

Active Library Explorer

DESCRIPTION





Introduction

Customer Product Information (CPI) for a telecom system, together with the hardware and the software, is an integral part of the system. The CPI must be well structured, and it must be presented in such a way that the user can find the information easily.



Active Library Explorer is designed to handle electronic documentation in such a way that the same document library can be used both on web-servers, on a Local Area Network (LAN) file server, and on portable PCs.



Easy Access to Information

Active Library Explorer allows a user to browse Ericsson document libraries with a standard web browser. The user interface of Active Library Explorer, thus, is basically that of the web browser that is used.

The functions unique to Active Library Explorer are contained in a toolbar. The toolbar is displayed in a frame in the web browser. The lower frame shows a list of all available libraries, or a tree structure with folders containing libraries (see Figure 1).

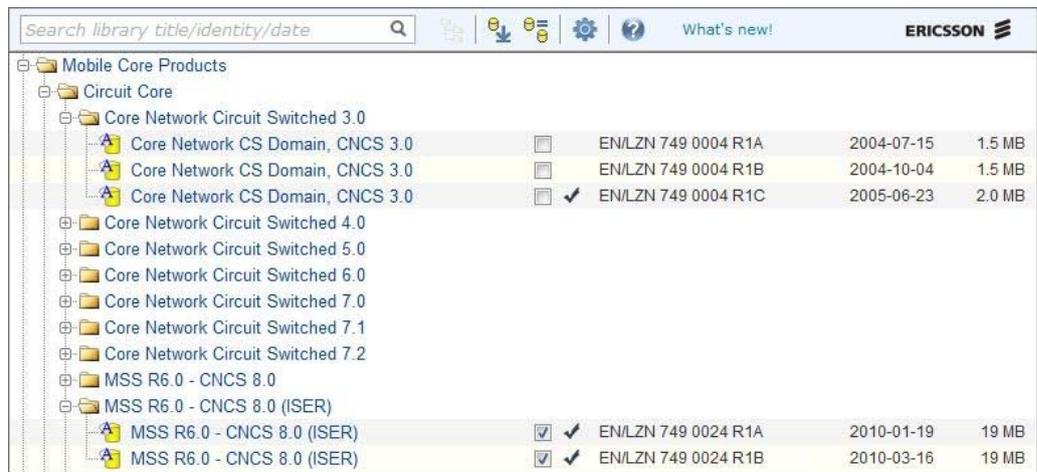


Figure 1 Active Library Explorer User Interface

When a library is opened for viewing, another browser window is opened (see Figure 2). This window also contains a toolbar frame, with commands for finding and browsing documents. Another frame contains the structure of the document library. The structure is shown in the form of a 'tree', similar to a file explorer. The content of the library (documents, document lists and so on) is shown in a third frame.

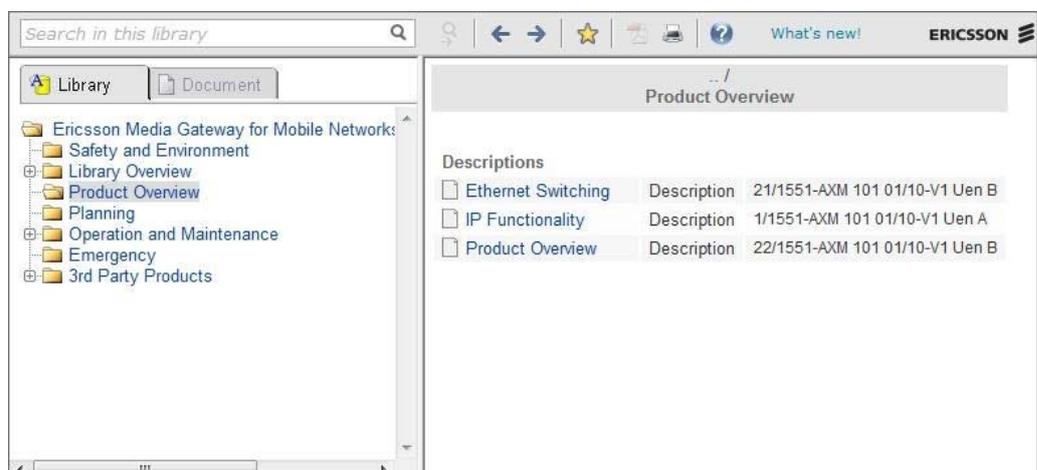


Figure 2 Browsing in a Library



When a document is opened for reading, the left frame can show the document table of contents, providing easy access to any chapter in the document.

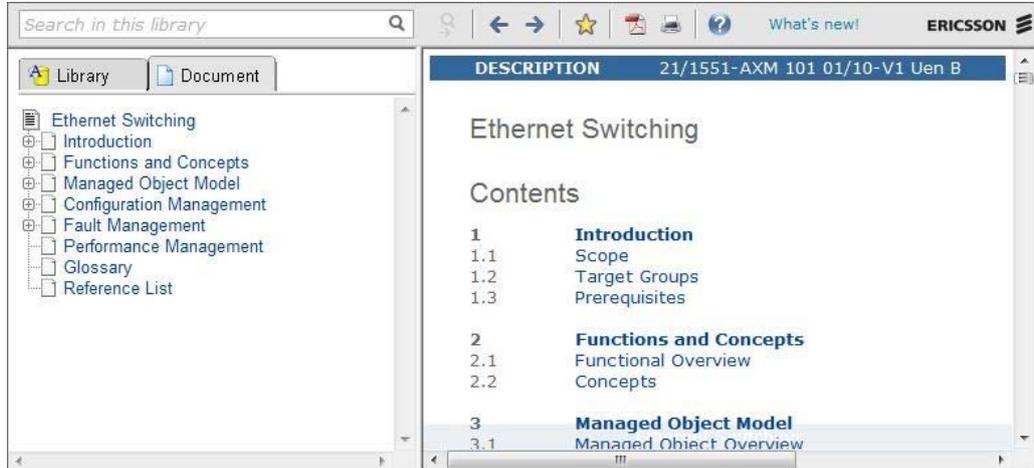


Figure 3 Reading a document

Active Library Explorer also supports the concept of library collections. A library collection is a predefined group of libraries that together represent, for example, a business solution or a subnetwork. The library collection thus provides a well defined context within which to search for information about the business solution or subnetwork. When browsing in a library collection, the left frame shows a list of all libraries that are part of the collection.

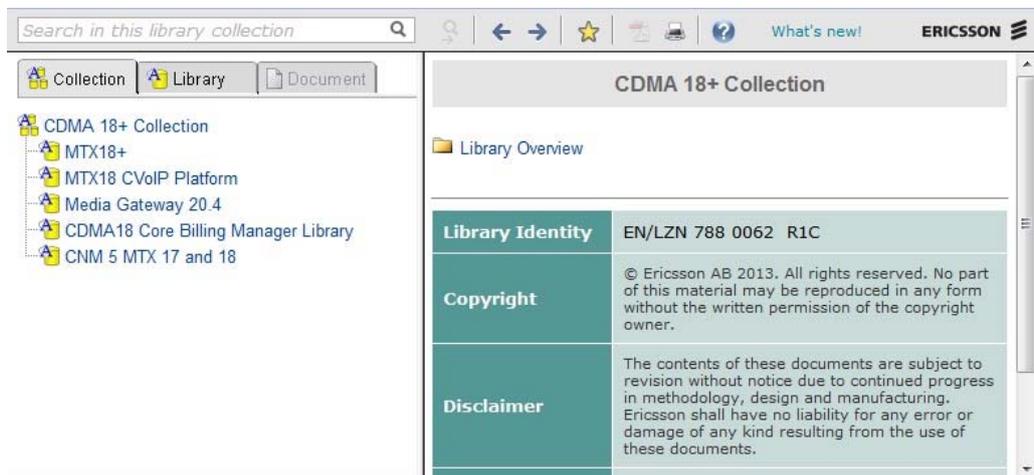


Figure 4 Browsing in a Library Collection



Efficient Handling and Distribution

Active Library Explorer offers an efficient cross-platform information distribution within an organization. The information including graphics and pictures is presented as Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) documents or, in some cases, as Portable Document Format (PDF) documents. The documents are contained in a document library, which is a single compressed file.

The document libraries can reside either:

- on a web server (extranet/intranet), in which case the documents are accessible from all workstations connected to the web, or
- on a local area network (LAN) file server, in which case the documents are accessible from all workstations on that LAN, or
- on a PC local hard disk or CD/DVD, in which case no network connection is needed at all.

Consequently, the same document library can be used both in a centrally administrated installation and on a portable PC.

Active Library Explorer is delivered as two different versions: A server version, and a stand-alone Windows® -based version.

Active Library Explorer Server is used for web-based browsing. It is installed on a web server and is accessible from a web browser. This means that the user does not need to install anything on the local workstation.

Active Library Explorer for Windows is used on PCs with no web connection. It is a Windows program that fetches documents from libraries on a local hard disk, a CD/DVD disc, or a LAN file server and transfers them to the web browser to be displayed.



Key Features

The goal of Active Library Explorer is to give the user a lot of added value when browsing electronic documentation. To do this, the following added functionality is provided “on top of” the basic web technology:

- All documents are stored in a single compressed library file. This greatly simplifies the handling of the documentation, making the library easy to identify and distribute and also easy to install anywhere on a file system.
- Quick access to functions from the toolbar.
- Functions specific to context will be available with Context menu (Right click)
- Instant search results for titles and keywords.
- Search suggestions, based on document library contents.
- Filter library contents to find relevant information quickly and easily.
- Easy access to documents due to a dynamic ‘tree’ structure, and to hierarchically organized document folders.
- Extensive cross-references as hyperlinks.
- Support for an alternate high-resolution version of a document in PDF format (for printing), if available in the library.
- Annotations: The user can add own comments to documents.
- A function to compare two libraries to easily get a list of updated documents.
- Only a standard web browser needed on user’s workstation (when using the ALEX Server version installed on a web server).
- Enables linking to context sensitive documentation from Operation & Maintenance tools.
- Support for library collections. A library collection is a predefined group of document libraries representing, for example, a business solution or a subnetwork.

Technical Architecture

The architecture for **Active Library Explorer Server** consists of the following components:

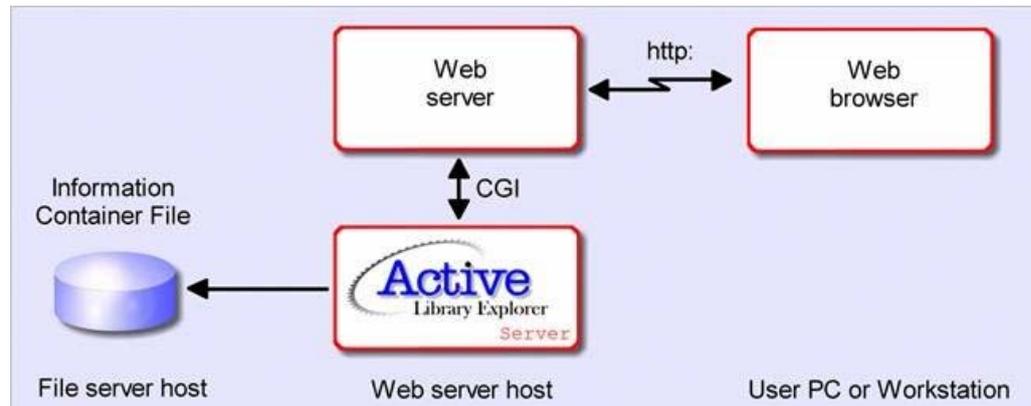


Figure 5 Active Library Explorer Server

- Active Library Explorer library (Information Container). This is the library containing the electronic documents. The library is produced by Ericsson.
- A standard web server that supports Common Gateway Interface (CGI) programs.
- Active Library Explorer Server. This includes CGI-programs that run on a web server. The programs receive requests from the web browser, retrieve the desired information from the document library (or libraries) and send it to the browser.

The architecture for **Active Library Explorer for Windows** consists of the following components:



Figure 6 Active Library Explorer for Windows

- Active Library Explorer library (Information Container). This is the library containing the electronic documents. The library is produced by Ericsson. It can be located on the user's PC (hard disk or CD/DVD) or on a LAN file server.
- Active Library Explorer for Windows. A Windows program that handles the document library (or libraries) and communicates with the web browser through a programming interface.



Technical Data

Active Library Explorer Server version 17.1 CNAH 118 010 R17B

Operating systems	Windows Server® 2003, Windows 7, Windows 8.1 Sun Solaris , Linux® (Verified on Solaris 10, RedHat® Linux 6.4 64-bit and Ubuntu® Linux® 14.04 LTS 64-bit). Other versions will probably work as well.
Other Requirements	A web server with CGI capabilities
Client browser	Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 10.0 or later, Latest version of Firefox® and Chrome®, Adobe® Reader® plug-in

Active Library Explorer for Windows version 17.1 CNAH 118 015/6 R17B

Operating systems	Windows 7, Windows 8.1
Browser	Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 10.0 or later (default browser), Latest version of Firefox® and Chrome®, Adobe® Reader® plug-in

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