



Silk Central 18.0

Release Notes

Micro Focus
The Lawn
22-30 Old Bath Road
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1QN
UK
<http://www.microfocus.com>

Copyright © Micro Focus 2004-2017. All rights reserved.

MICRO FOCUS, the Micro Focus logo and Silk Central are trademarks or registered trademarks of Micro Focus IP Development Limited or its subsidiaries or affiliated companies in the United States, United Kingdom and other countries.

All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

2017-06-11

Contents

Silk Central 18.0 Release Notes	4
What's New in Silk Central 18.0	5
Administration	5
New Permissions and Roles	5
Importing Groups from LDAP Servers	5
Storing Attachments and Result Files on the File System	6
Project-Level Tags	7
Tests	7
Assigning Multiple Issues to a Test	7
Status of Finished Test Executions	7
Keyword-Driven Testing	7
Copying and Pasting Keywords	7
Execution Planning	7
Execution Planning History and Attributes	7
Parallel Execution	8
Filtered Timeline Information for Test Suites	8
Timestamp of Run Messages	8
Deleting Test Run Result Files	8
Displaying Only Specific Testing Cycles	8
Synchronizing Testing Cycles	9
Recording Videos with Audio	9
Displaying Assigned Tests of Multiple Manual Testers	9
Issue Manager Enhancements	9
Global Search Enhancements	10
Notifications and Reports	10
Triggering Report Subscriptions Based on the Outcome of an Execution	10
Improved Email Notifications	10
Execution Status Overview Report	10
Resizing Dashboard Panels	11
Integrations	11
Scheduled Full Requirements Synchronization	11
JAX-WS Web Service Stack	12
Instances Support in Jenkins Plugin	12
Deleting Mapping Files	12
Sauce Labs Automated Testing Cloud	13
Integrated HPE Unified Functional Testing (UFT) Support	13
Technology Updates	14
Microsoft Windows Server 2016 and IIS 10 Support	14
Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 2 Support	14
System Requirements and Prerequisites	15
Contacting Micro Focus	17
Information Needed by Micro Focus SupportLine	17
Tested and Supported Software	18
End of Support	20
Planned End of Support	21

Silk Central 18.0 Release Notes

Version 18.0

June, 2017

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 18.0

Silk Central 18.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Administration

New Permissions and Roles

Administrators now have the possibility to allow users to manage their products, versions and builds without giving them full access to the whole administration area. Report templates that are used in shared global reports now require special permissions to be updated.

Permissions to Manage Products, Versions and Builds

Three new permissions have been added for viewing, adding and deleting products, versions and builds. Per default, project managers, test managers and reporters now only have the permission to view products, versions and builds. Administrators can grant the following new permissions:

- View products, versions and builds
- Manage products, versions and builds
- Delete products, versions and builds

Permissions to Modify Report Templates Used in Shared Global Reports

Because shared global reports are available in all projects for all users, user roles that are able to update and delete them require special permissions: **Manage shared global reports** and **Delete shared global reports**. These permissions now also apply to report templates that are used in shared global reports. Non-shared global reports and report templates can be updated and deleted by user roles with the standard report permissions for updating and deleting reports.

Role Assignment Manager

A new default user role has been added to Silk Central, the **Role Assignment Manager**, along with the new permission **Manage role assignments of users**. Role Assignment Managers have the sole permission to assign/unassign roles to/from existing users of a group, and only roles that they themselves are assigned to. They cannot add or remove members from a group, and they can only change role assignments within groups in which they themselves are defined as Role Assignment Manager.

Importing Groups from LDAP Servers

You can now import groups from LDAP servers and have your Silk Central users be created automatically. For each import, you can specify the default role that all imported users will be assigned to. The group assignment of imported users is synchronized with your LDAP server, while the role assignment is managed in Silk Central.

attribute type	value
cn	sample-group1000
member	cn=sampleuser25061,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
member	cn=sampleuser26131,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
member	cn=sampleuser26749,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
member	cn=sampleuser27313,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
member	cn=sampleuser27540,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
member	cn=sampleuser28364,ou=users,dc=sc,dc=microfocus,dc=org
objectClass	groupOfNames
businessCategory	
description	
o	
ou	
owner	
seeAlso	

Group name:

Description:

Account and Role Assignment(s)

User	Role Definition	Actions
sampleuser25061	Tester	✗
sampleuser26131	Tester	✗
sampleuser26749	Tester	✗
sampleuser27313	Tester	✗
sampleuser27540	Tester	✗
sampleuser28364	Tester	✗

sampleuser25061 ▼ Administrator ▼

Storing Attachments and Result Files on the File System

Per default, Silk Central stores all attachments and result files in the database, but you can configure Silk Central to store these files on the file system of the application server.

Project-Level Tags

You can now add tags to your projects. If you have many projects, project tags can help you filter them, using the **Tags** column on the **Project List** page.

Project	Project ID	Status	Description	Tags
 APITesting	34	 Active		Business_Unit
 BW Demo Project	139	 Active	This is a demo p...	Business_Unit Customer Release1

Tests

Assigning Multiple Issues to a Test

You can now assign multiple existing issues to a test at once, separated by commas.

Status of Finished Test Executions

The **Tests > Document View** page now offers three new columns, which display the time, status, and build of the last finished execution run.

Last Finished Execution	Status Last Finished Execution	Build Last Finished Execution
-	 36510	974

Keyword-Driven Testing

Copying and Pasting Keywords

You can now copy or cut your selected keywords and paste them into tests or keyword sequences. You can also paste your selected keywords into Excel, and copy and paste them from there into your tests or keyword sequences.

Execution Planning

Execution Planning History and Attributes

Execution Planning History

The **Execution Planning** unit now has a **History** tab, which displays information about each element that has been deleted in the **Execution Planning** unit (execution plan, folder, testing cycle, configuration suite, configuration).

Execution Planning Attributes

You can now assign attributes to execution planning elements, the same way you could already assign attributes to tests before. You can use attributes for filtering and reporting purposes.

 **Note:** Execution planning attributes are not yet considered in Silk Central's SOAP API and in the bulk export/update interfaces.

Parallel Execution

While execution plans were executed sequentially until now, with Silk Central 18.0 you have the option to enable parallel execution.

Enabling parallel execution reduces the required execution time, and is especially useful for mobile testing, where execution plans can execute on multiple devices on a device provider at the same time.

Filtered Timeline Information for Test Suites

The **Timeline** tab on the **Test Run Results** page now only displays the information of the selected test within a test suite, when accessed from the **Tests** area.

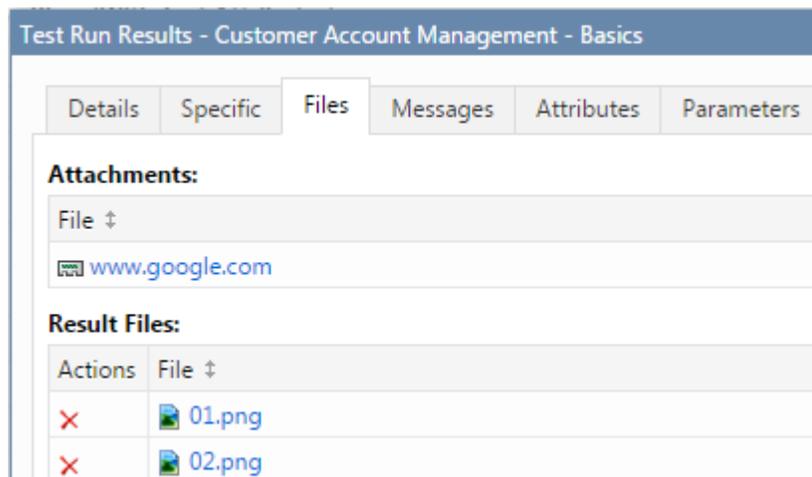
Timestamp of Run Messages

The exact timestamp of all execution plan and test run messages is now displayed on the run results details pages.

Deleting Test Run Result Files

You can now delete specific test run result files in the **Files** tab on the **Test Run Results** dialog.

In the **Actions** column of the **Result Files**, click  to delete a specific result file. Note that some files are protected and cannot be deleted.



Displaying Only Specific Testing Cycles

The **Manual Execution Planning** unit now has a **Search** field to display only testing cycles that contain the search word. Hiding testing cycles helps you to keep the **Testing Cycles** area tidy and to enhance the performance.

Additionally, the **Visible Testing Cycles** dialog box now contains a grid that allows you to sort, group and filter your testing cycles. When selecting multiple testing cycles, you can use the spacebar to toggle the selected items.

Synchronizing Testing Cycles

In the **Manual Execution Planning** unit, you can now synchronize testing cycles if you want to update the current runs of a testing cycle with the changes that were made to the assigned tests. This functionality is available through the **Actions** menu of a testing cycle.

Recording Videos with Audio

When recording a video for your manual test execution, you can now optionally record audio if suitable audio devices are available. If multiple devices are connected, the first one detected will be used. This feature is disabled per default, and can be enabled by each manual tester individually.

Displaying Assigned Tests of Multiple Manual Testers

To display the assigned tests of multiple testers of a testing cycle, select the testers within a testing cycle with **Ctrl+Click** or **Shift+Click**.

Issue Manager Enhancements

Issue Manager, Silk Central's built-in issue tracking solution, has been significantly enhanced in Silk Central 18.0.

Improved Issue Tracking Grid Functionality

The **Issue Tracking** grid (inbox view) now features the functionality that you are familiar with in the rest of the product: You can display or hide columns, adjust the width, and drag the columns around to change their order. Click on the columns to sort, group or filter the content in the grid. For additional information at a glance, when you hover your mouse over an issue's number or icon, a pop-up window displays the full synopsis and description of the issue.

Viewing Unassigned (Closed) Issues

You can now display a list of all issues on the **Issue Tracking** grid (inbox view), including unassigned (closed) issues.

Use the **Show** list to define which issues you want to see:

- **All open issues:** Displays all issues of all inboxes that are not in a terminal state.
- **All issues:** Displays all issues of all inboxes, including closed issues.
- **<inbox name>:** Displays all issues that are currently assigned to the selected inbox.

Exporting Issues to Excel

On the **Issue Tracking** grid (inbox view), click  (**Download as XLSX**) to export the list of issues to an Excel sheet.

Bulk Updates

You can use your keyboard's **Ctrl** and **Shift** keys to select multiple issues using standard browser multi-select functions. Based on a user's permissions, the following actions can be performed on multiple issues:

- Reassigning issues, if no closed issues are selected.

- Workflow actions, if the selected issues have the same type and state. Note that workflow actions using a product-dependent field are only enabled, if the selected issues have the same product.

HTML Formatting for Description Fields

The **Description** field on the **Issue Details** page now supports HTML-formatted text, including the option to drag and drop images into the description.

Custom Fields

The **Custom Issue Tabs** page now allows you to define up to 40 user-defined fields, which you can use for issue details and issue actions. Additionally, the new control type **Date** has been added.

Global Search Enhancements

The global **Search** in Silk Central now presents the search results in a grid view with fully supported sorting, grouping, and filtering capabilities. Additionally, the synopsis and the description of all Issue Manager issues are now considered in the search as well.

Notifications and Reports

Triggering Report Subscriptions Based on the Outcome of an Execution

Additionally to being notified per email based on the outcome of an execution, you can now also trigger report subscriptions.

Improved Email Notifications

The emails that are sent to manual testers when a test becomes available to them now contain information about the project and the execution plan that the test belongs to, and the testing cycle/configuration suite (if applicable). Emails that are sent upon execution plan completion now contain the project, version, and build information.

Execution Status Overview Report

The **Execution Status Overview** report now presents an overview of the status of the last run of each test assigned to an execution plan, rather than just the status of the last execution plan run.

Testing Cycle 1 - Manual Functional Testing

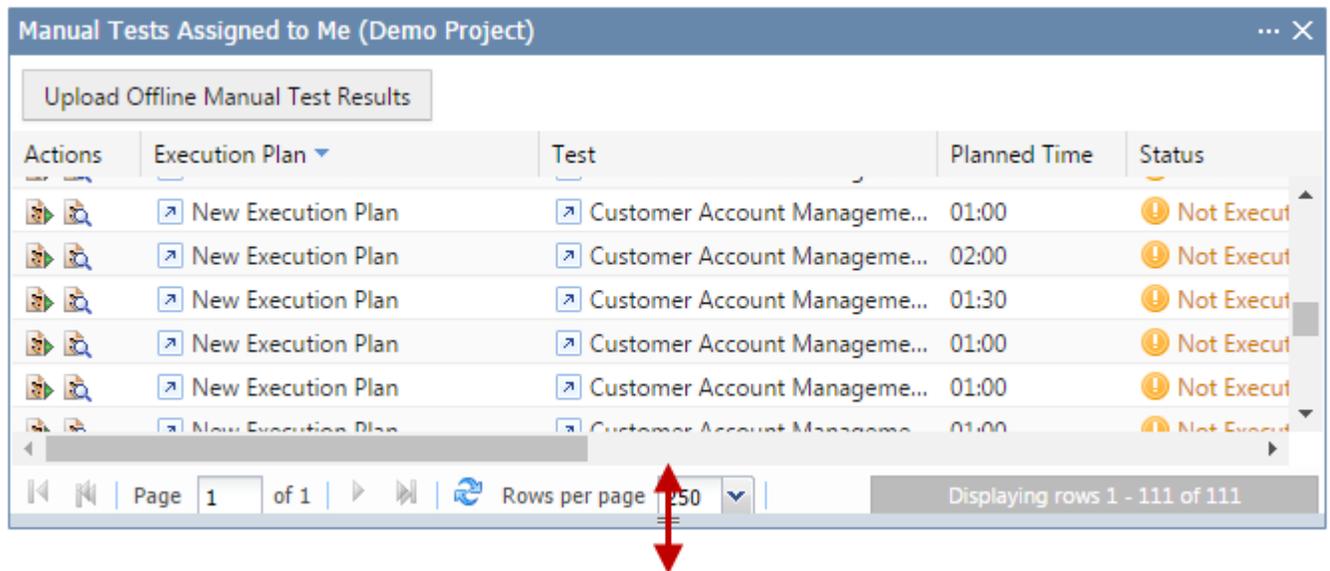
Name	Tests	Status	Product
adama (Test Assets)	25	23 █ 2 █	Demo Product
bpeterssen (Test Assets)	25	18 █ 7 █	Demo Product
dbrauer (Test Assets)	18	14 █ 4 █	Demo Product
gmazzuchelli (Test Assets)	8	6 █ 2 █	Demo Product
htanaka (Test Assets)	6	5 █ 1 █	Demo Product
jallen (Test Assets)	9	7 █ 2 █	Demo Product

Testing Cycle 2 - Manual Configuration Testing

Name	Tests	Status	Product
adama (English Oracle10g IE8 Tomcat - Test Assets)	1	1 █	Demo Product
adama (English SQL2008 FF Tomcat - Test Assets)	1	1 █	Demo Product
adama (German Oracle11g FF Tomcat - Test Assets)	1	1 █	Demo Product
adama (German SQL2008 IE8 IIS - Test Assets)	1	1 █	Demo Product
bpeterssen (English Oracle10g IE8 Tomcat - Test Assets)	1	1 █	Demo Product

Resizing Dashboard Panels

You can now resize your dashboard panels by dragging a panel's footer (only panels with lists are resizable).



Integrations

Scheduled Full Requirements Synchronization

Scheduled synchronizations for your requirements management tool integrations only synchronized changes so far. This however didn't cover actions in the external tool like deleting requirements. In Silk Central 18.0 you can now define a schedule to synchronize changes, as well as a separate schedule to perform a full synchronization (**Synchronize all**).

JAX-WS Web Service Stack

The Axis 1.4 web service stack that Silk Central used so far, has been replaced by the much more current *Java API for XML Web Services (JAX-WS)*.

While your existing clients based on the Axis web service stack will still work, it is recommended to use the new JAX-WS web services for developing new clients. The following new web services can now be used:

WS Name (Interface)	WSDL URL	Description
system (SystemService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/system?wsdl	This is the root service that provides authentication and simple utility methods.
administration (AdministrationService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/administration?wsdl	This service provides access to the <i>Project</i> and <i>Product</i> entities of Silk Central.
requirements (RequirementsService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/requirements?wsdl	This service provides access to the Requirements area of Silk Central.
tests (TestsService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/tests?wsdl	This service provides access to the Tests area of Silk Central.
executionplanning (ExecutionPlanningService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/executionplanning?wsdl	This service provides access to the Execution Planning area of Silk Central.
filter (FilterService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/filter?wsdl	This service allows you to create, read, update, and delete filters.
issuemanager (IssueManagerService)	/Services1.0/jaxws/issuemanager?wsdl	This service provides access to Issue Manager.

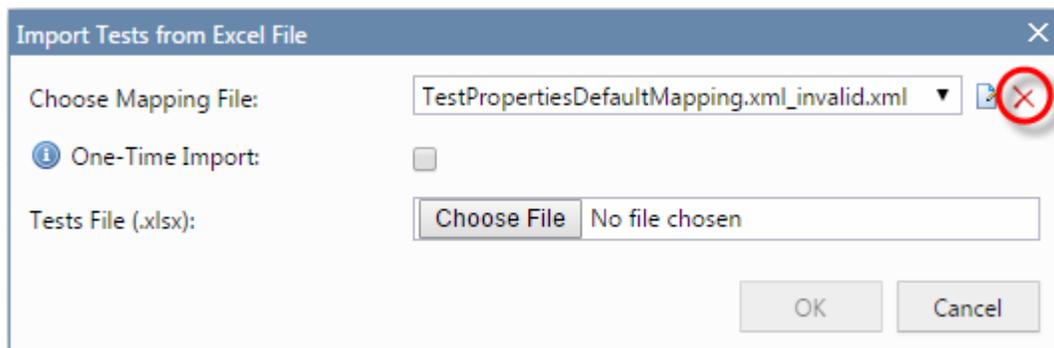
Instances Support in Jenkins Plugin

The Silk Central Jenkins plugin now supports the configuration of instances.

Using the Silk Central Web Services, you can integrate your test executions into your continuous integration build system. If you are using Jenkins as your automation server, you can download the Silk Central integration plugin directly from the Jenkins plugins page.

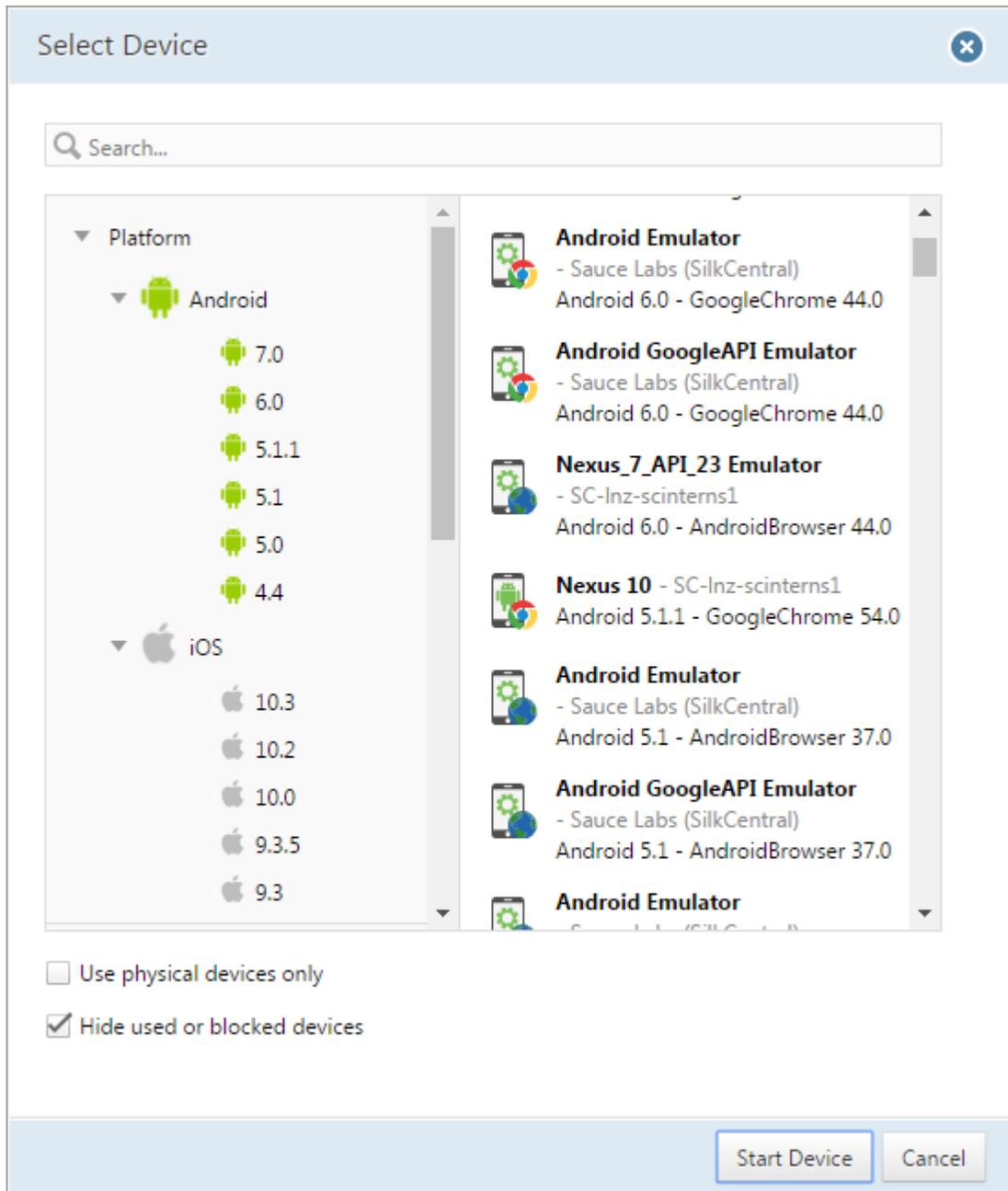
Deleting Mapping Files

Users with the permission **Delete Office import mapping files** can now delete Microsoft Word and Excel mapping files directly in the Silk Central UI.



Sauce Labs Automated Testing Cloud

If you have a Sauce Labs account, you can now run automated Silk Test tests using Sauce Labs devices. Sauce Labs is the world's largest automated testing cloud for web and mobile apps.



Integrated HPE Unified Functional Testing (UFT) Support

HPE Unified Functional Testing (UFT) software, formerly known as HP QuickTest Professional (QTP), provides functional and regression test automation for software applications and environments.

This plug-in is now an integrated part of Silk Central. To execute UFT tests, the HPE Unified Functional Testing software must be installed on the same computer on which Silk Central execution servers are installed.

Technology Updates

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 and IIS 10 Support

Silk Central 18.0 now supports Microsoft Windows Server 2016 and IIS 10.

Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 2 Support

Silk Central 18.0 now supports Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 2.

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	Intel Core i5 or better
Memory	6 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 that you add, at least 10 GB of additional disk space are required, and the following minimal memory:

- Front-end server: 500 MB
- Application server: 300 MB
- Chart server: 200 MB

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

For more information on the optimal 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 Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Google Chrome• Internet Explorer 10 or later (no compatibility mode)• Mozilla Firefox• Microsoft Edge

The manual testing UI requires Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 7 Update 79 or later.

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 18.0 has been tested as well as the software that Silk Central supports.

Operating System Support

- Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64-bit
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2016
- Microsoft Windows 7 32-bit/64-bit Service Pack 1 (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 8 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 8.1 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 10 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Android 4.4, 5, 5.1, 6.0, 7.0 (mobile device testing)
- iOS 9.3, 10 (mobile device testing)

 **Important:** [Update for Universal C Runtime in Windows](#) is required for all Microsoft Windows operating systems. For Microsoft Windows Server 2016, 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
- Redhat Enterprise Linux
- Suse Linux
- Ubuntu

Web Browser Support

- Google Chrome
- Internet Explorer 10 or later (no compatibility mode)
- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge

Web Server Support

- IIS 7 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 8 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 10 32 bit/64 bit

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 3
- Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2016
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4). Oracle RAC is not supported.
- Oracle 12c (version 12.1.0.2). Oracle RAC is not supported.

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- AccuRev 6.2
- Caliber 11.4, 11.5
- Silk Performer 17.5, 18.0
- Silk Test 17.5, 18.0
- StarTeam 15.x, 16.x
- Silk TestPartner 6.3

Integrated Third-Party Software Support

- Apache Commons Virtual File System (VFS)
- Atlassian JIRA 5, 6, 7
- Atlassian JIRA Agile 6, 7
- Bugzilla 4.4.12, 5.0.3
- CA Agile Central
- Git 2.13.0
- HPE Unified Functional Testing (UFT) 14.0
- IBM Rational ClearQuest 8.0
- IBM Rational DOORS 9.5, 9.6
- IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation 6.0
- IBM Rational RequisitePro 7.1.3, 7.1.4
- JUnit 4.11 or later
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests and requirements
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Microsoft Visual Studio/Visual Studio Test Agent 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015
- NUnit 2.6.4, 3.4.1
- SAP Solution Manager 7.1
- Subversion 1.9
- Team Foundation Server 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCloud Director 5.5

End of Support

This topic lists the features that are no longer supported in Silk Central 18.0.

Microsoft SQL Server 2008

Microsoft SQL Server 2008 is no longer supported with Silk Central 18.0.

Planned End of Support

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

Atlassian JIRA 5

In a future release, support for Atlassian JIRA 5 will be discontinued.

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.

IBM Rational RequisitePro

In a future release, support for IBM Rational RequisitePro will be discontinued.

SAP Solution Manager 7.1

In a future release, support for SAP Solution Manager 7.1 will be discontinued.

Team Foundation Server 2010, 2012, and 2013

In a future release, support for Team Foundation Server 2010, 2012, and 2013 will be discontinued.

VMware vCloud

In a future release, support for VMware vCloud will be discontinued.