Altair Access Desktop 2019.3
Release Notes

Altair | PBS Works™

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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 2019.3. Please see the following sections for more information:

- About Access Desktop
- System Requirements
- Supported Product Configurations
- What's New
- 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
2019.3	19.2.3 19.2.2 19.1.1 18.2.4 18.2.3 18.2.2 18.1.1

What's New

This section provides information about the new features of Access Desktop 2019.3:

- Simplified Upgrade Process
- Log Files
- Job Submission Form Enhancements
- Changes in Application Definition Validation

Simplified Upgrade Process

When an update is available, a notification is displayed in the application if you are connected to a Central Repository server. Click the notification to upgrade the application to the latest version.

Log Files

The log files are now retained for seven days in the user's PA_Home folder. This is to reduce the usage of storage space in the user's machine.

Job Submission Form Enhancements

A multi string type argument can be added in the application definition to provide an option to add text information in the Job Submission form. The information added is displayed in multiple-lines in the Job Submission form.

Changes in Application Definition Validation

The site-config.xml file must be updated manually if you add an application definition. Access Desktop does not create a backup of the site-config.xml file. If you delete the site-conifg.xml file, then you must create it manually. Before making changes to the site configuration file, it is recommended to back it up.

When Access Desktop starts, it performs a validation of the existing application definitions. If application definitions fail to meet key criteria, error messages are displayed in the log file indicating why the application definition was invalid.

If an application is not displayed in the Access Desktop user interface after adding a new application definition or making changes to an existing one and restarting Access Desktop, then most likely there were validation problems with the application definition or the site configuration file.

View the log for any error messages and edit the application definition or site configuration file to take any required corrective action.

Resolved Issues

These issues are resolved in Access Desktop 2019.3:

- PA-1380 Access Desktop installation fails on Windows when PBS Professional was installed on the same machine.

PA-1380 Access Desktop installation fails on Windows when PBS Professional was installed on the same machine.

Summary: On Windows, an error has encountered while installing Access Desktop, when PBS Professional was installed on the same machine.
 Error was:

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

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

Work Around: .This issue has been resolved.

Known Issues

This section provides information about known issues with Access Desktop 2019.3:

- 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-5434 pas-admin CLI command does not request for pas-passwd for the first time

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 file.

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 the utils package for processing and the package is not found, the application definition rendering fails in the Desktop user interface.

Using the utils package in `refresh.py`, one can communicate with PBS to get details like queues, binary paths like queues and binary paths. The communication with PBS includes reading /etc/pbs.conf or executing a qstat command. In Access 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, intermittently 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 a % character, the file upload does not complete and the job does not get submitted.

Work Around: No workaround for this issue.

PA-5434 pas-admin CLI command does not request for pas-passwd for the first time

Summary: When you use pas-admin CLI command for the first time, you are not prompted for the pas-passwd and an error is displayed.

No workaround for this issue.