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Silk Central 12.1

Release Notes

Contents

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Version 12.1

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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 12.1

Silk Central 12.1 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Client Data Segregation

Client data segregation allows you to host several independent clients on one single Silk Central installation with the benefit of data security and reduced maintenance. Only users of a specific client can access the client's data.

If you upgrade from an older Silk Central version, as a regular Silk Central user, you will not notice any changes. However, the user who manages and administrates the clients will get to know a newly created UI, the **System Administration** area.

System Administration

The new **System Administration** area is independent and separated from the known Silk Central UI. In this area, the System Administrator can configure the primary settings of Silk Central. These include: managing database connections, managing clients, configuring chart servers, email servers, and proxy connections, as well as analyzing diagnostic information and system log files.

These administrative tasks are in the responsibility of the System Administrator. This user is the only user who can access the **System Administration** area. However, the System Administrator has no access to the specific clients and to the known Silk Central UI.

Enhanced Manual Testing

Enhanced manual testing combines functionality of the former web-based manual testing capability and the Manual Testing Client (MTC) into one comprehensive go-forward solution. It is focused on the efficient execution of one single test by providing access to test relevant information as well as by allowing sophisticated result capturing and in-context issue creation, while hiding all other distracting not test relevant information.

The new functionality is provided in an extra browser window (the **Manual Testing** window) that can be positioned side-by-side with your application under test (AUT), which reduces annoying window switching. Furthermore, it is a state-of-the-art fully web-based solution that does not need any client-side installation. To make use of the built-in screen capture and video recording functionality and to collect code analysis data, all you need to install is Java.

As a manual tester, you can process the test steps within the **Manual Testing** window from the top to the bottom: You can ...

- tick off the steps when you have executed them successfully
- write a result text, create and assign issues, attach result files
- capture screen images and record videos
- use the code analysis functionality
- access all relevant test information

⚠ **Attention:** The Manual Testing Client (MTC) is no longer available and so is the offline testing capability which will be re-introduced in a new form in one of the upcoming versions. Please be aware

that before you upgrade to this version of Silk Central, you need to finish all your manual tests in progress in the Manual Testing Client (MTC), to prevent loss of data.

Testbook

The **Testbook** is a new dashboard panel that gives you real-time updates about all activities that take place during manual testing. It shows you who did what and when in the different testing cycles and execution plans and simplifies the collaboration among testers and test managers.

Microsoft Office Word Report Template

In addition to using Microsoft Office Excel and BIRT, Silk Central now gives you the possibility to write a simple report template in Microsoft Word like you would write a mail merge document to visualize the data queried by a Silk Central report on your test-, build-, defect-, and requirement data.

Code Analysis for .NET Applications

Silk Central offers code analysis for .NET applications. To use this feature, install the DevPartner .NET code coverage components that are shipped with Silk Central. In the menu, click **Help** > **Tools**, download the **Windows Code Analysis Framework** and install all components of this setup. With Silk Central 12.1 a new version of DevPartner .NET code coverage components are provided. These support to retrieve code coverage data from 64-bit applications as well as 32-bit applications.

Project Export/Import

Silk Central projects now can be exported to archive the project data outside of Silk Central. To view the data, all results, reports, and so on, you can reimport the project.

When you import project data, you must use the same Silk Central version and the same database version that were used to export the data. However, you can import project data to the same or to a different database server with the same version that was used to export the data.

Issue Manager Enhancements

You now can integrate Issue Manager projects directly when you create a new Silk Central project. All necessary steps that were spread over Silk Central beforehand are now merged into one wizard. This wizard now also features the automatic creation of inboxes for all users that are assigned to the project and even for all users that will be assigned to the project in the future.

MSTest Parameters

Parameter passing to MSTest executions was introduced/enhanced for better supporting Silk Test Silk4Net. Parameters are set as environment variables. Within the test the value of a parameter can be accessed by using `Environment.GetEnvironmentVariable("myParam")`.

Stop on Error of Executions

In the deployment section of an execution plan, you can now specify if the run should be immediately stopped on the first failed test, the first not executed test, or the first failed or not executed test.

Deleting Result Files

You now can decide if you want to delete runs (including result files as well as all other items and information that belong to the run) or if you want to delete just the result files of the runs. Result files can be files that require a lot of storage in the database, like videos or screen images. By deleting just the result files, you can clean up your database and free up storage space, but at the same time you keep all the essential information about your runs.

Java 64-bit Code Analysis

The previous Java code analysis solution was replaced with a platform independent solution supporting 32- and 64-bit.

Integration Enhancements

This section lists the enhancements that have been made to the integrations in Silk Central.

Caliber 11.0 (hotfix 1 required)

Silk Central now supports Caliber 11.0 (hotfix 1 required).

StarTeam 12.5

Silk Central now supports StarTeam 12.5.

StarTeam 13.0

Silk Central now supports StarTeam 13.0.

IBM Rational DOORS Version 9.4

Silk Central now supports IBM Rational DOORS Version 9.4.

Jira 5

Support for Jira was updated to support the latest version of Jira. The update is connected to usability and performance enhancements - like considering required fields, update issue statistics and typed fields (for example combobox).

Features that are No Longer Supported

This topic lists the features that are no longer supported in Silk Central 12.1.

Silk Test Test Plan Upload

Uploading plans from Silk Test to Silk Central will no longer be supported. With the introduction of the specific *Silk Test Test Plan* test type in Silk Central Test Manager 2009, uploading plans from Silk Test to Silk Central is no longer required or recommended. The new test type results in less maintenance effort as the plan-file structure created in Silk Test is maintained dynamically with each execution of the Silk Test test plan file.

Manual Testing Client

The **Manual Testing Client** is no longer shipped with Silk Central. Manual testing functionality has been moved to the **Manual Testing** window. Please see the *What's New* section in this document for more details about this feature.

Internal Issue Profiles

The internal issue tracking capability of the Silk Central test management part has been removed. Issue Manager now is the go-forward issue tracking solution of Silk Central. Existing issues that were created with the internal issue tracking profile are still available and you can still edit these issues. However, you cannot create new internal issues. Use Issue Manager for tracking your issues.

Upload Manager

The **Upload Manager** is no longer supported in Silk Central. When you upgrade the database, all files from the **File Pool** are saved to the data directory on the Application Server (for example: `C:\ProgramData\SilkCentral`). The files are saved to a folder named `FilePool_exported_on`.

File Pool

The **File Pool** is no longer supported in Silk Central. It was used to upload .ltz files in Silk Performer to Silk Central. Since this Silk Performer functionality has been removed, the **File Pool** has been removed as well. When you upgrade the database, all files from the **File Pool** are saved to the data directory on the Application Server (for example: `C:\ProgramData\SilkCentral`). The files are saved to a folder named `FilePool_exported_on`.

Announcement of Features that will No Longer be Supported in Future Releases

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

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 support

In a future release, support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 will be discontinued.

Data-Driven Option

In a future release, the ability to execute a test with different input data will be simplified. The different data rows will no longer be visible in the **Tests** area but in the results only. Re-running single failed data rows will be possible.

Linked Test Containers

In a future release, linked test containers will be removed. Their main purpose in Silk Central was to support the import of Silk Test Classic plan files, but this is much better supported with the Silk Test Classic Plan File test type which is based on the test package feature that reduces maintenance efforts by updating your test structure in Silk Central with each execution.

Mixed Execution Plans

In a future release, mixing automated and manual tests in one execution plan will no longer be supported in automated execution plans. More sophisticated manual and automated test combinations will still be achievable with dependencies.

Old Requirement Web Service

In a future release, the Old Requirement Web Service will no longer be supported. The Requirements Web Service has the same range of functionality and is maintained on a regular basis.

Lab Manager Integration

In a future release, the Lab Manager integration will no longer be supported. Silk Central will then offer new features that will replace the current Lab Manager functionality.

Starting/Running Execution server as Windows service

In the future the option to run Execution Servers as Windows service will be removed as this does not support all features for the different test types and is a historic remains.

Tested and Supported Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Central 12.1 has been tested as well as the software that Silk Central supports.

Application, front-end, execution, and chart server have been validated on 32 bit operating system configurations, unless specified otherwise. 64 bit configurations are also supported, but without a performance gain, because the services are based on a 32 bit JVM.

Operating System Support

- Windows Server 2003 R2 Service Pack 2
- Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64 bit
- Windows XP Service Pack 3
- Windows XP 64 bit Service Pack 1 (execution server)
- Windows Vista Ultimate 32 bit (execution server)
- Windows 7 32 bit/64 bit Service Pack 1 (execution server)

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 8
- Internet Explorer 9
- Mozilla Firefox

Web Server Support

- IIS 6 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 7 32 bit/64 bit
- Micro Focus standalone Web server (Tomcat)

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Service Pack 3
- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012
- Oracle 10g (version 10.2.0.5)
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.3)

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- CaliberRDM 10.1
- CaliberRM 2008 SP1 (latest hotfix required)

- CaliberRM 10.1
- Caliber 11.0 (hotfix 1 required)
- Silk Performer 9
- Silk Performer 9.5
- Silk Test 2011
- Silk Test 13.5
- StarTeam 12.5
- StarTeam 13.0
- Silk TestPartner 6.3

Integrated Third-Party Software Support

- Bugzilla 4.0
- Compuware Quality Manager (Changepoint 2010 SP1, Changepoint 2009 or Changepoint 2009 SP2)
- IBM Rational ClearQuest 2003.06.15.734.000
- IBM Rational DOORS Version 9.3
- IBM Rational DOORS Version 9.4
- IBM Rational Requisite Pro 7.0.0.0
- JIRA 4.4
- JIRA 5
- JUnit 4.4 or later
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Rally
- SAP Solution Manager 7.1
- Subversion 1.6.x
- Team Foundation Server 2010
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCenter Lab Manager 4.0.4

Java Support

- Java Development Kit (JDK) 6 or later
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 6 or later

System Requirements and Prerequisites

Server System Requirements

Application, front-end, execution, and chart server have been validated on 32 bit operating system configurations, unless specified otherwise. 64 bit configurations are also supported, but without a performance gain, because the services are based on a 32 bit JVM.

System Area	Requirement
CPU	Intel Core i5, or equivalent CPU
Memory	4 GB minimum
Free disc space	30 GB minimum, except for the database server
Network	100 Mbit
Operating system for front-end, application, and chart server	- Windows Server 2003 R2 Service Pack 2 - Windows Server 2008 - Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64 bit
Operating system for execution server	- Windows XP Service Pack 2 or later - Windows XP 64 bit Service Pack 1 (execution server) - Windows Server 2003 R2 Service Pack 2 - Windows Vista Ultimate Edition 32 bit - Windows 7 32 bit Service Pack 1 - Windows 7 64 bit Service Pack 1 - Windows Server 2008 - Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64 bit
Web server	- Tomcat - IIS - Apache, as load balancer
Database management system	- Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Service Pack 3 - Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 2 - Microsoft SQL Server 2012 - Oracle 10g (version 10.2.0.5) - Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.3)
Power Supply	Uninterruptible power supply (UPS) for all environments to reduce risks of power outages

Note: To install Silk Central as an enterprise system, install the Silk Central servers on separate machines. These servers include the application server, front-end server, chart server, execution server, and database system. This procedure is outlined in the *Custom Installation* section of the *Silk Central 12.1 Installation Help*. You can also install any combination of these components on separate machines.

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 1024 MB main memory for intensive testing, such as Web browser replay.

Virtualization

Silk Central is tested to run on a virtual infrastructure environment, for example VMware ESX server. For optimal performance we recommend using physical hardware.

Client-Side System Requirements

System Area	Requirement
Processor	Intel Core i3, or equivalent CPU
Memory	1 GB
Free disc space	1 GB
Web browser	• Windows Internet Explorer 8 • Windows Internet Explorer 9 • Mozilla Firefox • Google Chrome