Release Bulletin for PowerBuilder 2017 R2

PowerBuilder® 2017 R2

FOR WINDOWS

Contents

1 Release Bulletin

This release bulletin provides late-breaking information about Appeon PowerBuilder® 2017 R2.

Appeon PowerBuilder version 2017 R2 supports these operating systems (same as version 2017 does):

- Windows 7 32- or 64-bit with SP1

- Windows 8.1 32- or 64-bit

- Windows 10 32- or 64-bit

- Windows Server 2008 32- or 64-bit with SP2 (supported for runtime)

- Windows Server 2012 R2 (supported for runtime)

- Windows Server 2016 (supported for runtime)

2 Known Issues

Learn about known issues and workarounds.

Note

If you have an Appeon® support contract, use the Appeon Support Website to search for knowledge-based articles and solved cases. Go to the Appeon Support Website at https://support.appeon.com, log in, and select Knowledge Base to start the search.

2.1 Known issues with SVN/Git source control

The SVN/Git source control options provided in the PowerBuilder IDE has the following known issues or limitations:

- The SVN feature has been fully tested against SVN server 1.7.1 and later.

- The Git feature has been fully tested against GitHub, and also tested with GitLab, Bitbucket, Bonobo, and Perforce. Theoretically Git should work just as well with any remote repository, but we recommend that you try the tested Git servers if you experience problems.

  There is a known issue with the Bitbucket server: When adding the workspace to the Bitbucket server using "Git Push", you may come across the "Reference was not fast-forwardable" error, if the repository on the Bitbucket server is created with a readme (the "Include a README" option set to "Yes, ..."). To resolve this error, you can first execute a "Git Pull" (to synchronize the server repository with the local repository) and then execute "Git Push" again.

- The SVN/Git client that has been fully tested to work is: SVN client 1.9.7 and later, and Git client 2.0 and later.

- The protocol of SVN/Git that has been fully tested to work is: HTTP and HTTPS.

- If more than one developer are making changes to the same object and committing the object at the same time, conflicts will occur when synchronizing the object. We recommend you use the SVN client (such as TortoiseSVN) or Git client (such as TortoiseGit) to merge the changes. After you merge the changes, make sure the object can be compiled successfully by PowerBuilder, otherwise, the object may be missing or fail to open in the PowerBuilder IDE, or may cause the PowerBuilder IDE to crash.

- If you use the new Git/SVN feature, OrcaScript would fail to create PBLs from source code, because OrcaScript still looks for the source code in the same directory that the PBL is located at, but the source code is is now stored in the ws_objects folder under the directory that the PBL is located at.

- The newly added fields such as Password, Author, Email etc. in the Source Control tab in the Properties of Workspace dialog box do not have text pop-ups when you press F1 for the field, rather, pressing F1 may cause the PowerBuilder IDE to crash.

2.2 Known issues with rich-text editor

1. The new built-in rich-text editor has the following issues or unsupported features:

- On Windows 10, the column with the rich-text edit style will perform slowly (approximately 6 times slower than before), especially in the Grid or Tabular DataWindow. It is recommended that you use the Freeform DataWindows to avoid this performance issue.

- On Windows 7 or 10, in the RichText DataWindow, when the title bar is true and the title is empty, the screen will flash if you scroll the mouse to refresh the DataWindow. To avoid this issue, set the title bar to false, or set the title text when the title bar is true.

- When copying text into the RichTextEdit control, the font used may not be the default font for the RichTextEdit control. PowerBuilder 12.6 has the same issue.

- At the preview mode, the RichTextEdit control may fail to recognize the fields.

- If the InsertDocument function specifies the directory without the file name, the PowerBuilder application will crash at runtime.

- It is unsupported to merge the data of two RichTextEdit controls into the third RichTextEdit control. For example, the following code is unsupported:

```
ls_1 = rte_1.CopyRTF ( false )
ls_2 = rte_2.CopyRTF ( false )
ls_3 = ls_1 + ls_2
ris = rte_3.PasteRTF (ls_3)
```

- RichTextEdit control has problems in handling the space width of some fixed width fonts such as Courier and Courier New, which causes text not aligned.

- It may be slow to open a window that contains RichText DataWindows on Windows Server 2008 R2.

- In DataWindow preview, content of RichTextEdit controls do not scale like other controls do.

- In printout of DataWindows, RichTextEdit controls show additional unwanted padding on the top depending on the location on the page.

- CopyRTF function returns an empty string in PowerBuilder 12.6, while returns the richtext format settings in PowerBuilder 2017.

- SaveDocument will fail if the specified directory contains non-English characters.

- In printout of RichTextEdit controls, lines or texts may be truncated on the right of the page.

- SetFont function or setting font via APIs is unsupported.

- When right-clicking a RichText edit style column in a DataWindow, RButtonUp event is not triggered.

- When a column loses focus, the list symbols (mainly the customized image) that are aligned to left cannot show completely when under the preview or printout mode.

- SelectText function supports 98303 as the maximum length. If the length is over 98303, SelectText failed to select any text.

2. The 2400 SP1, 2400 SP2, and 2400 SP3 of TX Text Control ActiveX X14 do not work with the rich-text edit style columns; it only works with the RichTextEdit control and the RichText DataWindow object. To work with all of them, you should use TX Text Control ActiveX X14 2400.

2.3 Known issues with SaveAs PDF (using PDFLib)

The SaveAs PDF method (NativePDF! using PDFLib) has a few issues when handling data or images:

- Some data in the nested reports (most of the case, in the last nested report) may not print (appear as blank) in the PDF file. If this issue occurs, you can try to avoid it by adjusting the height of the problematic nested report.

- When the image of the Picture control is saved to the PDF file using PDFLib, the image will lose some quality.

2.4 Known issues with SQL Anywhere

There is a known issue with the SQL Anywhere 17 trial version (17.0.4.2053) which is downloaded from the SAP web site. This known issue will affect calling the stored procedure. You can consider using SQL Anywhere 12, 16, or 17.0.4.2088 or later, to avoid this issue.

2.5 Known issues with licenses

For PowerBuilder which is activated using an online license, if it is not connecting with the Appeon license server for over 5 days (due to reasons such as the machine has been disconnected from Internet for over 5 days), the local license will be locked when PowerBuilder is launched next time without internet connection. After the local license is locked, if the same account is used to log in to PowerBuilder, the message "You are already logged in" appears. If this happens, please ask your license administrator to go to the Appeon web site and log out the problematic account there; and then you will be able to log in and activate the license again using the same account.

2.6 Known issues with anti-virus tools

The anti-virus tools that have been certified to work with PowerBuilder and PowerServer are AVG, Avira, McAfee, Avast, and Kaspersky. Other anti-virus tools that are not listed here may block the installation program or runtime files of PowerBuilder or PowerServer. If this happens, please contact the Appeon Support team for help.

2.7 Known issues with opening objects

The object (such as Menu, User Object) opens slowly in the PowerBuilder 2017 R2 IDE, especially for large complex applications.

Performing a full build of the application can greatly improve the opening speed of the object.

2.8 Known issues with OData

This issue also exists in PowerBuilder 12.6 and 2017.

When connecting a transaction object to an OData service, the application crashes. This only occurs when deploying the application to a computer where the PowerBuilder IDE is not installed. It works on the computer with PowerBuilder installed. This issue is caused by the limitation of PowerBuilder runtime packager, where the command "regasm" cannot be run automatically. Please use the following workaround.

1. Select the OData checkbox under 'Database Interfaces', so that Sybase.PowerBuilder.ODataWrapper.dll will be deployed with the PowerBuilder runtime packager.

2. Register the assembly as a COM component.

   In 32-bit OS, run this command using an administrator account: regasm Sybase.PowerBuilder.ODataWrapper.dll /tlb:Sybase.PowerBuilder.ODataWrapper.tlb / codebase.

   In 64-bit OS, run the same command but with the corresponding 64-bit regasm.exe file which is by default located in C:\Windows\Microsoft.NET\Framework64\v4.0.30319.

3 Bug Fixes

The following bugs are fixed in PowerBuilder 2017 R2 **Build 1769** and later.

- (Bug ID: 717, 744, 759, 776, 768, 785, 791, 798, 802, 826) When the DataWindow column is protected (Protect property set to 1), executing the DataWindow SetRow function may cause unexpected results: 1) SetRow function may return incorrect values; 2) the current column may lose focus; or 3) the focus may move from the current row to the first row.

- (Bug ID: 698, 741, 751, 752, 799) When you make a change to the SQL of a DataWindow that contains computed columns (even if the change is only to add a few spaces), you will get unexpected results: (1) The DB Name of the computed column will be changed to compute_####; (2) All the properties of the computed column (font, color, position, visibilities) will be reset.

- (Bug ID: 330) Executing external functions (such as setting the OLE Object properties) causes PowerBuilder IDE to crash.

- (Bug ID: N/A) FileReadEx function fails to read content from the file (length is null) and returns the value 3.

- (Bug ID: 889) The Environment OSMajorRevision property fails to return the correct version of operating system for Windows 10.

- (Bug ID: 873) PowerScript event executes the embedded SQL statements when PowerBuilder compiles the scripts.

- (Bug ID: N/A) Failed to execute "Git Pull" after executing "Connect to Workspace" in the GitLab or BitBucket server.

The following bugs are fixed in PowerBuilder 2017 R2 **Build 1756** and later.

- (Bug ID: 569) In the Customize dialog for the PowerServer Toolkit icons, the Current toolbar section still displays the icons for the old version.

- (Bug ID: 435) "stack size changed during a routine call" error is recorded in the log when debugging a PowerBuilder application.

- (Bug ID: 455) When saving a DataWindow as PDF using the NativePDF! method, the fields and text titles in some fonts are reversed.

- (Bug ID: 416) When saving a DataWindow containing an "autosize height" column with NativePDF! method, the text overlaps the column.

- (Bug ID: 403) Dynamically calling a function containing handle(this) will cause the app to crash. For example,

```
w_genapp_frame.dynamic of_SheetIsClosing(handle(this), li_integer, ls_string,
ll_long, this)
```

- (Bug ID: 365) When saving a DataWindow that uses 0 as font size using the NativePDF! method, the PDF cannot be opened though it can be created.

- (Bug ID: 253) Triggering the Timer event in a dockable window causes the PowerBuilder IDE to crash.

- (Bug ID: 249 & 250) The CustomSize property of the NativePDF! method does not handle all of the paper sizes (such as A4) accurately.

- (Bug ID: 177) When inserting text into the RichTextEdit control, the text is not using the default font.

- (Bug ID: 417) PBC170.exe has stopped working when building a large number of (like 120) PBLs.

- (Bug ID: N/A) If the DataWindow contains many images, the PDF file generated using NativePDF! method will be very large. Compared to PDF generated using a third-party tool, it could be 10 times larger in file size.

- (Bug ID: 252) Text that uses a dynamically loaded font will be missing when saved as PDF using the NativePDF! method.

- (Bug ID: N/A) The quality of bitmap with sign is very low in the PDF file generated using the NativePDF! method.

4 Integrate with SAP PowerBuilder 12.6 Bug Fixes

According to the announcement ([view here](#)), Appeon and SAP will offer different product lines of PowerBuilder.

The Appeon's product line will integrate with the bugs fixed in the SAP's product line. In the case of the GA version of Appeon PowerBuilder 2017 R2, the bug fixes in SAP PowerBuilder 12.6 EBF 4166 (which is released in 2017 Q3) have been integrated.

5 PowerServer (PB Edition) VS. Other PowerServer Editions

PowerSever (PB Edition) indicates the PowerServer provided in the Appeon PowerBuilder 2017 R2 Universal Edition, it supports mobile deployments on the .NET IIS application server only. Other PowerServer editions indicate the PowerServer (Developer/Workgroup/Enterprise Edition) provided by Appeon which supports both Web and mobile deployments on both the .NET and J2EE application servers. Notice the different components contained in these editions.

Table 5.1: Components contained in different editions

Component	PB Edition	Developer Edition	Workgroup Edition	Enterprise Edition
PowerServer Toolkit	Available	Not available	Not available	Not available
PowerServer (Web/Mobile)	Available **(Mobile only)**	Available	Available	Available
PowerServer Web Component	Available	Available	Available	Available
PowerServer Help	Available	Available	Available	Available

PowerServer Toolkit is only available in the PowerServer (PB Edition) only. It supports both the Web app deployment and the mobile app deployment, to both the 2017 R2, 2017, and 2016 PowerServer (formerly called Appeon Server).

The **PowerServer** component from **PB Edition** and the **PowerServer** component from **Developer/Workgroup/Enterprise Edition** must be installed on different servers. If you install them on the same server, unpredictable issues may occur, and you should uninstall both, and then install them separately on different servers.

Also notice the different features supported in these editions.

Table 5.2: Features supported in different editions

Feature	PB Edition	Developer Edition	Workgroup Edition	Enterprise Edition
Mobile app deployment	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Web app deployment	Not supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Deployment to .NET application server	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Deployment to J2EE application server	Not supported	Supported	Supported	Supported

Feature	PB Edition	Developer Edition	Workgroup Edition	Enterprise Edition
Clustering and load balancing	Supported	Not supported	Not supported	Supported
Offline mobile capability	Not supported	Supported	Supported	Supported

6 Product Compatibilities

PowerBuilder has been tested for compatibility with a number of software products.

Table 6.1: Software Products Tested with PowerBuilder

Software Type or Product	Compatibility Description
SQL Anywhere	PowerBuilder 2017 R2 has been tested with SQL Anywhere 12.0 thru 17.0.
Microsoft .NET Framework	PowerBuilder 2017 R2 is compatible with Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 or later.
Oracle JDK	PowerBuilder 2017 R2 is compatible with Oracle JDK 1.6.

7 Third-Party Components and Deployment

PowerBuilder applications have some dependencies on third-party components that are installed with PowerBuilder.

Most of these components are not installed with the PowerBuilder Runtime Packager. You may redistribute some of these components with your application, but others must be obtained from the vendor.

7.1 Apache Files

You may redistribute the Apache files that are included with PowerBuilder to your users.

Any use or distribution of the Apache code included with PowerBuilder 2017 R2 must comply with the terms of the Apache License, which is located in the free download terms document for PowerBuilder.

Version 0.20.5 of the Apache Formatting Objects Processor (FOP) is required if your application uses XSL-FO to save files as PDF. See the Apache FOP Web site at https://xmlgraphics.apache.org/fop/.

The Apache Xerces files *xerces-c_2_8.dll* and *xerces-depdom_2_8.dll* are required for XML Web DataWindow support, XML support for DataWindows and DataStores, PBDOM, and SOAP clients for Web services. See the Xerces C++ Parser Web site at http://xerces.apache.org/xerces-c/.

7.2 Microsoft Files

Special Microsoft files are required on runtime computers for various PowerBuilder features.

7.2.1 Visual C++ Runtime and the Active Template Library

When you deploy the core PowerBuilder runtime files, make sure the *msvcr80.dll* (for 32-bit only), *msvcp80.dll* (for 32-bit only), *msvcr100.dll* and *msvcp100.dll* Microsoft Visual C++ runtime libraries and the Microsoft .NET Active Template Library (ATL) module, *atl80.dll* (for 32-bit only) and *atl100.dll*, are present on the user's computer or server.

The PowerBuilder runtime files have a runtime dependency on these files and they are required for all applications and components that require the PowerBuilder runtime. You can obtain these DLL files from the \Program Files\Appeon\Shared\PowerBuilder folder, or from DLL archive Web sites at http://dlldump.com or http://driverskit.com/.

> **Note**
>
> Some files that are installed by the MSI file generated by the PowerBuilder Runtime Packager have dependencies on these files. For example, atl100.dll must be installed on the user's computer before the pbjvm<version>.dll file can be registered. Make sure these files are on the target computer before you run the MSI file generated by the Runtime Packager.

7.2.2 Ink Picture Libraries

Microsoft.Ink, *Microsoft.Ink.dll*, and *Microsoft.Resources.dll* are required if your application uses InkEdit and InkPicture controls. These files are part of the Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 and later, and are available at C:\Windows\winsxs and its sub-folders after .NET framework is installed.

7.2.3 DirectX Runtime

PowerBuilder applications can use DirectX 3D rendering to display 3D graphs (Pie3D, Bar3D, Column3D, Line3D, and Area3D) with a more sophisticated look. You can use data item or series transparency with the DirectX graph styles to improve the presentation of data.

The DirectX 3D rendering depends on the DirectX runtime. The first time you select the Render3D check box on the General tab of the Properties view for a 3D graph, PowerBuilder launches the DirectX installer. If you opt out of the installation, the Render3D property is ignored. End users of PowerBuilder applications must also have the DirectX runtime installed on their computers to view the DirectX graph styles. You can download the DirectX runtime from the Microsoft Web site at http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=2da43d38-db71-4c1b-bc6a-9b6652cd92a3&DisplayLang=en.

For computers with older graphics drivers, you can check whether DirectX is supported by running *dxdiag.exe*. This file is typically installed in the Windows\System32 directory. The Display tab of the DirectX Diagnostic Tool that opens when you run *dxdiag.exe* indicates whether Direct3D is enabled.

7.3 Oracle files

The Java Runtime Environment (JRE) is required for EJB clients, JDBC connections, and saving as PDF using XSL-FO. For a copy of third-party terms and conditions for the JRE, see the free download terms document.The JRE can be downloaded from the Oracle Technology Network at http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html.

7.4 Software Used for SOAP Clients for Web Services

PowerBuilder applications can use EasySoap to connect to Web services. The EasySoap ++ library in executable form (*EasySoap170dll*), which is dynamically linked to *PBSoapClient170.pbx*, is distributed with PowerBuilder.

The EasySoap++ library and its use are covered by the GNU Lesser General Public License (LGPL). For a copy of this license, see the free download terms document.

You may distribute the EasySoap++ library to third parties, subject to the terms and conditions of the LGPL.

The complete machine-readable source code for the EasySoap++ library is in the *EasySoap.zip* file in the *Support\WSExtn* folder on the installation package. In addition, the object code and Microsoft Visual C++ project file for the *PBSoapClient170.pbx* are in the *soapclient.zip* file in the same directory.

These files are provided under the terms of the LGPL so you can modify the EasySoap ++ library and then relink to produce a modified *EasySoap170.dll*. You can also relink *PBSoapClient170.pbx* with the modified EasySoap++ import library. According to the terms

of the LPGL, you may not be able to recompile *PBSoapClient170.pbx* to use the definitions you have modified in the EasySoap++ library.

Follow the instructions in the *Readme.txt* file in the *soapclient.zip* file to build *PBSoapClient170.pbx*.

7.5 List of Free Download Components (Including Open Source Components)

For the complete list of the free download components (including open-source components), view the Free Download Terms document on the Appeon Web site.

8 Migration Information

You can migrate a PowerBuilder application from any version of PowerBuilder directly to PowerBuilder 2017 R2. You cannot migrate applications from PowerBuilder 2017 R2 to older versions of PowerBuilder.

Before you migrate, back up your files and use the Migration Assistant to identify obsolete code. The applications you build using the current version of PowerBuilder must be deployed with the PowerBuilder runtime DLLs from the current version.

Note

The "Migrating PowerBuilder Applications" technical document at https://www.appeon.com/support/documents/appeon_online_help/pb2017r2/migrating_pb_apps includes information on changes to PowerBuilder since version 6.5 that might affect the conversion of applications to a more recent PowerBuilder version.

8.1 Migrating .NET Targets from Earlier Versions of PowerBuilder

When you migrate .NET Web Service components, you might need to remove or install supporting files on development and deployment computers.

If you deployed .NET projects from earlier versions of PowerBuilder, verify or complete these steps before redeploying the migrated .NET projects:

- For .NET Web Service targets, clear ASP.NET temporary files for the application or component on development computers and production servers.

  The temporary files are located in the *C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\version\Temporary ASP.NET Files\projectName* directory, where `version` is typically v2.0.50727, and `projectName` is the project's Web application name or its Web service virtual directory name.

- For all .NET targets, uninstall earlier versions of PowerBuilder runtime files (system assemblies and win32 DLLs) on all deployment computers or servers, then install the runtime files for the current version of PowerBuilder using the Runtime Packager or another tool, as described in the "Checklist for deployment" section of the Deploying Components as .NET Assemblies or Web Services.

8.2 System Types as Variable Names in Proxies

In PowerBuilder versions 10.5 and later, you cannot use system types as variable names in Web service proxies.

If a PowerBuilder system type is used as a variable name, the Web Service Proxy wizard renames the variable by applying the prefix `ws_`. If you are migrating Web service applications from PowerBuilder 10.2 or earlier, and regenerating the Web service proxies in PowerBuilder 10.5 or later, you may need to modify your code to reflect the change in variable names.

PowerBuilder system types include not only the objects and controls listed on the System tab page in the PowerBuilder Browser, but also the enumerated types listed on the Enumerated

page in the Browser, such as band, button, encoding, location, and weekday. For example, if you build a Web service from a PowerBuilder custom class user object, and one of its functions has a string argument named `location`, in the proxy generated for that Web service, the argument is changed to `ws_location`.

8.3 OLE DB Performance with Microsoft SQL Server

In PowerBuilder 10.5.2 and later, when you use the OLE DB database interface with a Microsoft SQL Server database and retrieve data into a DataWindow, or use an embedded SQL cursor in a **SELECT** statement, server-side cursors help to support multiple command execution.

If this has a negative impact on performance, try increasing the size of the Block database parameter to 500 or more, or adding the following line to the [Microsoft SQL Server] section in the PBODB initialization file to turn off server-side cursors: `ServerCursor = 'NO'`

8.4 Change in Behavior of OpenTab

A change was made in PowerBuilder 10.2.1 Build 9716, PowerBuilder 10.5.1 Build 6505, and PowerBuilder 11.0 Build 5021, to correct an anomalous behavior when the SelectedTab property was applied at runtime to a tab for which the Visible property was set to false.

As a result of this change, there is a change in the behavior of the `OpenTab` and `OpenTabWithParm` functions. In earlier versions, calling the `OpenTab` or `OpenTabWithParm` function to open a user object as a tab page displayed the tab page even if the user object's Visible property was set to false. In the current version, the user object's Visible property must be set to true for the tab page to appear.

8.5 ImportFile Size Limit

If your application uses the `ImportFile` method to import very large text files into a DataWindow or DataStore, `ImportFile` returns the error code -15.

PowerBuilder versions 10.0 and later are Unicode enabled. Earlier ANSI versions of PowerBuilder were able to import larger text files.

Note

The release bulletins for earlier versions listed the size limit for large files as approximately 839,000 lines. However, the size limit depends on the number of columns in the files, as well as the number of lines.

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9 Obtaining Help and Additional Information

Use the Product Documentation site and online help to learn more about this product release.

- Product Documentation at https://www.appeon.com/developers/library/product-manuals-for-pb – PDF documentation that you can download. The Web site also has links to other resources, such as white papers, community forums, maintenance releases, and support content.

- Online help in the product, if available.

To read or print PDF documents, you need Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available as a free download from the Adobe Web site.

Note

A more recent release bulletin, with critical product or document information added after the product release, may be available from the Product Documentation Web site.

9.1 Technical Support

All customers are entitled to standard technical support for reproducible software defects. You can open a standard support ticket at the Appeon support site: https://www.appeon.com/standardsupport/ (login required).

If your organization has purchased a premium support contract for this product, then the designated authorized support contact(s) may seek assistance with your technical issue or question at the Appeon support site: https://support.appeon.com (login required).

10 Important Disclaimers on Legal Aspects

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Any software coding and/or code lines / strings ("Code") included in this documentation are only examples and are not intended to be used in a productive system environment. The Code is only intended to better explain and visualize the syntax and phrasing rules of certain coding. Appeon does not warrant the correctness and completeness of the Code given herein, and Appeon shall not be liable for errors or damages caused by the usage of the Code, unless damages were caused by Appeon intentionally or by Appeon's gross negligence.

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