Personal Insights

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December 9, 2023 | 1 minute read

Multiple installations of abap2xlsx in the same system

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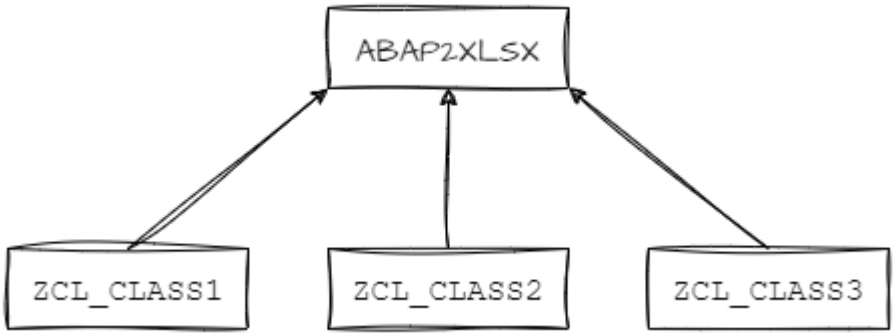
What is abap2xlsx?

abap2xlsx is an open source library used to generate professional Excel spreadsheets from ABAP. Its free, has an Apache 2 license, and is perhaps one of the most commonly used ABAP open source libraries.

What's the problem?

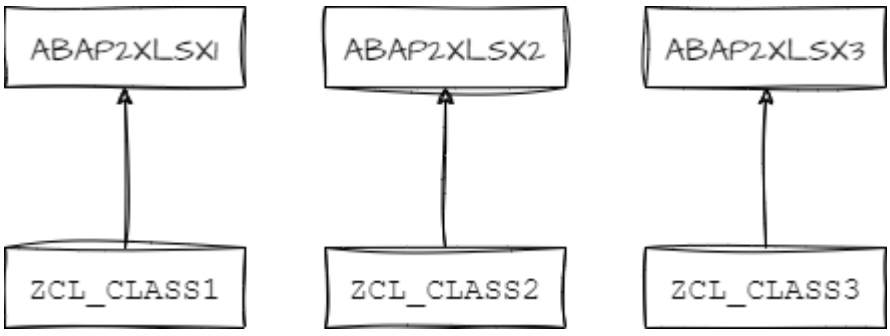
abap2xlsx is more than 10 years old, and evolves continuously on GitHub. It might have been installed a long time ago, and nobody dares updating it to the latest version, because it might break and trigger testing of 100s of applications.



What's the solution?

Duplicate the abap2xlsx code, everyone gets an installation in the same system. This way teams can choose when or if to update their code.

However, this is difficult as its only possible to have one active version of a class/program in the same system at a time. So we'll do automatic renaming to get multiple versions.



I've created abap2xlsx-rename-action, which is a re-useable GitHub Action that can easily be used to create pull requests with renamed and updated abap2xlsx code.

This way there is an automatic process to update the duplicated code, clear ownership of the code, plus static analysis and unit tests can be triggered in the pull request, i.e.. before any code hits the actual target system.

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