



# Silk Performer 17.5

SOA Edition Release Notes

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# Silk Performer 17.5 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 websites. Micro Focus cannot be responsible for the contents of the website or for the contents of any site to which it might link. Websites by their nature can change 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:

System Area	Requirement
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo or equivalent CPU
RAM	4 GB recommended minimum
Hard disk space	2.1 GB for controller software installation 1 GB 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	Network connectivity to the system under test and to all Silk Performer agent computers.

## Operating System Requirements

- Both the Silk Performer controller and the Silk Performer agent can be installed on any Windows client or server operating system of version 6.1 or newer. This means Silk Performer requires Windows 7 or newer, or Windows Server 2008 R2 or newer.
- Installing the network emulation driver is currently not supported for Windows 10.

## Software Requirements

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

The required components vary based on installation type. For example, to run Silk Performer Java Explorer, your system must be equipped with the appropriate Java Development Kit. Download components from the respective websites.

- Internet Explorer 10, 11 for browser-driven load testing
- PDF viewer to view documentation
- Citrix Receiver for Microsoft Windows 3.x, 4.x (except 4.4) to test Citrix applications. Citrix Receiver 4.4 does not work due to an issue in this Citrix version.
- Java Development Kit 7, 8 (32-bit) to test Java applications with Java Explorer
- Visual Studio 2013 or 2015 for Visual Studio Add-in. To use Visual Studio 2012, Visual Studio 2013 needs to be installed as well.

## Working with Silk Performer on a multi-user system

Silk Performer can be installed on a machine with terminal services enabled for multi-user access. In general, it is not recommended to work in multiple sessions simultaneously. If you want to do so nevertheless, keep the following in mind:

- **Recording:** The Silk Performer Recorder uses a system-wide hooking mechanism. If one user starts the Recorder, the traffic of all other users might be recorded as well.

- **Workbench:** Multiple users can work on different projects simultaneously. Working on the same project is not recommended. The project will be opened in read-only mode for the second and all further users.
- **Executing tests:** Multiple users can execute tests simultaneously from one machine. However, multiple simultaneously running tests will influence each other as they share the same resources (CPU, memory, network bandwidth).
- **Monitoring tests:** Performance Explorer cannot differentiate between test metrics of multiple running tests. Therefore, real-time values of the wrong test might be displayed.

# Installation

For information about installation, deployment, and licensing issues, refer to the [Silk Performer Installation Help](#).

# What's New in Silk Performer 17.5

Silk Performer 17.5 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

## Responsive Web Design Testing

### Responsive Websites and Web Applications

Responsive web design is a design paradigm for websites and web applications that allows to dynamically adapt the user interface to the physical conditions of the end user device. For testers, responsive websites and web applications are particularly challenging as they require a comprehensive testing approach. For example: An application might request different resources depending on the end user device. Silk Performer already supports emulating different devices with different viewports.

### Visual Breakpoint Detection

Silk Performer now supports you in analyzing a web application by detecting its visual breakpoints. Once the application passes a visual breakpoint, which is a specific resolution, the layout of the application changes. A responsive application typically has several visual breakpoints.

The model script dialog uses the so-called page analyzer functionality to analyze the specified website or web application and show the results in a TrueLog report. The TrueLog report contains screenshots of the application on pre-configured end user devices and other resolutions an application is responsive to.

The Page Analysis report provides comprehensive information and helps you to decide which resolutions and which end user devices to consider for testing.

## Improved Scalability for UI-based Replay Technologies

Windows operating systems do not dedicate all available resources to a single Windows session. For load testing with UI-based technologies such as browser-driven web or SAPGUI, Silk Performer now allows you to distribute virtual users over several Windows sessions. This means that you can make much better use from the resources of powerful hardware.

Virtual users that execute Java or .NetFramework code, which is not designed to run in multiple instances, can now be spread over several Windows sessions. This functionality introduces a new level of scalability for Silk Performer users.

## TrueLog Explorer Enhancements

### TrueLog Tree Filter

Silk Performer 17.5 introduces an advanced filter for TrueLog trees. The filter allows you to hide nodes and make a tree short and clear, which can be especially useful when working with large TrueLogs. You can select from a variety of different node types like image nodes, javascript nodes, TCP/IP nodes, and so on. Also, you can choose from a range of settings specific to the selected TrueLog type. The TrueLog tree filter is highly customizable and its settings can be saved for later use.

### Binary View in Response Tab

The **Response** tab in TrueLog Explorer can display the received data in a variety of forms: **Raw**, **HTML**, **Filtered HTML**, **XML Tree**, **XML Text**, and **JSON**. Now TrueLog Explorer provides a new option: **Binary**. It



allows you to view received data in binary form and lets you save the data to the disk, which is especially useful for files that cannot be displayed in TrueLog Explorer.

## Monitoring Workflow

Alongside the **Simple Workflow Bar** and the **Full Workflow Bar**, Silk Performer now also provides a **Monitoring Workflow Bar**. It is designed to create monitors for Silk Performance Manager. This new application performance management tool allows you to reuse script assets from functional and load testing for active monitoring purposes.

## Usability and Other Enhancements

### Quantile data size reduction

Since the introduction of quantile data in Silk Performer it has been possible to resample load test results without losing User Type information. The downside of the result files was their size. In Silk Performer 17.5 the quantile data file format was significantly optimized, which results in considerably smaller quantile files.

### Mouse/Key combination for browser-driven BDL functions

The BDL functions `BrowserClick`, `BrowserDoubleClick`, `BrowserNativeClick`, and `BrowserNativeDoubleClick` now allow you to specify a modifier key (Ctrl, Shift, Alt) for the parameter `nButton`. This way you can simulate a mouse click while a modifier key is pressed.

### Multiple hashcodes for CitrixWaitForScreen

The BDL function `CitrixWaitForScreen` allows to specify a hash value through the parameter `sHash`. This parameter can now also be a list of hash values separated by a special character. Specifying multiple hash values can be necessary if a script is supposed to run on different operating systems, resolutions, or color depths.

### Recovering results of failed load tests

If the controller loses connection to an agent or in the unlikely event of a Workbench crash, Silk Performer now offers a results recovery workflow to recover the lost result parts and rebuild a valid results set. In case of a CloudBurst load test, Silk Performer helps to download the results data from cloud agents as necessary.

### Revision Property

The Silk Performer project file now contains a **ProjectRevision** property, which can be used by third-party tools to track project revisions. To change the revision from within Silk Performer, right-click the project root node and click **Edit Project**.

## Technology Updates

### SNMP version 3

You can now use the latest version of SNMP (version 3) for monitoring with Silk Performer.

### OpenSSL 1.0.2j

OpenSSL has been upgraded to version 1.0.2j.

### **Additional CloudBurst regions**

CloudBurst offers a number of new regions, for Azure these are:

- Canada Central (Toronto)
- Canada East (Quebec)
- UK South (London)
- UK West (Cardiff)
- UK West 2
- US Central (Wyoming)

For AWS, one additional region is available:

- Mumbai

# Resolved Issues

The following issues have been resolved in Silk Performer 17.5:

Issue #	Description
RPI 610780	When recording a browser-driven script in Silk Performer 16.0, the BDL function <code>BrowserSetReplayBehaviour(SP_15_5)</code> is scripted, which can be misleading.
RPI 610854	Performance Explorer incorrectly labels a TryScript TrueLog as <i>Database</i> when in fact it is of type <i>Web</i> .
RPI 611227	The function <code>BrowserDoubleClick</code> returns <code>false</code> when it actually is successful.
RPI 617568	The Chinese Word Overview Report contains a wording issue.
RPI 620240	<code>shopitv60.exe</code> cannot be installed on Windows 8.1 and 10.
RPI 620435	The function <code>WebLdapBind</code> from the sample script <code>WebLdap01.bdf</code> uses incorrect parameters and therefore does not compile.
RPI 620440	The LDAP project type uses the wrong essentials file.
RPI 620630	When trying to record a Citrix transaction, a com version issue occurs in Silk Performer.
RPI 620735	API nodes in a TrueLog disappear after a TryScript run with the option <b>Animated run with TrueLog Explorer</b> enabled.
RPI 620736	Think times are removed if they are scripted in between calls to domains that are excluded from the script by domain filtering.
RPI 620743	A suppressed domain in an iframe causes an error in the web browser control.
RPI 621139	Invalid string operation in <code>WebRemedyBackChannelPost</code> .
RPI 1100987	Calling <code>BrowserNavigate</code> during a TryScript run with the option <b>Animated run with TrueLog Explorer</b> disabled, causes the <code>perfBrowserHost.exe</code> to hang.
RPI 1104135	Clicking an option from a drop-down menu is not recorded in a browser-driven script.
RPI 1104739	When running a TryScript execution of a browser-driven script, the following error occurs: <code>BrowserEngine: 32 - Internet Explorer request failed, HTTP: 404 - object not found</code>
RPI 1104952	Performance Explorer hangs when generating a large overview report.
RPI 1104965	When executing a workload with at least 15 virtual users sending requests to a secure website, <code>SSL Recv unknown errors</code> occur.
RPI 1104966	The load test controller error 3317 intermittently occurs during a terminal emulation load test employing 10 virtual users.
RPI 1105031	The client software does not provide a hostname using Server Name Indication.
RPI 1105032	<code>PerfClrbridge.dll</code> is missing in Silk Performer 16.5.
RPI 1105289	Internet Explorer crashes when attempting to record a script with Silk Performer 17.0.
RPI 1105465	Using <code>BrowserFindAll</code> is inefficient with Silk Performer 17.0.
RPI 1105471	Problems occur when attempting to record Citrix with Silk Performer 17.0.

Issue #	Description
RPI 1105483	When attempting to customize a session, the following issue occurs: Failed to Parse Recorded BDL Script
RPI 1105557	When uploading a project to TrueSight, distorted text appears within the dialog <b>Upload Project to BMC TrueSight</b> .
RPI 1105558	Executing a browser-driven test with Silk Performer 17.0 against ShopIt, causes the Silk Performer BDLT engine to crash.
RPI 1105631	Performance Explorer crashes when generating a User Type Comparison Report.
RPI 1105657	The upload URL in the <b>Upload Project to TrueSight</b> dialog keeps resetting to HTTPS after it has been set to HTTP.
RPI 1105681	The BDL function <code>AttributeGetString</code> causes an unexpected error.
RPI 1105959	Exporting projects with more than 2 GB fails.
RPI 1106021	Silk Performer crashes during a load test execution.
RPI 1106050	When executing a script with an all day workload from the command line, the Silk Performer user interface closes correctly once the execution is completed but <code>performer.exe</code> is not stopped. This prevents a batch file from completing.
RPI 1106059	When resampling results from an all day workload, percentile calculation does not work correctly.
RPI 1106126	When using the BDL function <code>BrowserStart</code> and omitting the function <code>BrowserStop</code> in a cloud load test, the memory usage increases considerably.
RPI 1106445	When replaying using a .pac file, the proxy is still being used, although the <code>FindProxyForURL</code> function returned DIRECT instead of PROXY.
RPI 1106500	Using the XPath OR operation in locators of browser-driven scripts does not work as expected.
RPI 1106572	When using 0 as first parameter in the BDL function <code>RaiseError</code> , an incorrect error is returned instead of the last error.
RPI 1106574	When replaying a script in Silk Performer 17.0, form data is sent to the server in the incorrect format.
RPI 1106579	When executing a load test, the data file on the agent machine is used instead of the data file that is attached to the project.
RPI 1106658	Perfrun.exe crashes when generating the virtual user report files.
RPI 1106786	After resampling a load test in Performance Explorer, the count value in the overview report differs from the count value in the chart.
RPI 1106838	When replaying a SAP GUI load test, the SAP UI is always visible.

# Known Issues

You can find a list of known issues including resolutions in the Online Help: <http://documentation.microfocus.com/known-issues>

# 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](mailto: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

The Silk Performer licensing model is based on virtual users (VUsers).

Starting and using the Silk Performer Workbench does not require a license. You can model and customize scripts as well as adjust many other load test settings without a license. Also, executions that are performed with only one virtual user (like try script or baseline executions) do not require a license.

Starting a load test run requires licenses for the virtual users employed in the execution.

Silk Performer offers two licensing models:

- on-premise licensing
- online licensing

When you upgrade from an older Silk Performer version, new licenses are required for executing load tests with the new version. During the upgrade process, you can keep the old licenses for a period of 90 days.

Silk Performer works with three types of VUsers. Each type allows to simulate different application types:

- Web
- Standard
- Premium

VUser Type	Application Type
Web	Web Browser-Driven HTTP(S) (Web browser low level) HTTP(S)/HTML (Web browser high level) HTTP(S)/XML (Web services, SOAP) HTTP Live Streaming (HLS) Silverlight Mobile SAP NetWeaver WebDAV (MS Outlook Web Access) Email (SMTP/POP) FTP TCP/IP UDP AMF0/AMF3/FLEX DLL Interface
Standard	All of <i>Web</i> , plus: .Net Add-On Java Add-On DB2-CLI Add-On OCI Add-On ODBC Add-On Visual Basic Add-On (Framework)

VUser Type	Application Type
Premium	Directory server (LDAP) CORBA Add-On All of <i>Standard</i> , plus: GUI Level Testing (Silk Test 4Test Scripts) Remedy Web ARS SAPGUI Add-On for Silk Performer Oracle Applications/Forms Add-On PeopleSoft Add-On Siebel Add-On Citrix Add-On Terminal Emulation (Green-Screen) Add-On Tuxedo/ATMI Add-On




# Tested Software

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

The listed software is complete in terms of supported technologies, but not in terms of supported versions and products.

System Area	Tested With
Operating systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2012</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 7 32bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 7 64bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 8 32bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 8 64bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 8.1 32bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 8.1 64bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 10 32bit</li> <li>• Microsoft Windows 10 64bit</li> </ul>
Web browsers	<p>For protocol-based load testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet Explorer</li> <li>• Mozilla Firefox</li> <li>• Google Chrome</li> <li>• Apple Safari</li> </ul> <p>For browser-driven load testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internet Explorer 10, 11</li> </ul>
SOAP stacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft SOAP Toolkit 2.0 Service Pack 2 (SP2), Internet Information Server 5</li> <li>• Apache-SOAP Version 2.1, TOMCAT Version 3.1</li> </ul>
WebService frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axis 1.x</li> <li>• Axis2 1.4, 1.5, 1.6</li> <li>• GlassFish Metro 1.5</li> <li>• Apache CXF 3.1.4</li> </ul>
Java support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Java Development Kit 7, 8</li> <li>• IBM Java Development Kit</li> <li>• Eclipse 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 4.2, 4.3</li> </ul>
.Net-based technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 4.6</li> <li>• Microsoft Visual Studio 2013, 2015</li> <li>• WCF Web Services</li> </ul>
Rich Internet applications (Web 2.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microsoft Silverlight 4, 5</li> <li>• Apache Flex 2, 3, 4</li> </ul>

System Area	Tested With
SNMP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GraniteDS 2.3.2</li> <li>• BlazeDS 3.2.0</li> <li>• Google Web Toolkit</li> <li>• ExtJS</li> <li>• Eclipse RAP</li> <li>• script.aculo.us</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SNMPv2-MIB</li> <li>• RFC1213-MIB</li> <li>• RDBMS-MIB</li> <li>• ORADB-MIB</li> <li>• httpServer-MIB</li> <li>• ftpServer-MIB</li> <li>• SUN-MIB</li> <li>• BEA-WEBLOGIC-MIB</li> <li>• APPSRV_MIB (NetDynamics)</li> <li>• SQUID-MIB</li> </ul> <p> <b>Note:</b> To find RFCs and vendor MIBs on the Web, visit <a href="#">The Internet Engineering Task Force</a>.</p>
Proxy servers for firewall tunneling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WinGate</li> <li>• Squid</li> <li>• Dante</li> <li>• Microsoft ISA Server</li> </ul>

# End of Support

Note that Microsoft Windows Vista, Microsoft Windows Server 2008, and Java 6 and earlier versions are no longer supported in this and future versions of Silk Performer.