage complexity using connected data
- End to end traceability helps minimise risk, improve compliance and prevents late defects
- AI supports, not replaces engineers
- Good data=Good reporting
- Adoption doesn't need to be complex



Telent user story

Amar Dhillon | Head of Engineering Assurance | Telent

Who are Telent

A leading UK technology company which supports critical projects and infrastructure across industries including defence, transport and public safety.

Key Requirements

- High security and quality standards
- Strong change control and traceability
- Flexibility across sectors
- Ease of use and adoption

ELM Adoption Journey

- Transitioned from legacy DOORS® to SaaS ELM (2020)
- Focused on simplifying adoption for users
- Scaled from small to large projects

Outcomes

- Improved reporting and visibility
- Better data coordination
- Strong ROI in time, cost, and quality

Current Focus

- Core tools: DOORS Next®, Workflow Management, Test Manager
- Expanding into:
 - Integration Hub
 - Publishing Engine
 - Global Configuration Manager
 - Rhapsody
 - AI & Automation

Simplicity in implementation drives adoption and long-term success

For more information about our IBM® ELM Future Forward User Day, [click here](#)

For enquiries, get in touch at cet@optimise-engineering.co.uk