Silk Central 21.0

Release Notes

Contents

Silk Central 21.0 Release Notes

Version 21.0

These notes contain important information that might not appear in the Help. Read the notes in their entirety.

For information about installation, deployment, and licensing issues, refer to the *Silk Central Installation Help*.

Visit *Customer Care* for further assistance.

What's New in Silk Central 21.0

Silk Central 21.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Administration

Project archive verification

If exporting a project fails, you are now notified by email. Additionally, a log file with detailed information about the export process is added to the archive of an exported project. The information in the log file is also used on import, to verify that the package is a valid archive.

Export and import projects without associated users

To simplify importing and exporting projects across production environments you can now export projects without the associated users.

Improved process management for project copy or baseline creation

Silk Central 21.0 keeps track of already running processes of creating a copy or a baseline of a project. Such tasks are resource-intense and should not be performed in parallel. The system now detects and prevents such situations and notifies you.

AutoPass licensing

In addition to Silk Meter, Silk Central now offers support for Micro Focus AutoPass licensing. Depending on the existing environment, it is no longer necessary to install an additional licensing service.

Dashboard

New panel columns for business process tests

The panel **Currently Running Manual Tests** now features the new columns **Next Business Components** and **Next Assigned Testers** and therefore provides useful additional information for business process tests.

Requirements

Document view performance

Loading properties in the **Requirements Document View** has been optimized, which enhances the responsiveness of the user interface.

Change parent requirement on excel import

Silk Central 21.0 supports changing the parent of a requirement when importing from an Excel file. This now allows you to move requirements in the tree using import from Excel and it is not necessary to recreate it in the file.

Office import and update mappings per project

With a growing number of projects and different mappings to be supported, the number of mapping files can become overwhelming. The mapping files are now added to projects, hence you can filter the mapping files for the current project.

Raising issues for requirements

Besides raising issues for tests, you can now also raise issues for requirements, which provides you a wealth of new possibilities for issue tracking, filtering, and reporting.

Tests

Filter-based metrics in the Document View

The metrics in the **Tests Document View** are now calculated based on the filter that is applied in the tree. This means that the numbers of a test included in the current filter are not added to the sums of its parent nodes.

Status change information displaying in the Runs grid

In case the status of a test run was changed after the test was finished, this status change is exposed in the **Runs** grid, in the columns **Previous Status** and **Status Change Comment**.

Converting manual tests to keyword-driven tests in bulk

Silk Central 21.0 now lets you convert manual tests to keyword-driven tests in bulk. This is especially useful when a number of manual tests should be automated using the same keyword library.

Office import and update mappings per project

With a growing number of projects and different mappings to be supported, the number of mapping files can become overwhelming. The mapping files are now added to projects, hence you can filter the mapping files for the current project.

Numeric properties in test type plugins

The test type plugin interface now supports numeric properties, which facilitates maintaining consistent configurations for a large number of tests.

Adding issues to multiple test runs

An existing issue can now be added to multiple test runs of the same test.

Manual Testing

Extended status reasons for passed manual tests

Additionally to the status reasons set for failed manual tests, status reasons are now also set for passed manual tests. This enhances the information available when working with test results.

Execution Planning and Executions

Download run data as XLSX

Silk Central now provides fast and simple access to run data: In the **Execution Planning** unit, you can now download the data from the **Runs** grid and save it in an Excel file. The applied filters as well as all sorting, grouping, and order settings of the columns are also applied to the data within the Excel file.

Status change information displaying in the Runs grid

In case the status of a test run was changed after the test was finished, this status change is exposed in the **Runs** grid, in the columns **Previous Status** and **Status Change Comment**.

Starting a selection of tests

You can now start a subset of the tests that have been manually assigned to an execution plan directly from the UI. There is no need to change the assignment.

Automatic Rerun

You can now instruct Silk Central to automatically rerun tests if they finish with the status `failed` or `not executed`.

Enhanced handling of inaccessible execution servers

In previous versions of Silk Central, separate threads were started to try to connect inaccessible execution servers. To reduce overhead, the handling for such execution servers has been enhanced for Silk Central 21.0. It is no longer necessary to maintain the background threads and the load on the application server has been reduced.

Distributed executions on virtual execution servers

Virtual execution servers now also support distributed test executions. To prevent the infrastructure from being overloaded, the number of parallel executions can be limited.

Abort runs from within the Current Run tab

In the **Current Run** tab, you can now abort runs directly without needing to navigate to the **Activities** view.

Adding result files to completed test runs

In the **Test Runs Results** dialog, you can now add result files to completed runs, which allows you to add files that are available only after a test has been completed.

Reports

Running report subscriptions immediately

Additionally to triggering report subscriptions by a predefined schedule, you can now run a report subscription immediately through the UI. This is especially useful when setting up report subscriptions. There is no longer the need for configuring a schedule and waiting for it to be due.

Limiting the calls to the reporting API

You can now limit the number of parallel calls to the reporting API, which ensures that external processes that access the API do not affect the performance and stability of your system.

Issue Manager

Creator placeholders

Silk Central now allows you to specify a creator placeholder, which simplifies creating and maintaining notification rules.

Support for 100 issue states

The **Issue Tracking** grid now supports 100 states in the filter for the column **State**. If this number is exceeded, the filter switches to a text field.

Cleaning up inboxes

Empty inboxes, inboxes that are not assigned to any user, and inboxes that are not used in the workflow can now easily be cleaned up. You can decide if these inboxes should by deactivated or deleted.

Integrations

Kubernetes

The new Kubernetes plugin that comes with Silk Central 21.0 allows you to integrate with cloud ecosystems that can be accessed through the Kubernetes API. This makes Kubernetes pods available for test execution as virtual execution servers.

Microsoft Teams

The integration of Silk Central with Microsoft Teams provides a convenient means of collaboration for teams of manual testers working together on a project. A set of predefined actions trigger messages to be sent to Microsoft Teams. These messages deliver the crucial information and links to jump to the relevant items in Silk Central or to perform the next steps in the manual testing process.

LoadRunner

Silk Central 21.0 adds support for LoadRunner tests. The LoadRunner plugin allows for seamless execution and analysis of LoadRunner scenarios.

Git

You can now configure Git profiles to use SSH URLs, hence you are no longer required to configure user names and passwords. Optionally, you can instruct Silk Central to use a Git CLI installed on the servers. This can improve performance as shallow clones of the repository are created then.

IBM Rational DOORS

The IBM Rational DOORS plugin no longer requires Axis-dependent services. Internal Axis web services are no longer used for the IBM Rational DOORS integration. The DOORS integration now supports views and baselines.

Micro Focus Connect

The Micro Focus Connect connector no longer requires Axis-dependent services.

Atlassian Jira Software

Silk Central 21.0 enhances support for Atlassian Jira Software Cloud and now supports next-gen projects. Next-gen projects can now be used for requirements management integrations as well as for issue tracking system integrations. The limitations regarding the project type used from Atlassian Jira Software Cloud have been removed.

Other Enhancements

ALM/Quality Center migration

Silk Central now supports migrating ALM/Quality Center databases.

Oracle database support

Silk Central now supports Oracle database 19c.

System Requirements and Prerequisites

For optimal performance of Silk Central, we recommend the configuration outlined in this section.

Server System Requirements

System Area	Requirement
CPU	2 cores, Intel Core i5 or better
Memory	8 GB minimum
Free disc space	30 GB minimum, except for the database server
Network	100 Mbit
Operating system, database management system, Web server	See *Tested and Supported Software*.
Power Supply	Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for all environments to reduce risks of power outages

For each additional instance, at least 10 GB of additional disk space are required, and the following initial minimal memory:

- Front-end server: 768 MB
- Application server: 640 MB
- Chart server: 200 MB

Depending on your workload, these values may need to be higher.

For more information on the ideal configuration of Silk Central, contact technical support or your technical account team.

Execution Server Requirements

The actual requirements and prerequisites for execution servers depend on the application under test (AUT) and the type of testing.

For load testing, refer to the environment requirements of Silk Performer. Running load tests with the minimal configuration can result in inaccurate results.

For functional testing, refer to the environment requirements of Silk Test. We recommend a minimum of 2048 MB main memory for intensive testing, such as Web browser replay.

The Linux execution server requires the latest version of Java Runtime Environment 1.8.

Proxy Server Requirements

If you plan to use Microsoft IIS for Silk Central, install the following IIS extensions before you install Silk Central:

- Application Request Routing (ARR)
- URL Rewrite

You can download the latest versions of these extensions on the *IIS Downloads* page.

Virtualization

Silk Central is tested to run on the virtual infrastructure environment VMware vSphere server.

Client-Side System Requirements

System Area	Requirement
Processor	Intel Core i3 or better
Memory	2 GB
Web browser	• Google Chrome • Internet Explorer 11 or later (no compatibility mode) • Mozilla Firefox • Microsoft Edge

The manual testing UI requires the latest version of Java Runtime Environment 1.8. For manual testing with Internet Explorer 11, a 32-bit version of Java is required to be installed on the client.

Resolved Issues and Customer-Driven Enhancements

The following issues have been fixed and the following enhancement requests have been implemented:

SI #	RPI #	Description
		If a keyword-driven archive contains no manifest, a NullpointerException displays.
		Optimized loading users for runs grids for increased performance problem.
3224265	1120404	The browser page repeatedly refreshes in maintenance mode.
3229364	1120432	Request to increase the number of states shown for the filter to 100 in the **Issue Tracking** grid.
3229225	1120423	Clarify Help > About page.
3228761	1120475	The **Requirements Document View** has poor performance.
3231224	1120598	Error Importing Test Plan from XLSX - Requirement ID Type Value.
3228786	1120384	When importing or updating requirements from Excel files, the flagging is wrong.
3232058	1120723	The Issue Manager feature **Auto generate inboxes in future** does not work as expected.
3232380	1120721	Editing requirements in the UI does not work as expected.
3232379	1120809	Silk Central freezes due to the memory consumption of list-based custom properties and attributes.
3231299	1120811	A timeout occurs in the **Manual Tests Assigned to Me** panel.
3230803	1120570	**Remove Assignment** was disabled. Now the command is enabled and assignments can also be removed from obsolete requirements.
3151942	1113850	Execution Planning > Deployment - Keywords of not assigned locations are shown.
3238159	1121264	Excluding days in an execution plan does not work.
3241496	1121656	Messages in the execution server log file.
3240793	1121595	Rename the button **Descartar** to **Cancelar** in the editing test step options.

Contacting Micro Focus

Micro Focus is committed to providing world-class technical support and consulting services. Micro Focus provides worldwide support, delivering timely, reliable service to ensure every customer's business success.

All customers who are under a maintenance and support contract, as well as prospective customers who are evaluating products, are eligible for customer support. Our highly trained staff respond to your requests as quickly and professionally as possible.

Visit *http://supportline.microfocus.com/assistedservices.asp* to communicate directly with Micro Focus SupportLine to resolve your issues, or email supportline@microfocus.com.

Visit Micro Focus SupportLine at *http://supportline.microfocus.com* for up-to-date support news and access to other support information. First time users may be required to register to the site.

Information Needed by Micro Focus SupportLine

When contacting Micro Focus SupportLine, please include the following information if possible. The more information you can give, the better Micro Focus SupportLine can help you.

- The name and version number of all products that you think might be causing an issue.
- Your computer make and model.
- System information such as operating system name and version, processors, and memory details.
- Any detailed description of the issue, including steps to reproduce the issue.
- Exact wording of any error messages involved.
- Your serial number.

To find out these numbers, look in the subject line and body of your Electronic Product Delivery Notice email that you received from Micro Focus.

Tested and Supported Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Central 21.0 has been tested as well as the software that Silk Central supports.

Operating System Support

- Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2016
- Microsoft Windows Server 2019
- Microsoft Windows 8.1 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 10 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Android 5.x, 6.x, 7.x, 8.x, 9.x, 10.x (mobile device testing)
- iOS 10.x, 11.x, 12.x, 13.x (mobile device testing)

⚠️ **Important:** *Update for Universal C Runtime in Windows* is required for all Microsoft Windows operating systems. For Microsoft Windows Server 2016 or later, the installation option **Windows Server (Server with Desktop Experience)** is required.

Linux Operating System Support

Silk Central supports Linux operating systems only for the execution server.

- Debian
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- SUSE Linux
- Ubuntu

Web Browser Support

- Google Chrome
- Internet Explorer 11 or later (no compatibility mode)
- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge

Web Server Support

- IIS 8 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 10 32 bit/64 bit

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 3
- Microsoft SQL Server 2016 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2017
- Microsoft SQL Server 2019
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4). Oracle RAC is not supported.
- Oracle 12c (version 12.2.0.1). Oracle RAC is not supported.
- Oracle 19c (version 19.3.0.0). Oracle RAC is not supported.

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- AccuRev 7.5
- Caliber 11.4, 11.5
- LoadRunner Professional 2020
- Silk Performer 21.0
- Silk Test 21.0
- Silk TestPartner 6.3
- StarTeam 15.x, 16.x, 17.x
- UFT Developer 15.0
- UFT Mobile 2.51 or later
- UFT One 15.0

Integrated Third-Party Software Support

- Apache Commons Virtual File System (VFS)
- Atlassian Jira Software 7 and 8 (version 7 is supported but not tested)
- Atlassian Jira Software Cloud
- Bugzilla 4.4.13, 5.0.4
- CA Agile Central
- Git 2.20.1
- IBM Rational ClearQuest 8.0 (supported but not tested)
- IBM Rational DOORS 9.5, 9.6
- IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation 6.0
- JUnit 4.x, 5.x
- The latest version of Java Runtime Environment 1.8
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests and requirements
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Microsoft Visual Studio/Visual Studio Test Agent 2015
- NUnit 2.6.4, NUnit Console and Engine 3.8
- Subversion 1.9
- Team Foundation Server 2015, 2017
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCloud Director 5.5

End of Support

The following features are no longer supported in Silk Central 21.0:

- Microsoft Windows Server 2012
- Atlassian Jira Software 6

Planned End of Support

This section lists the features that will no longer be supported in a future release of Silk Central.

IBM Rational DOORS

In a future release, support for IBM Rational DOORS will be discontinued. Instead, Silk Central now supports IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation.

Operation system support

Support for the following operating systems will be discontinued in a future version:

• Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2

Database management system support

Support for the following database management systems will be discontinued in a future version:

• Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 3
• Oracle 11g
• Oracle 12c

Requirement management system integrations

Support for the following requirement management system integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

• Caliber
• IBM Rational DOORS
• Atlassian Jira Software 7
• VersionOne Enterprise Edition
• CA Agile Central

Issue tracking system integrations

Support for the following third-party issue tracking system integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

• Atlassian Jira Software 7
• Bugzilla 4.4.13
• IBM Rational ClearQuest
• Team Foundation Server 2015

Source control system integrations

Support for the following third-party source control system integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

• Team Foundation Server 2015

Cloud integrations

Support for the following third-party cloud integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

- VMware vCloud

Mobile device provider integrations

Support for the following third-party mobile device provider integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

- Sauce Labs

Microsoft Office import integrations

Support for the following Microsoft Office import integrations will be discontinued in a future version:

- Microsoft Office Word (.doc)

Web Services

The web services listed under the following links will be discontinued in a future Silk Central release:

- https://<hostname>/services
- https://<hostname>/Services1.0/services

The new services are listed under:

- https://<hostname>/Services1.0/jaxws

SAP Solution Manager

Support for the following SAP Solution Manager version will be discontinued in a future version:

- SAP Solution Manager 7.2