What’s New in Silk Performer 17.5?

Micro Focus® Silk Performer™ is our market-leading load and performance testing solution. Silk 17.5 offers significant productivity and usability enhancements to ensure a consistent user experience anytime, anywhere, on any device.

Key Benefits
Create a Seamless Digital Experience
Responsive web design optimizes the user viewing experience on a range of devices by changing page layout depending on the viewport width of the browser. But when ‘content is like water’ performance testing is a challenge, Silk Performer 17.5 helps verify if RWD will render and perform well on multiple devices by creating resolution-aware performance tests. Visual breakpoint detection helps reflect the true user experience during performance tests.

Increase Load Test Scalability without Adding Hardware Resources
Hardware capacity can be a major limiting factor when assessing application performance at scale. Silk Performer 17.5 overcomes operating system limitations that inefficiently leave hardware capacity stranded and unused. Silk Performer 17.5 introduces a new level of scalability for load and performance testing of UI-based technologies by increasing the efficiency of powerful hardware resources.

Efficiently Reuse Script Assets
Performance testing can be conducted before application deployment using simulated load and stress tests or after an application is in production to monitor real-time user experience. Silk Performance Manager synthetic monitoring is the newest product in the Silk Portfolio. Script assets from functional and load testing can be efficiently reused for synthetic monitoring in Silk Performance Manager, which saves time and reduces complexity.

Key Features
Silk Performer 17.5 Features
RESPONSIVE WEB DESIGN VISUAL BREAKPOINT DETECTION
Page layout will often change when a web application passes a visual breakpoint, and responsive web design typically has several visual breakpoints. Silk Performer 17.5 detects these visual break points to better reflect the true user experience during application performance testing. Silk Performer analyzes a specified website or web application, showing the results in a Page Analysis summary. The Page Analysis report displays the application on a variety of end user devices and provides comprehensive content rendering information to help determine which resolutions and end user devices to identify for performance testing.

System Requirements
Operating Systems
• Windows 10
• Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2
• Windows 8 and 8.1
• Windows 7
• Windows Server 2008 R2
• Windows Vista

Please check the release notes for a full list of enhancements in Silk Performer 17.5.

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IMPROVED SCALABILITY FOR UI-BASED REPLAY TECHNOLOGIES
Windows operating systems do not dedicate all available hardware resources to a single Windows session. For load testing with UI-based technologies such as browser-driven web or SAPGUI, Silk Performer 17.5 can distribute load test ‘virtual users’ over several Windows sessions to better leverage powerful hardware resources and significantly increase scalability of load tests. Virtual user simulations that execute Java or .Net Framework code, which is not designed to run in multiple instances, can now be spread over several Windows sessions.
TrueLog Explorer Enhancements

**TRUELOG TREE FILTER**
An advanced filter for TrueLog trees optionally hides nodes to make the tree short and easier to read, which is useful when working with large TrueLogs. Select from a variety of different node types like image nodes, JavaScript nodes, TCP/IP nodes, and more. Also, choose from a range of settings specific to the selected TrueLog type. The TrueLog tree filter is highly customizable, and 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. With Silk Performer 17.5, TrueLog Explorer provides a new option: Binary. Received data can be viewed in binary form and saved to disk, which is useful for files that cannot be displayed in TrueLog Explorer.

Monitoring Workflow
Alongside the Simple Workflow Bar and the Full Workflow Bar, Silk Performer 17.5 also provides a Monitoring Workflow Bar. This feature is designed to create monitors for Silk Performance Manager, our new application performance management tool. Silk Performance Manager measures application performance from the end user’s perspective, after the application is in production, by executing synthetic business transactions and monitoring response times. Scripts created for functional and load tests in Silk Test and Silk Performer can be reused to monitor workflows in Silk Performance Manager.

CloudBurst
CloudBurst offers a number of new regions.

For Azure:
- Canada Central (Toronto)
- Canada East (Quebec)
- UK South (London)

For AWS:
- Mumbai

Usability Enhancements

**RECORDING AND SCRIPT GENERATION**
- Advanced request filtering for script generation: The filtering capabilities for capture files have been expanded to include an advanced request filter. Besides the current domain filter, requests for script generation that match the specified filter criteria can also be excluded.
- Cleaner scripts through standard filters and domain blacklist: Web browsers often communicate with services to ensure that websites are safe or to track usage statistics. This application-independent traffic can lead to overloaded and messy scripts. Silk Performer 17.5 automatically filters this traffic, so you get clean and readable scripts.

**QUANTILE DATA SIZE REDUCTION**
Since the introduction of quantile data in Silk Performer, load test results can be resampled without losing User Type information. The size of these result files was problematic. In Silk Performer 17.5, the quantile data file format has been optimized, which results in considerably smaller quantile files.

**MOUSE/KEY COMBINATIONS FOR BROWSER-DRIVEN BDL FUNCTIONS**
The BDL functions BrowserClick, BrowserDoubleClick, BrowserNativeClick, and BrowserNativeDoubleClick are used to specify a modifier key (Ctrl, Shift, Alt) for the parameter nButton. These functions make it easy to simulate a mouse click while a modifier key is pressed.

**MULTIPLE HASHCODES FOR CITRIXWAITFORSCREEN**
The BDL function CitrixWaitForScreen is used to specify a hash value through the parameter sHash. With Silk Performer 17.5, this parameter can also be a list of hash values separated by a special character. Specifying multiple hash values can be necessary if a script is designed to run on different operating systems, resolutions, or color depths.

**LISTING ENABLED USER TYPES ON TOP**
The enabled user types on the Workflow—Workload Configuration dialog can now be moved to the top of the list. This feature can be useful if a large number of user types have been defined but only few user types have been enabled at a time. The enabled user types display on the top of the list and are immediately visible without the need to scroll down a long list.

**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 17.5 provides a results recovery workflow to recover the lost result parts and rebuild a valid results set. If controller loss occurs during a CloudBurst load test, Silk Performer will download the results data from cloud agents as necessary.

**REVISION PROPERTY**
The Silk Performer project file now contains a Project Revision 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 now supported for monitoring with Silk Performer.
- OpenSSL 1.0.2j now supported.
Why not try Silk Performer for free to discover how it can improve your load and performance testing? Try it now at: www.microfocus.com/products/silk-portfolio/silk-performer/trial-download