

Borland®

Silk Central 16.0

Release Notes

**Borland Software Corporation
700 King Farm Blvd, Suite 400
Rockville, MD 20850**

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Silk Central 16.0 Release Notes

Version 16.0

March, 2015

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 16.0

Silk Central 16.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Keyword-Driven Testing

Silk Central 16.0 introduces the keyword-driven testing methodology, which enables you to convert manual tests to automated tests in a structured process.

Keyword-driven testing is a software testing methodology that separates test design from test development and therefore allows the involvement of additional professional groups, for example business analysts, in the test automation process. Silk Central and Silk Test support the keyword-driven testing methodology and allow a very close collaboration between automation engineers and business analysts by having automation engineers develop a maintainable automation framework consisting of shared assets in the form of keywords in Silk Test. These keywords can then be used by business analysts either in Silk Test to create new keyword-driven tests or in Silk Central to convert their existing manual test assets to automated tests or to create new keyword-driven tests. A *keyword-driven test* is a sequence of keywords. A keyword-driven test can be played back just like any other test.

The advantages of using the keyword-driven testing methodology are the following:

- Keyword-driven testing separates test automation from test case design, which allows for better division of labor and collaboration between test engineers implementing keywords and subject matter experts designing test cases.
- Tests can be developed early, without requiring access to the application under test, and the keywords can be implemented later.
- Tests can be developed without programming knowledge.
- Keyword-driven tests require less maintenance in the long run. You need to maintain the keywords, and all keyword-driven tests using these keywords are automatically updated.
- Test cases are concise.
- Test cases are easier to read and to understand for a non-technical audience.
- Test cases are easy to modify.
- New test cases can reuse existing keywords, which amongst else makes it easier to achieve a greater test coverage.
- The internal complexity of the keyword implementation is not visible to a user that needs to create or execute a keyword-driven test.

Eclipse BIRT Designer 4.4.0

Silk Central's integrated reporting tool has been upgraded to Eclipse BIRT Designer 4.4.0.

Integration Enhancements

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

IBM Rational DOORS 9.6 Support and General Out-Of-The-Box Support for DOORS

Silk Central 16.0 now supports IBM Rational DOORS 9.6.

Silk Central 16.0 offers out-of-the-box support for IBM Rational DOORS, without the need to customize anything in your DOORS installation. If you are upgrading from Silk Central 15.5 or earlier though, and using customized dxl files, you will need to overwrite the dxl files in the lib\dxl folder within your Silk Central installation folder with your customized dxl files.

VMware vCloud Director 5.5 Support

Silk Central 16.0 now supports VMware vCloud Director 5.5.

Bugzilla 4.4.6 Support

Silk Central 16.0 now supports Bugzilla 4.4.6.

Git 2.2.0 Support

Silk Central 16.0 now supports Git 2.2.0.

Synchronization of Custom Fields and API Key Support in Rally

Custom fields in Rally can now be synchronized with Silk Central by specifying their names in your Rally integration configuration. Additionally, you can now access your Rally subscription data with an API Key instead of using your username and password. For more information about Rally API Keys, refer to the [Rally Application Manager page](#).

Full 64-Bit Support for PVCS and UNC source control

Serena Version Manager (PVCS) and UNC source control are now fully supported when running the front-end server in 64-bit mode.

The following restrictions in Silk Central 15.5 no longer exist in version 16.0:

- Serena Version Manager (PVCS): The front-end server service needs to run as a user account, not as system account.
- UNC source control: Authentication is not possible.

Technology Updates

Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 2 and Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Support

Silk Central now supports Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 2 and Microsoft SQL Server 2014.

Oracle 12c Patch Set 1 Support

Silk Central now supports Oracle 12c Patch Set 1 (version 12.1.0.2).

.NET Code Analysis Support on Microsoft Windows 8.x and Microsoft Windows Server 2012

Silk Central now supports .NET code analysis on Microsoft Windows 8.x and Microsoft Windows Server 2012

JUnit Tests Compiled With Java 8

Silk Central now supports running JUnit tests that were compiled with Java 8 out of the box.

Silk Central Database Updates (Microsoft SQL Server Only)

Some Microsoft SQL Server data types have been migrated to newer data types, for example `ntext`, `text`, and `image` were migrated to `nvarchar(max)`, `varchar(max)`, and `varbinary(max)`, respectively. The previously used data types are deprecated and these newer data types improve the DBMS performance.



Note: Your existing database is automatically updated to the current version when you connect. This process can take from a few minutes up to several hours, depending on the size of the database. Per default, the data type migration is only applied to new data that is written to the database. Already existing data remains in the database using the old data types, thus not providing any performance improvement. If you wish to migrate the data types of your existing data too, contact customer care at <http://support.microfocus.com>.

Features that are No Longer Supported

This topic lists the features that are no longer supported in Silk Central 16.0.

Microsoft Windows XP, Microsoft Windows Vista, Microsoft Windows Server 2003/2003 R2 and IIS 6

Microsoft Windows XP, Microsoft Windows Vista, Microsoft Windows Server 2003/2003 R2 and IIS 6 are no longer supported with Silk Central 16.0.

Oracle 10g

Oracle 10g is no longer supported with Silk Central 16.0.

RequirementsDocumentsService Web Service

The `RequirementsDocumentsService` Web Service (`/services/tmrequirementsdocuments`) is no longer supported with Silk Central 16.0. Use the `Requirements` Web Service instead, which is maintained on a regular basis.

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.

Serena Version Manager (PVCS)

In a future release, support for Serena Version Manager (PVCS) 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.

Tested and Supported Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Central 16.0 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 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)

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

Web Server Support

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

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2012 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2014
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4)
- Oracle 12c (version 12.1.0.2)

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- CaliberRM 10.1, 10.2
- Caliber 11.3, 11.4
- Silk Performer 15.5, 16.0
- Silk Test 15.5, 16.0
- StarTeam 14.3
- Silk TestPartner 6.3

Integrated Third-Party Software Support

- Apache Commons Virtual File System (VFS)
- Atlassian JIRA 5, 6
- Atlassian JIRA Agile 6
- Bugzilla 4.4.6
- Compuware Quality Manager (Changepoint 2010 SP1, Changepoint 2009 or Changepoint 2009 SP2)
- Git 2.2.0
- IBM Rational ClearQuest 8.0
- IBM Rational DOORS 9.5, 9.6
- IBM Rational RequisitePro 7.1.3, 7.1.4
- JUnit 4.11 or later
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests and requirements
- Microsoft Visual Studio/Visual Studio Test Agent 2010, 2012, 2013
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Rally
- SAP Solution Manager 7.1
- Serena Version Manager (PVCS) 8.1.4 (Version Manager 8.1.4)
- Subversion 1.8.5
- Team Foundation Server 2010, 2012, 2013
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCloud Director 5.5

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



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 16.0 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 2048 MB main memory for intensive testing, such as Web browser replay.

The Linux execution server requires Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 8.

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 ChromeInternet Explorer 10 or later (no compatibility mode)

System Area	Requirement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="824 226 1019 252">• Mozilla Firefox

The manual testing UI requires Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 7 Update 51 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.