

SLIM-Suite 10.0c Release Notes

SLIM-Estimate

Project Solutions	Bug Fix	Loading solutions from the log allowed previously hidden solutions to reappear on the Solution Comparison chart.
Project Solutions	Bug Fix	Solutions logged through the SLIM-Estimate API were not visible in the solution log in SLIM-Estimate. Now solutions created through the API show up.
Views/Charts/Reports	Change	The probability table values for the size metric were flipped, so that values that were previously shown at 99% probability are now shown at 1% probability.

SLIM-MasterPlan

Views/Charts/Reports	Bug Fix	When a user tried to change the color of the risk bars, MasterPlan did not show the selected color.
API	Bug Fix	Changed code to prevent conflicts between fixed menu and toolbar and MFC code used by MasterPlan that prevented API from opening program files and generating skills.

Multiple Applications

Exports	Bug Fix	Skill names or categories with an ampersand would get double encoded when exported to XML.
User Interface	Bug Fix	In a previous version of SLIM-Suite, the tools did not remember the size or position information from the previous session.
User Interface	Change	Changed the default behavior of the application menu and toolbar from dockable to fixed. This change prevents users from inadvertently undocking the menu or toolbar, causing it to disappear.
Install	Bug Fix	Fixed reference to VC++ redistributable library that affected first-time installs of version 10.0.

SLIM-Suite 10.0b Release Notes

Install

Setup	Bug Fix	Updated prerequisite logic for the 2015 Visual C++ redistributable to ensure that the most recent version (Microsoft 2015 VC++ Redistributable (x86) – version 14.0.24215.1) is always installed if not already present on the user’s machine. In a few cases, installation of the prerequisite failed, causing SLIM-Suite to crash upon launch.
--------------	---------	--

SLIM-Estimate

Size Calculator	Bug Fix	Fixed issue where dragging either uncertainty slider on the Total System Mapping dialog caused SLIM-Estimate to crash.
File Handling	Bug Fix	After adding a new size technique to the Size Calculator and updating the size for the current solution, the workbook was not flagged as changed (no asterisk appeared after the workbook name to alert users that file had changed since the last save).
Solution Assumptions	Bug Fix	Hover tip values for the PI uncertainty slider on Solution Assumptions dialog were incorrect.
Skills Breakout	Bug Fix	When editing labor rates on the Skill Categories tab of the Refine Resources and Costs dialog on some machines with very high screen resolution settings, the entire grid shifted to the right and users had to scroll to see skill category names.
Effort/Cost Breakout Charts	Change	Precision for effort/cost value and percentage labels now use standard precision rather than the precision defined for each metric in the data dictionary.

SLIM-MasterPlan

Gantt Chart/Report	Bug Fix	Manual chart titles on Gantt charts reverted to the default title when Gantt chart toggled to report format.
Time Series Chart/Report	Bug Fix	Task legends for Time Series charts were not displaying the names of subsystem tasks when the Cumulative size or defect metrics were displayed. Task legends for other metrics were correct.

Multiple Applications

Solution Log	Bug Fix	In SLIM-Estimate and SLIM-Control, editing the name of a logged solution (that was also the current solution) did not immediately update the current solution name displayed in the Current/Logged Solutions drop down combo box.
---------------------	---------	---

SLIM-Suite 10.0a Release Notes

SLIM-Estimate

Ease of Use, Solution Methods	New	The Solution Wizards have been redesigned and renamed to guide users in selecting the best solution option, based on the purpose of the estimate and the data available at the time. Solution inputs and outputs are clearly identified, along with guidance as to where each solution method is best applied. Ex: The <i>Quick Estimate Wizard</i> is now labeled as the <i>ROM (Rough Order of Magnitude) Wizard</i> .
Reports	New	Several new reports have been added to document template configuration and improve estimate analysis and briefings. These include the Project Options (project environment settings), Skills Configuration, PI Calculator Summary, and Size Calculator Summary Reports. The Solution Assumptions report has been enhanced from prior versions. These sample reports may be imported into existing templates using the Import Workbook Components feature and selecting QSM Defaults as the source workbook, or they may be added directly by adding a new Project Report to your outline and then selecting the specific report from the Reports tab of the property sheet. The QSM Default chart and report outline contains a new PROJECT REPORTS section containing sample reports.
Sizing	New	When both the function unit and gearing factor change on the project, Sizing by Decomposition and Sizing by Module values are now automatically adjusted to reflect the new gearing factor.
Solution Log	Change	Logic for determining whether newly logged solutions are new or replacements to existing solutions has been improved to recognize new solutions more accurately.
PI Calculator	Change	In the PI Calculator, the PI Adjustment for Reuse field is now enabled, regardless of the percentage of reused code specified. The allows estimators to adjust the PI to account for reuse without entering unmodified size data.
Phase Tuning	Change	Manual phase tuning settings are now preserved when a phase is deactivated. Previously, unchecking a phase with manual phase tuning settings caused the phase tuning to revert to QSM default settings.

Size Calculator	Change	File extensions for selecting Excel sizing templates from the Microsoft Excel Sizing dialog in the Size Calculator now default to Excel templates rather than Excel workbooks.
------------------------	--------	--

SLIM-Control

Skill Breakouts, Resource Demand Management	New	SLIM-Control can now produce detailed effort/cost/staffing breakouts to support resource demand management. Users can configure Skill Categories, Milestone Time Slices, and Skills Allocation settings right in SLIM-Control or import a valid skills configuration from a preconfigured SLIM-Estimate or SLIM-Control workbook. This feature facilitates the aggregation of skills in SLIM-MasterPlan across both Estimate and Control tasks.
Skill Breakouts, Resource Demand Management	New	Time Series Skills charts and reports like those in SLIM-Estimate are now available in SLIM-Control to display detailed effort/cost/staffing breakouts of planned or actual + forecasted time series data.
New Workbook Options	New	When creating new workbooks, users can bring in workbook settings (colors/fonts, custom metrics, view outline) from an existing SLIM-Control workbook, but use an existing SLIM-Estimate workbook to bring in plan data (global settings, project settings, skills configuration, and plan specifics).
New Workbook Options	New	When creating a new workbook from SLIM-Estimate based on a SLIM-Control template, custom metric configuration data (metric start and end settings, plan shape) is now imported, but data that is plan-specific (e.g., totals, fixed dates, specific milestones) is omitted.
Forecasting Options	New	When running forecasts, users can now choose between the default time sampling window (generally 70% to +150% of the planned phase 3 schedule) and an extended time window that allows later end dates and more curve fits to be considered. The extended sampling range is useful when the default curve fit forecast is near the maximum time allowed.
Chart/Report Options	New	The ability to override the default time scale on charts (x-axis start and end dates) has been added. This allows viewers to zoom in on specific dates and configure all charts on the same view to use the same time scale regardless of the data being displayed.

Reports	New	Two new reports are available to document project assumptions and workbook configuration settings. These include the Project Options report (project environment settings) and a Skills Configuration report. These reports may be added directly to existing workbooks by inserting a new Project Report to your outline and then selecting the specific report from the Reports tab of the property sheet.
Solution Logs	New	When logging forecasts with different “Forecast as of” dates or forecast titles, the Log Forecast dialog radio button now defaults to “New” instead of “Replace existing”. This logic makes it easier to create and log multiple forecasts with different names or forecast dates.
Metric Calculation/Display	Change	The initial endpoint for calculated metric plan data is computed, rather than being set to zero, to more accurately handle cumulative time series data that does not automatically start at zero.

SLIM-DataManager

Keywords	New	The Master Keywords list (Tools Customize Keywords) can now be sorted alphabetically. This makes it easier to manage long keyword lists, identify/consolidate duplicate keywords, and read keyword reports in SLIM-Metrics.
Keywords	New	All keywords dialogs have been enlarged to display longer keywords.
Keywords, Custom Metrics	Change	Commas may not be used when defining keywords and multi-select custom metrics, since commas are used as a delimiter when displaying these values.
Dates, Custom Metrics	New	Date custom metrics can now be created. These metrics can be used “as entered” or combined with the new date functions for performing date math via User Defined Variables. Useful applications include calculating the duration of agile sprints, determining elapsed time between two milestone or other dates, or calculating historical milestone percentages. These new metrics can also be used in defining query conditions and definitions in SLIM-Metrics.
Dates, User Defined Variables	New	New date math functions in the User Defined Variables allow users to calculate the difference between two dates in days, weeks, months, or years or to return the day, month, or year from a single date metric.
Custom Metrics, editing	New	A new button (Deactivate/Activate) makes it easier to set custom metrics or metric categories active or inactive from the Custom Metric Definition dialog.
Custom Metrics, editing	New	The Custom Metric data entry UI has been redesigned to streamline and simplify data entry. When a custom metric category is selected, all metrics in that category are presented in a grid-style interface for data entry. Depending on the type of metric, you can simply enter the numeric or text data, or make your selection(s) from a drop-down list or a multi-check list. You can also paste data into multiple cells from applications like Excel.
Custom Metrics, merging	New	When merging identically named custom metrics from another database, the algorithm for ensuring unique names has been improved.

Samples/ Templates	New	Three new Sizing by Decomposition templates (Use Case Sizing, Agile Story Sizing, and RICEF sizing) are available for download from the QSM web site. These templates are designed to capture detailed sizing information (counts and gearing factors for multiple sizing components) from a completed project. These components and gearing factors can then be analyzed in SLIM-Metrics and used when sizing new projects in SLIM-Estimate.
User Defined Variables	New	User Defined Variable definitions can now be copied to easily create similar calculated metrics.
User Defined Variables	New	A new “Treat Nulls as Zeros” option in the User Defined Variables now allows you to specify how SLIM-DataManager should treat null values in underlying metrics used in formulas. Previously, null values in any underlying metric resulted in null values for calculated user defined variable.
User Defined Variables	Change	User Defined Variables values are now stored and displayed with the user-specified data precision. This makes it easier to use the values in SLIM-Metrics query conditions.
Project List View	New	The column header in the Project List View now displays a symbol indicating the column used for sorting projects and the sort direction.
Project List View	Change	The algorithm used for sorting the project list was enhanced to improve performance when sorting very large database files.
Project List View	New	A project record can now store links to external documents and web sites. There is a new Document Links button on the Basic Information screen of the Project editing dialog for creating and maintaining these links. Projects that have linked documents will display a paper clip icon in the ID column of the Project List View and will appear with an asterisk in the ID column of the Database Summary Report .
View Layouts	New	Users can now make the selected view layout current (display it on the Project View) from the Custom View Layout dialog.

Imports/ Exports	New	Custom Metrics, User Defined Variables, and Keywords can now be imported from other DataManager workbooks, with the option to append or replace existing metrics. This option is available when importing projects and importing workbook components.
Imports/ Exports	New	The ability to pre-configure export options for exporting to Microsoft Word, Excel, and HTML has been added (Tools Customize Export Options).
Database Management	New	The Find Duplicates feature in SLIM-DataManager has been significantly enhanced. Users can now customize the metrics to be used for matching as well as the matching criteria (Tools Customize Project Matching). Duplicate projects can be displayed by toggling the option on the Project List view (View Show Duplicates) or by selecting the new Duplicate Project Report (View Duplicate Project Report). The report can be printed or exported as needed for better management of duplicate projects.
Metrics	New	When creating new Monetary Units, users can now specify a default global conversion to USD factor on the Add New dialog. This default conversion factor will be visible on the Accounting tab and can be overridden at the project level if desired.
Metrics	Change	The project's monetary unit conversion to USD factor is now mandatory. (Prior behavior defaulted blank values to "1".)
Metrics	Change	The unused metric (Fiscal FOC year) has been deprecated.

SLIM-Metrics

Chart/Report Options, Trend Creation	New	A new menu item (Edit Function Unit in Current Folder) allows users to globally set all charts and reports in the current folder to display the same function unit (IUs, Function Points, etc.). When combined with the Metrics Reference Data Create Trends from Current View menu item, this feature makes it easy to create trends using size measures other than the Base Size Unit.
Samples/ Templates, Trend Creation	New	The Global Benchmark and Trends template has a new folder designed to be used with the Edit Function Unit in Current Folder and Metrics Reference Data Create Trends from Current View menu items to create trends in alternate size units such as Function Points, Agile Stories, Requirements, etc.
Trend Creation	Change	Two metrics – Cost/Function Unit and Defects/Man Month – have been removed from the list of QSM default trend metrics used by the Metrics Reference Data Create All Trends menu item. These metrics are still available for analysis and display in SLIM-Metrics, but the metrics have been deprecated from the QSM default list of trend metrics required to support various SLIM-Estimate functions that rely upon trend data.
Display options, Datasets	New	The ability to define colors and symbols is no longer limited to 26 datasets; you can define these for up to 99 datasets.
File Handling	New	The ability to select the linked project database has been removed from the menu item Tools Customize Display Graphic Options . Links to SLIM-DataManager databases can now be edited via the File Link to Project Database menu item.
Display options	Change	The user interface used to configure colors and symbols has been modified to distinguish between editing the dataset colors and symbols and the chart element colors/color styles.

SLIM-MasterPlan

Skill Breakouts, Resource Demand Mgmt.	New	Detailed breakouts of effort, staffing, and cost by skill by month for subsystem tasks are now available in SLIM-MasterPlan. To use this feature, valid skills must exist in the program's SLIM-Estimate and SLIM-Control subsystem task workbooks. Custom tasks may be assigned a single skill right in MasterPlan, using the Effort/Cost tab of each task's Custom Task definition dialog. Note: this feature extends the functionality previously supplied by the MasterPlan Skills Aggregator Excel utility by adding skills aggregation for Custom and SLIM-Control tasks in addition to SLIM-Estimate tasks. Better feedback about conflicting settings and missing data is supplied via a new Task Details dialog or by right clicking a yellow warning symbol on Time Series Skills charts .
Charts/ Reports	New	Time Series Skills charts and reports, like those available in SLIM-Estimate and SLIM-Control, are now available to aggregate and display time series breakouts of effort, cost, or staffing across an entire program or portfolio (provided it contains subsystem tasks with skills data). When upgrading older SLIM-MasterPlan files, users will be given the opportunity to add a folder with time series skills charts to the workbook outline. For demonstration purposes, examples of these new charts and reports are available in the Developer and Customer Partnership MasterPlan template.
Charts/ Reports	New	Users can now show or hide milestone dates on Gantt charts.
Charts/ Reports	New	Time series charts have been upgraded from line to stacked bar charts to improve readability.
Charts/ Reports	New	A new Task Details report lists all program tasks by type, i.e., SLIM-Estimate or SLIM-Control subsystem task, Custom task. Information provided includes the subsystem workbook name, core metric units, and whether skills aggregation is enabled. Users can copy data from the dialog to the Windows clipboard and paste it into other applications.

Charts/ Reports	New	New Quadrant (Bubble) Charts provide better perspective on program risk by showing how far each project deviates from expected values from each project's selected trend group. These charts display trend deviations for key metrics such as effort, duration, quality and productivity index (PI). You can use this information to identify projects with unrealistic schedule, cost, productivity, or quality assumptions and bring project plans more into line with industry or internal performance trends. When upgrading older SLIM-MasterPlan files, users will be given the opportunity to add a quadrant charts folder to the workbook outline. For demonstration purposes, sample quadrant charts are available in the Developer and Customer Partnership MasterPlan template.
Charts/ Reports	Change	When opening a SLIM-MasterPlan file, if one or more subsystem task workbooks are not found, detailed information about missing SLIM-Estimate or SLIM-Control tasks is displayed to provide the information needed to resolve the issue.
Templates	Change	MasterPlan template files have been updated and streamlined.
What If?	New	A global Solution Method field allows users to apply the same solution method to all SLIM-Estimate tasks in the program when running What If scenarios. Previously, the solution method had to be set for each task individually.
Program Mgmt.	Change	Users attempting to run the MasterPlan Adjust Program Start/End menu item will be notified this feature is not available if the MasterPlan program contains SLIM-Control tasks.

Multiple Applications

Configuration Management	New	You can now store links to supporting documents or files in a SLIM workbook, or in the case of SLIM-DataManager, in individual project records. To add, edit, or remove a linked document, use the File External Links menu item or use the button provided on the SLIM-DataManager Basic Info tab. You will then be presented with a wizard-style interface for managing and opening linked documents.
File Configuration Management	New	A new menu item (File Details) presents a screen with Management Configuration details (workbook name, database and application version, location, linked workbooks, etc.). This data can be copied directly to the clipboard and pasted into other applications or documents.

Reference Group Data, Trend Lines	New	A new menu item is available in SLIM-Estimate and SLIM-Control – Tools Edit/Review Reference Groups – that allows you to review the trend groups and trend group data in a workbook, and to edit or delete custom trend groups.
Chart/Report Options	New	Gantt Charts have been enhanced to allow a maximum number of elements to display before adding a scrollbar to the window. The display will be dependent on the number of elements in the program or project, the space available, and the user’s screen resolution.
Chart/Report Options, Notes	New	When an existing chart is manually copied, added from the master list, or imported from another workbook, any attached chart notes are now preserved.
Chart Notes	New	All chart notes in each workbook can be globally displayed/hidden by toggling the View Notes menu item.
Custom Menu extension items	New	The ability to add descriptions to custom extension menu items is now available in all SLIM-Suite tools. When hovering over each custom menu item, the custom description will display in the status bar.
File Handling	New	Handling of read only files has been enhanced to provide better guidance to the user.
Display	New	Grids, tree lists, and graphics in SLIM-Suite have been enhanced to make them DPI aware and improve the display on high resolution systems.
Import/Export	New	A new menu item (Tools Customize Export Options) allows you to preconfigure export options for Microsoft Word, Excel, or HTML. You may choose to bypass the automatic export options prompt at the time of export and use the preconfigured settings instead.
Metrics	Change	The list of QSM default lookup items available for selection in the Monetary Unit and Function Units fields has been updated and streamlined. The Monetary Units field now uses ISO currency codes. Other lookup tables have been optimized to provide a shorter list of commonly used selection items. The Languages and Development Paradigm (custom metric) fields in SLIM-DataManager have also been streamlined.

Application Program Interface (API)

Estimate	New	A "Retrieve Project Environment" button was added to Set ProjectEnv tab in the SE API demo.
Control	New	Productivity Index (PI) is now available as a read-only property of the Plan object.
Control	New	A new method was added to SLIM-Control API that returns the function unit name.
Data-Manager	Change	The ImportProject method has been modified. The ImportCustomMetrics and ImportUserDefinedVariables parameters have been combined into a single parameter to make this method consistent with changes to the Graphical User Interface (GUI).
ALL	Change	The type library version numbers have been updated for all APIs.