



Silk Central 15.0

Release Notes

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Silk Central 15.0 Release Notes

Version 15.0

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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 15.0

Silk Central 15.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Report Subscriptions

The **Subscriptions** tab in the reporting unit allows you to subscribe to reports. You can customize when, where, and how you receive the report as well as modify report parameters. The report is created in the background on the application server, per a selected schedule, and the subscriber is sent the report via email or the report can be displayed in a dashboard panel and is also accessible from external sites through a URL.

The following options are available:

- If you want to send the report as an email, click **Send as Email** and select the **Format**: PDF (BIRT report or data table) or XLSX (data table). Then, enter the **Email addresses** where the report will be sent. You can send the report to multiple email addresses by separating them with commas, semi-colons or blanks.
- If you want to make the report available in a dashboard panel or from external sites, click **Provide for dashboard and external access**. Selecting this option makes the report available in the **Report Subscription** dashboard panel, and you can embed the provided link in Websites, emails, and more. This is a permanent link that does not change and requires no login or license to access.

Report Subscription Panel

Using any report available in the **Reports** unit, the **Report Subscription** panel of your dashboard allows you to display an existing report. First, create and configure your report, and then add the panel to your dashboard.

Status Reasons

Status reasons qualify the status of a manual test run. This allows you to specify why a specific test run has the status **Passed**, **Failed** or **Not Executed**. You can define up to five reasons for each status. Per default, the reason **Unsupported** is added to the status **Passed**, and the reason **Unresolved** is added to the status **Failed**. Adding additional reasons for each status helps you qualify the status of a test run, for example, you could define the following reasons for the statuses:

-  **Passed**: Unsupported
-  **Failed**: Unresolved, System crashed, Bug, Help not available, Client system is unresponsive
-  **Not Executed**: On hold - internally, On hold - customer, Test environment unavailable

Analyzing Automated Test Results

View the test results of an execution plan run for an enhanced root cause analysis or compare the results of multiple runs to visualize distinctions of test statuses.

The **Test Results** view and the **Run Comparison** view provide an easy to read results overview with full drill-down capabilities. All information is included, like result files, thumbnail screenshots, messages, and

stacktraces. This allows you to quickly analyze the root cause of failed test runs, especially because you can also compare the results of multiple runs side-by-side.

For example, you may be interested in performing the following tasks:

- Analyze the runs of all configurations within a configuration suite or within execution plans which represent configurations
- Compare runs of the same execution plan, for example to find out if any test statuses have changed
- Show all failed tests of an execution plan at once

Requirements Import and Update from Microsoft Excel

Additionally to importing and updating requirements from Microsoft Word, Silk Central now also supports importing and updating requirements from Microsoft Excel.

Silk Central uses the information stored in the Excel file and in a mapping file to determine what data to store and captures only the information that is mapped with certain column names. Silk Central uses a mapping file to map the requirements in the Excel file to the Silk Central requirements. A default mapping file named `RequirementPropertiesXlsxDefaultMapping.xml` is preselected for the import. You can choose your own customized mapping file to map your requirements.



Note: Importing attachments (images, graphs) is not supported.

Assigning Multiple Requirements to Tests

You can now assign multiple requirements to a test with a single click of a button.

A new button is available on the **Assigned Requirements** page, which allows you to assign all requirements that match your selected filter to a test at once. Assigning all filtered requirements is only enabled if a filter is selected and if you have either **Manage requirements** or **Manage tests and executions** permission.

License Limitation per Client

From the total pool of available **Test Manager**, **Manual Testing** and **Issue Tracking** licenses, you can specify the maximum limit of licenses that can be used per client.

Depending on the limits you specify per client, the following rules apply:

- No value: No license limit is applied, the client can make use of the total amount of available licenses.
- 0 (zero): No licenses can be consumed by the client, which essentially deactivates all related features of the selected license.
- Any number: The amount of licenses that can be consumed by the client. If the number is higher than the total amount of available licenses, the client can make use of the total amount of available licenses.

Usability Enhancements

This section lists the usability enhancements that have been made throughout Silk Central.

Centralized Execution Environment Administration

The administration of your execution environment in Silk Central is now easier than ever, as the administration of locations, execution servers and cloud profiles is now combined in one central location, which is accessible through the menu **Administration > Execution Environment**.

Automatically Assigned Keywords for Physical Execution Servers

For physical execution servers on which Silk Test is installed, Silk Central automatically assigns keywords depending on the installed browsers and connected mobile devices.

Downloading all Manual Tests of the Related Execution Plan for Offline Execution

Additionally to downloading your selected tests for offline execution, you can now select a test and download all manual tests of its related execution plan.

Specify the Formatting of Downloaded Manual Tests for Offline Execution

Before downloading manual tests for offline execution, you can now specify how you want the tests to be organized in Excel:

- Create a separate worksheet for each test with a list of steps
- Create a single worksheet with a list of tests without steps

Finish Test Execution Status Handling

When finishing a manual test execution, you can now select the action you want to perform for tests that have not been executed.

Hotfix and Update Notification

The **Introduction** panel provides an easy way to find out if there is a new Hotfix or product update. If there is an update or Hotfix, they will be listed directly below the title of this panel. Click the link to go and download the update.

Integration Enhancements

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

Atlassian JIRA Agile Integration Improvements

Silk Central's integration with Atlassian JIRA Agile has received several improvements.

The following changes are available with this version of Silk Central:

- "Sub-Task" issue types can now be synchronized
- JIRA Agile's wiki mark-up formatting is retained in Silk Central's requirement descriptions
- User stories that are in JIRA Agile's `Backlog` are reflected in Silk Central by having the `Sprint` property value set to `Backlog`. This enables you to easily search for them by creating a filter.
- The default `Priority` values of JIRA Agile's user stories are mapped to Silk Central's `Priority` property. If you are not using JIRA Agile's default `Priority` values, you can customize this mapping.

Atlassian JIRA 6

Silk Central now supports Atlassian JIRA 6.

Web Service Updates

This section lists the changes that have been made to the Silk Central Web services.

reportData Interface

If you are upgrading from a version prior to Silk Central 13.0, the reportData interface requires an additional `projectID` parameter.

Due to the introduction of global reports, the project ID has to be passed to the call of the Silk Central Web service. Existing custom BIRT report templates that access the Silk Central Web service need to be adjusted. The Web service URL can now be configured:

1. Download the BIRT template on the **Reports > Report Templates** page and open it in a text editor or in BIRT RCP Designer.
2. Locate the following line in the global script:
`reportDataProvider.prepareData(url,handlerId,sessionId,reportId);`
3. Replace it with the following line:
`reportDataProvider.prepareData(params["currWebserviceURL"],handlerId,sessionId,reportId,params["currProjectID"]);`

Technology Updates

Internet Explorer 11 Support

Silk Central 15.0 now supports Internet Explorer 11.

Atlassian JIRA 6 Support

Silk Central 15.0 now supports Atlassian JIRA 6.

Features that are No Longer Supported

This topic lists the features that are no longer supported in Silk Central 15.0.

VMware Lab Manager Integration

VMware Lab Manager is no longer supported with Silk Central 15.0. Instead, Silk Central now supports VMware vCloud.

Starting Silk Central Execution Servers as Service

The option to run execution servers as Windows service has been removed as this does not support all features for the different test types and is a historic remains.

Microsoft SQL Server 2005

Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is no longer supported with Silk Central 15.0.

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.

Atlassian JIRA 4.4

In a future release, support for Atlassian JIRA 4.4 will be discontinued.

Microsoft Visual SourceSafe (MSVSS)

In a future release, support for Microsoft Visual SourceSafe (MSVSS) will be discontinued.

Concurrent Versions System (CVS)

In a future release, support for Concurrent Versions System (CVS) 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.

Tested and Supported Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Central 15.0 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 Server 2012
- Windows Vista Ultimate 32 bit (execution server)
- Windows 7 32 bit/64 bit Service Pack 1 (execution server)
- Windows 8 32 bit/64 bit (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 9, 10, 11 (no compatibility mode)
- Mozilla Firefox

Web Server Support

- IIS 6 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 7 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 8 32 bit/64 bit
- Micro Focus standalone Web server (Tomcat)

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 1
- Oracle 10g (version 10.2.0.5)
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4)

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- CaliberRM 10.1, 10.2
- Caliber 11.0 (hotfix 1 required), 11.1, 11.2
- Silk Performer 10.0, 15.0

- Silk Test 14.0, 15.0
- StarTeam 13.1, 14.1
- 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, 9.4
- IBM Rational Requisite Pro 7.0.0.0
- Atlassian JIRA 4.4, 5, 6
- Atlassian JIRA Agile 6.1.4.2 based on JIRA 5.2.8
- JUnit 4.11 or later
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests and requirements
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Rally
- SAP Solution Manager 7.1
- Subversion 1.6.x
- Team Foundation Server 2010, 2012
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCloud Director 5.1

Java Support

- Java Development Kit (JDK) 7 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows Server 2003 R2 Service Pack 2 • Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64 bit • Windows Server 2012
Operating system for execution server	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows Server 2003 R2 Service Pack 2 • Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1 64 bit • Windows Server 2012 • Windows XP Service Pack 3 • Windows XP 64 bit Service Pack 1 • Windows Vista Ultimate 32 bit • Windows 7 32 bit/64 bit Service Pack 1 • Windows 8 32 bit/64 bit • Debian • Redhat Enterprise Linux • Suse Linux • Ubuntu
Web server	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tomcat • IIS • Apache, as load balancer
Database management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 2 • Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 1 • Oracle 10g (version 10.2.0.5) • Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4)
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 15.0 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Google Chrome• Internet Explorer 9, 10, 11 (no compatibility mode)• Mozilla Firefox