Sopheon Accolade®

Idea Generation Training Guide

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About Sopheon Accolade®

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About the Accolade Education Program

This module is part of the Sopheon Accolade Education Program (AEP). The AEP modules are designed to help Accolade users perform the tasks in their company's business process using the Accolade application. The content in the modules is meant to be used side-by-side with the application, and is part of the overall documentation suite provided for Accolade.

The benefits of using Accolade as part of your company's innovation development process include the following:

- Reduced cycle time by displaying clear structure and visibility.
- Reduced rework through timely, properly sequenced completion of all key tasks and milestones.
- Assured positive user experience through properly developed product requirements.
- Improved communication by automating collaboration between multifunctional team members.
- Provided decision-making information. Poor projects are stopped or placed on hold so resources can be redirected to more promising and higher value projects and products.
- Provided clear project requirements. Expectations of a project team and project manager at each stage are clearly spelled out.
- Managed business risk. Break resource commitments into increments or stages.
- Established key baseline information and metrics.

The Accolade documentation suite contains the following additional components:

Document	Contents
Sopheon Accolade What's New in This Release	For each release, review this document for an overview of the new features and changes within the release.
Accolade Online Help	Accessible directly through Accolade, the online Help provides comprehensive how-to and reference information about all aspects of using Accolade.
Sopheon Accolade Administrator's Guide	Provides information for administrative professionals regarding Accolade setup. This information is also provided in the online Help.
Sopheon Accolade Installation Guide	Provides information about the installation of the application and its required databases.
Dashboards for Accolade Installation Guide	Provides installation information for installing the Dashboards for Accolade component.
Quick Reference Cards	A PDF that can be printed double-sided that provides quick tips and navigation information for using Accolade.

Document	Contents
Online Help for Accolade Add-ins	Accolade add-ins, including Accolade Office Extensions, Accolade SmartDocuments for Google, Accolade SmartDocuments for Office, Accolade Portfolio Optimizer, and Accolade's integration with Microsoft Project, each include their own Sopheon created Help file accessible directly from the application after the add-in is installed. Each Help file describes how to use the features of that particular add-in.

Prerequisites for Using this Module

The contents of this training module assumes you are assigned the Accolade user roles and have a basic understanding of the terms and concepts listed below and how they are used in your installation. In addition, the content in the related training modules listed below may be helpful before reviewing the contents of this module.

Accolade User Roles

- Administrator
- Process Design*
- Idea Manager
- Project Managers
- Project Team Member

*For configuration and setup.

Terms and Concepts

- General Accolade terminology and concepts
- Projects

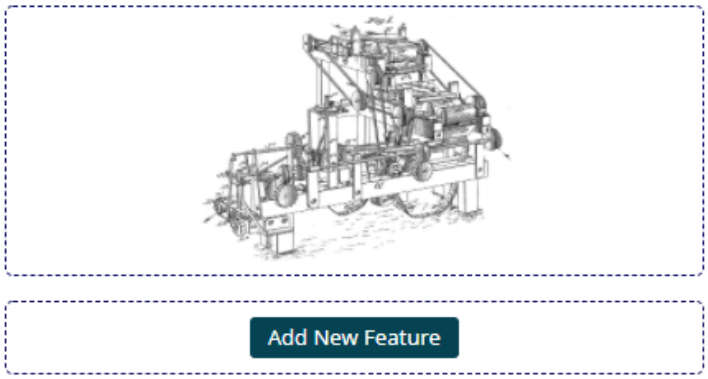
Related Training Modules

- Custom Pages
- Understanding Projects
- Managing Projects

Available Pod Types

Page layouts can contain one or more pods to display information. Each pod can contain a single element, such as one metric, one global link, or one image. Review the following information about the types of pods available and their potential uses.

Pod Type	Notes
Advanced Platform	Adds a pod to save JavaScript and HTML files to execute functions and features in a layout at a global or project level. The editor options will not display until the pod is added to the layout and the layout is saved. To add or write a JavaScript file or HTML file select from the following options: • **To add an existing file** - Click to open the editor dialog and click to upload the desired HTML or JavaScript file. Click **Open** to add the file.

Pod Type	Notes
	• **To edit an existing file or create a new file** - Click to open the JavaScript editor, write or update the code for the file directly in the editor, and click **Save** or **Save and Close**. Click ? in the editor to launch the WebAPI help. Click to delete the JavaScript file or HTML file. Selecting a different pod type will remove JavaScript and HTML files. Download and save the files before making changes to the pod.
Buttons	Adds a button to a layout, such as a button within a portfolio that can be clicked to directly create a new project or project links. Enter the name of the button in the **Button Text** field when creating the pod. Select from the following options: • **Add New** - Creates a button that, when added to a global or project page layout, can be clicked to create projects and/or project links directly from the page. Click when defining the pod to select a process model and process links as necessary. Note that project links cannot be created for pods used on a global layout. EXAMPLE Example  Multiple Add New pods can be used on a layout, each with different combinations of process models and link types. • **Create Child Project** - Creates a button that, when added to a project page layout, can be clicked to create a new project directly from the page. EXAMPLE Example

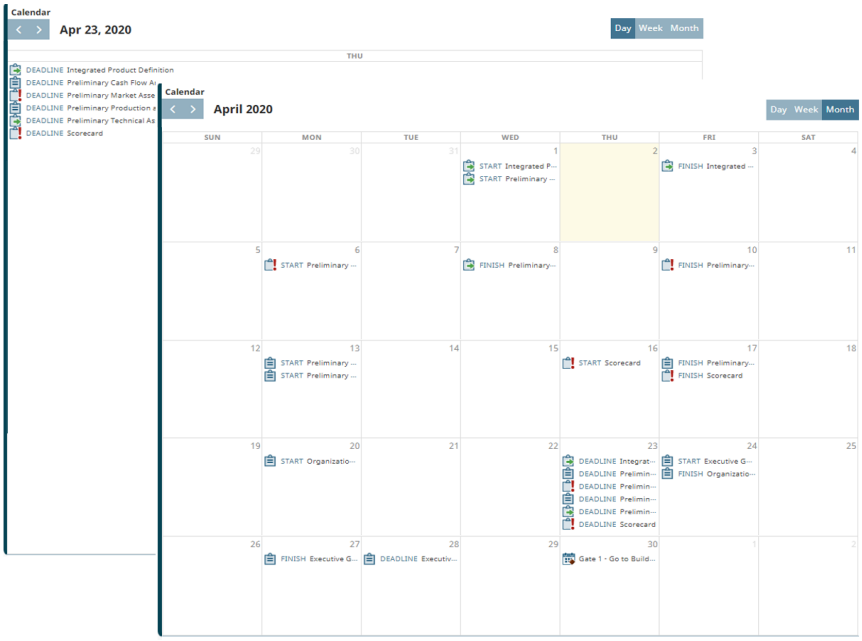
Pod Type	Notes
	 Note: The **Create Child Project** button is part of Ideation. The ability to add a new project using the **Add New** or **Create Child Project** button on a project page requires Add Project rights for the default access group (if one is assigned) or for the parent project's access group (if there is no default access group specified).
Chart	Adds a pod that contains a chart created using Accolade. Charts are visual representations of the data within a report. In order to add a chart to a pod, the chart must be set as **Available to Configuration** and the chart access groups must match at least one access group of the layout. Additionally, Process Designers must have "Can Edit" on at least one of the matching access group permissions in order for the chart to be available for them to use in the layout. Viewing a chart's contents within a page layout does not require Reporting Rights; however, a user must be an owner or have at least one matching user role for the chart to display.
Documents	Adds a pod that contains document types pertaining to a single project when the layout is included as a page within a project. The **Gate Documents** selection includes a pod that contains gate documents that display on a project. Gate owners and those with appropriate editing rights can upload and download versions, download and edit the associated template, and select which version to publish. If a layout containing a gate documents pod is assigned to a specific gate, the associated gate documents display. If the layout containing the gate documents pod displays as a project page, the gate documents specific to the current project gate display. EXAMPLE Example

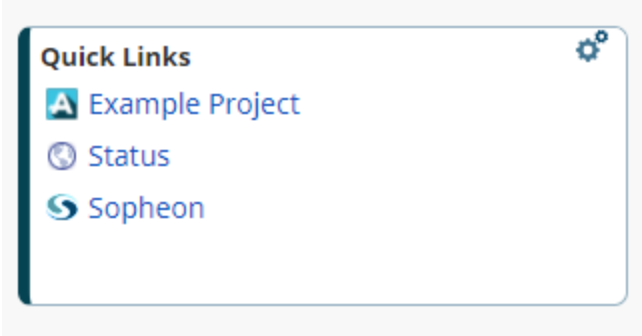
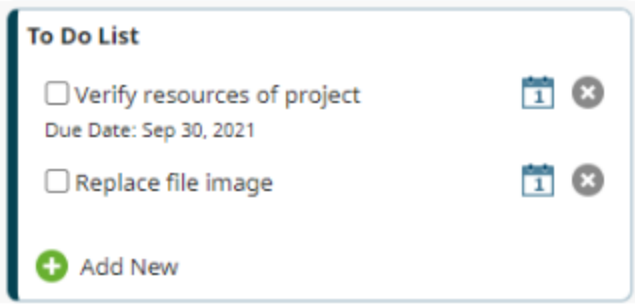
Pod Type	Notes
	  Note: These pods are not available for selection if the **Create global link** option for the layout is selected.
Gates	Adds a pod that contains gate information and capabilities for users on project teams. **Note:** These pods are not available for selection if the **Create global link** option for the layout is selected. Select from the following options: • **Gate Readiness** - Provides a graphic that indicates the health of a project stage, to help determine at a glance how ready the project for an upcoming gate meeting. The pod includes the how many days until the next gate meeting and a status of the assignments with the current stage. Deliverables and activities are grouped together and considered "assignments" in this pod, and any item set to Not Required in the project is not included in the calculations. Deliverables set to In Trouble and Not Started are represented by a red and grey pie slice respectively. EXAMPLE Example • **Gatekeepers** - Provides a place for various gate-specific information to be displayed. Gate owners can manage and update gatekeeper assignments as necessary from this pod. Additionally, gatekeepers can vote on gate

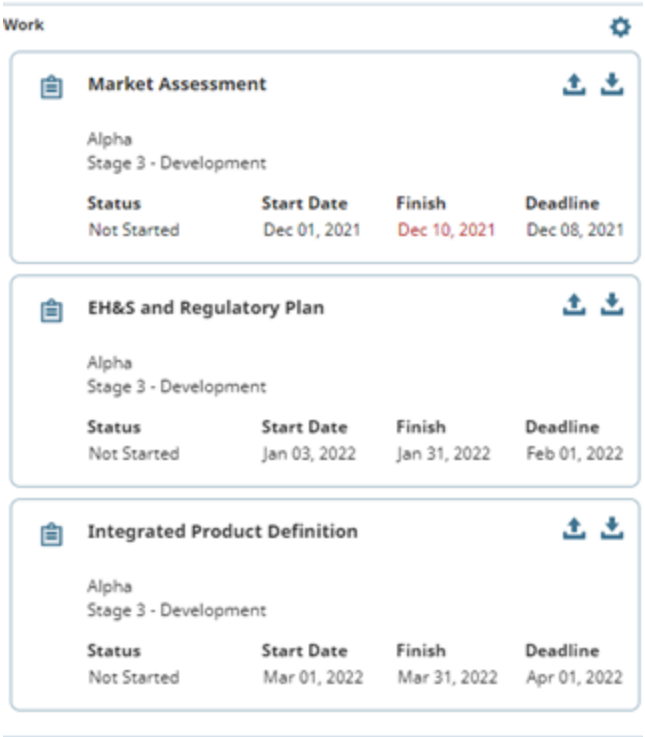
Pod Type	Notes
	decisions if gate voting is enabled, and can add or update comments regarding gate decisions. Gatekeeper votes and comments display as read only for others on the team. If gatekeeper skipping is allowed for the gate, gate owners can skip any gatekeeper vote decision. EXAMPLE Example **Gatekeepers** **Gate Decision** Pending Decision Brenda Majors • **Meeting Dates** - Adds a pod that displays meeting information for a project. Gate names display with the meeting date below it. Users with rights to change gate dates such as Process Manager, Idea Managers, or Project Managers can edit meeting dates directly in the pod. All users on a project can see meeting information centrally located in this pod. Additionally, the gate name takes users to the corresponding gate page when clicked. Click when defining the pod to set the number of columns the meeting information displays. The pod information wraps from left to right across the pod to populate the columns set. Meeting date calculation settings and restrictions still apply. EXAMPLE Example **Project Gate Dates** **Gate 1 - Go to Build Business Case** Jan 31, 2021 **Gate 2 - Go to Development** Feb 26, 2021 **Gate 3 - Go to Testing and Validation** May 14, 2021 **Gate 4 - Go to Launch** Jun 25, 2021 **Gate 5 - Project Close** Oct 08, 2021
Global Links	Adds a pod that displays the content of a global link, such as an intranet page, a Dashboards for Accolade report, or a planning view from Innovation Planning.

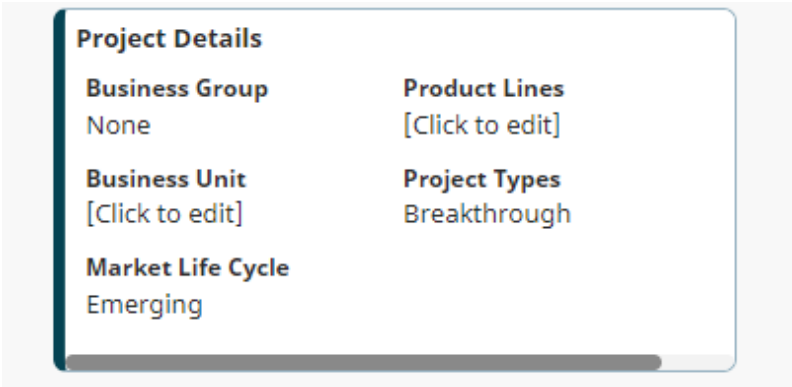
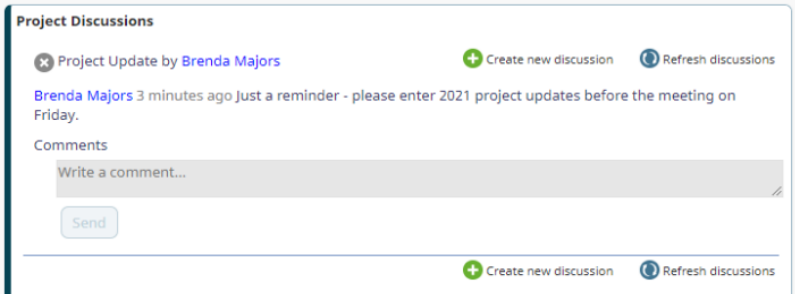
Pod Type	Notes
	Based on your server setup, only defined http, https, and relative file global links are available to add to a pod. **Important!** Accolade respects web browser and web page security features for embedded global links. The linked web page may include certain security settings that prevent the web page from loading within the Accolade application window. If you select an Innovation Planning view defined as a global link to display in a pod, and the layout is intended for use within a project page, select the **Filter to project** option to display the view filtered to the project ID saved as part of the global link configuration. **Note:** The filter functionality does not apply to composite planning views.
HTML Report	Adds a pod that displays the content of a specified HTML report. Available HTML reports display in the **Content** field. In order to add an HTML report to a pod, the report access groups must match at least one access group of the layout. Additionally, Process Designers must have "Can Edit" on at least one of the matching access group permissions in order for the report to be available for them to use in the layout. Viewing a report's contents within a page layout does not require Reporting Rights, however, a user must be an owner or have at least one matching user role for the report to display.
Metric	Adds a pod that can contain a single metric and displays the currently assigned metric value. Metrics within pods display as read-only. EXAMPLE Example To include the metric's name, add the name as the title of the pod. **Important!** Long string metrics with the **Rich Text** check box enabled cannot be added to pods.
Planning View	Adds a pod that displays a planning view from Innovation Planning in read-only format to any user who does not have the Planner role.

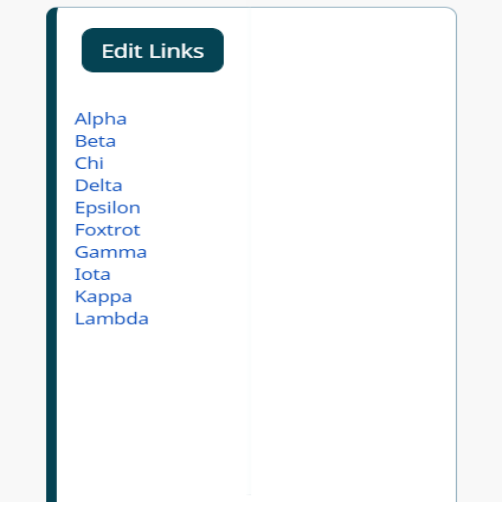
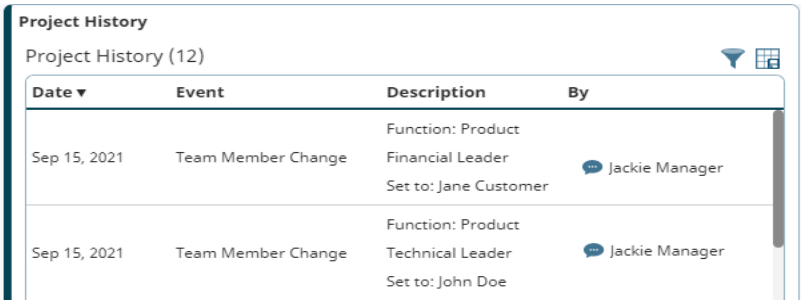
Pod Type	Notes
	Click when creating the pod to define the planning navigation options that are displayed within the pod. Only planning views made public will display in the content drop-down for the pod. If the layout is intended for use within a project page, check the **Filter to project** option to display the view filtered to the project ID. The filter functionality does not apply to composite planning views.
Plugin	Adds a pod that displays a configured plugin. Click when defining the pod to set the properties, attributes, and default settings of the plugin.
Portfolio Optimization	Adds a pod that contains information typically used when creating layouts for portfolio optimization purposes. The **Projects Grid** selection includes information for all projects in the loaded portfolio that a user has access to, and that are included in a class with the **Include in Portfolio Optimizer** option selected. Click when creating the pod to define the default set of data columns that display in the pod.
Productivity	Adds a pod that contains productivity-related elements to assist with managing projects and timelines. **Important!** For pods that are used in the personalized home page layouts, Administrators and Process Designers with the Template Access role can make changes to home page layouts on a global level by clicking when defining the pod, for example, to add company landing page hyperlinks to the Quick Links pod for all users, or to add additional information at a company level. Changes at an individual level should be made by the user from within their personal view. Select from the following options: • **Calendar** - A pod that displays a calendar, allowing users to visually display important dates such as start and end dates for deliverables and activities, deadline dates for workflows, and project gate dates. Double-clicking on an event takes the user directly to the event details or applicable project page. EXAMPLE Example

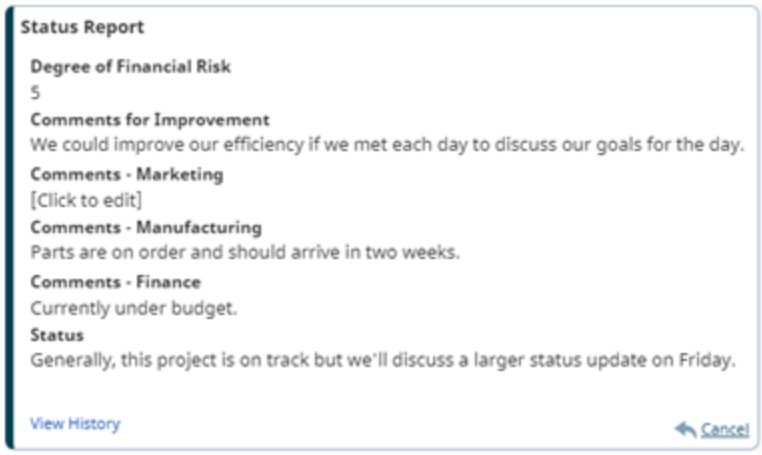
Pod Type	Notes
	 • **Countdown** - A pod that allows users to display a countdown of days until the occurrence of an important date or event of their choosing. Click ⚙ when defining the pod to set the event name and date, and to select an image to display in the pod. EXAMPLE Example • **Quick Links** - A pod that allows users to display a list of frequently used links to projects, websites, and other global links defined in Accolade. Click ⚙ when defining the pod to select existing Accolade links, or to create customized links. EXAMPLE Example

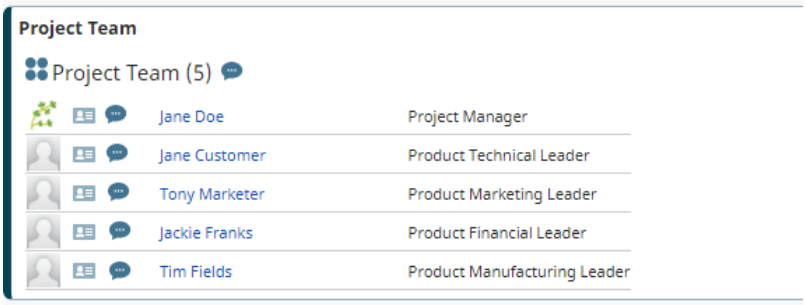
Pod Type	Notes
	 • **To-Do List** - A pod that allows users to create individualized worklists by adding tasks to a personalized list, in order to keep track of their tasks and check off items as they are completed. EXAMPLE Example  • **Work** - A pod that allows users to display detailed card views of deliverables and activities, gates, ideas, project work, or workflows associated with their project. Click when defining the pod to specify the default information that is displayed, apply filters, and set the desired sorting. When the pod is displayed on a project, users can click to apply their own view, filter, and sort options. EXAMPLE Example

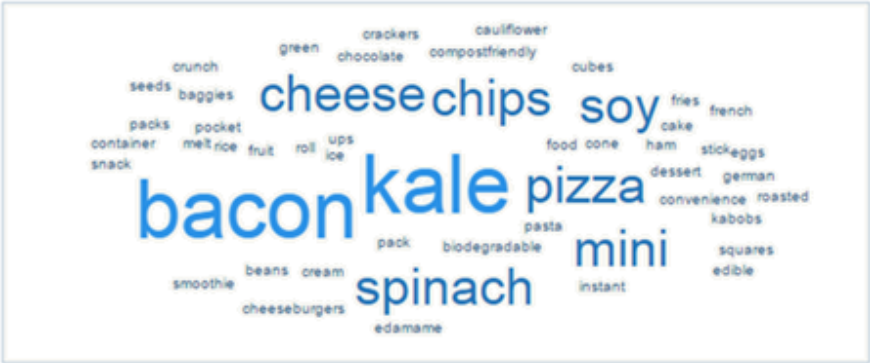
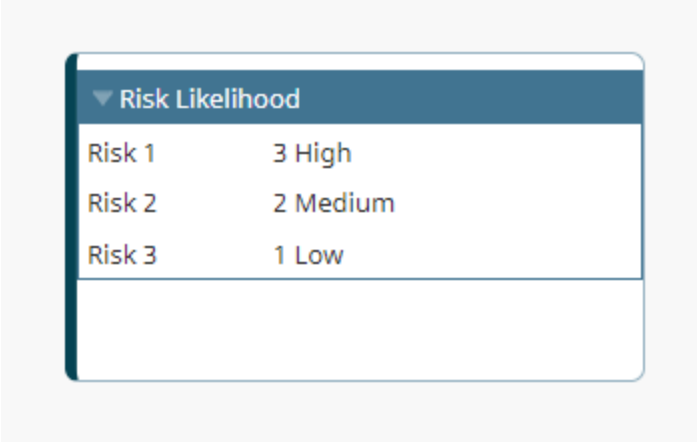
Pod Type	Notes
	 Adding the Work pod to a project displays information for just that project. The Work pod also displays on the **Comprehensive** and **Focused** home page layouts, the **All My Work** page, and the **Upcoming Gates** page where it provides users with a view of everything assigned to them throughout Accolade. For more information, see Viewing Your Work.
Project Image	Adds a pod that is populated with the project's assigned main image or the thumbnail image, based on your selection.
Project Information	Adds a pod that contains information about a single project when the layout is included as a page within a project. **Note:** These pods are not available for selection if the **Create global link** option for the layout is selected. Select from the following options: • **Data Form** - Provides a place to show and edit project metadata and metric information. Click when defining the pod to select the project metadata fields and metrics to include in the pod and define how many columns the pod contains. When the pod displays in a project, metric and metadata fields

Pod Type	Notes
	are editable based on a user's role and permissions within the project, unless the data is checked as read only. Long string metrics with the **Rich Text** check box enabled cannot be added. EXAMPLE Example  • **Discussion** - Includes a pod that includes the Accolade discussions functionality, providing contributors to discuss ideas directly on the page. EXAMPLE Example  • **Links** - Provides a pod which supports adding and removing links. Click when defining the pod to indicate the Link Name, Process Models and filters used to identify the linkable items to be presented to the user, as well as the button text and a tooltip. When used, the pod shows any items already linked, and allows the user to select new items to be linked, as well as offering the possibility to remove links. Only items matching the filters set by the Process Designer are shown to the user. If desired, you can indicate that filters may be changed at runtime by the user. EXAMPLE Example

Pod Type	Notes
	 • **Portfolio Project List** - Includes a list of all projects that are part of a portfolio or campaign. • **Project History** - Provides a place to view a project's history including a fixed list of events recorded as users make changes on the project. Users with access to the project have access to the project history. Project history includes, but is not limited to, gate decisions, status reports, stage advancement, and currency updates. Click when defining the pod to select filter criteria determining what displays on the pod. Only project history meeting the filter criteria displays on the pod. Users on projects can still filter project history when the layout displays on a project page, but they cannot save their filter preferences when filters are set on the pod configuration. EXAMPLE Example  • **Project Status** - Provides a place to show and enter status reports for the project. The pod also provides a link to view the project status history. To allow the entry of new project status reports, select the **Use master buttons** option on the layout that contains the pod. If the master buttons are not included, the content of the project status pod displays as read only.

Pod Type	Notes
	When the pod displays in a project, the ability to add a project status is based on the user's roles and status permissions on the project team. Metrics are editable based on the metric's presentation settings for **Status Report** within the process model. EXAMPLE Example  • **Report List** - Provides a list of available reports to add to the pod. Click when defining the pod to select the reports list that displays. See Associating Charts and Reports to Process Models for more information. • **Security List** - Provides a place to display and edit defined security lists. Click when defining the pod to select the security list that displays. Only one security list can be selected to display in a pod. Users with certain management rights and allowed access can modify the security list when the layout displays on a project. Additionally, users can only modify levels of a given security list to which they have access. Other levels of the security list display as read only in the pod. • **Team** - Provides a place to display users assigned to projects including project manager or team leader, project team members, workflow action owners, and gatekeepers. Click when defining the pod and select Project Team, Workflow Action Owners, or Gatekeepers. Only one group of users can be selected to display per pod. If the **Enable User Profile Images** is disabled, the **Detail View** becomes the default view. Click and in the top left corner of the rendered pod to

Pod Type	Notes
	toggle between simple and detail views. EXAMPLE Example  • **Trended Number Metrics** - Provides a way to display trended metric data in a pod with a layout. Pod settings provide options to set metrics and trended metric dates that display in a table. For portfolios, number metrics with Track History turned on are trended for projects linked with hierarchy relationships. Differentials between numeric metric values are calculated and displayed in number and graphic format. Table data displays in a Line Chart Trends chart. The table and chart can be included in a PowerPoint template, and is included when downloading and refreshing the presentation. • **Trended Metrics Table** - Provides a way to see metric changes over time. Metric values display for each selected metric for each project in the portfolio or for the displayed project. This can be helpful for viewing trends in a portfolio to help identify problems and track the health of a project. • **Word Cloud** - Provides a graphic that surfaces keywords from the name and description of the project and all the projects contained within a parent project. Each word displayed in the graphic is linkable to Quick Search to display project results containing the keyword. Use this pod in idea campaigns to provide visual interest and a way to display trending terms in ideas submitted to the campaign. Words appearing more often are larger and more prominent. The words in the pod display in variants of pods content font color. EXAMPLE Example

Pod Type	Notes
	
Quick Grids	Adds a pod that contains a quick grid assigned to a project. Only active quick grids are available to add to a pod. Process Managers and Idea Managers with Manage Process rights, and a project's assigned Project Manager, have access to enter data in a quick grid within a pod displayed within a layout-generated page in a project. Click when defining the pod to enable **Read Only Quick Grid**. Quick grids set as read only can not be edited. EXAMPLE Example  **Note:** Matrix quick grids added to a pod do not contain filtering options at this time.
Report	Adds a pod that contains an Accolade online report. In order to add a report to a pod, the report must be set as **Available to Configuration** and the report access groups must match at least one access group of the layout. Additionally, Process Designers must have "Can Edit" on at least one of the matching access group permissions in order for the report to be available for them to use in the layout.

Pod Type	Notes
	Viewing a report's contents within a page layout does not require Reporting Rights; however, a user must be an owner or have at least one matching user role for the report to display. Configure additional settings available for report pods including a download option and page size.
Report Groups	Adds a pod that contains the content settings for a comparison view layout. Click when defining the pod to select the reports and charts available to a comparison view page layout. **Note:** The report groups pod is created as a part of creating a comparison view page layout, and is not independently available at this time.
Task Board	Adds a pod that displays a project's current stage's task board. This task board categorizes all deliverables and activities into columns with respect to their current statuses, namely “Not Started”, “In Progress” or “Completed”, allowing you to follow the progress of each deliverable and activity more efficiently, and easily move them between statuses. With this task board, team members get a visual representation of their work in a more collaborative view, and are able to identify bottlenecks quicker.
Template Image	Adds a pod that displays an image saved to the Template Library (with a template type of **Image**). To add a new image select **Add New** from the **Content** list. Items added here are also added to the Template Library.

Creating Page Layouts

Administrators and Process Designers with the Template Access user role can design custom layouts to surface project information, such as a project dashboard page that displays when opening a project. Page layouts can contain one or more pods to display information such as project metrics, content accessed from a global link, charts or reports data, quick grids, and more. Layouts can be added as a global link within Accolade or associated with a process model for display within a project.

To create a page layout:

1. From the **System** menu, select **Page Design > Layouts**.

   To narrow the layout list, search by the layout name, system name, or category.

2. Do one of the following:
   - **To create a new page layout** - Click **Add New** in the upper right corner of the page.
   - **To edit an existing page layout** - Click the name of the layout to open it for editing.
   - **To create a layout based on an existing layout** - Click in the **Copy** column to create a copy that can be used as a base to build a new layout.

The system includes active layouts titled **Project Home** and **Project Gates** that can serve as a project's home and details page, and project gates pages. Copy the layouts to customize them further instead of modifying the original system layouts, ensuring you do not lose the original layouts' pods and format.

3. Enter the following information to identify the layout:

   Required fields display with **red** text and an asterisk * if the field is empty.

Field	Description
Name	Enter a name, up to 64 characters long, which identifies the layout.
System Name	Enter a unique, shorter name that identifies the layout in queries, reporting views, field codes, and other places in Accolade. The name must be unique among layouts and can contain only letters (English alphabet), numbers, and the underscore.
Icon	Select the icon and icon color to be used for the layout.
Description	Enter a description of the purpose or nature of the layout. This description helps other users identify the layout throughout the system.
Category	Enter or select the group to which this layout belongs. Use categories to organize like layouts together. For example, you may choose to group all the layouts used for global layouts into the same category, in order to separate them from layouts that are used in process model configuration. • Leave this field blank to add to the **Default** category. • To define a new category, select **New Category** and enter the category name. • To delete a category, remove every item from the category. Empty categories are deleted automatically. Layouts specific to project pages, configured based on process models on upgrade, display in an **Upgrade** category and are named based on the correlating process model.
Order	Enter a number to specify the page layout's place when it displays in a list of layouts. Lower numbered layouts display higher in the list. **Note:** Layouts set as active project pages will display before existing project pages to provide most relevant data first.
Active	Select this check box when the layout is ready to use. **Note:** If you deactivate a layout that is associated with a process model, the association remains;

Field	Description
	however, the projects based on the model no longer display the layout as a project page.
Create global link	Select if the layout's intended use is as a global link that is accessed from outside a project. When selected, a global link is created when you click **Save** or **Save and Close** in the layout editor. If this layout's intended use is as a dashboard or other page displayed in a project with project-specific information, leave this check box clear. After creating the layout, go to **System > Page Design > Global Links** to configure the global link.
Show project header	Select this check box to include the header portion of a project page when this layout displays within a project. For example, you may choose to not show the project header for layouts used to gather ideas and for idea campaigns. The default hides the header in layout pages.
Hide project menu	Select to remove the project details menu access from the layout on a project. Hiding the project menu removes the ability to: • access the communication options for email and chat. • migrate, copy, close, or delete a project from the layout.
Hide Navigation Breadcrumb	Select this check box to hide the hierarchy breadcrumb and menu from the layout on a project. For new layouts, this option is unchecked by default.
Show process graphic	Select to include the process graphic when this layout displays within a project. The default hides the process graphic in layout pages. Select to show the graphic in projects that use layouts where it is important to show the stage the project is in.
Use master buttons	Select this check box to enable **Apply** and **Reset** buttons that save and reset changes to quick grid pods in the layout that are not set as read only. If unselected, **Apply** and **Reset** buttons are available to save or reset changes in each individual quick grid pod. If the **Read Only Quick Grid** advanced setting is enabled on a quick grid pod, no updates can be made to

Field	Description
	that pod regardless if master buttons are used.
Enable page filters	Select this check box to enable runtime filters that can be applied to all charts and reports pods in the layout. **Note:** In order to apply runtime filters, the selected reports must be set up with filters that have runtime filtering enabled, and the selected charts must be created from an online report with filters that have runtime filtering enabled. If unselected, filters may be available to be applied individually to charts and reports pods, but not to the layout as a whole. See the Viewing Charts and Reports topic in the Accolade online Help for more information on runtime filtering options.
Enable cycles	Select this check box to enable Charts on the layout. Chart Cycles can be enabled on any layout. Cycles allow you to look at the various charts based on a common metric, such as Region, Business Unit, Product Line, etc. Each chart configured for Cycles will re-render based on the selected Cycle value.
Add to new Process Models	Select to automatically associate the layout with **Gated**, **Non-Gated**, and/or **Idea** process models when new process models are created. The layout defaults as checked in the **Pages & Layouts** section on the **Pages** tab of a new process model and is useful when wanting to include the layout as a default project page.
Page width	Select how the page layout width is determined. • Select **Autofit** to display the page to fit the pods and pod contents left aligned. • Select **Fixed** and enter the width of the layout in pixels to have the page display with a forced width.
Fill page	Select to expand the height of the lowest pods in the layout. The pods extend to fill the remaining space on the layout if the layout does not already scroll on a page. If the layout scrolls, the lowest pods do not expand.
Alignment	If you set the page width as **Fixed**, select the layout alignment as **Left**, **Center**, or **Right**.
Margin color	If you set the page width as **Fixed**, click the color block next to the field and select a color to apply to the margin width of the layout.
Background color	Click the color block next to the field and select a color to apply to the background of the layout.

Field	Description
Configuration Access Groups	Select the access groups to which the layout belongs. Process Designers with matching permissions will be able to edit and view the layout or the data within its pods. The access groups displayed are based on the current user's access group permissions and the access groups the layout belongs to.
Process Model Usage	*(Only available when editing an existing layout)* Click the **Process Model Usage** button to see the list of process models that the layout is associated with. The list includes all process models the layout is included in, as well as links to the process model's component tree pages that you have Edit access to.

4. Click **Save** in the lower right corner of the page to save changes, **Save and Close** to save the configuration and close the editor, or **Cancel** to close the editor without saving changes.
5. Continue with any one or more of the following steps to complete and implement the layout:
   - Add one or more pods or comparison sets to the layout. Without at least one pod, the layout is blank.
   - Associate the layout with one or more existing gated, non-gated, or idea models to include it in projects based on that model.
   - Add the layout as a global link to display the page outside of a project.

Notes:

- To delete a layout, click in the **Delete** column on the Layout page. If you delete a layout that is used as a global link, the global link is also automatically deleted.

  Important! Do not delete system layouts used for personalized home pages. You will not be able to undo this action and will have to contact a System Administrator to run a script to re-add the layouts.

- Copying layouts containing the Advanced Platform pod will not copy the JavaScript or HTML files. Save the copied layout then add or upload the JavaScript and/or HTML files.
- The filter icon will not appear in a layout's charts or reports pods if there are no filters available for users to apply to the contents.

Exercises - Create a Campaign Using Page Layouts

Try out what you have learned!

- Design a campaign using a page layout. Ensure the layout contains a **Create Project** pod.
- Include an image pod, several different metric pods, and voting pods.
- Associate the page layout to a project.

Exercises - Vote on Ideas in Projects

Try out what you have learned!

- Navigate to the project containing the idea campaign page layout.
- Select the custom project page containing the voting pod.
- Use the star scale to select your rating.

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