Release Notes:
Update 4 for GRANTA MI Version 8.1

February 2016 Release

Introduction

These Release Notes cover Update 4 for GRANTA MI version 8.1.

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 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.

Please note that a newer, major version of GRANTA MI, Version 9 is also available. Version 9 incorporates all the features and fixes described in this document, plus many more major features, including MI:Explore Version 3.0; please refer to the GRANTA MI Version 9 Release Notes for more information.

How can installing this release help you?

This release includes a number of bug fixes and minor improvements. You may want to install this update if your users have been affected by any of the specific issues listed below under *Bug fixes in this release*.
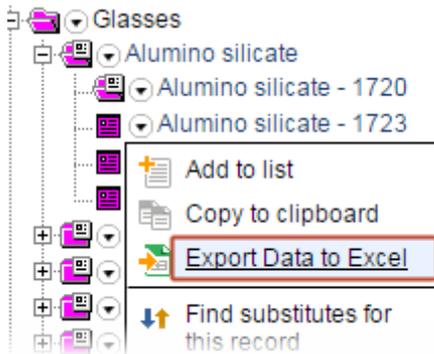
This update also delivers to version 8.1 users some new features/usability enhancements that were introduced in the GRANTA MI version 9 release:

- Single click export of datasheets to Microsoft® Excel, facilitating "round tripping" of data, providing an easy way to make small changes to records and re-import them, and avoiding the need to use a local installation of MI:Toolbox to support data export.

- Quick and easy highlighting of individual records in XY Charts.
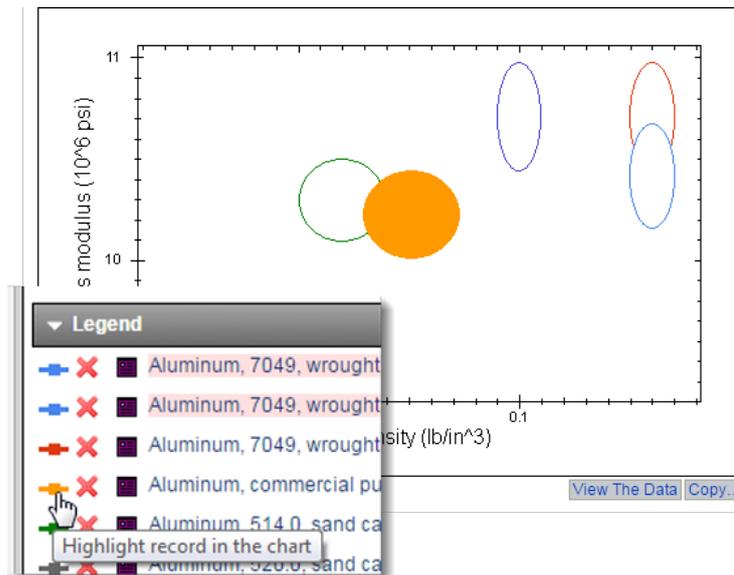
What's new at this update?

Single click export of datasheets to Excel

Data from individual records can now be easily exported to Excel from MI:Viewer via a new menu option in the Contents tree. Data is exported to a default template format, but additional *Excel Template Definitions* can be defined in MI:Admin. Any file or image data will be exported and placed in a zip file alongside the output workbook.

Click to locate records on a bubble chart

When multiple records are shown in an XY Chart, users can now click on a record identifier in the legend to highlight the corresponding bubble on the chart:

New Service Layer, version 30.0

This GRANTA MI update includes a new version of the Service Layer, version 30.0.

Full details of the changes in each new version of the Service Layer are included in the PDF document *GRANTA MI:Service Layer SDK Revisions*, installed with the Service Layer software.

Bug fixes in this release

This section describes bugs that are fixed in this Version 8.1 Update 4 release.

Installation

- More robust error handling when problems connecting to MI:Server occur during installation.
- Resolved some issues with MI:Server service startup during/following installation and upgrade.
- Resolved FEA Exporter initialization errors on MI:Server startup.
- Fixed issues affecting installation/uninstallation of GRANTA MI software components on Windows® 10.
- Fixed an issue where the Installation Manager *setup.exe* was very slow to start up on machines without an internet connection.

MI:Server

- Addressed an issue that lead to MI:Server occasionally not restarting correctly after changing database settings in the MI:Server Connection tool.
- Exporting data that includes attributes that are missing or not visible no longer causes an exception.
- Some customers may have experienced problems when loading databases that use attribute-based access control. This has been fixed.

MI:Admin

- It is now possible to specify the ordering of parameters in functional attributes on the Parameters tab of the Edit Attributes page. The first parameter listed here is used as the X-axis in automatic Excel templates created from Viewer, and so being able to order this list means that the Admin user can now choose the X-axis parameter in MI:Admin, without having to edit the generated template to set the required X-axis value. Previously, the selected parameters were always listed here in alphabetical order.
- Fixed a bug that could cause MI:Admin to crash when trying to enable version control on a large database.
- Fixed a bug that could cause MI:Admin to crash when editing Search Masks in some databases.
- Improved error handling in situations when conflicts arise because multiple MI:Admin users are editing the same database at the same time, for example, when two users simultaneously attempting to add a table with the same name.
- When copying/pasting units into MI:Admin from Microsoft Excel, it is no longer possible to paste unit equivalents for which no conversion is defined in the database. This prevents you from accidentally creating invalid unit definitions.
- When deleting an Equations and Logic attribute, the attribute *and* any related functional content now are deleted.
- Resolved layout issues in the **Add linked tabular columns** dialog.
- Clicking **Cancel** in the **Edit Unit System Equivalents** dialog box now correctly discards any changes made before closing the dialog; changes made in this dialog are now saved only when the **Save** button is clicked.

- In the **Create New Table** dialog box, pressing **Enter** after typing in table name no longer results in an error.
- Excel Template Definitions created in MI:Admin may now include empty absolute path placement values without this causing problems when the template is downloaded in MI:Viewer.
- Fixed an issue where there was a noticeable delay before the Schema, Profiles, and Access Control buttons become available the first time MI:Admin was started after MI:Server installation or an MI:Server restart.

Data Updater

- Standard names can now be deleted in updates performed using the Data Updater tool in MI:Admin. Previously, Standard Names were not deleted, even when there were no conflicts.
- When updating a layout, adding a tabular column to a tabular attribute that appears under different headings in the source and target no longer causes the update to fail.
- When applying an update, naming conflicts no longer appear in the conflict report for objects added in an update that are already present in the target database.

User Manager

- Fixed an issue that caused 404 errors to be reported when navigating around within projects, in particular, when looking at user roles (memberships) within Projects.

MI:Viewer

Enhancements

- Improved efficiency for FEA exports with multiple XSL transforms.
- When exporting data via the **Export Data to Excel** menu item, the *Data* sheet is now the active sheet (the sheet on top) when the output Excel file is opened.
- When adding a record to a subset, the available subsets are now listed alphabetically, consistent with the way subsets are displayed in the MI:Viewer Contents tree.
- The field where you enter tabular data linking values is now wider, making it much easier to see and edit longer strings.

Bug fixes

- Improved data validation when entering functional data in MI:Viewer.
- Edit users can now add multiple linked records to the Record List via the **Add All to List** shortcut menu item even when the target records are not in the currently-active subset of the target table. Previously, they could only be added individually.
- Fixed image encoding issues on Windows Server 2008 R2 and Windows Server 2008 SP 2.
- Fixed an issue where MI:Viewer failed to start because it was unable to clear cache information in the Viewer\App_Data folder.
- Fixed an issue where restarting MI:Viewer could sometimes result in a threading error.
- Reduced timeout errors when copying functional data charts.
- In an XY chart that contains only 1 record, clicking on the X in the legend to remove the record no longer causes an error.
- Saving changes to a datasheet no longer results in an error when the datasheet includes links to data that is unavailable because of access control restrictions.

- Fixed an issue where an inappropriate unit conversion might occur when exporting series functional data to Excel from MI:Viewer.
- FEA export: fixed an issue where Read users were unable to export records that included a withdrawn version in their record version history.

MI:Toolbox

- 'Not Applicable' grid points for grid functional data can now be exported and imported. They are represented by the string "!NA" placed in the value range. This should be in the lower value cell, if the range spans two cells.
- The Current database list in MI:Toolbox is now sorted alphabetically, consistent with the way databases are listed in MI:Admin.

Bulk Data Importer

- Improved performance for data that includes dynamic links.
- Imported records with no MI_COLOR specified now inherit the color of the base folder into which they are imported.

Excel Exporter

- When exporting file and picture data to Excel, a hyperlink is now created (on the relevant data cell) to the local folder containing the file, to help the user navigate from the spreadsheet to the exported files.

Excel Importer

- Previously, the importer blocked the import of autoplacement attributes. Now, attributes used for autoplacement can now be imported when any of the following are true:
  - (a) IsChild=true
  - (b) the tree hierarchy is defined
  - (c) force to root = true
- When importing data that includes file attributes, files are now automatically indexed on import when the attribute is searchable, unless the "index" flag is explicitly set to FALSE in the Excel import file.

Text Importer

- When exiting the Text Importer, a confirmation box is no longer displayed unless an import is currently in progress.

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.

Applying this update

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

See the PDF document *Applying GRANTA MI software update*s, included in the download package for the update, for step-by-step instructions on how to apply software updates.

Note that you need Administrator rights to install all GRANTA MI updates and patches.

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/whatsnew81.htm

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