

RMCS IT5 Release Notes

IT 5 addresses the following issues:

IT5.0

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* BUG: (79084) Fixed $jobServer.Execute with a single parameter call.
* BUG: (80753) Increased default timeout of packet parser (45 seconds) so it
wouldn't timeout on slow connections.
* BUG: (78627) Increased database test timeout (15 seconds) to reduce chance of
database timeouts.
* BUG: (79713) Fixed transfer error notification in comm server script for
failed transfers (i.e. disk full).
* BUG: (81708) Fixed export/import of scripts with the same name.
* BUG: Fixed renaming appliance groups.
* BUG: (srt:28555)Fixed limiting viewable scripts during export for permissions
that match the user.
* ENH: Split out transfer system error code to different error codes (see
documentation).
* ENH: (79771) Decreased default maximum packet size to 1024 bytes to improve
reliability and reduce timeout errors.
* ENH: (79771) Configurable minimum/maximum/starting packet sizes.
Configurable error window thresholds. Configurable timeouts.
* ENH: Configurable database timeout and database test timeout.
* ENH: New scheduling options: weekly, monthly, yearly date options.
* ENH: Documentation updates for enhancements and clarification with other
issues.
* ENH: (srt:29166)Added configurable display of rows of data.
* ENH: (srt:29156)Terminal menu options remember last 10 connections.
* ENH: (srt:29167)Column sorting added to job definitions, instances, instance
items, appliances, appliance groups, and scripts list screens.
* ENH: (srt:29157)Added searching for job instance items.
* ENH: (srt:29143)Changed run expiration to work off of job instance start time
versus job instance create time. Added start time fields to active jobs and
job instance details form.
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Testing Notes:

The bulk of the changes are either minor bug fixes or user interface enhancements. Upgrading to IT5 should not affect the current production environment. The following areas should be tested for any potential impact to current production conditions:

- Backwards compatibility. IT5 is backwards compatible with previous versions of RMCS. There were no changes to the protocol. New default timeouts and packet size limits of the communications server and terminal should only improve communication reliability with previous versions of the remote server.
- Scheduling compatibility. Previous scheduling settings are compatible with the new version of the software. Testing should be done with existing job definitions to confirm no impact in existing scheduling. New scheduling functionality should be tested.

- Expiration changes. The expiration logic has been altered to expire jobs from the time they start running versus the time they were created. This should be tested.

The following new enhancements and features should be tested that will NOT affect current production environments:

- Setting of new configuration settings that affect packet size and timeouts. Viewing debug logs can verify settings.
- Setting of packet sizes locally and remotely using new pfactory commands. Viewing debug logs can verify settings and changes.
- Testing database timeout configurations. Not quite sure of the best way to test this...stop and start the database engine?
- Test error notification on communication server for failed transfers. Verify by attempting to transfer a file to a disk without enough space for the file.
- Test export/import of scripts to confirm scripts are replacing existing versions and not creating new versions.
- In the terminal, test connecting using new recent appliances menu options.
- In web administration UI, test new column sorting functionality on various forms.
- In web administration UI, test configurable table sizes by specifying new sizes in the user preferences.
- In web administration UI, test searching for job instance items for a run job.

Release Considerations:

The job server, communications server, web administration and terminal application software should all be upgraded to IT5 once testing is complete.

Do kiosks running IT4 need to be upgraded?

- Changes in the communication server address 2 major issues that were causing problems before with slow connections. The changes in the communication server mitigate the need to upgrade kiosks right away.
 - The smaller maximum outgoing packet sizes will keep kiosks from timing out on slow connections. This will improve transfer reliability to kiosks.
 - The increased default timeout for the packet factory will keep larger packets coming from kiosks from timing out on the communication server. This will improve reliability and transfer of files from kiosks and terminal application responsiveness problems.
- New transfer error codes from kiosks cannot be leveraged until upgrading to IT5. The same errors will report SystemError as before. Until script changes are made to accommodate different errors, this won't make any difference

either way. Errors that occur on the communication server side will utilize the new error codes.

- The new default timeouts and packet sizing commands cannot be leveraged on kiosks until upgraded to IT5. Until a new strategy for using these commands is put in place, there is not a strong compelling reason to upgrade those kiosks. Those commands and settings would generally only be used for kiosks with poor line connections or slow connection speeds. Upgrades might want to be focused on those problem kiosks first as other kiosks would not notice the benefits of upgrading.

Upgrade Approaches:

As before, there are 2 upgrade methods to consider when updating the RMCS system.

- a) Full installer update. This entails uploading the full RMCS remote server installer to the kiosk and running the installer.
 - a. Advantages: This process is more familiar with Coinstar.
 - b. Disadvantages: Requires uploading 1.7 megabyte file, which adds significant cost.
- b) Essential assemblies update. This entails using the RMCS update capabilities to transfer a zip file with the DLLs needed to upgrade the remote server. A process on the remote server unpacks the zip file and restarts the server as the new version.
 - a. Advantages: Zip file is much smaller than full installer, only 239 kilobytes. Much less expensive.
 - b. Disadvantages: Testing of update script. (Although, once developed/tested, it can be used for any future updates)