



Success story

Distell Group Limited

Industry

- Beverages

Solution

- OpenText™ Content Suite Platform

Partner Support

- KineMatik



Distell streamlines global project management with OpenText

Project Management for OpenText™ Content Suite Platform results in better reporting, greater collaboration and project consistency

Results



Saved time and reduced costs with greater project alignment with corporate goals



Better reporting leads to more efficient product release scheduling

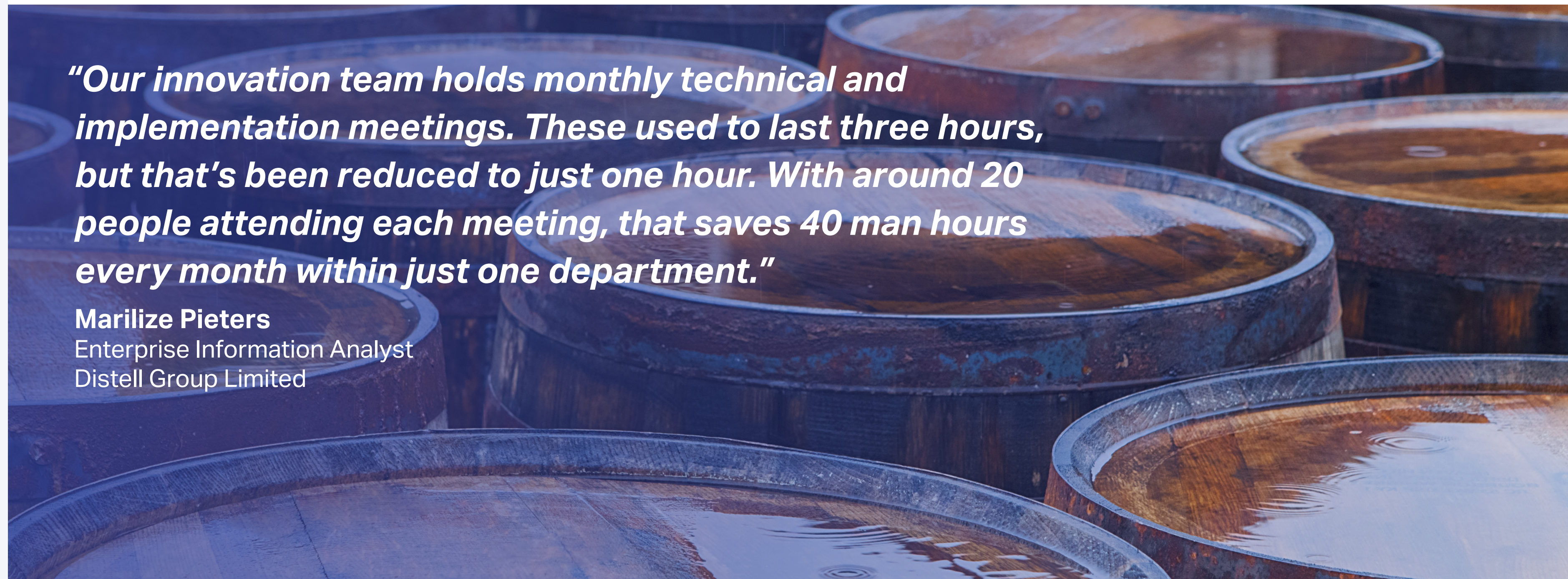


Improved project execution with better project resource allocation, collaboration, efficient meetings and real-time project dashboards

"Our innovation team holds monthly technical and implementation meetings. These used to last three hours, but that's been reduced to just one hour. With around 20 people attending each meeting, that saves 40 man hours every month within just one department."

Marilize Pieters

Enterprise Information Analyst
Distell Group Limited



Distell Group Limited is a leading international producer and marketer of spirits, fine wines, ciders and ready-to-drinks. Headquartered in Stellenbosch, South Africa, with operations throughout Africa, Europe and Asia, the company employs around 5,500 staff. Many of Distell's brands are household names, including Amarula, Hunter's, J.C. Le Roux, Klipdrift, Nederburg, Richelieu, Savanna, Viceroy and Zonnebloem. Amarula is South Africa's most widely distributed international alcoholic beverage brand and its wines are sold on every continent. The company created the cider category in South Africa and is the second largest producer of ciders worldwide.

Distell's operations span the globe, and consequently so do its projects. To manage its project documentation and other content, the company used various IT solutions, including Microsoft® Project, Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheets, Microsoft® Word documents, Microsoft® PowerPoint® presentations, other digital formats and paper. This resulted in digital files being stored on local hard drives, various network shares and other systems, which made locating specific project information challenging and cumbersome. Documents, project schedules and assignments were stored across a wider IT landscape. With the company's global expansion, it was important to gain a true, accurate view of all project statuses. Project managers found it hard to collaborate with colleagues in other locations and preparing reports was time consuming.

Ideal solution for project documentation

For many years, Distell has benefitted from greater efficiency and collaboration by using OpenText™ Content Suite Platform. The solution allows Distell to capture, store and manage corporate intellectual property and other enterprise documentation. However, not all project documentation and schedules were stored in the OpenText platform, and each department was working to its own processes and means of storage.

"We attended a webinar, hosted by OpenText and its partner KineMatik, that clearly demonstrated the benefits to an organization such as ours of how Content Suite could be leveraged to combine project management capabilities with project documentation," said Marilize Pieters, Enterprise Information Analyst at Distell Group Limited. ***"Project Management for Content Suite by KineMatik extends the benefits of Content Suite beyond just project documentation and includes project management via Gantt charts, dashboards and more."***

Project Managers relied on certain capabilities of Microsoft Project, such as Gantt charts. However, without a collaborative project management environment and integrated documentation, it was difficult to locate documents and other project content.

"We set goals to increase the speed of storing and accessing documentation, to drive greater efficiency, improve compliance to corporate standards, raise transparency, and to make reporting more timely, accurate and reliable. To achieve these, we began implementing the solution, building on our well established Content Suite solution," added Pieters.

Standardization helps drive user adoption

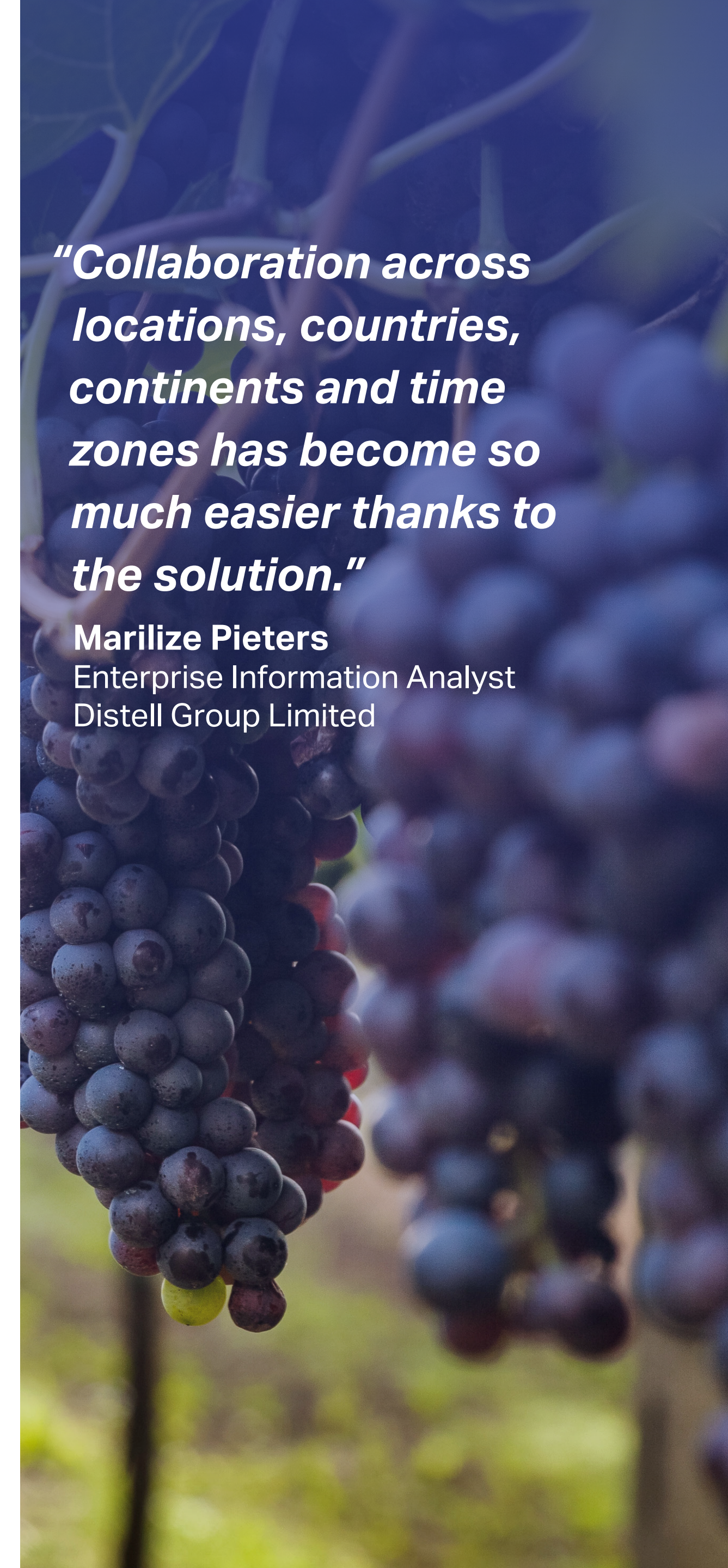
Distell's project teams were already used to using OpenText Content Suite Platform for all sorts of corporate documentation. By building upon this with KineMatik's application, the interface and processes to store and retrieve information relating to a project was an easy incremental step.

"By layering the application on to Content Suite, our users didn't have to learn a completely new system. The OpenText Single Sign On (SSO), takes care of access credentials and security profiles too," said Pieters.

"Collaboration across locations, countries, continents and time zones has become so much easier thanks to the solution."

Marilize Pieters

Enterprise Information Analyst
Distell Group Limited



Users quickly began to see the benefits of being able to quickly and easily associate documentation and other content to a project structure. For example, they could open the task and see all the documents they needed, such as final specifications or images of new labels, etc. Colleagues, regardless of their location, can now instantly access the content of any task without having to first determine what system it is stored in, where it's stored in that system or its format.

With international expansion, having a single, central and standardized project documentation store helps to speed up project execution. Users no longer have to contact colleagues to ask for a specific piece of content; they simply access it online in the project workspace. Everyone can be assured they're using the most up to date version, too.

"Collaboration across locations, countries, continents and time zones has become so much easier thanks to the solution. Any piece of content (presentations, contracts, correspondence, emails, plans, financials, etc.) are just a click away," added Pieters.

Report preparation time and meeting durations slashed

Pulling together all the necessary data, statuses and other information needed for periodic reporting was a drain on resources. Content Suite Platform can display real time dashboards for the project team members showing project status updates, KPI indicators and more. However, every three hours all of the relevant information is extracted in an automated batch job and externally accessible reports are automatically updated in order to address senior management report requirements.

"Not only are reports always available, they're more reliable as they're based on fresh, current data. We can access an online dashboard in Content Suite at any time too, giving us an instant snapshot of project statuses. For example, an individual on our innovation team used to spend two weeks every month preparing reports, a task that is now automated. That time can now be better used on other tasks," explained Pieters.

Project managers use the solution day in, day out to help them make better, more informed decisions and they can make those decisions with the business more quickly than ever. They can easily share a link to a colleague—there's no need to copy documents, print or email them. By using a link, the recipient can be confident they are looking at the latest version.

The amount of time for meetings has been reduced, too. Project Management review meetings, for example, have been cut in half to just two hours, as information is more readily available.

"Our innovation team holds monthly technical and implementation meetings. These used to last three hours, but that's been reduced to just one hour. With around 20 people attending each meeting, that saves 40 man hours every month within just one department," said Pieters.

Every team member is sent an agenda prior to the meeting with links to the various projects in Content Suite Platform. This allows everyone to review the projects before the meeting so they are fully informed about the projects, and that the project data is up to date. In the meeting, each project is accessed by clicking on a link and the project overview page is instantly projected on to a large screen. Real-time updates are also made to the project during the meeting, reducing inaccurate information being added to the system after the meeting.

"An individual on our Innovation team used to spend two weeks every month preparing reports, a task that is now automated. That time can now be better used on other tasks."

Marilize Pieters
Enterprise Information Analyst
Distell Group Limited

Future plans built on OpenText Content Suite Platform

As new innovations from OpenText becoming available, Distell continuously evaluates how it can adopt and benefit. Discussions are underway on implementing OpenText™ Content Suite 16,, but in the meantime, the project management rollout continues to all project teams across the business.

Distell have also started to rollout some additional project functionality, such as project risk and issue management. These are add-on functions that work seamlessly with Content Suite Platform and the Project Management solution.

“We’re also looking at other potential applications that can be built on Content Suite, for example a Quality Management System application, also by KineMatik,” said Pieters. “Additional reports are planned too that will help us determine which projects are best aligned to our corporate strategic goals and where resource can be best utilized.”

About KineMatik

KineMatik is a Technology partner of OpenText. It provides solutions built on Content Suite for:

- Project management, with industry standard and advanced project management tools
- Quality management of standard processes, such as customer complaints, change controls and CAPAs
- Scientific research and development, with the only electronic lab notebook (ELN) built on Content Suite Platform
- Publishing of complex documents such as data books, project books and MRBs from Content Suite Platform data

KineMatik’s team has been developing solutions on Content Suite Platform since 1999 for clients in a wide range of industries.

For more information please see kinematik.com.

About OpenText

OpenText, The Information Company, enables organizations to gain insight through market leading information management solutions, on-premises or in the cloud. For more information about OpenText (NASDAQ: OTEX, TSX: OTEX) visit opentext.com.

Customer stories 

opentext.com/contact

[Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Copyright ©2018 Open Text. OpenText is a trademark or registered trademark of Open Text. The list of trademarks is not exhaustive of other trademarks. Registered trademarks, product names, company names, brands and service names mentioned herein are property of Open Text. All rights reserved. For more information, visit: <http://www.opentext.com/2/global/site-copyright.html> 09752A.12EN

