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Migrating from InterSystems IRIS Studio to VSCode

A fully integrated workflow powered by InterSystems IRIS, Git and Jira

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The Challenge

Modern ERP systems operate in an environment of constant change, with continuous customer requests, business-critical processes, and multiple clients running on shared systems. In this context, traditional release processes often reach their limits, leading to late bug discovery, high coordination effort, and increasingly unstable releases.

Our Approach

We redesigned our process around one core principle: every change must be isolated, traceable, and testable before it becomes part of a release.

This is achieved through:

- ticket-driven development in Jira
- one Git branch per change
- mandatory code reviews
- structured customer testing before merge
- automated synchronization between Git and the InterSystems IRIS runtime

The Workflow

1. **Jira Ticket (Single Source of Truth)**
2. **Feature Branch (isolated change)**
3. **Code Review (quality gate)**
4. **Automated Review, Test Series & Setup**
5. **Customer Testing (real environment)**
6. **Approved Merge**

This automation reduced setup effort for developers and helped keep Git, runtime, and testing in sync across the whole workflow.

What makes the difference

To make decentralized development work reliably in InterSystems IRIS, we built our own web service layer and automation around the developer workflow.

A central scripts repository prepares the local environment automatically when VS Code starts. It distributes the required settings and extensions, installs Git hooks, and keeps the active branch aligned.

During Git operations, these hooks detect changed files and trigger our own REST-based web service, which acts as the bridge between Git and the InterSystems IRIS runtime. The service transfers the relevant changes to InterSystems IRIS and imports them automatically into the correct namespace.

For developers, this had clear benefits:

- no manual environment setup
- fewer sync issues between code and runtime
- less repetitive technical work
- more predictable local development
- more focus on the actual change instead of tooling

Impact

The impact is clear for both teams and customers. Teams face fewer late issues, clearer responsibilities, and less release stress. Customers benefit from earlier visibility, structured testing, and more stable releases.

This ensures that code changes are not only versioned in Git, but also consistently reflected in the running system.

If you are working in a similar environment and want to improve your development and release process, we are happy to exchange ideas and experiences. Feel free to reach out or speak to us.

www.globalerp.de vertrieb@globalerp.de +49 (0) 40 320 17 200
globalerp.de gmbh, Wendenstraße 1A, 20097 Hamburg, Germany