

MERANT VERSION MANAGER™

VERSION 8 RELEASE HIGHLIGHTS

What's New in Merant Version Manager 8?

Merant's Version Manager organizes, manages and protects software assets, supporting cost-effective software configuration management (SCM) across distributed development teams. Merant Version Manager is fast and easy to install, use and administer, yet it provides the rich, mature capabilities that developers and managers have come to expect from the makers of PVCS®. Version Manager easily supports complex development team requirements such as security, web-based remote access, support for multiple platforms and IDEs, and centrally managed database archives.

This release adds enhancements and new features in three areas identified by users as key to today's team development: Performance and scalability, security, and support for distributed development.

Performance and Scalability Enhancements

Distributed development environments are key to the success of any project, yet accessing a networked file system (for example, a mapped drive on Windows or an NFS mount) has inherent performance issues as compared to accessing locally available files.

Release 8 introduces the Merant File Server service, which avoids the performance issues of using mapped drives or an NFS mount. With Merant File Server, teams can reduce network traffic and significantly improve performance for many common source control operations.

The Merant File Server uses a high-performance file streaming technique to move data across the network, allowing Version Manager clients to operate faster than when using the block transfer method employed by traditional network file system interfaces.

In addition to faster network access, Version Manager also provides the ability to utilize an enhanced data storage architecture that significantly improves the performance of Version Manager operations. This capability speeds metadata operations, such as adding a version label, by separating metadata from revision information.

The separation of metadata and revision data also allows for more efficient handling of the revision data, adding to overall faster operation and reduced network traffic.

Key benefits of performance changes include:

- Higher performance of Version Manager operations for projects located on a network device.
- Faster access and less data to manipulate with each operation. The new storage architecture speeds access to controlled objects and decreases the amount of data manipulated by many Version Manager operations.
- Reduced network traffic, freeing up bandwidth for other uses.

New Security Features

LDAP Support

The corporate network is becoming increasingly more complex, with users conceivably using ten or fifteen different applications in a day. In this environment, managing who can access what system can become a security and administration nightmare.

Merant Version Manager helps eliminate the pain through the usage of LDAP compliant authentication systems (such as Novell, Active Directory and iPlanet) to streamline user authentication management.

In some situations there is a need for high availability of LDAP services, which necessitates the use of redundant LDAP servers, so that any single point of failure will not result in the failure of the LDAP service, impacting the ability of the users from performing their tasks.

With release 8, Version Manager now makes the configuration process of supporting multiple redundant LDAP servers or referrals much simpler, with easy setup and configuration directly supported through the project configuration dialog.

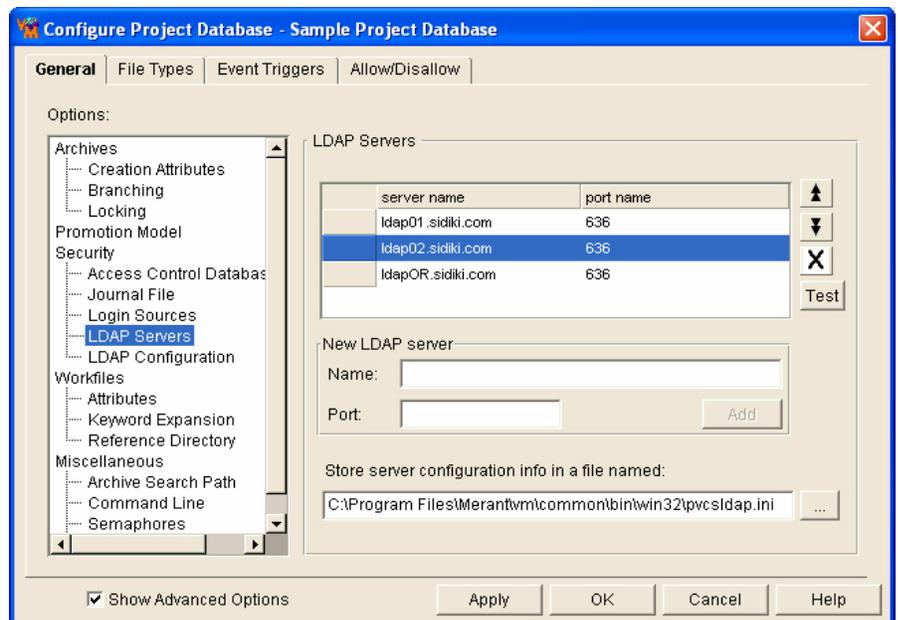


Fig. 1. The Project Configuration Dialog, now supporting multiple redundant LDAP servers.

Merant Version Manager File Server-Based Protections

As projects grow in scope and are distributed across file servers and geographic locations, managing and controlling the disparate mix of user data, project data, third-party software, and other assets can be confusing and error prone. Even the most experienced developer is susceptible to mistakes such as accidentally deleting project data while cleaning out disk space.

In previous Version Manager releases, both read and write access were required for a user to add or update an archive, which also meant anyone with write access to the archive location could accidentally influence the archives (change/delete them) via standard file system commands. Release 8 adds the security of Merant Version Manager File Server to avoid such accidental or unauthorized modification or deletion of assets.

The Merant Version Manager File Server makes it possible to physically isolate the project data from the end user by taking away the need to have end user file level access to the archives and meta-data; Version Manager File Server's client/server architecture and service manages the archive updates, and it is the service, not the individual user, that requires the write access.

Key benefits:

- Security for networked projects is managed through Merant Version Manager File Server access rather than individual user read/write.
- File system write access for individuals to the Version Manager assets is not required.
- Administrators can isolate and control access to a much more limited set of users.
- Hazards of standard file system commands (such as changing file permissions, deleting files, etc.) are eliminated.

Increased Support for Distributed Development

Web Client Enhancements

In previous releases, the Version Manager web client provided the basic functionality for distributed users via a common web browser interface, while the desktop client took advantage of the more powerful native interface and provided the full features and capabilities of Version Manager to the power user.

With this release, parity between the web and the desktop clients is significantly improved. The web client now includes the following advanced features previously available only with the desktop client:

- Merant Merge tool for differencing and merging of files and revisions
- Sorting by a particular column of data in the Content pane, such as Locked By or Date Checked In
- Listing files recursively in the Content pane
- Browse dialog for selecting revisions, version labels, and promotion groups to simplify completion of dialog boxes

- The ability to launch a file for viewing or editing by clicking upon it in the Content pane

Key Benefits:

- Lowered support costs and improved support for cross-platform teams
- Increased productivity, as team members can edit and view Version Manager artifacts by a simple click from the browser

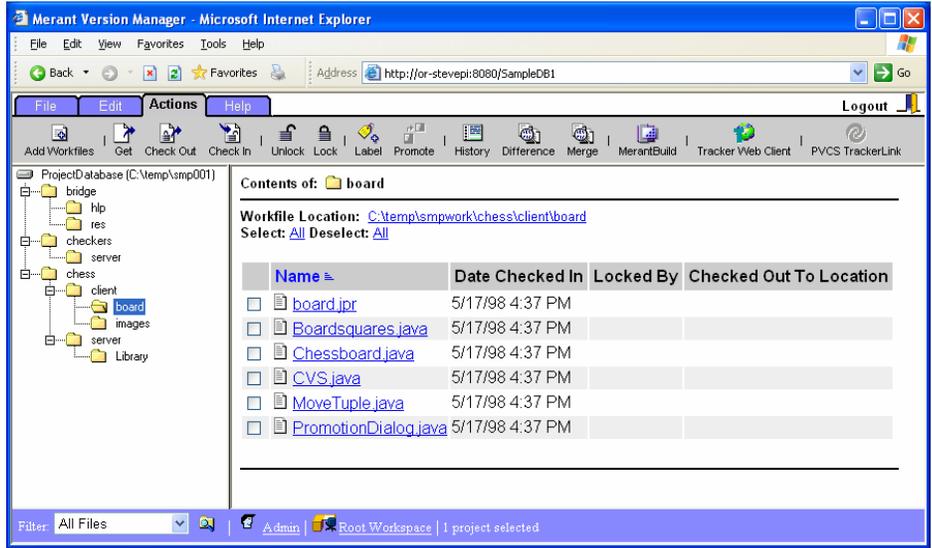


Fig. 2. The enhanced web client provides greater parity with the desktop client.

Filtering and Reporting

Understanding and tracking the changes between various builds of a large project helps focus team resources in areas that have changed, and enables the team to track down and resolve regressions more quickly.

To facilitate this understanding and visibility into the project, Version Manager 8 enables complex filtering, involving combinations of version labels and/or promotion groups, to generate targeted reports.

Filtering a project in this manner quickly shows what assets have changed (or not changed) between any consistent set of assets, specified by their label or promotion group. In addition, more complex filters can be specified that involve the revision number, modification time, or revision contents.

Key benefits:

- Understand and track changes between various builds
- Focus testing resources on areas of change
- Help isolate and resolve regressions

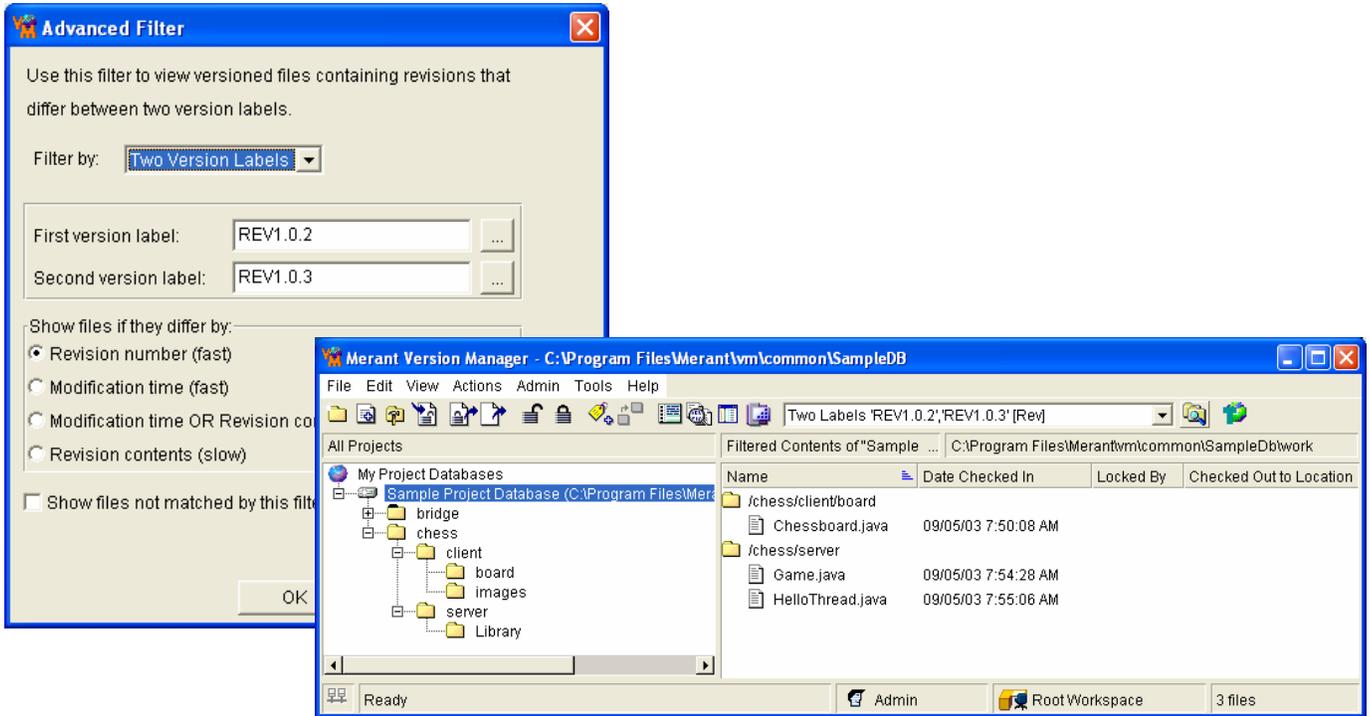


Fig. 3. Enhanced filter and reporting capabilities improve project visibility.

Administration Tracking and Auditing

Properly setting up and administering projects is as much a part of change management as the use of the tools to manage project artifacts. Some aspects of administration are easily controlled – such as limiting administration privileges to a select set of key individuals within an organization. Yet being able to track and audit administration changes made to projects can be key in uncovering and understanding changes that have impact on the behavior and characteristics of projects, with direct impact on the users of that project.

To improve control and understanding of administration type changes that are made to Version Manager projects, release 8 maintains an audit trail of project activity in a log file, recording detailed information about each operation. This can later be imported into various tools, such as a spreadsheet, for detailed analysis.

Flexible Licensing Model

With the release of Version Manager 8, a more flexible licensing model is supported to better fit the particular needs of Version Manager users. Version Manager now supports both named licenses that are tied to a particular user, and concurrent licenses that can be shared amongst a larger user community. By utilizing the industry standard FLEXlm license technology, Merant license administration can be easily combined with other FLEXlm licenses, reducing overall administration overhead and costs.

Summary

Merant's Version Manager is the proven, full-featured solution for version control and revision management in team software development. Used at thousands of sites worldwide, Version Manager organizes, manages and protects assets automatically to reduce errors and speed project completion. Built by development professionals dedicated to excellence in software configuration management, Version Manager is the result of 25 years of software industry experience and ongoing product enhancement. This release continues Merant's commitment to extending and enhancing the standard in version management.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

800-547-7827

info@merant.com
www.merant.com

MERANT WORLDWIDE

Australia	(+61) 3 9522 4466
Belgium	(+32) 15 30 81 20
France	(+33) 1 70 92 94 94
Germany, Austria, Switzerland	(+49) 089 96 27 10
India	(+91) 22 5694 3324
Italy Milano	(+39) 02 6083 0056
Roma	(+39) 06 5196 3448
Japan	(+81) 3 5419 1234
Korea	(+82) 2 6001 3311
Netherlands	(+31) 33 450 20 70
Singapore and Asia Pacific	(+65) 6834 9880
United Kingdom	(+44) 0800 328 0243
United States	(1) 800 547 7827

All other countries.....(+44) 1727 812 812

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