

Release Notes:

Update 1 for GRANTA MI Version 8.1

July 2015 Release

Introduction

Granta Design distributes regular updates for the GRANTA MI software package in addition to the major version releases. Updates typically contain a number of minor improvements, performance enhancements and bug fixes. Installing an update is optional. Subsequent updates always include the content of previous updates. These Release Notes will help you understand what's in this update and whether you should install it.

For information on how to install this software update, see *Installation instructions* on page 6.

How can installing this release help you?

This update delivers several significant improvements:-

- Major performance improvements in areas such as startup, datasheet load times, data import, and data deletion.
- Greater flexibility in how users are authenticated when using the new User Manager. It is now possible to authenticate users using the traditional Windows method, but benefit from the ease of use of the User Manager to manage users' roles. This means that MI administrators can assign database roles to users without having to create or manage users' accounts.
- Enhancements to User Manager including the bulk import or creation of large numbers of users, and convenient counts of user numbers within groups, to help administrators understand how many users have particular roles.
- New data update functionality, enabling updates to be applied to the content of Granta reference databases such as Restricted Substances.

In addition, you may want to install this update if your users have been affected by any of the specific issues listed under *Usability improvements and bug fixes* below.

What's new in this update?

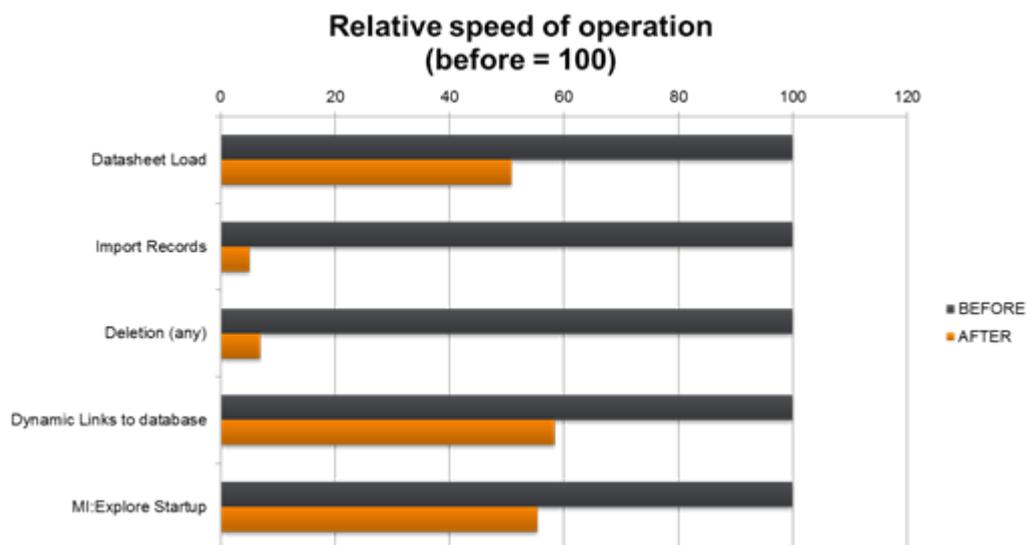
As well as bug fixes and usability enhancements, this Update release includes a number of bug fixes and some notable performance improvements.

Major performance improvements

There are some significant performance improvements across the system at this release, particularly against Granta's benchmarks for five key areas:

- Startup times
- Datasheet load times
- Data import (simple)
- Data import (with 'dynamic links' – importing and automatically linking)
- Data deletion

All users of GRANTA MI can expect to see performance improvements in these areas. Granta's own benchmarks, carried out under test conditions, showed, for example, a 50% improvement in datasheet load time, and better than 10x improvements in bulk record manipulation (import, delete, etc.).



Benchmarks were performed under test conditions with the following recommended hardware:

- CPU[8x physical cores] RAM[16GB] Disk [60GB 3/90 IOPS/GiB] Network [10/100/1000]
- 2 tier layout with SQL Server (4x cpu, 120GB disk, & 16GB ram)

Greater flexibility in how users are authenticated when using User Manager

New authentication mode option available during installation determine whether authentication (determining a user's identity) and authorization (determining the resources to which users may gain access) in GRANTA MI are managed using Microsoft Windows® or User Manager.

- Windows user authentication and Windows authorization.

In this mode, membership of Windows user groups (corresponding to the five system roles plus any additional database-specific or Access Control roles) determines who can access GRANTA MI, and their privileges within the system. Windows user groups are created and managed by a company IT system administrator.

- Windows authentication and User Manager authorization.

In this mode, administrators will be able to add pre-existing Windows users to the GRANTA MI system using the User Manager app, and move them between different groups and roles (e.g., include them in project teams). Users will authenticate to GRANTA MI tools (MI:Viewer, MI:Toolbox etc.) using their normal Windows credentials, which usually involves no entry of a username and password.

- User Manager authentication and User Manager authorization.

In this 'standalone' mode, users are managed in the GRANTA MI system without any connection to Windows users or Domains. Administrators of GRANTA MI can create and delete users, and move them between different groups and roles. Users log into GRANTA MI tools using their GRANTA MI usernames and passwords.

To find out more, see:

- *GRANTA MI Installation Guide* for details of the new installation options, and also required configuration for User Manager authentication/authorization.
- *GRANTA MI Access Control and Security Guide*

User Manager enhancements

User Manager is Granta's web application for administering groups of GRANTA MI users based on their "team" or "group" membership. Groups may be based on roles such as "read user", "write user", or on organizational groups within your company such as "Alloys team", "Plastics Group", "Product Design".

New at this release, MI Administrators can now:

- Add Windows users to User Manager, individually or in bulk, if running Windows Authentication.
- Create users in User Manager in bulk via Microsoft Excel, if running User Manager (standalone) Authentication.
- See convenient counts of user numbers within groups to understand how many users have particular roles.

User Manager is automatically installed with MI:Server, and the way User Manager is set up and configured is simplified at this release: see the *GRANTA MI Installation Guide* for details.

Data Updater

Data Updater is a new tool that can be used to update the contents of GRANTA MI reference databases. Granta reference databases include materials property data and related information licensed from other leading materials data providers or researched, collated, and maintained by our own expert team. New versions of Granta reference databases are released at regular intervals.

The Data Updater capability means that Granta is in a position to deliver regular, incremental updates to reference databases which can be applied by MI administrators (without requiring DB administration rights to the underlying SQL server) and which can be merged with any changes that have been made to the destination database. In 2015, Granta will be pioneering this new delivery mechanism with the Restricted Substances Data Module.

Data Updater is available in MI:Admin, the MI database administration application.

Usability improvements and bug fixes

The following usability improvements and bug fixes have been made since the GRANTA MI version 8.1 release in April 2015.

Installation Manager

- Attribute-based access control settings are now preserved during MI:Server upgrade.
- The help pages in the Installation Manager are now available in all supported languages (English, French, German, Japanese, and Russian).

MI:Server

- MI:Server now logs fewer named pipe error messages, resulting in smaller log files.
- After an MI:Server host is rebooted, the MI:Server service will no longer start if MI:Server is unable to connect to the database server. Previously, the service would start but fail to initialize properly, with the result that MI:Server could not be used.
- Resolved a performance issue when using attribute-based access control.
- Resolved an issue where a database could not be reloaded when an exporter file in that database was already open in a text editor.
- Email Notifications SMTP settings can now be removed (unset) as well as edited in MI:Server Manager.

MI:Admin

- When attribute-based access control is enabled, MI:Admin can now be accessed by database MI_ADMIN users who are not system-wide MI_ADMIN users.
- Resolved a database server connection issue which could occur when adding or editing layouts.
- Usability improvements when editing EELs attributes.
- Unit symbols are now case-sensitive, and so it is possible to create units with symbols that only differ in case, for example, millijoules (mJ) and MegaJoules (MJ).

MI:Viewer

- Resolved an issue where users were unable to copy version-controlled records even when they had sufficient privileges.
- The FEA Exporters tab (**Admin>FEA Exporters**) now displays exporters correctly even if there are problems loading some of the exporters.
- GIF images are now displayed correctly in all browsers.
- Resolved an issue where search results returned by an Advanced Search were reported inconsistently on the Search tab and in the main Search Results page when using Internet Explorer Version 8.
- Resolved an issue where searches performed using Search Masks returned incorrect results because attributes specified in the search mask were being ignored.
- The Excel Template Generator now correctly handles attribute names that differ only in case (for example, ESC_MATERIALS, ESC_Materials).
- Switchboard links created with GRANTA MI Version 7 and earlier now work correctly.
- The **Save to Excel (CSV)** option on the **Report** page now saves files in UTF-8 format (with a Byte Order Mark) to correctly handle international text.
- Removing an unused parameter from an attribute definition no longer makes the attribute data uneditable.
- Resolved an issue where a query that returned very large numbers of access-controlled records resulted in an error.
- Copied records now maintain their current Access Control Permissions instead of inheriting permissions from their new parent.
- Resolved an issue where meta-attributes that were set to read-only in the MI:Admin Layout Editor could be edited in MI:Viewer.
- Fixed an issue where the profile specified in the MI:Viewer URL was being ignored and the default profile was used instead, causing too many search results to be returned by searches from the Home Page.
- Resolved an issue where deleting a row and local cell at the same time when editing version-controlled tabular data could cause an error.
- Links to datasheets in MI:Viewer are now not case-sensitive; for example, both of the following links will work:

http://acme/mi/index.aspx?history=8912&dbKey=MI_MaterialUniverse_5.26.0m
http://acme/mi/index.aspx?history=8912&dbKey=MI_MaterialUniverse_5.26.0M

MI:Toolbox

- In the MI:Toolbox importers, when deleting values from a version-controlled database using the [-DELETE-] keyword, unreleased data points will now be deleted correctly. Previously, instead of being deleted, they would revert back to their value from the previous record version.

Excel Importer

- Multiple multi-value point attributes, for multiple records, can now be imported from the same workbook using the Row format.
- Tabular attributes with Specimen as ROW and column Specimen Number no longer generate an error when the worksheet is empty.

Text Importer

- Closing MI:Toolbox while a text import is in progress now terminates the import process correctly.

Excel Exporter

- When exporting tabular data, tabular columns that cannot be exported (such as File Data) are ignored, and the remaining data are exported correctly. Previously, none of the tabular data was exported if it included an unsupported data type.
- Improved feedback when an attribute in the export lookup sheet has a different data type from the same attribute in the database.

Remote Import

- Resolved some issues with user privileges in Remote Import:
 - Users who have Database WRITE privileges but not System WRITE privileges can now use Remote Import; previously, only System WRITE users could import data.
 - The **Create Job** button is now only enabled for users with database WRITE privileges or higher; previously, READ users could create jobs, which would then fail when run due to insufficient user privileges.

System requirements for this release

This release updates your existing GRANTA MI Version 8.1 installation. See your GRANTA MI Version 8.1 release documentation for detailed system requirements.

Installation instructions

This update should be applied to MI:Server and MI:Viewer, and to all locally-installed instances of MI:Admin and MI:Toolbox.

Updating Remote Import

The Remote Import component should also be updated if you are using it. You will need to delete the following files before applying the update to Remote Import:

- The Remote Import web application log file. Typically, will be located here:
C:\inetpub\wwwroot\remoteimport\bin\ApplicationInformationLog.xml
- The Remote Import service log file. Typically, this will be located here:
C:\Program Files\Granta\Granta MI\RemoteImportServer\ApplicationInformationLog.xml

To apply the update, run the Remote Import Windows Installer (MSI) included in the update zip file. If you see a message when running the MSI saying that you must be an administrator on the server, run it again as the local administrator: Shift+right-click the MSI file, then click **Run as a different user** and enter the local administrator username and password for the host server.

Further information and contact details

More background on the features and benefits of GRANTA MI Version 8.1 is available at <http://www.grantadesign.com/products/mi/whatsnew.htm>

If you have further questions, please email Granta Support: support@grantadesign.com