

Silk Central

Micro Focus Silk Central is a unified test management solution that drives re-use and efficiency. It provides application readiness visibility, holistically manages manual test and automated test, and offers rich integrations.

What's New over the Last 2 Years

Business Process Testing (BPT)

To help customers validate end-to-end business transactions, Silk Central now supports business process testing (BPT)—an extension of Silk Central's manual testing capabilities.

This new functionality enables users to define input and output parameters for business components and form an 'information flow' that emulates the motion between business units. A status bar visualizes business process test progress. Statuses of finished component tests can be corrected when necessary, but such changes are captured for audit purposes.

Test Asset Workflow

Another new feature, the Test Asset Workflow, enables users to map processes in a corporate environment. It sets 'states' for manual tests and defines the tasks to be performed and by which role. It ensures a given sequence of work is followed, for example, approved tests only are selected for execution.

Need insight into the workflow status to facilitate planning and control? Within the 'Execution Planning' area of Silk Central, it shows the workflow state at the points of execution, and state changes synchronized during the execution, to ensure the auditability of manual test reports.

In addition, workflow state of tests can be edited from the grid view, and all manual tests at the same workflow state can be changed together.

Shared Tests

Silk Central now offers central test management to drive cross-project re-use; it creates a single point of truth, and one location for

updates. Centrally updated tests automatically become available to local projects (consumers) and where deviation from the central script is necessary, they can be moved to local projects. Reused tests still reference their origin, the central repository, and the level of test reuse is made visible.

Test Planning and Execution

Distributed execution allows tests in one execution plan to be distributed to different execution servers. And by enabling **parallel execution**, automated tests across every execution server (physical or virtual) are run at the same time, reducing overall test time and improving efficiency.

Additional functionality within Silk Central enables further integration with existing tooling ecosystems by utilizing automated test results from outside Silk Central, while a new REST API enables such **external executions**. The central management of results drives improved analytics, and embraces external test frameworks.

Silk Central now can **automatically rerun tests** if they finish with the status 'failed' or 'not executed'. Additionally it is possible to start a subset of the tests that have been manually assigned to an execution plan, without the need to change the assignment.

More **insight into test executions** is enabled. This includes filtering tests through Source Control profiles, Run Comments or Status Reasons within the 'Tests' grid, viewing version and build information of automated tests in 'Current Executions' grid. Users can check the deployment time when the automated test execution plan is distributed to the execution

server. In the 'Manual Test Results' view, you can choose to show only those issues in current run.

Attributes are shared between Tests and Execution Plans to increase insight into data usage and drive reuse. Attributes page grid now contains indications whether an attribute is used in tests or execution plans.

The NOT logic for filters and reports is introduced to extend accessibility of data. Content of document view in the 'Execution Planning' unit can be **downloaded to Microsoft Excel** for analytics and reporting, and the applied filters, sorting, grouping, and order settings of the columns in the view are also applied to the downloaded data. Moreover, Global Search allows performing a search on the reports and their description now.

Execution Server in Kubernetes

The new Kubernetes plugin allows you to integrate with cloud ecosystems that can be accessed through the Kubernetes API. Together with the added support of distributed test executions for virtual execution servers this adds another powerful way for cloud testing.

Issue Management

Custom required fields are now displayed in issue details to increase the visibility of them.

For better productivity, new users are now notified by default if an issue in their inbox has changed and when an issue is assigned to them.

The management of Issue Tracking Profiles has been improved by setting their status to active or inactive.

Management and Control

MANDATORY ATTRIBUTES AND MANDATORY CUSTOM PROPERTIES

Mandatory Attributes of test and Mandatory Custom Properties of requirement help standardize approaches and data usage by defining properties and attributes to ensure requirements or tests are not created without them.

GLOBAL LISTS

Global List is a new attribute type, maintained only once, and used across projects. This reduces data management effort, while guaranteeing a common set of attribute values. Centrally manage Global Lists for data standardization and maintainability across Requirements, Tests and Execution Plans.

LINKED FIELDS

Enables the grouping of value lists where the available values of one list depend on the selection in the other. Only having the valid subset of values available in a list reduces the likelihood of wrong input. Users can utilize Linked Lists for data selection and management of related fields, to improve usability and process. It is available for Requirements, Tests, and Issues.

USER LIST

This is a new attribute type. Attributes of this type can be used in Tests and Execution Plans, and populated automatically to project users.

Integrations

MICRO FOCUS CONNECT

Its enhanced connector for Silk Central provides extensive integration capabilities in line with the [Micro Focus Connect portfolio of integrations](#). It simplifies the integration setup between Silk Central and Micro Focus Connect by removing report configuration and extended APIs. Users achieve better visibility into test asset relationships, and traceability between tests and defects, and optimized requirement synchronization performance.

MICROSOFT TEAMS INTEGRATION

The integration of Silk Central with Microsoft Teams provides a means of collaboration for teams of manual testers working together on a project. A set of predefined actions trigger messages to be sent to Microsoft Teams. These messages deliver the crucial information and links to jump to the relevant items in Silk Central or to perform the next steps in the manual testing process.

UFT DEVELOPER INTEGRATION

Extended support for automation tools includes UFT Developer execution through the JUnit and MSTest test types.

LOADRUNNER PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION

The LoadRunner plugin allows for seamless execution and analysis of LoadRunner scenarios, and the results can be seen in Silk Central.

ENHANCED ATlassian JIRA INTEGRATION

- Enhanced security to support API token instead of 'plain' user passwords for Jira user authentications.
- Mandatory fields are highlighted when creating an issue through the Silk Central interface.
- Jira Software Cloud support.

Security Enhancements

- Increased role permission granularity with:
 - Separate role features for 'Tests' and 'Execution Planning'.
 - Introduction of a specific role permission for updating build information on finished runs, and such action is documented, increasing auditability.
- Able to deactivate SOAP Services on Axis 1.4 to ensure adherence to organizational security policies.
- 'Manage Project Settings' permission is required now for editing the custom panel information, instead of 'Manage Project' permission.

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- For organizations that JNLP is prohibited by security policy, Silk Central provides an alternative to it.
- Restrict JMX access to relevant Silk Central services to localhost, and allow JMX access to execution service only on a secured port during Silk Central installation.

Did You Know?

- Help us improve your test management experience by participating the Silk Central Improvement Program.
- Learn more about recent releases by reviewing the [Silk Central Documentation](#) online.
- Keep up to date on the latest news and events with the [Application Delivery Management Blog](#).

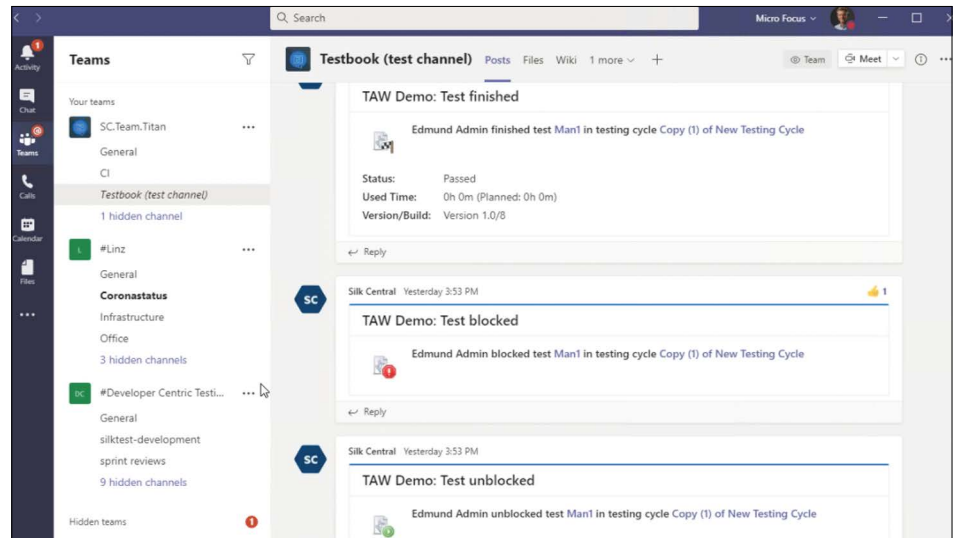


Figure 1. Message from Silk Central shown in Microsoft Teams