Silk Central 19.0

Release Notes

Contents

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Version 19.0

June, 2018

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 19.0

Silk Central 19.0 introduces significant enhancements and changes.

Accessibility

In order to meet the accessibility requirements of blind or visually impaired users, Silk Central 19.0 focuses on enhancing the navigation of Silk Central through use of the keyboard and by facilitating audible feedback through use of screen readers.

Micro Focus recommends using NVDA in combination with Mozilla Firefox.

Administration

Using a Token for Authentication with Web Services

In order to support organizations in improving security, Silk Central 19.0 now allows using a web-service token for authentication through web services rather than user name and password.

Using such a web-service token increases security as your username and password are no longer sent over the network. Additionally, if you are using LDAP integration, using a web-service token makes the authentication independent of your password update policy and reduces the maintenance effort to keep integrations working. As long as a web-service token is not deleted or no new token is created for the same user, the token remains valid and grants access to Silk Central web services. Handle a web-service token with the same care that you would apply for any other authentication factor.

Enhanced Permissions

Describes the permission enhancements in Silk Central 19.0.

Permission to Access the Audit Log

The Audit Log contains information about certain user actions, for example when users log on and log off. To protect this information, Silk Central 19.0 introduces an additional permission to allow organizations increased granularity on specifying which users have access to the Audit Log.

Permission to view and delete log files

Depending on the log level, log files contain more or less information about certain processes of the system. Depending on the test environment, this can be sensitive information or a valuable documentation of error scenarios. To protect this information from unauthorized viewing and careless deletion, Silk Central 19.0 introduces new permissions for viewing and deleting such log files.

Permission to manage or delete status reasons

To enforce consistency and to prevent uncontrolled creation or customization across projects, Silk Central 19.0 introduces new permissions for managing and deleting status reasons.

Tests

Marking Libraries as Read Only

One of the prime directives of baselines is that they must not be changed as they represent a certain state like a special checkpoint or a release. When using shared libraries with previous versions of Silk Central, it was not possible to prevent users from performing changes to shared test steps or keywords which might cause a change to a baseline. With Silk Central 19.0, this is solved as shared libraries now can be set to be read only. This functionality is controlled by the new **Set libraries read-only** permission.

Shared Tests

Silk Central 19.0 provides further enhancements across the functionality of sharing tests between projects.

Selection UI instead of copy and paste

In Silk Central 18.5, shared tests were consumed through a copy and paste approach. In Silk Central 19.0 this approach is replaced with a selection UI where tests can be selected from a dialog within the consuming project. Copy and paste between a sharing project and a consuming project no longer creates a reference.

Ability to detach consumed tests

Depending on the testing approach that is taken by an organization, projects may start by consuming tests from a central repository for consistent testing of a functionality across projects. When tests need to be customized due to variation in functionality in the context of the consuming project, the tests should be detached from the central repository - consequently becoming local to the project and no longer requiring change updates from the template. For this purpose it is now possible to simply delete the reference for tests in the consuming project. Such a removal is also tracked in the history to allow understanding who and when removed a reference.

Ability to see the usage of a specific test

Changing a test in the sharing project can have significant impact on all consuming projects. For that reason, each test in the sharing project now provides a **Usages** tab where all consuming tests are listed.

Enhanced handling of test type changes

In the previous version of Silk Central, test type changes were not automatically consumed, which means you had to manually change the test type in the consumer project. With Silk Central 19.0, changes to the test type are consumed as any other change and you no longer need to perform such manual changes.

Execution Planning and Test Execution

External Executions

Silk Central further extends its ability to integrate with existing tooling ecosystems by providing functionality to consume results for automated tests without having those automated tests executed through Silk Central execution servers.

This allows users with existing proprietary execution environments, which are too complicated or special to be adopted to the execution environment of Silk Central, or users with automated test results from various sources, for example continuous integration (CI) systems, to still collect all results of their whole testing

process in one central place and to associate these results with their requirements, versions, and builds for holistic reporting and decision making.

The whole process around test creation, which means the representation of the actual test in Silk Central, and around execution planning does not change. You create tests in Silk Central and assign these tests to execution plans to execute them.

The difference is in the deployment settings of the execution plan. Instead of specifying an execution server, you enable the so called *External execution of assigned tests*.

Running such an execution plan then results in an execution plan run that is visible like normal execution plan runs in the Silk Central UI, with the difference that this execution plan is waiting to receive results from the external execution environment.

To interact from external with such external execution plan runs, Silk Central 19.0 introduces a whole new REST API to query information around the execution plan run itself and its assigned test runs. Furthermore, the new REST API allows uploading result files and setting the status for single test runs as well as finishing the overall execution plan run. The REST API can be explored through an interactive documentation on the machine where Silk Central is installed by navigating to the URL *[host]:[port][/instance]/Services1.0/swagger-ui.html*, for example *http://localhost:19120/Services1.0/swagger-ui.html*.

Custom Step Properties in Manual Offline Testing

Custom step properties are now also included in the information which is made available in Excel for the purpose of manual offline testing.

Visibility of Current Execution Status of Tests

To provide a better overview on currently running tests, the **Current Executions** view of the **Activities** page now shows the status of the execution plan.

When distributed test execution is activated, there is a different state for each test in an execution plan. Therefore the execution state information is made visible for each test execution in the execution plan run details. Each test is handled individually like an execution plan having one test assigned. For each assigned test, you can now see whether the test is waiting for an execution server, is currently executed, is fetching results, or is already finished.

API Enhancements

Silk Central 19.0 offers a new REST API for triggering executions and getting results of finished runs. With this API it is also possible to pass parameters when starting a run.

Integrations

Manual Testing on Devices from Mobile Center

Silk Central now allows access to mobile devices that are provided through Mobile Center for use in the manual testing process.

Jira Agile - Extended JQL Character Limit

The JQL string can now have up to 1000 characters, instead of the 128 characters that were allowed in previous versions of Silk Central.

Team Foundation Server 2017 Support

Silk Central 19.0 now supports Team Foundation Server 2017 for source control integration and issue tracking integration.

CI Integration

Silk Central 19.0 provides enhancements for CI integrations.

Ability to pass additional execution information

Silk Central now supports passing additional execution information when triggering executions from your CI server. Look out for the according blog entry on the *Silk Central Blog*.

Pipeline support for Jenkins

The Silk Central Jenkins integration now supports the usage of pipelines, allowing a more efficient approach for continuous integration.

Support for SAP Solution Manager 7.2

Silk Central 19.0 now supports SAP Solution Manager 7.2 for requirements integration and issue tracking integration.

Microsoft SQL Server 2017

Silk Central 19.0 now supports Microsoft SQL Server 2017.

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	8 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

For each additional instance that you add, at least 10 GB of additional disk space are required, and the following initial minimal memory:

* Front-end server: 500 MB
* Application server: 300 MB
* Chart server: 200 MB

Depending on your workload, these values may need to be higher.

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.

Proxy Server Requirements

If you plan to use Microsoft IIS for Silk Central, install the following IIS extensions before you install Silk Central:

* Application Request Routing (ARR)
* URL Rewrite

You can download the latest versions of these extensions on the *IIS Downloads* page.

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	- Google Chrome - Internet Explorer 10 or later (no compatibility mode) - Mozilla Firefox - Microsoft Edge

The manual testing UI requires Java Runtime Environment (JRE) 7 Update 79 or later. For manual testing with Internet Explorer 11, a 32bit version of Java is required to be installed on the client.

Resolved Issues and Customer-Driven Enhancements

The following issues have been resolved in Silk Central 19.0:

SI #	RPI #	Description
2846487	1102606	Issue Manager: Ability to specify required fields in the context of actions.
2848919	1102910	Shared libraries: Ability to set libraries to read only to prevent modification in context of baselined projects.
2870082	1105958	Permissions: Separate permissions for managing and deleting status reasons.
2870336	1106005	Permissions: Separate permission for viewing the Audit log.
2870336	1106007	Permissions: Separate permissions for viewing and deleting log files.
2880054	629838	Filtering: Ability to filter for "---" when using built-in platform attribute.
3104251	1109243	Drop and recreate view TM_V_Last2Weeks to avoid permission problem `ORA-01720: grant option does not exist for 'SYS.DUAL'`.
3112951	1110079	When starting execution plan, evaluate filter before checking if any tests are assigned.
3114272	629716	User management: Show first and last name in group and user assignments.
3123199	1111228	**Synchronize Testing Cycle** action: Check for **Synchronize manual test runs** permission.
3125817	1112675	Prevent `UpdateRequirements` API from updating flag status.
3127132	1111413	AWS Cloud Integration: Add Sydney region to region list and update instance types to reflect correct instance types from AWS.
3132524	1111948	Keyword issue: Linked test cases do not retain keywords in linked copy.
3134740	1112146	Manual offline testing: Include custom test step properties.
3135103	1112197	Silk Central does not generate result file for previous runs if current run is aborted.
3135590	1112228	Problems with wildcard filters on non-unique parameter names.
3135826	631423	Silk Meter: Synchronization of mobile license check-out in case of more than one client.
3135934	1112250	Error exporting project with attachments.
3136202	631354	Silk Meter: Enhanced mobile license handling in case of more than one client machine checking out licenses.
3136217	1112284	Security alert for Silk Central.
3142135	1112978	Application server stops deploying executions until it is restarted.
3142590	1112918	Test run results do not display test data used for Silk Test Classic test case execution.
3146079	1113197	Manual test results: Show result files (images) as part of PDF.
3146728	633773	Silk Performer integration: Issue in writing percentile data.

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.

Tested and Supported Software

This section lists the software with which Silk Central 19.0 has been tested as well as the software that Silk Central supports.

Operating System Support

- Microsoft Windows Server 2012
- Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2016
- Microsoft Windows 7 32-bit/64-bit Service Pack 1 (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 8.1 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Microsoft Windows 10 32-bit/64-bit (execution server)
- Android 4.4, 5.x, 6.x, 7.x, 8.x (mobile device testing)
- iOS 9.3, 10.x, 11.x (mobile device testing)

> ⚠️ **Important:** *Update for Universal C Runtime in Windows* is required for all Microsoft Windows operating systems. For Microsoft Windows Server 2016, the installation option **Windows Server (Server with Desktop Experience)** is required.

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
- Microsoft Edge

Web Server Support

- IIS 8 32 bit/64 bit
- IIS 10 32 bit/64 bit

Database Management System Support

- Microsoft SQL Server 2014 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft SQL Server 2016 Service Pack 1
- Microsoft SQL Server 2017
- Oracle 11g (version 11.2.0.4). Oracle RAC is not supported.
- Oracle 12c (version 12.1.0.2). Oracle RAC is not supported.

Integrated Micro Focus Software Support

- AccuRev 6.2

- Caliber 11.4, 11.5
- Mobile Center 2.51 or later
- Silk Performer 19.0
- Silk Test 19.0
- StarTeam 15.x, 16.x
- Silk TestPartner 6.3
- Unified Functional Testing (UFT) 14.0

Integrated Third-Party Software Support

- Apache Commons Virtual File System (VFS)
- Atlassian JIRA 6, 7
- Atlassian JIRA Agile 6, 7
- Bugzilla 4.4.13, 5.0.4
- CA Agile Central
- Git 2.14.2
- IBM Rational ClearQuest 8.0
- IBM Rational DOORS 9.5, 9.6
- IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation 6.0
- JUnit 4.x, 5.x
- Java Runtime Environment 1.7 or later
- Microsoft Office Excel (.xlsx) for importing tests and requirements
- Microsoft Office Word (.doc, .docx) for importing requirements
- Microsoft Visual Studio/Visual Studio Test Agent 2015
- NUnit 2.6.4, NUnit Console and Engine 3.8
- SAP Solution Manager 7.2
- Subversion 1.9
- Team Foundation Server 2015, 2017
- VersionOne Enterprise Edition
- VMware vCloud Director 5.5

End of Support

This topic lists the features that are no longer supported in Silk Central 19.0.

IBM Rational RequisitePro

IBM Rational RequisitePro is no longer supported with Silk Central 19.0.

SAP Solution Manager 7.1

SAP Solution Manager 7.1 is no longer supported with Silk Central 19.0.

Team Foundation Server 2012 and 2013

Team Foundation Server 2012 and 2013 are no longer supported with Silk Central 19.0.

Microsoft SQL Server 2012

Microsoft SQL Server 2012 is no longer supported with Silk Central 19.0.

Planned End of Support

This section lists the features that will no longer be supported in a future release of Silk Central.

IBM Rational DOORS

In a future release, support for IBM Rational DOORS will be discontinued. Instead, Silk Central now supports IBM Rational DOORS Next Generation.

Microsoft Windows 7 (execution server)

In a future release, support for Microsoft Windows 7 will be discontinued.

VMware vCloud

In a future release, support for VMware vCloud will be discontinued.