Upgrading from TestTrack 2011.1 and Earlier - Native Databases

The following information is provided for administrators who are upgrading the TestTrack Server 2011.1 and earlier and currently use the TestTrack native database format.

Helix ALM 2017.1 and later and TestTrack 2012 - 2016.1 use SQLite for the native backend database, which replaces the flat-file format used in TestTrack 2011.1 and earlier. TestTrack 2011.1 and earlier server and project databases must be upgraded to the new native database type or converted to a supported Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) type before they can be used.

This guide answers questions about the new native database format and provides an overview of the upgrade process.

Note: Additional steps are required to upgrade databases to TestTrack 2015.1 format before upgrading to Helix ALM. See the installation help for information.

FAQs

What are the differences between the old and new database format?

Using the SQLite Helix ALM native database format provides the following benefits:

- An entire native database is now stored in one file, which is easier to maintain and back up. See the Server Admin Utility help for information about backing up databases.

- Helix ALM native projects can now be used as templates for creating native and RDBMS projects. The old native database type could only be used to create other native projects.

- The native database type is now supported on the 64-bit Helix ALM Server.

- Audit log tables do not need to be archived because a single SQLite database file can store more data than the old format.

Do I need to reconfigure my current installation?

No. Using the new Helix ALM native database does not require any setup or configuration before or after installation.

How do I upgrade my data to the new database format?

The Helix ALM Server automatically upgrades Helix ALM native databases and projects the first time it starts. The old files for an individual database are converted to one SQLite file, but file attachments, SoloBug Files, and report stylesheets are still stored in separate subdirectories. A backup copy of the old database is created in the database directory. For example, a server database backup is created in the following default directories:

- Windows—C:\Program Files\Perforce\Helix ALM\TTServDb\old

- Mac—/Applications/HelixALM/TTServerDb/old

- Linux—/var/lib/HelixALM/TTServDb/old

You may need to manually upgrade TestTrack 2011.1 or earlier native databases if existing projects are added after restarting the server. Projects that need to be upgraded before they can be used are displayed as Legacy TestTrack Native in the Helix ALM Server Admin Utility.

Can I use another RDBMS if I do not want to use the native database type?

Helix ALM projects and the server database can be stored in other RDBMS types. Oracle and PostgreSQL are supported on all platforms and SQL Server is supported on Windows. See RDBMS Support for supported platforms and versions.

Can I use Helix ALM native databases on the 64-bit Helix ALM Server?

Yes. Helix ALM 2017.1 and later and TestTrack 2012 - 2016.1 native databases are supported. To migrate from a TestTrack 2011.1 or earlier native database to the 64-bit server, you must upgrade old native databases to the current version before installing the 64-bit server. See Migrating from the 32-bit Helix ALM Server to the 64-bit Server on the Same Computer for information.

I use the ODBC driver for external reporting purposes. Can I still use my custom reports?

The ODBC driver is no longer supported. You must use a SQLite ODBC driver to run external reports against Helix ALM 2017.1 and later and TestTrack 2012 - 2016.1 and native databases. Refer to the SQLite or other supported RDBMS documentation for information about installing and configuring ODBC drivers.

Before upgrading

Perform the following tasks before upgrading Helix ALM.

Review the Helix ALM Server system requirements

The Server System Requirements include minimum system requirements and recommended system configurations for optimal server performance.

Back up current databases

You should always back up the Helix ALM Server database, project databases, and the Helix ALM License Server database before upgrading. See the Server Admin Utility help for information about backing up databases.

Check available disk space

Upgrading a database requires the same amount of free disk space as the database currently uses. For example, if the database is 40 GB, at least 40 GB must still be available on the hard drive to upgrade the database.

Prepare to reconfigure custom external reports

If you use the Helix ALM ODBC driver to run custom external reports against native databases, you should prepare to reconfigure these reports. You may want to verify that these reports work using a SQLite ODBC driver in a test environment. You can also convert the server and project databases to a different supported RDBMS type, which is recommended if you use external reporting services.

After upgrading

Perform the following steps after installing the new Helix ALM version.

1. Start the Helix ALM License Server and Helix ALM Server. The Helix ALM Server database is automatically upgraded when the server starts.

2. Use the Helix ALM Server Admin Utility to upgrade legacy TestTrack 2011.1 or earlier native projects or convert them to RDBMS. See the Server Admin Utility help for information.

3. Optionally reconfigure external custom reports that use the TestTrack 2011.1 and earlier ODBC driver. Refer to the SQLite or other supported RDBMS documentation for information about installing and configuring ODBC drivers.