



Silk Performer 15.5

SOA Edition
Release Notes

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Silk Performer 15.5 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, 11 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 15.5

Silk Performer 15.5 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

CloudBurst VPN

Silk Performer CloudBurst VPN allows you to comfortably load test a machine or an application on the machine that is part of your company network using cloud agents. Since company networks are usually protected by a firewall, cloud agents that are supposed to put load on a company machine are not able to connect to the system under test. The incoming traffic is blocked by the firewall. Configuring a CloudBurst VPN resolves this problem.

Optimize Web Pages with PageSpeed

The PageSpeed integration helps you identify areas for potential performance optimization by comparing your web pages against proven best practices for web site development. TrueLog Explorer displays an additional tab, containing the PageSpeed score rating along with recommendations about how the performance of the web page in focus can be optimized.

The PageSpeed functionality in TrueLog Explorer is currently only available for web protocol TrueLogs.

Trying Out Agents

Silk Performer 15.5 introduces the new **Try Agents** functionality, which allows you to verify that your test scripts work on all agents you are planning to use for your load test. This new feature resembles the **Try Script** functionality, which is used to verify that a recorded or written script works correctly during replay, whereas **Try Agents** is used to ensure that the script works on a variety of local and cloud agents. The **Try Agents** feature is typically executed before you start the actual load test to ensure that your test environment is setup correctly.

Graceful Ramp Down

In Silk Performer 15.5, you can define Ramp Down parameters, which allows you to gradually stop the running virtual users. Consequently, the virtual users' end transactions are not executed all at once, but in a staggered fashion.

WebSockets

The WebSocket Protocol

With Silk Performer 15.5 you can now also test connections that make use of the WebSocket protocol. The WebSocket protocol allows to establish a full-duplex (bidirectional) connection between client and server and is an alternative to communication models such as polling and long-polling.

You can use the following new BDL API functions in your script to test WebSocket communication or you can use the Silk Performer Recorder to do the scripting work for you.

WebSocket BDL Functions

- `WebSocketConnect`
- `WebSocketConnectSync`
- `WebSocketClose`
- `WebSocketSendTextMessage`
- `WebSocketSendBinaryMessage`
- `WebSocketReceiveMessage`

Browser-Driven Web Load Testing Enhancements

Browser-driven Synchronization Function

Silk Performer offers a new BDL API function (`BrowserWaitForNewWindow`), which waits until a new browser window is created and then returns the handle to this window. This function is especially useful when you record web applications with asynchronous communication.

Core engine upgrade for browser-driven projects

The core engine for browser-driven projects has been upgraded to the latest Silk Test web tech-domain.

Oracle ADF Project Type

Silk Performer now provides the new project type **Oracle ADF**, which includes specific recording rules and project settings for Oracle ADF applications.

Usability Enhancements

Usability enhancements have been implemented throughout Silk Performer:

JavaScript Pop-ups in TrueLog Explorer no longer visible

When navigating from node to node in TrueLog Explorer, occasionally JavaScript messages pop up. As these messages are of no use in this case, Silk Performer 15.5 suppresses them. This is true for the messages caused by the JavaScript events `onbeforeunload`, `alert`, `prompt`, `input`, and `confirm`.

Automatically Remove Used Data from a Data File

You can now let Silk Performer remove used data from a data or CSV file. The Parameter Wizard allows you to enable this option or you can manually script the BDL function `FileGetNextUniqueRow` and set the new parameter `bRemoveUsedRow` to `true`.

Rule-Based Content Rendering in TrueLog Explorer

For web protocol-based TrueLogs, TrueLog Explorer now allows rule-based content filtering, for example for displaying HTML fragments.

Improved Script Generation Workflow for AMF3 and Granite DS Application Types

When recording AMF3 or Granite DS applications, the captured traffic is stored in a capture file. Using the offline script generation approach, Silk Performer now helps you to adjust Java related settings correctly, so that fully readable and customizable scripts can be generated.

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 or later?

Problem:

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

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 or later Windows versions. This is a known issue related to the fact that the Windows Help program `winHlp32.exe` is no longer included with newer Windows versions. 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 15.5:

Issue #	Description	Notes
RPI 601268	When opening raw measure data files (.csv files with raw measure data) in Excel, all data displays in the first column, because the raw measure data files use a semi-colon as separator.	
RPI 601467	When recording a script, the following error occurs: Error: Failed to determine whether hooking is installed. Reinstalling may solve the problem. This error is caused when the Common AppData registry key is missing or blank during the installation of Silk Performer.	
RPI 1081285	The overview report in Performance Explorer does not display the correct application type.	
RPI 1084381	Page size of transformed traffic is inconsistent in TrueLog Explorer statistics tab.	
RPI 1089637	The parameter nIndex of the BDL function OdbcGetString does not retrieve a value.	This issue occurred because the OdbcFetch function was not used correctly. The OdbcGetString function works flawlessly.
RPI 1090603	For the BDL function WebGetPageInfo, the Documentation lists the data type boolean for the return value. The WebAPI .bdh file does not list the data type boolean for this BDL function.	This was fixed in WebAPI .bdh.
RPI 1090974	A relative start time of more than 24 hours cannot be displayed in the monitor window of the workbench.	
RPI 1091318	TrueLog Explorer crashes when using OCR to verify, synchronize or parse text.	
RPI 1091347	In the Help topic BrowserSetOption Function, the following parameter is not listed: BROWSER_OPT_LEGACY_INPUT_MODE	
RPI 1091395	In Performance Explorer, performance counters are named differently when detected by the Data Source Scanner and when selected manually.	

Issue #	Description	Notes
RPI 1092308	Adding the IP address of a machine that does not exist results in the error message The remote agent version differs from the local agent version. Full compatibility cannot be guaranteed.	
RPI 1092531	When defining a global variable in .NET Explorer, the option <code>System.Int64</code> is not available in the Variable Type list.	
RPI 1092584	When specifying a custom template in the Profile settings (Results > Time Series > Overview report template) in Silk Performer Workbench, this template is not used when generating the report in Performance Explorer.	
RPI 1092738	When creating a load test report within Performance Explorer, Performance Explorer crashes.	
RPI 1092751	When passing more than 20 parameters to a Java method, a <code>NoSuchMethod</code> error occurs.	
RPI 1092833	When enabling Add transaction name and an identifier to measure names in the Profile settings, the Overall Action Time is also altered.	
RPI 1092966	When using the Analyze Errors functionality in Performance Explorer, the timeline of errors does not match up with the graph on the error groups page.	
RPI 1092968	Two separate bound violations are reported when bounds are set for action time .	
RPI 1092971	Generating response time threshold attributes for more than one script is not possible as long as the baselines for all scripts have not been ran at the same time.	
RPI 1093160	When testing against Remedy 7.6.04 SP5, a large amount of <code>JSESSIONID</code> cookies is recorded.	
RPI 1093433	When the text size in the Windows Display settings is set to medium or larger, the Next Steps actions on the Summary pages disappear.	
RPI 1093528	When clicking Outline Project in a Silk Essentials project, the OK button is disabled and the project name cannot be changed.	

Issue #	Description	Notes
RPI 1093572	In Silk Performer 15.0, the <code>SourceControlFileList</code> tag in the <code>.ltp</code> file is not filled correctly.	
RPI 1093867	When opening Performance Explorer in Silk Performer 15.0, adding any counter in a monitor window, and double-clicking inside the monitor window, an error occurs. (External exception E06D7363)	
RPI 1093917	When starting a TryScript run for a script that contains the function <code>StrSearchDelimited</code> , an error occurs.	
RPI 1094102	When using the raw measure data feature in Silk Performer 15.0 and an underscore is used within a transaction name, the generated <code>.csv</code> file contains a <code>MeasureType</code> with the value <code>invalid type</code> .	
RPI 1094128	When attempting to parse a JSON response from a server, the values do not appear correctly when writing them out.	

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 15.5 needs a new 15.5 license. If you want to run a previous version of Silk Performer during the upgrade process to version 15.5, 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>For protocol-based load testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 6*, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (*is not supported on Microsoft Windows XP) • Mozilla Firefox • Google Chrome • Apple Safari <p>For browser-driven load testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet Explorer 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
SOAP support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axis 1.x • Axis2 1.4, 1.5 • GlassFish Metro 1.5
Java support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 • Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and 2012

System Area	Tested With
Rich Internet applications (Web 2.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCF Web Services • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SNMPv2-MIB • RFC1213-MIB • RDBMS-MIB • ORADB-MIB • httpServer-MIB • ftpServer-MIB • SUN-MIB • BEA-WEBLOGIC-MIB • APPSRV_MIB (NetDynamics) • SQUID-MIB <p> Note: To find RFCs and vendor MIBs on the Web, visit The Internet Engineering Task Force.</p>
Proxy servers for firewall tunneling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WinGate • Squid • Dante • Microsoft ISA Server