


## DATA SHEET



### OPTIMAL TRACE

Capture and manage the right requirements to improve application delivery.

Built to enable IT and the business to collaborate more effectively, Optimal Trace provides requirements capture and management capabilities in a single solution. This unique approach lets IT organizations realize a project's intended business benefits by managing the right requirements from the start.



*“Optimal Trace addresses the widespread challenge of inefficient requirements gathering through an integrated solution that does not segment the requirements workflow into gathering, management or any other sub-phases. Instead, it handles the requirements gathering process as continuous work in progress.”*

**Butler Group Technology Audit:**

“Optimal Trace Enterprise v5.0,”  
Michael Azoff and Balachandar Ganesh;  
January 2008.

Poor or omitted requirements are the source of over half the problems found in systems. To improve accuracy, communication and the delivery of high-quality applications, Optimal Trace facilitates the capture of well-defined requirements that can be fully traced through the project life cycle. Whether business analysts, non-technical staff, managers, developers or quality assurance teams, IT professionals gain the functionality they need to deliver applications successfully—all in a single solution.

### Single solution for capture and management of requirements

Traditional requirements management tools simply allow the user to manage a list of project requirements but make little or no provision for capturing more complete requirements upfront. Some vendors even require you to buy two separate tools—one for capture and one for management. Optimal Trace provides both. It combines powerful requirements capture features with standard requirements management capabilities. Optimal Trace supports both use-case and storyboard-style requirements, coupled with a requirements map, requirement flow diagrams and other visual features. Using an instant visual representation of how requirements relate to one another, business and IT users alike can determine whether requirements are complete.

### Define complete requirements

Although business users know what they want the application to do, IT teams need to understand both the business purpose and the technical requirements of the job. Optimal Trace enables users to capture requirements in both a structured or simple fashion allowing them to express

business needs, technical requirements or non-functional requirements of the system in an appropriate manner:

**Structured Requirements** are inherently action-oriented and represent the threads of functionality a system delivers. Optimal Trace captures these business-oriented functional requirements textually and graphically, providing a story-like definition of requirements and a comprehensive understanding of the business intent.

**Simple Requirements** can be used to outline performance, security and other non-functional necessities, or capture high-level business needs in a less structured fashion. IT teams can refine and link high-level business requirements to structured requirements, or link structured requirements with simple non-functional requirements, both logically and visually, using Optimal Trace.

Traditional tools often force users to categorize requirements unnecessarily, resulting in a collection of irrelevant information. Optimal Trace provides complete flexibility with folder structures, so users can organize structured and simple requirements, dragging and dropping them between different folders. Because users can manage structured and simple requirements jointly, they can trace requirements easily to the business intent and achieve a “balanced” requirement set.

With Optimal Trace, you can also:

- create multiple scenarios with steps that can be re-ordered, moved, linked or deleted with GUI-based actions
- organize requirements into logical groupings, while referencing requirements in other packages via branches or refinements
- use the graphical flow-diagram representation of scenarios to automatically update any changes to the textual representation

*“Optimal Trace allows us to work in real time with our clients to understand issues and deal with unresolved conflicts—right up front. There is nothing like going step by step through a transaction and asking ‘what next?’ It gets our clients rapidly to a level of thinking that otherwise might take weeks of work/review cycles.”*

**Jon Karpoff, Senior Partner,**  
Information Architecture Director,  
Ogilvy Interactive

- connect different requirements across projects via branches
- fully break down high-level requirements to create a hierarchy and show different levels of detail.

### Jump start requirements with import capabilities

Providing an effective import facility from Microsoft Word documents and other external formats allows fast integration of Optimal Trace into environments where a significant body of materials already exists. You can deploy Optimal Trace with minimal impact to rapidly adopt a business-driven approach for capturing and tracking requirements. Optimal Trace also generates extensive documentation and supports bi-directional linkages between requirements and generated documentation.

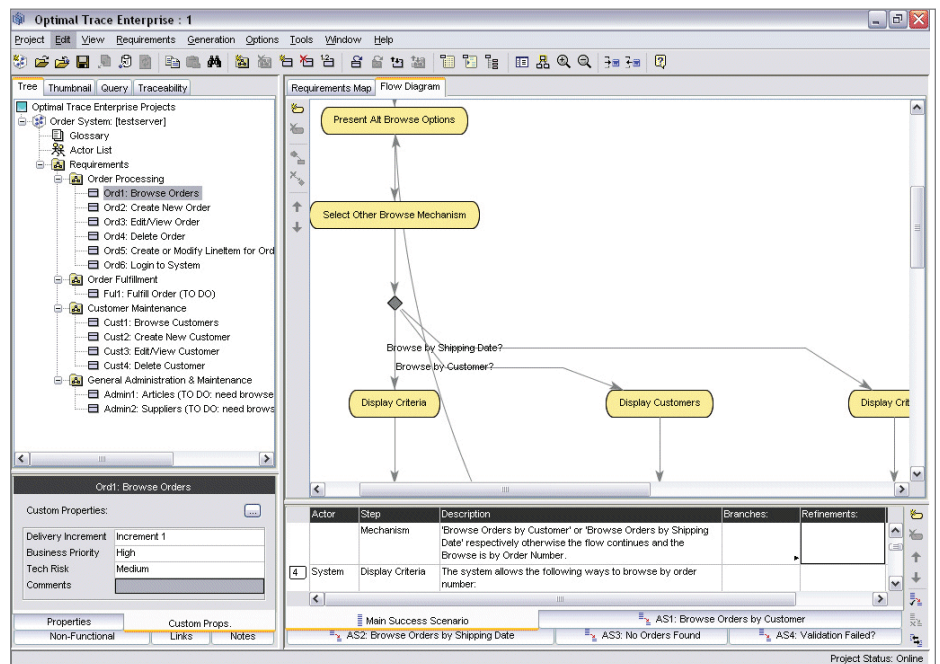
### Conforms to organizational documentation standards

While many organizations are moving away from error-prone and “document-

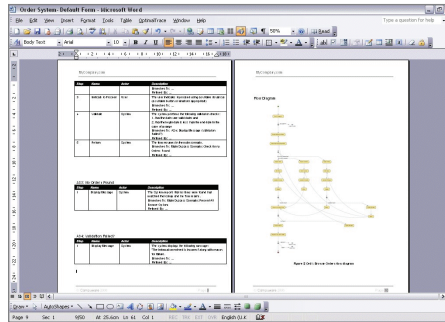
only” requirements processes, documentation output remains critical for meeting corporate or process standards. Optimal Trace’s document generation capabilities eliminate the need to render multiple specification documents manually with every change. IT teams can compare the changes made to generated documents with the requirements managed in Optimal Trace, while Optimal Trace delivers advanced merge capabilities to help teams re-import document changes. It includes associated artifacts such as sample screen shots, and any other custom properties associated with the requirements, to ensure completeness and accuracy of documentation.

### Team-based requirements management anytime, anywhere

Optimal Trace users can work on projects in real time connected to a centralized Optimal Trace server. While users work online, Optimal Trace automatically manages locks and permissions to ensure all users can work at the same time. Users can also make a copy of the project



Optimal Trace main project screen

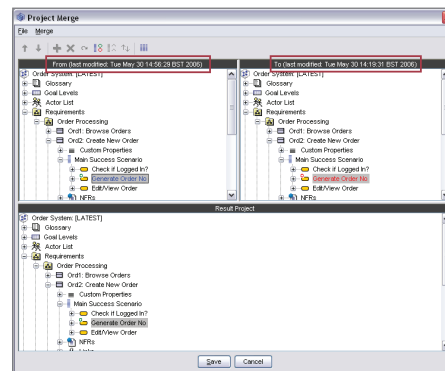


*Automatic document generation with Optimal Trace*

and work offline, disconnected from the central server. When a user re-connects to the central server, Optimal Trace provides advanced review and merge capabilities, synchronizing any changes with the active project without undoing other users' changes.

Optimal Trace also manages a team-based requirements system:

- Comprehensive Security restricts access to authorized users or groups of users at the project or requirement package level. Teams can also set up view/create/edit permissions at the project or requirement package level.
- Baselines track and manage different versions of requirements through comprehensive baseline comparison and merge functionality.
- Project Templates support corporate standards in terms of project structure, terminology and levels of structured requirements.

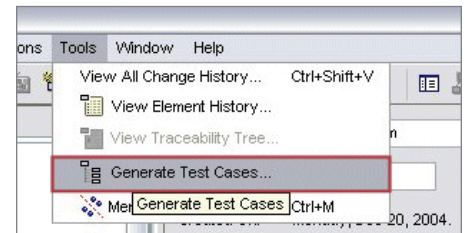


*User-friendly project merging for online and off-line collaboration*

**Automatically generate test cases**

Optimal Trace's automatic test case generation maps all requirement links and dependencies to the test plan. This approach ensures each defined requirement is tested and meets a project's ability to deliver on business objectives.

Optimal Trace integrates smoothly with leading testing tools, such as Micro Focus QADirector, to transition automatically generated test cases seamlessly into the actual test environment.



*Automatic test case generation*

**Managing change with detailed impact analysis**

Optimal Trace helps communicate business needs accurately throughout the entire life cycle. Because requirements change, however, IT needs to be able to react quickly. This requires IT teams to know what needs changing and what impact the changes may have to evaluate cost versus impact and determine the correct course of action.

Optimal Trace manages and tracks what happens to requirements during a project in real time. Its customized views and documentation, as well as the power to cut and slice the data in any way, allows IT teams to fully analyze requirements throughout the project life cycle. Organizations can deliver projects with greater predictability and control using these features of Optimal Trace:

## Optimal Trace helps IT organizations:

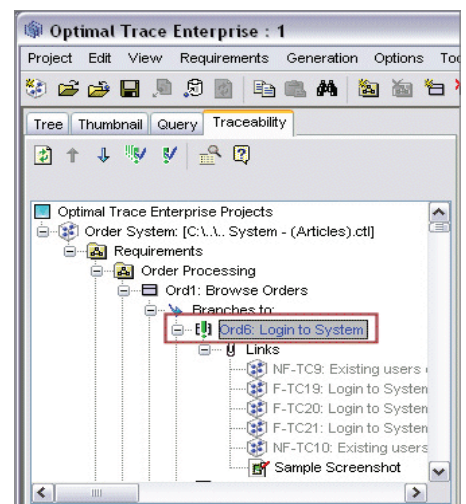
- automatically generate requirements documents in Microsoft Word
- reverse requirements documents into the main project, keeping your repository and documents in synch
- manage document templates to change the layout, content and branding for individual projects, customers and company standards.

- **Traceability Tree** traces all requirements to their dependencies, whether they are other Optimal Trace elements or external objects. Automatically generated by Optimal Trace, the Traceability Tree ensures full visibility of the connections and interdependencies within and across projects, as well as between elements of the project and external file artifacts. IT teams can conduct dependency and impact analyses easily, and highlight changes affecting other project requirements. Showing these links graphically facilitates understanding and accelerates buy-in for project definition and acceptance.
- **Suspect Links** are automatically highlighted whenever a change to one element of the project may have a domino effect on another file link or dependency. This helps keep track of amendments and allows IT teams to see all impacts on one element of the project when changes occur in another. Optimal Trace's Suspect Links also serve as an early warning system for potentially high-impact changes.
- **Change Analysis and Notification** highlights changes to specific project requirements, packages or elements to enable a more collaborative approach to requirements definition. Optimal Trace automatically e-mails any changes made subsequently to these elements and links users to the affected element. Users receive details of the proposed change and who made it, ensuring that requirements are continually matched with business needs.
- **Change History and Audit Trail** records all project amendments and changes, and maintains a full history of changes. As a result, additions to and deviations from the project can be tracked at all times, supporting project accountability and confirming the correct amendments are made at all times.

- **Custom Properties and Fields** can be created within each requirement for added flexibility. Attributing qualities becomes easy, as IT teams can quickly sort and find requirements based on custom properties, or capture domain-specific information alongside project requirements.

### Find the project data you need—in an instant

Optimal Trace supports full, logical, complex querying of project data, whether by requirement, custom field, approved/unapproved elements and status of project or priority issues. Queries are simple to set up and can be saved for regular and future use. Optimal Trace exports query results either for further work and filtering on project parameters or the development of detailed documentation and reports. Users can also generate stakeholder-specific status and management reports. Overall, IT teams get better, more concise views of project data for better reporting, tracking and prioritizing of business requirements.



*Automatic suspect link generation*

To learn more about Micro Focus Optimal Trace, visit:  
[www.microfocus.com](http://www.microfocus.com)

## About Micro Focus

Micro Focus, a member of the FTSE 250, provides innovative software that allows companies to dramatically improve the business value of their enterprise applications. Micro Focus Enterprise Application Modernization and Management software enables customers' business applications to respond rapidly to market changes and embrace modern architectures with reduced cost and risk.

For additional information please visit:  
[www.microfocus.com](http://www.microfocus.com)

## Micro Focus Worldwide

Australia	1800 632 626
Austria	0800 293 535
Belgium	0800 11 282
Canada	+1 905 824 7397
France	0800 835 135
Germany	0800 182 5443
Italy	800 784 420
Japan	+81 3 5793 8550
Luxembourg	800 23743
Netherlands	+31 23 5689 138
Norway	+47 22 91 07 20
Switzerland	0800 564 247
Sweden	+46 8 545 13 390
United Kingdom	0800 328 4967
United States	1 877 772 4450
Other Countries	+44 1635 32646

