Rational. software

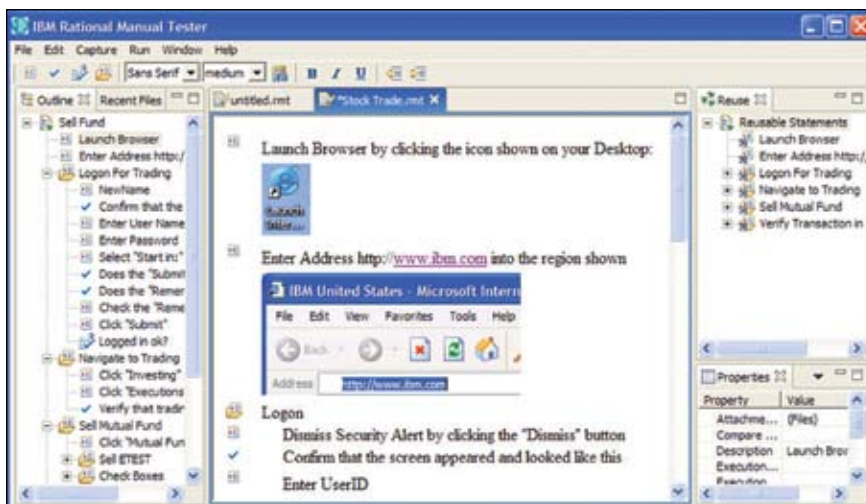# IBM Rational Manual Tester

---

Highlights

■ *Enables manual test creation, execution and control*

■ *Helps establish a bridge to automation by providing keyword capabilities*

■ *Provides a test step reuse palette to enable the sharing of content across multiple tests*

■ *Offers assisted data entry and data verification during test execution to reduce human error*

■ *Features a rich text editor supporting image and document attachment to individual test steps*

■ *Offers multiple test result types and customizable data fields to personalize results collection and simplify analysis*

■ *Imports preexisting Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel software–based manual tests*

■ *Generates spreadsheet-ready results data for advanced reporting and analysis*

■ *Supports usage by distributed teams*

Few organizations have learned to master test automation. As a result, manual testing remains an important part of the testing process; in fact, experience indicates that upwards of 75 percent of all testing is performed manually. There are many reasons project teams rely on manual testing:

• *Recruitment of subject matter experts (SMEs) with no testing background to perform testing*
• *Insufficient test automation experience*
• *Lack of test automation tools*
• *Poor to nonexistent test-automation-ready interfaces in the applications under test*

IBM Rational® Manual Tester software addresses the needs of teams performing at least a portion of their testing manually. It overcomes the ad hoc nature of hands-on verification techniques to help ensure optimal testing and defect discovery in what can otherwise be a high-investment, low-return activity.

IBM Rational Manual Tester software is a manual test authoring and execution tool that promotes test step reuse to help reduce the impact of software changes on testers and business analysts. It is designed to add control and organization to manual testing processes, helping to improve the efficiency and speed of efforts to measure application quality.

IBM Rational Manual Tester is a manual test authoring and execution tool that promotes test step reuse to help reduce the impact of software changes on testers and business analysts. Designed to add control and organization to manual testing processes, Rational Manual Tester can help improve the efficiency and speed of efforts to measure application quality.

Manual testing—harder than it looks

Deceptively simple at first glance, manual testing can be quite challenging if it's improperly implemented. Project teams quickly learn the difficulty of successfully managing multiple spreadsheets and other test and test result storage media. They note the high volume of rework produced by the lack of reuse and modularity across the many test scripts involved. And they struggle to minimize human error and inconsistency. The very objective of manual testing—evaluating application quality and exposing defects—is jeopardized by these inefficiencies.

By focusing on manual testing productivity, Rational Manual Tester software helps teams overcome the risks that can threaten the success of a project. The result is more time and effort spent on completing high-value, informative manual tests, which builds a better picture of application quality and exposes functionality that requires improvement before release.

Bridge to automation

Typically inefficient and inconsistent, manual testing can result in much time wasted creating, organizing and managing mundane tasks. Keyword testing, a framework for organizing and managing test steps, allows testers to rapidly create and reuse test scripts as needed. Using Rational Manual Tester software, testers can define keywords as broadly or as granularly as needed. In addition, testers can leverage automated keywords from IBM Rational Functional Tester software, helping to accelerate the incremental adoption of test automation. By establishing a keyword framework in both their manual testing tools and their automated testing tools, organizations can build a collaborative test environment that can eliminate the friction and gap between manual and automated testing—and leverage the strength of the entire testing team.

Advanced test creation and maintenance

Rational Manual Tester software promotes the usage of linked content, which enables testers to define particular test step blocks as reusable components that can be shared across multiple tests. The advantage is not simply reuse—a time- and cost-saving measure under any circumstance—it is also greater control over test script quality and consistency. Modification of linked content is automatically applied to all test scripts using that content, helping to ensure that change is communicated accurately to the entire test team.

The test editor supports customizable font, image capture and file attachment options, enabling testers to clearly communicate test steps. Using Rational Manual Tester, teams can vastly reduce the ambiguity that often plagues other methods used to define and deliver test step direction.

Simplified through assistance

Rational Manual Tester software reduces the likelihood of human error in the areas most prone to mistakes—data entry and data verification. First, the software stores data within a custom test script field, which enables the tester to paste in data directly. Second, data copied from an application user interface is automatically compared with expected values, automating the comparison and storing the result in a consolidated test report.

Custom decision points can also be added to manual tests. Granular verification points are used to record the success or failure of particular events. Reporting points ask the tester to enter broader observations about the task at hand. This information is then collated within reports that can be exported into comma-separated value (CSV)-based documents for storage and analysis in any tool of choice, including common spreadsheet applications.

Addresses diverse needs

To reflect a team's internally defined process metrics and values, Rational Manual Tester software supports test customization. Custom fields can be defined and assigned to individual test steps to capture greater test direction, as well as to store additional information gathered during test execution. Testers can also assign file attachments to steps during test execution—a simple method for attaching screen shots or other nontextual information that would be useful for test result analysis. Both the reuse folder, which stores reusable test step blocks, and private data stores can be placed on a network file share or under change control.

Rational Manual Tester can also be used on Microsoft® Windows® operating systems, supporting usage by distributed teams and mobile workers. It also maintains tests and test results in a centralized location, regardless of team distribution and composition, helping to ensure that test assets remain easily accessible and reportable.

Built on open standards

Rational Manual Tester software is built on the Eclipse architectural framework and its test, trace and monitoring extension, called the Test and Performance Tools Platform (TPTP). Both frameworks are open source projects that provide shared, open source services across tooling environments that target application development, testing, deployment and monitoring. This infrastructure provides benefits ranging from the elimination of proprietary data store formats to enabling support for both internal and third-party customization and contribution. An investment in tools based on the Eclipse and TPTP platforms helps users avoid vendor lock-in and encourages future innovation.

Integrates with the IBM Rational Software Delivery Platform

IBM Rational Manual Tester software is an integral component of the IBM Rational Software Delivery Platform. One of the industry's most comprehensive and powerful solutions for software system creation and application lifecycle management, the IBM Rational Software Delivery Platform provides automation support for the aspects of software development. Further, it can help unite team members by enabling them to share information effectively across various tools.

About IBM Rational quality management software

IBM Rational quality management solutions offer testers leading-edge support for performance testing, functional and regression testing, manual testing, developer testing, and test management. With Rational solutions, quality assurance (QA) teams can manage and address issues with application functionality, usability, reliability, scalability and performance. Supporting a broad range of environments and built on a comprehensive, self-managing platform, Rational quality management tools enable the tight collaboration of distributed test assets and information across the delivery lifecycle. The Rational iterative lifecycle approach to quality is designed to provide testers with higher-quality code, and to help them improve their productivity and meet tight deadlines.