Borland
A MICRO FOCUS COMPANY

Silk Performer 9.5

SOA Edition

Release Notes

Contents

Silk Performer 9.5 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	512 MB recommended minimum
	1 GB recommended
Virtual memory	Three times as much virtual memory as RAM
Hard disk space	650 MB for controller software installation. 170 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

To use Silk Performer for traffic recording purposes, scripting, and monitoring, your system must meet the following minimum requirements:

Table 2: Recording, Scripting, and Monitoring

System Area	Requirement
Processor	Pentium IV or equivalent CPU
RAM	256 MB
Hard disk space	440 MB
Network	TCP/IP

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 Java Development Kit 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7. Download components from their respective vendors' Web sites.

- Windows Internet Explorer 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 for browser-driven recording
- Adobe Acrobat Reader to view documentation
- Citrix XenApp Client 11.x, 12.x or Citrix Receiver 3.x to test Citrix applications
- 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 9.5

Silk Performer 9.5 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Windows 8 and Internet Explorer 10 Support

Silk Performer supports record and replay (protocol-level) of Web applications on Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012, using Internet Explorer 10.

Note: Browser-driven tests do not support Internet Explorer 10.

IPv6 Support

Silk Performer now supports record and replay of applications in IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) networks.

GraniteDS Support

Silk Performer now supports testing of Flex applications and the AMF3 protocol based on the GraniteDS implementation.

For testing Flex/AMF3 applications based on the GraniteDS implementation, select the `Flex/AMF3 (GraniteDS)` application type on the **Outline Project** dialog.

The `Flex/AMF3 (GraniteDS)` application type supports both AMF0 and AMF3. By selecting the `Flex/AMF3 (GraniteDS)` application type, several profile settings are automatically configured for you on the tab **Profile** > **Web (Protocol Level)** > **Transformation**:

- The `Flex/AMF3 (GraniteDS)` transformation DLL is selected in the **Type** drop list.
- `Transform HTTP Requests` is enabled
- `Transform HTTP Responses` is enabled
- `Enable Java Virtual Machine usage` is enabled. This setting is required because Flex/AMF3 requires a running JVM for accurate transformation of externalizable traits. This setting also causes transformed AMF3 traffic to appear in a readable XML representation that includes fewer AMF3 syntactical tags.

For testing Flex/AMF3 applications based on the GraniteDS implementation, Java Development Kit 1.6 or later is required.

Workflow Improvements

New Workflow for Configuring Monitoring

Before running a test you need to define how Performance Explorer, the Silk Performer server monitoring tool, is to monitor local and remote servers involved in your test. Server monitoring reveals, locates, and assists in resolving server bottlenecks, allowing you to examine the performance of operating systems and application servers.

The new **Configure Monitoring** button on the Silk Performer workflow bar offers you three options for server monitoring:

- **Default monitoring** - This option directs Performance Explorer to monitor a recommended set of data sources based on the application type under test. This is equivalent to enabling the **Automatically start monitoring** and **Use default monitoring template** settings for the Performance Explorer workspace (**Settings** > **Active Profile** > **Replay** > **Monitoring** > **Use default monitoring template**).
- **Custom monitoring** - This option opens Performance Explorer in monitoring mode with the **Data Source Wizard - Select Data Sources** dialog box open, enabling you to manually configure data sources. Your Performance Explorer monitoring project settings will be saved along with your Silk Performer project settings.
- **No monitoring** - This option enables you to run your test without monitoring of any local or remote servers. With this option the **Automatically start monitoring** setting is disabled (**Settings** > **Active Profile** > **Replay** > **Monitoring** > **Use default monitoring template**).

New Workflow for Preparing Cloud Agents

The new **Prepare Cloud Agents** dialog box offers intuitive controls for defining how many virtual users should be run on each cloud agent. Access the dialog box by clicking **Assign Agents** > **Use cloud agents**.

Slide the slider to the right to select the number of VUsers that you want to have run on each cloud agent. Markers along the slider indicate the number of VUsers that can typically be supported by cloud-based agents when testing various application types. However, the maximum number of VUsers per cloud agent, regardless of application type, is 1,000. The number of VUsers that can actually be supported for your testing scenario may vary of course, depending on the complexity and resource consumption of your specific test.

The **Workload** text field shows the maximum number of VUsers that have been defined for each user type (as defined on the **Workflow - Workload Configuration** dialog box). The **Assignment per region** table shows the resulting allocation of agents across all geographic regions based on your selection. For example, with a **Workload** setting of 100 VUsers and a setting of 20 max VUsers per agent across five geographic regions, each region will run 20 VUsers. The higher the maximum VUsers per agent setting, the fewer agent instances required within each geographic region to support the prescribed workload.

New Workflow for Recording Over Secure Connections

Recording applications over secure connections requires certificate configuration, which often turned out to be a challenge. This procedure has now been integrated into the general workflow for recording a script, providing help at your fingertips as you navigate through the **Model Script** wizard. Recording over secure connections is now an easy and intuitive task.

New Workflow Bar Context Menu

On the Silk Performer workflow bar, you now have a quick and easy way to switch between a display of the simplified workflow bar or the full workflow bar to guide you in the steps for configuring and running your tests.

The workflow bar displays the simplified workflow by default. If you want to create a performance baseline to set response time thresholds, enable the full workflow bar by right-clicking on the **Simple Workflow** area on the right-side of the workflow bar and selecting **Show Full Workflow Bar**.

Transformation of Custom Content Types and Encodings

By default, transformation is enabled for HTTP requests and responses that have the HTTP header `Content-Type` or `Content-Encoding` set to the following values:

- Flex/AMF3 (Adobe, BlazeDS, GraniteDS): `Content-Type` set to `"application/x-amf"`
- Java over HTTP: `Content-Type` set to `"application/octet-stream"` or `"application/x-java-serialized-object"`
- Microsoft Silverlight: `Content-Type` set to `"application/soap+msbin1"` or `"application/msbin1"`
- GZIP POST Data: `Content-Encoding` set to `gzip`

If you need to transform data with a different HTTP Content-Type or Content-Encoding header, this can be customized in the profile settings under **Settings** > **Active Profile** > **Web (Protocol Level)** > **Transformation** in the **Additional Parameters** field.

Precise Percentile Calculation

Silk Performer now offers a more precise percentile calculation, including the option to specify the desired granularity yourself. The default granularity of 1 percent now delivers extremely precise percentile charts for your overview reports, even in very large load tests with many agent computers. Lower granularity enables a more precise percentile calculation, but consumes more memory on each agent computer.

The BDL function `MeasureCalculatePercentiles` has been deprecated. If you use this function in a script, it will internally call the new `MeasureCalculateRawPercentiles` function with default parameters instead.

Usability Enhancements

Usability enhancements have been implemented throughout Silk Performer:

Help at Your Fingertips

Many of the Silk Performer dialog boxes have been polished and enhanced and now provide help at your fingertips, making it even easier to get started. Help links on the dialogs allow you to access the Help, providing exactly the information that is required.

Start Page Enhancements

The Silk Performer Start Page has been redesigned to showcase a new color scheme and also includes the following new features:

- Links to getting started videos
- Access to built-in RSS feeds for community activity and blog posts
- Ability to Suggest a Feature via a link at the bottom of the What's New page and vote on previously suggested features

UAC Compliancy for Visual Studio .NET Add-On

The Visual Studio .NET Add-On is now fully UAC compliant. The add-on can now be enabled/disabled without administrator rights (Windows 7/Vista).

Product Update Notification

Silk Performer now automatically informs you on the Start Page whenever a new product update is available for download. Simply click the provided link to access and install the latest product update. You can also check manually for updates through the **Help** > **Check for Update** menu.

Updated Java Profile Settings

The Java profile settings **General** and **Advanced** pages (**Settings** > **Active Profile** > **Java**) have been updated to reflect current Java standards.

The **Version** combobox has been removed as, since version 1.2, all Java versions work the same way.

The **System Classpath** text box has been removed.

The **Use System Classpath** check box has been moved to the **Advanced** page as it is only required for backwards compatibility.

Version and Build Information in System Configuration Manager

When connecting to a Silk Performer agent, System Configuration Manager now displays the version and build number of the installed Silk Performer software.

Technology Updates

Support for Microsoft Visual Studio 2012 and Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5

Silk Performer Visual Studio .NET Add-On now supports Microsoft Visual Studio 2012, in addition to Microsoft Visual Studio 2010. Together with this update, Silk Performer and Silk Performer .NET Explorer now support Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5. The Microsoft .NET Framework version can now also be configured for your script replay.

Support for OpenSSL 1.0.1c

Silk Performer supports the latest version of OpenSSL, the open-source toolkit that implements the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL v2/v3) and Transport Layer Security (TLS v1) protocols as well as a full-strength general purpose cryptography library.

Enhanced Agent Health Control Measurements

The `Responsiveness` agent health control measure now better reflects the overall health of agent machines by factoring in both the `Application health` and `System health` measures. In effect, the `Responsiveness` agent health control measure reflects the "worst case scenario" result of both the `Application health` and the `System health` measures. This enhancement is of particular value when measuring SAP client responsiveness and Internet Explorer load levels during browser-driven load testing.

JBoss 6 and 7 Support

Performance Explorer now offers monitoring support for JBoss 6 and 7 via JMX.

Known Issues in Silk Performer

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

General Silk Performer Issues

Eclipse Plug-In does not work on Microsoft Windows 8 and Microsoft Windows Server 2012

Problem:

The Silk Performer Eclipse Plug-In does not work on Microsoft Windows 8 and Microsoft Windows Server 2012

.

Resolution:

On Microsoft Windows 8 and Microsoft Windows Server 2012, run Eclipse in compatibility mode. To do this, perform the following steps:

1. Right-click `eclipse.exe` and select **Properties**.
2. On the **Properties** dialog box, select the **Compatibility** tab.
3. In the **Compatibility mode** section, check **Run this program in compatibility mode for:** and select `Windows 7`.

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.

Recording does not work with all Opera versions

Problem:

Recording does not work with all Opera versions since version 8.0.

Resolution:

Use an older Opera version or another browser for recording. Replay is not affected by this issue.

Resolved Issues

The following issues have been resolved in Silk Performer 9.5:

Issue #	Description	Notes
RPI 1078750	`System 5 - access denied` error occurs when attempting to monitor a remote server .	The documentation has been updated with instructions on avoiding this error.
RPI 1082982	Evaluation license does not work if User Account Control (UAC) is turned on.	
RPI 1083232	The Silk Performer Eclipse plug-in is not supported on a Windows 2008 R2 Server platform.	
RPI 1083497	Under certain circumstances, a load test would run forever and cannot be stopped, aborted or killed.	
RPI 1083598	When a Silk Performer function accesses the `window.external` property, this results in JavaScript errors.	
RPI 1083743	Treat `Wait<Resource>` users like normal `Wait` users.	The BDL functions `GlobalWaitFor`, `GlobalResourceEnter`, `GlobalResourceRelease`, and `WaitFor` no longer influence the transaction busy time.
RPI 1083977	In the Parameter Wizard, the preview of the variable declaration does not display in the window.	
RPI 1084252	The Silk Launcher Service is not updated if a previous version is already running.	
RPI 1084328	There is an issue converting UTF-8 characters to XML on non-English using code page systems.	
RPI 1085314	Report a warning or error when a negative value is specified in a `ThinkTime` function.	
RPI 1085520	In TrueLog Explorer, the HTML content is displayed in an XML format.	

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 SilkMeter. You must have administrator privileges to install SilkMeter.

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

Install SilkMeter 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 SilkMeter 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 9.5 needs a new 9.5 license. If you want to run a previous version of Silk Performer during the upgrade process to version 9.5, 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	• Microsoft Windows XP 32bit with Service Pack 3 • Microsoft Windows XP 64bit with Service Pack 2 • 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 Server 2012
Web browsers	• Windows Internet Explorer 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10 • Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or later • Google Chrome • Apple Safari For browser-driven load testing: • Windows Internet Explorer 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
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 Runtime Environment 1.2.2: classic and hotspot 1.0 • Java Development Kit 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7 • IBM Java Development Kit 1.3 • Eclipse 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6

System Area	Tested With
.NET support	• Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 • Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 and 2012 • WCF Web Services
Rich Internet applications (Web 2.0)	• Microsoft Silverlight 4, 5 • Adobe Flex 2, 3, 4 • GraniteDS 2.3.2 • BlazeDS 3.2.0 • Google Web Toolkit • ExtJS 3 • 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	• Microsoft Proxy Server 2.0 • Netscape Proxy Server 3.5 (due to a defect in Netscape Proxy Server, HTTP tunneling is not supported) • WinGate 4.0.1 • Squid 2.3.STABLE4 (LINUX) • Squid 2.4 STABLE3 (LINUX) • Dante 1.1.6 (LINUX)
Source Code Control Integration (SCCI) support	• StarTeam (with SCC Integration patch) 2005 R2, 2006, 2008 • Microsoft Visual SourceSafe 6.0c, 6.0d, 2005 • Merant Version Manager 8.0.2.0

End of Support

Please note that the following technologies have been deprecated and are no longer supported in this version of Silk Performer:

- Microsoft Visual Studio 2008
- Microsoft .NET Framework 1.0 and 1.1