

Quality Companion 3 by Minitab®

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Part 1. Introduction to Quality Companion 3

Quality Companion by Minitab® lets you manage your quality improvement projects in one application. Organize projects with built-in Roadmaps and receive expert guidance during the entire project. Customize Companion's powerful tools—such as process and value stream maps, forms, and brainstorm templates—to standardize processes throughout your company. Create and share custom data and then track the data with the Quality Companion Dashboard, a free utility designed to provide an aggregate view of your entire program.

Learn more at www.QualityCompanion.com

Part 2. What's New

Quality Companion 3.2.0

- Value Stream Map (VSM) templates to establish the flow of value-added and non value-added information and materials.

The new VSM tool supports:

- Current and future state maps.
 - Adding and displaying data on shapes.
 - Automatic calculations of variables such as takt time, cycle time, and lead time.
 - An optional timeline display.
 - User-defined data.
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- When working with large forms, performance is significantly enhanced.
 - Performance over a network connection, such as VPN, is greatly improved. Frequently accessed files are now cached locally.

Quality Companion 3.1.0

You can import Microsoft® Visio® diagrams as Quality Companion process maps, and then add sharable X, Y, process and lean data directly to the imported shapes and connectors.

You can create custom data fields and categories and then use them throughout projects. For example, add custom data to process maps, tasks, team members, and project data. You can also assign custom data fields to custom data categories to form logical groupings. Custom data categories display within the Project Manager.

After you define custom data fields and categories, you can import and export their definitions to share across projects.

You can view a summary of all project level data in the Project Manager, including detailed, summary, and financial data as well as capability metrics.

The Data Store has been renamed Process Map Data.

Cross-functional process maps have been enhanced:

- Shapes can span multiple departments.
- Dragging departments and phase lines behave similarly.
- You can drag shapes along with departments.
- Inserting phases allow departments and shapes to adjust correctly.

Managing the display of X, Y, process, and lean data on process maps is now simpler.

New fishbone templates include DOE Fishbone, 8P, and 4S.

Project Today has a new financial section where you can create custom financial data fields and categories.

Creating tables in forms is now easier with new formatting commands including:

- Spacing rows evenly
- Spacing columns evenly
- Setting row and column size

Ease of use improvements include:

- In the New dialog box, use [Ctrl]-click to select multiple forms or templates to open.
- Smart toolbars only appear when they're needed.
- Financial functions use standard spreadsheet syntax.
- The formula builder has been enhanced.
- User-defined templates are now easier to find and open .

*The Quality Companion Dashboard is also improved. Please refer to the **Quality Companion Dashboard ReadMe** for more information.*

Part 3. Known Problems and Workarounds

Presentation

- With an English XP operating system with the locale set to Korean, a presentation does not allow the user to switch to Korean typing on the Language Bar. (32938)
- In a presentation, changing the line color of a rectangle or circle to “No Line” deletes the shape from the presentation. (40681)
- An Internet Explorer script error may occur when reordering slides in the Slide List. (40503)

Process Map

- Microsoft Visio diagrams may be slow to open in Quality Companion. May experience reduced performance when importing Microsoft Visio diagrams. (145542)
- If shapes have been set as a group, you will be unable to attach a connector to any shape within the group. (23311)
WORKAROUND: Ungroup the shapes, add connectors, and then regroup the shapes.
- When running Quality Companion on a computer with a Simplified Chinese XP Pro, Service Pack 2 operating system, text entered into a process map shape is very small. (36025)
WORKAROUND: Select the shape(s) and increase the font size using the Formatting toolbar.
- Variable data is not saved with a process map if you choose **File > Save Process Map As**. (31153)

Forms

- If you save a form containing a tool hyperlink as a .qct (template) or .qcf (form) file, and then open the file in a new project, the hyperlink disappears from the form. However, you can see the hyperlink in Design Mode. (146343)
- If you paste a column of cells into a column in a data table that shares data, and the pasted column contains values that already exist, Quality Companion allows duplicate values in the column, even when the values should be unique (for example, X Variable Name). (146375)
- If you save a form with an optional section as a web page (.mht or .htm), the optional section title and icon are not included. (124525)

- In Windows Vista, if you have a bar chart or pareto chart that compares two sets of values and you remove the control for one of the sets of values, the chart is empty in Fill-Out mode. (126645)

WORKAROUND: In Design mode, right-click the chart and choose **Properties**, then click **OK**. When you change to Fill-Out mode, the remaining set of values is represented in the chart.

- In fill-out mode, if you use the Tab key to move between editable text boxes, Quality Companion skips rotated text boxes. This affects the C&E Matrix and the Project Prioritization Matrix, as well as any new forms you create that include rotated text boxes. (30053)

WORKAROUND: Use the mouse to navigate into a rotated text box.

- After inserting a data table into a blank form and setting a repeating column, choosing **Edit > Undo** will remove the table from the form, rather than removing the repeating column. Choose **Edit > Redo** to return the table to the form. (32859)

WORKAROUND: Choose **Table > Remove Repeating Column** to manually remove the repeating column.

- On a blank form, if you insert a data table into a cell of an inserted layout table and set the last column of the data table as a repeating column, the data table will be cut off when the form is set to fill-out mode. (29681)
- In design mode, you cannot choose **Table > Set as Repeating Column** on forms that include merged cells. Sometimes, it is not clear that cells have been merged, such as in the Cumulative Metrics form. (31074)

- Overflow errors may occur when using extremely large numbers in formulas. (33930)
- You cannot insert a title above a table that is positioned at the top of a page. (30274)

WORKAROUND: Press [Ctrl] + [Home] to move the cursor to the top of the page and press [Enter] to move the table down.

- Long titles on a Gantt Chart or long subjects on a Task Progress Report can cause the chart to be pushed far right on the form, even to the point where it is no longer visible. (40745)

WORKAROUND: Use shorter title or subject entries.

- To support data sharing, you can no longer have more than one Project Leader, Process Owner, Financial Analyst, or Champion. If you specified more than one of these roles in a project file created in a previous version of Quality Companion, fields will be blank in forms where these roles are data shared. (126261)

WORKAROUND: On the form, type the name in the blank field to automatically update the team member list.

- After undoing or redoing a change to graph properties, further attempts to undo or redo may not work. (30838)

- Pasting formatted text into a rich-edit box does not retain color, font style, or font size. (41747)
- Saving a form with an optional section to .mht or .htm formats does not save the optional section caption or icon. (124525)

Spell Checking

- The spell check function under the Tools menu and the Find and Replace functions under the Edit menu ignore rotated text boxes. This affects the C&E Matrix and the Project Prioritization Matrix, as well as any new forms you create that include rotated text boxes. (31227)
 WORKAROUND: Remove the text rotation. In design mode, double-click the rotated text box to display the Text Box Properties dialog box. On the Formatting tab, uncheck **Rotate text**.
- When performing a spell check on a data table or form with the same misspelled word appearing multiple times, the **Change All** option will not change any occurrences of the misspelled word that you had previously skipped. (31231, 31232)

Custom Data.

- Custom decimal fields can have only five significant digits. (143648)
- When you spell check single value project data, the contents of a field may be overwritten by the correction. (140217)

Install/License.

- Vista: During an Admin GUI install, error 2318 displays at the point where files are copied to the target folder. (145024)
- Internet Explorer 8 users may have problems with the update service. (146321)
- When you apply the Minitab 15.1.1 Multi-User license update to a system with a Quality Companion Multi-User license, the MINITAB_LICENSE_FILE environment variable is removed from the system, resulting in license errors from both applications. (131481)

Misc.

- We no longer support Lotus® Notes®. (138516)
- If you use a web page as a coach and save a copy of it in the phase or tool, when you open the coach you may see a blank page. (35028)
 WORKAROUND: Instead of saving a copy of the web page in the phase or tool, link to the web page. Blank page is loaded when adding an external Coach to a Phase
- If you are using the Simplified Chinese IME, the date picker calendar display may be incorrect. Chinese QuanPin - the month at the top of the calendar is incorrect (garbage characters) and the symbol for each day is the same (145735)

- Printing large tools, such as FMEA forms or process maps, may cause page breaks to occur in awkward locations. (34980)

WORKAROUND: Choose **File > Print Preview** to preview where the page breaks occur. Click the **Page Setup** button and adjust the scaling to a value less than 100% of normal size so that the page breaks occur in a more suitable place.

- You must install Adobe® Flash® Player to run the demos. (34196)
- When choosing to copy the Y metrics graph and table when the table is full, an hourglass will appear and flicker. Attempting to paste the graph and table before the hourglass disappears can cause some of the table and graph to paste incorrectly. (29583)
- Data entry may be lost if an auto-save occurs during editing. (41134)
- You must refresh a SharePoint page containing a link to a Quality Companion document before you can view the updated version of the Quality Companion document. (35183)
- If your computer is behind a firewall that blocks Quality Companion, you cannot open any Related Documents that are linked web pages. (42178)
- On the Advanced Settings dialog of Display Properties for your computer, changing the DPI setting to a custom percentage causes issues with cursors and text editing. (133022)

WORKAROUND: Choose a default DPI setting.