Altair Access Desktop 2019.2

Release Notes

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Altair Access Desktop Release Notes

These release notes describe the system requirements, new features, resolved and known issues of Altair Access^{TM} Desktop 2019.2. Please see the following sections for more information:

- About Access Desktop
- System Requirements
- Supported Product Configurations
- New Features
- Resolved Issues
- Known Issues

About Access Desktop

Altair Access Desktop provides a simple, powerful, and consistent interface for submitting and monitoring jobs on remote clusters, clouds, or other resources. Engineers and researchers can now focus on core activities and spend less time learning how to run applications or moving data around. The Access Desktop remote visualization and collaboration capabilities bring access to an expensive, highend 3D visualization datacenter hardware right to the user. Access Desktop provides an ability to visualize the results by extracting plot and animation data. You can view plots for running jobs as well as for jobs which have been successfully completed. You can download and analyze animations using the Altair HyperView Player.

Features

- Novice to Expert: simple and powerful
- Same UX: desktop and web
- Secure: protected access to HPC resources
- End-to-end: submit, monitor progress, steer, fix, and rerun jobs
- Save time: Simplify job submission and management thanks to a powerful GUI with smart, simplified interfaces
- Be more productive: Spend more time focused on work and not IT tasks - for example, monitor jobs graphically without having to download huge job files
- Increase ROI: Consolidate access to applications and optimize license availability
- Reduce errors and improve consistency: Embed your company's best-practice "know how" directly into Application Definitions used for job submission

To obtain the latest release package, contact your Altair sales representative by writing to sales@altair.com or support@altair.com. For more information, visit us at www.pbsworks.com.

System Requirements

Supported Platform

Access Desktop is supported on the following Windows-64 platforms:

- Windows 7
- Windows 10

Hardware Requirements

Access Desktop requires a minimum hardware configuration:

Hardware	Minimum Requirement	Recommended
CPU	2 CPU cores with a minimum speed of 2.5 GHz	4 CPU cores with a minimum speed of 2.5 GHz
Memory (Physical)	2 GB	8 GB
Disk Space	2 GB	4 GB

Supported Product Configurations

The currently supported Access Desktop product configurations are:

Access Desktop	PBS Professional
2019.2	- 19.2.2 - 19.1.1 - 18.2.3 - 18.2.2 - 18.1.1

New Features

This section provides information about the new features of Access Desktop 2019.2:

- Enhancements for Application Definitions
- Infrastructure Library Updates
- Copy Back Directory Icons
- Command Line Interface Updates
- Online Help Improvements

Enhancements for Application Definitions

The following are the enhancements for Application Definitions:

- Debugging - The debugging application definitions becomes easier as the information gets logged from the logger statement in the presubmit and refresh scripts.
- Compatibility - The functions and capabilities of Application Definition APIs has been tested so that it is portable with the Access applications.
- The Access Desktop user interface is updated when any changes are made to a local application definition after removing the time stamp file (time_stamp.txt). Users are also notified of the application definition change.

Infrastructure Library Updates

A more secure and reliable foundation is now provided by updates to the following infrastructure libraries: Tomcat, Java etc.

Copy Back Directory Icons

If the COPY_BACK_DIR field is provided with a directory name to backup files when you are submitting a job using `pas-submit` command, then Access Desktop does not change or update icon of the directory that you provided.

Command Line Interface Updates

The following are the updates done in the command line interface:

- The timestamp of when the application definition was last updated in the cluster is provided as part of the output when you execute `pas-getapps` command with `-F JSON` parameter.

- SSH Key Support - Now, Access Desktop generates SSH Keys by default when you are using `pas-server-add` and `pas-passwd` commands. This enables the user not to provide username and password for subsequent logins. A `-g` option is provided for `pas-server-add` and `pas-passwd` command if you want to disable generating SSH Keys.

Online Help Improvements

Access Desktop will now fetch and display the latest version of the User Guide (WebHelp) from Altair Connect. As a fall back, the application can also be configured to use a local copy of the Help.

Resolved Issues

These issues are resolved in Access Desktop 2019.2:

- PA-3841 Access Desktop was not picking the default queue set at PBS Professional level
- PA-4402 Jobs were not listed in Summary page due to applied filter
- PA-4409 Job submission fails when network gets disconnected

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PA-3841 Access Desktop was not picking the default queue set at PBS Professional level

Summary: When the default queue was changed at the PBS Professional level, the change was not picked up by Access Desktop and reflected in the corresponding Application Definitions.

Resolution: The default queue change is now picked up and reflected in the Application Definitions.

PA-4402 Jobs were not listed in Summary page due to applied filter

Summary: If the applied filter is removed using the backspace, then the jobs submitted from Access Desktop were not listed in the Summary page.

Resolution: The job submitted from Access Desktop application are listed in the Summary page.

PA-4409 Job submission fails when network gets disconnected

Summary: If the network connection is lost while a job is being submitted, on reconnection the job submission does not resume.

Resolution: The job submission resumes after network is reconnected.

Known Issues

This section provides information about known issues with Access Desktop 2019.2:

- PA-1380 Job submission error when PBS Professional is installed on Desktop
- PA-1461 Job submission occurs when the credentials for registered user are changed
- PA-1499 Message is not displayed during invalid character validation
- PA-1506 File download does not resume when the network connection is lost and reconnected
- PA-1542 Application screen gets trimmed
- PA-1543 PBS Access mounted drive is showing capacity of the local system
- PA-2024 No indication when the include files referenced from master file are not present
- PA-3842 Access Desktop does not display running job folder or files for a cloud bursting scenario
- PA-3933 Application Definition rendering on UI fails when associated refresh.py is using utils
- PA-4406 Access Desktop application UI becomes blank
- PA-4604 The job gets stuck at uploading state if the file name contains % character

PA-1380 Job submission error when PBS Professional is installed on Desktop

Summary: On Windows, an error is encountered while submitting a job when Access Desktop is installed on the same machine as PBS Professional. Error is:

`com.altair.cm.filemgmt.core.exceptions.OperationFailedException:`

`com.altair.gw.aif.exceptions.OperationFailedException: current working directory can not be null`

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-1461 Job submission occurs when the credentials for registered user are changed

Summary: If the user credentials are changed in PBS Professional, job submission from Access Desktop works with the older credentials until Access Desktop is restarted.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-1499 Message is not displayed during invalid character validation

Summary: When invalid characters are entered in the stage or save profile text box, the box is highlighted with a red border, but no error message is displayed.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-1506 File download does not resume when the network connection is lost and reconnected

Summary: File download does not complete when there is an interruption in network connectivity.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-1542 Application screen gets trimmed

Summary: Application screen is getting trimmed off due to different screen resolutions on Windows desktop.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-1543 PBS Access mounted drive is showing capacity of the local system

Summary: This is due to a Microsoft limitation. Please refer to the knowledge base article:

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/2386902/webdav-mapped-drive-reports-incorrect-drive-capacity

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-2024 No indication when the include files referenced from master file are not present

Summary: Job is submitted without the include files that are referenced in the master files.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-3842 Access Desktop does not display running job folder or files for a cloud bursting scenario

Summary: Folders and files for a job running on a cloud bursted node are not accessible via Access Desktop.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-3933 Application Definition rendering on UI fails when associated refresh.py is using utils

Summary: When a `refresh.py` is using utils for processing and if this utils is not found in Access Desktop then the application definition rendering fails on the UI.

Using utils package in `refresh.py`, one can communicate with PBS to get details like queues, binary paths etc., and to do this there will be directly reading `/etc/pbs.conf` or `qstat` etc,. In PAccess Desktop, there is no local PBS running and these commands are not available, so execution of the command will fail and logs into `pas-server.log`.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-4406 Access Desktop application UI becomes blank

Summary: While working on Access Desktop application, the UI becomes blank.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-4604 The job gets stuck at uploading state if the file name contains % character

Summary: If the input file contains % character, then the job does not get submitted and it stops at uploading state.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.