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Silk Performer 15.0 Update 1

SOA Edition
Release Notes

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Contents

Silk Performer 15.0 Release Notes 4
System Requirements 5
Installation 6
What's New in Silk Performer 15.0 7
Transaction and Session Pacing 7
Raw Measure Data Capturing 7
Java Message Service Support 7
Usability Enhancements 7
Known Issues in Silk Performer 9
General Silk Performer Issues 9
TrueLog Explorer Issues 9
Web Issues 10
Resolved Issues 11
Updates and SupportLine 12
Contacting Micro Focus 12
Information Needed by Micro Focus SupportLine 12
Silk Performer Licensing 13
Tested Software 14

Silk Performer 15.0 Release Notes

These release notes contain information that might not appear in the Help. Read them in their entirety before you install the product.

Note: This document contains a number of links to external web sites. Micro Focus cannot be responsible for the contents of the website or for the contents of any site to which it might link. Web sites by their nature can change very rapidly and although we try to keep our links up-to-date, we cannot guarantee that they will always work as expected.

System Requirements

The following tables identify the system requirements for installing and running Silk Performer. For details about Silk Performer performance and scalability, see the *Performance and Scalability Matrix*.

Hardware Requirements

To run the Silk Performer agent software, or both controller and agent software, and to use the full potential of Silk Performer to run large-scale load-tests, your system must meet the following minimum requirements:

Table 1: Load Testing

System Area	Requirement
Processor	Pentium IV or equivalent CPU
RAM	1 GB recommended minimum
Virtual memory	Three times as much virtual memory as RAM
Hard disk space	1 GB for controller software installation. 450 MB for agent-only installation. Depending on the size of your load tests, make sure you have enough space on your hard disk for result files.
Network	Windows network with TCP/IP (when using remote Silk Performer Agent computers)
Network adapter	10 MBit recommended minimum fast Ethernet recommended

Software Requirements

To install and run Silk Performer, your system requires a minimum set of software components:

The specific components that are required vary based on installation type. For example, to run Silk Performer Java Explorer, your system must be equipped with either of 32-bit Java Development Kit 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7. Download components from their respective vendors' Web sites.

- Internet Explorer 7, 8, 9, 10 for browser-driven recording
- Adobe Acrobat Reader to view documentation
- Citrix XenApp Client 11.x, 12.x or Citrix Receiver to test Citrix applications
- 32-bit Java Development Kit 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 to test Java applications with Java Explorer

Installation

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

What's New in Silk Performer 15.0

Silk Performer 15.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Transaction and Session Pacing

The new pacing feature of Silk Performer allows you to reach a defined number of transactions per second. You have several configuration options to specify a so-called pacing wait time, which will be added following a transaction or a session (a set of transactions).

On the newly created dialog box **Configure Pacing**, you can determine the pacing wait time or the total time for a transaction or session, in which case the pacing wait time is included implicitly. You can define either a fixed or a random time value.

Besides configuring the pacing settings in the GUI, you can also use the newly created Pacing BDL functions to specify all settings directly in your test script.

Raw Measure Data Capturing

Silk Performer now allows you to capture the raw measure data of a load test and store it in CSV files. This is especially useful if you need result data that is even more detailed than the data from the reports in Performance Explorer or if you want to process the collected data in a spreadsheet program. Simply enable raw measure data capturing, open the generated CSV file with your favorite spreadsheet program, and generate custom tables and graphs.

Java Message Service Support

Silk Performer now offers a BDL API for testing Java Message Service (JMS). It allows you to run scripts for testing JMS applications and providers. The API is fully documented in the BDL Reference. Note that the JMS support of Silk Performer does not include recording JMS applications. However, it comes with one short and one comprehensive sample script, which can easily be adapted to your needs.

Usability Enhancements

Usability enhancements have been implemented throughout Silk Performer:

Merging Load Test Results

Silk Performer now offers a merge wizard, which allows you to merge the results from multiple load tests into one result folder. This is especially useful when you start a big load test from multiple controllers. Merging result data allows you to view all metrics in a single comprehensive report in Performance Explorer.

Automatically Upload Test Results to Silk Central

You can now let Silk Performer automatically upload test results to Silk Central after each test run. Once you have enabled the automatic upload, you can easily turn on and off this feature with just two clicks.

Silk Performer String Converter

Silk Performer 15.0 introduces a string converter, which allows you to convert non-displayable strings into hexadecimal code and into the browser driven raw format and vice versa.

Known Issues in Silk Performer

This list contains known issues in Silk Performer and provides work-arounds where available:

General Silk Performer Issues

Optical character recognition (OCR) does not work for multibyte characters

Problem:

Optical character recognition (OCR) does not work for multibyte characters

Resolution:

Unfortunately there is no solution to this. Silk Performer uses a third-party DLL for optical character recognition which only supports ASCII characters.

How can I get Silk Performer "What's This" contextual Help to work on Windows Vista?

Problem:

How can I get Silk Performer "What's This" contextual Help to work on Windows Vista?

Resolution:

In Silk Performer it is possible to get information about GUI functionality by right-clicking GUI controls and choosing **What's This?**. This contextual help does not work on Windows Vista. This is a known issue related to the fact that the Windows Help program `WinHlp32.exe` is no longer included with Windows Vista. To resolve this, a download for 32-bit .hlp files can be downloaded from the Microsoft Download Center. For more information, see: *http://support.microsoft.com/kb/917607*.

TrueLog Explorer Issues

On-access virus scanner software may cause TrueLog Explorer to crash

Problem:

On-access virus scanner software may cause TrueLog Explorer to crash.

Resolution:

Virus scanner software may cause a variety of problems including TrueLog Explorer crashes or performance degradation. We recommend disabling virus scanner software on the agent computers and on the controller computer for the duration of load tests.

Visual script modifications fail if the related transaction is in an include file

Problem:

Visual script modifications fail if the related transaction is in an include file.

Resolution:

Do not move transactions to BDH files.

Web Issues

Recording of browser traffic does not work when browser window is already open.

Problem

Recording of browser traffic does not work when browser window is already open.

Resolution

Close all browser windows before recording a script.

Resolved Issues

The following issues have been resolved in Silk Performer 15.0:

Issue #	Description	Notes
RPI 1092478	During execution of a BDLT script Silk Performer creates one folder for each virtual user in the temporary Internet files folder. The folders and the respective content are not deleted when the run is complete, which could lead to a huge amount of cumulated data.	
RPI 1092857	Silk Performer 10.0 and Silk Performer 15.0 set different expiry dates for cookies. This can cause an error when the script is replayed in Silk Performer 15.0.	
RPI 601235	The contextual help ("What's This" help) does not work in Silk Performer 15.0.	
RPI 574183	A few strings in Performance Explorer are not translated to Japanese.	

Updates and SupportLine

Our Web site gives up-to-date details of contact numbers and addresses.

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.

Silk Performer Licensing

This section describes how to obtain a license policy for Silk Performer and how to install Silk Meter. You must have administrator privileges to install Silk Meter.

Note: Silk Performer requires Silk Meter version 2008 or later as well as a Silk Performer license policy.

Install Silk Meter once per license server. If you have multiple license servers, you need multiple license policy files, each one tied to a particular license server. A single Silk Meter license server can administer license policies for multiple products.

If you have received a Silk Performer license policy, install the license policy on your license server. If you have not received a license policy, generate a license policy.

Licensing Information

Silk Performer 15.0 needs a new 15.0 license. If you want to run a previous version of Silk Performer during the upgrade process to version 15.0, you may keep your old licenses for a period of 90 days.

Tested Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Performer has been tested.

System Area	Tested With
Operating systems	• Microsoft Windows XP 32bit with Service Pack 3 • Microsoft Windows Server 2003 32bit with Service Pack 2 • Microsoft Windows Server 2003 64bit with Service Pack 2 • Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 32bit with Service Pack 2 • Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 64bit with Service Pack 2 • Microsoft Windows Vista 32bit • Microsoft Windows Vista 64bit • Microsoft Windows Server 2008 32bit • Microsoft Windows Server 2008 64bit • Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 • Microsoft Windows 7 32bit • Microsoft Windows 7 64bit • Microsoft Windows 8 32bit • Microsoft Windows 8 64bit • Microsoft Windows 8.1 32bit • Microsoft Windows 8.1 64bit • Microsoft Windows Server 2012 • Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2
Web browsers	For protocol-based load testing: • Internet Explorer 6*, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (*is not supported on Microsoft Windows XP) • Mozilla Firefox • Google Chrome • Apple Safari For browser-driven load testing: • Internet Explorer 7, 8, 9, 10
SOAP support	• Microsoft SOAP Toolkit 2.0 Service Pack 2 (SP2), Internet Information Server 5 • Apache-SOAP Version 2.1, TOMCAT Version 3.1
Web Service Support	• Axis 1.x • Axis2 1.4, 1.5 • GlassFish Metro 1.5
Java support	• Java Development Kit 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 • IBM Java Development Kit • Eclipse 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 4.2, 4.3
.NET support	• Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 • Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and 2012

System Area	Tested With
	• WCF Web Services
Rich Internet applications (Web 2.0)	• Microsoft Silverlight 4, 5 • Apache Flex 2, 3, 4 • GraniteDS 2.3.2 • BlazeDS 3.2.0 • Google Web Toolkit • ExtJS • Eclipse RAP • script.aculo.us
SNMP support	• SNMPv2-MIB • RFC1213-MIB • RDBMS-MIB • ORADB-MIB • httpServer-MIB • ftpServer-MIB • SUN-MIB • BEA-WEBLOGIC-MIB • APPSRV_MIB (NetDynamics) • SQUID-MIB **Note:** To find RFCs and vendor MIBs on the Web, visit *The Internet Engineering Task Force*.
Proxy servers for firewall tunneling	• WinGate • Squid • Dante • Microsoft ISA Server