

PVCS® Tracker™ 7.5

Overview

PVCS Tracker 7.5 is one of the enabling technologies for Merant Enterprise Change Management solutions. PVCS Tracker automates the capture, management and communication of issues across development and business project teams. Integration of Tracker and PVCS Version Manager within the PVCS Professional suite enables developers to link associated development files with Tracker-managed issues and changes, while enabling managers to visualize and report on team progress and prioritize workflow tasks.

Merant understands that development organizations have different needs, and therefore offers a range of products for varying SCM practices. With the Professional suite, which includes Version Manager as well as Tracker, we find that this is an ideal solution for the following criteria:

- Short/recurring projects (3 – 12 months)
- Project teams requiring rapid start-up (less than a month)
- Distributed project teams working from a central repository
- Project teams required to adapt to change rapidly and interested in low cost of ownership

What's New in PVCS Tracker 7.5

PVCS Tracker is part of the Merant PVCS Professional suite. For this and future releases, the version numbers will remain synchronized. PVCS Professional 7.5 includes PVCS Version Manager 7.5, PVCS Tracker 7.5 and PVCS Configuration Builder 7.5.

This release and planned future releases focus upon three major areas: Distributed Development, Flexibility and Scalability. Improvements in these areas combine to provide additional support and flexibility for maturing software development teams, whether large or small.

Distributed Development

Working with team members in a distributed fashion has become the norm. In fact, most organizations are experiencing these challenges on a daily basis - remote users, geographically dispersed sites, multiple platforms, and parallel projects. To solve this problem we have added the following capabilities:

TrackerLink directly within the Version Manager browser client brings integral Tracker capability to developers within their native work environment. Through TrackerLink and a new administrator setting, enforcement of code-to-issue association (if desired) has never been easier. In some industries (FDA regulated), the ability to provide a complete historical audit trail (who, what, when, how and

why) for ALL code changes is mandatory as part of the 21 CFR Part 11 regulation. TrackerLink allows traceability of change control authorizations to the impacted source code, preventing unauthorized software changes and enabling auditability of change.

Key Benefits:

- Understand what issues required you to make source code changes to make decisions about what areas to re-write, partner or simply maintain
- Spend less time training through a common user experience within desktop and browser clients and make usable today
- Implement a common process for local and remote developers

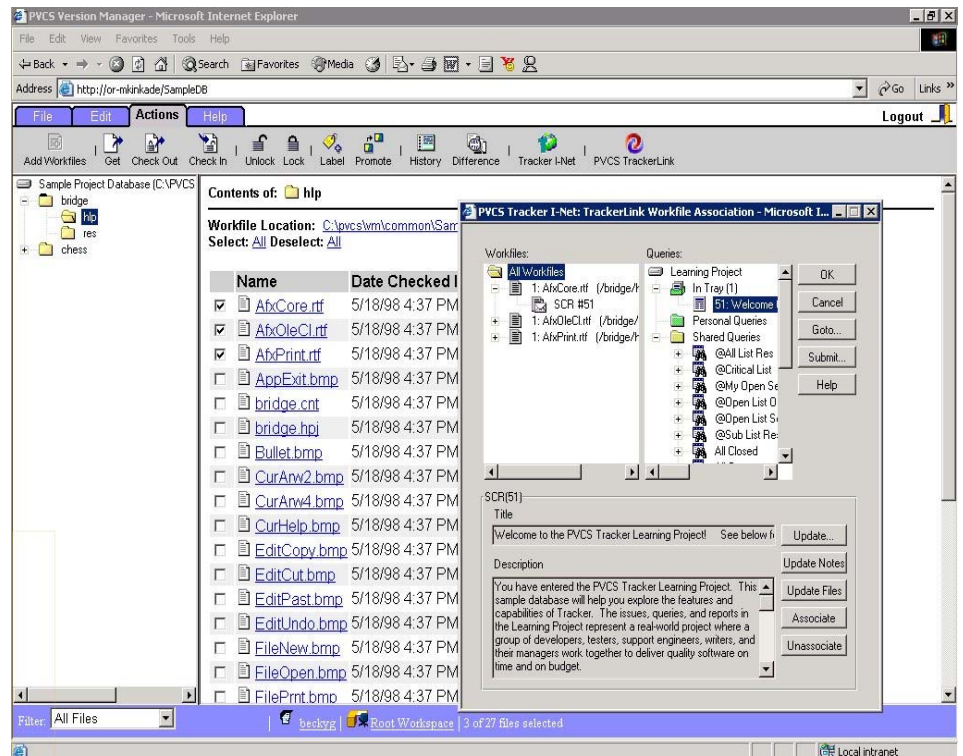


Figure 1: Establish traceability between source code and issues.

As organizations continue to mature it has become imperative to interact with a wider spectrum of platforms while still offering a common user experience. In other words, one size no longer fits all, such as the varying programming methodologies, development tools and operating systems that often coexist in the enterprise, or even within a single development team. That said, the need to provide a common component provides a greater change to expedite development projects. Thus, leveraging Citrix technology, along with Microsoft secure tunneling, enables Professional (Version Manager and Tracker) to run on additional platforms, and extends desktop functionality to remote team members.

Key benefits:

- Leverage existing knowledge for rapid development

- Spend less time training through a common user experience within desktop and browser clients and make usable today

Flexibility

In these turbulent economic times it is important to leverage one’s existing investments to achieve success, while minimizing the project costs. To that end, Merant has integrated Microsoft **Visual SourceSafe** and PVCS Version Manager capabilities directly within Tracker. Focusing on the needs of the QA and build roles, this integration enables users to work directly in Tracker and manage the automation and build assets.

For example, a build engineer just finished running a build and the build did not complete, for which he submitted an SCR and associated to the code modules in question. Or, a QA engineer pulls the latest build from source control and after running a specific test plan finds an error, she then submits an SCR and associates to the appropriate test plan.

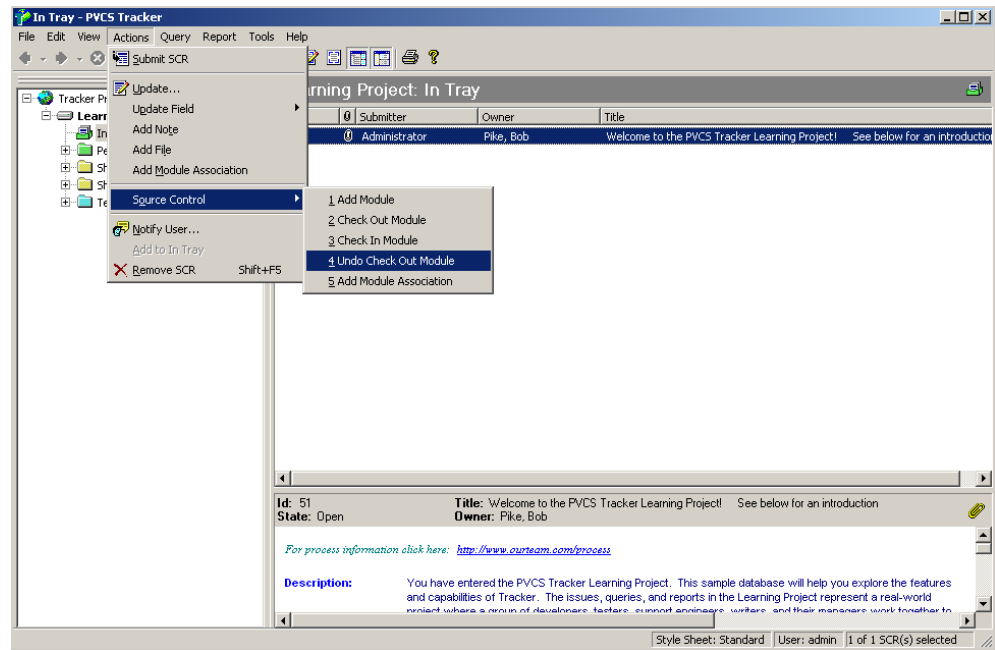


Figure 2: Establish traceability between source code and issues directly from within Tracker for both Visual SourceSafe and Version Manager.

Key benefits:

- Leverage existing investments (VSS) for managing project costs
- New capabilities for VSS users (label files during a check-in)
- Understand what issues required you to make source/test/build changes

Scalability

Uptime is almost synonymous with project cost. As a result, clustered computing environments are becoming ever more popular to plan for disaster recovery events through redundant servers, such that when a failure occurs on the primary server, the backup server picks up. This minimizes any impact to the end-user and ensures no

data loss. That said, improved support for **clustered** environments through auto re-connect capability is available. When the primary server has a failure, Tracker realizes it can no longer make a valid connection and waits until the backup server is available to connect.

Key benefits:

- Maximize Tracker uptime in clustered computing environments
- Prevent lose of project login connections when disconnected from the network, or when the network is down
- Build your disaster recovery plan

New Platforms

Merant continues to focus on providing leading edge solutions to the market and has added support for the following upgraded platforms:

- Red Hat Linux 7.3
- SuSE Linux 8.0
- Sun Solaris 9
- Sun JVM 1.4

New Integrations

Merant continues to focus on integrations with best in breed solutions across the entire software development lifecycle and has added support for the following upgraded products:

- Microsoft Visual Studio.Net
- IBM WebSphere Studio Application Developer 5.0
- Eclipse 2.0

Recap of PVCS Tracker 7.1 Release Highlights

The 7.1 release added Dependent Fields and Transition Fields to allow the development of a lifecycle for the issue.

Dependent Fields

Dependent Fields are a great way to improve data integrity and make data entry easier for Tracker users. By configuring Dependent Fields, you can control available choices in one field based on the selected value of another field.

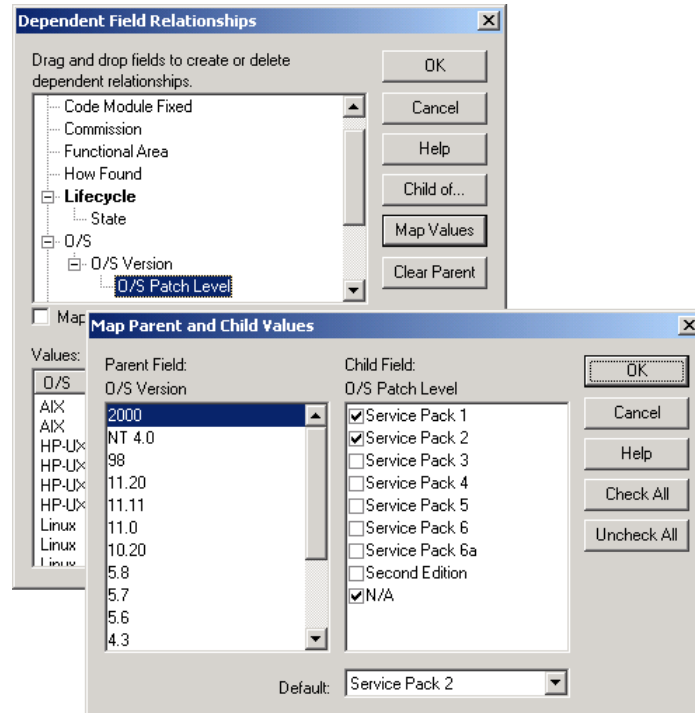


Figure 3: Dependent fields allow for multiple levels of dependency. In this example a three-level dependency has been created between O/S, O/S Version and O/S Patch Level.

Key benefits:

- Ability to limit choices in child fields based on the value of a parent field
- Improved data entry

Transition Fields

Transition Fields have been added to support implementation and enforcement of a simple workflow, allowing you to control the issue lifecycle. By using Transition Fields you can prevent issues from deviating from the defined software lifecycle.

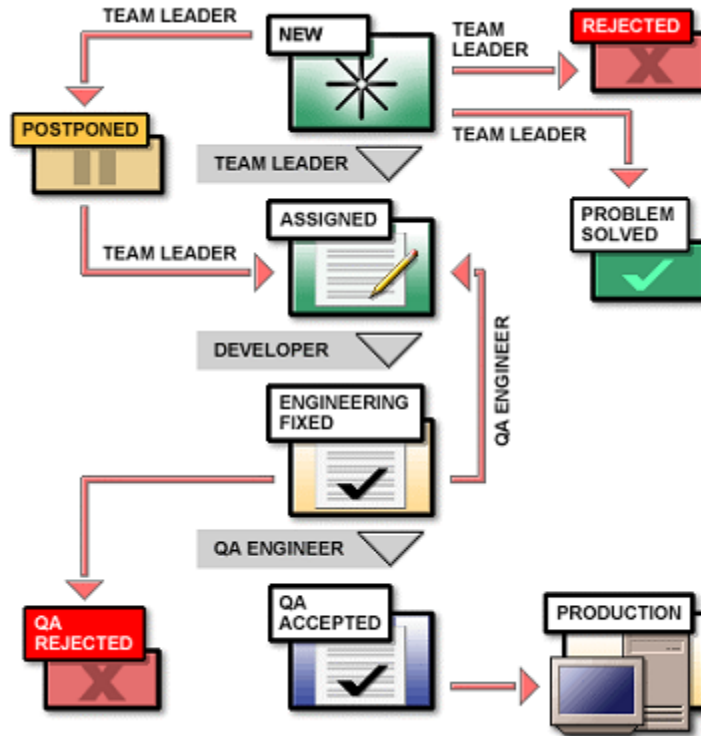


Figure 4: Manage your issues, not the other way around using Transition Fields.

Benefits of Transition Fields

- Supports multi-level status fields
- Controlled issue lifecycle

PVCS Tracker 7.5 – The Standard for Issue Management

PVCS Tracker captures the crush of issues that can consume a team, manages them from emergence to resolution and automatically communicates the results. PVCS Tracker goes beyond simple defect tracking — it keeps you on top of all team development issues to ensure:

- No more missed handoffs
- Automatic tracking of responsibilities and status
- Full documentation of changes
- Faster development, with higher quality results

PVCS Tracker is easily accessible when and where users want it, including Windows, IDE, Unix and web environments. It is easy to administer and scales to large, distributed project teams.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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RH02TRK273

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