

SLIM-Suite 10.2a Release Notes

SLIM-Estimate

- New Feature** Agile increment lines and the effort and cost between increments can now be displayed on Time Series and Gantt charts/reports in SLIM-Estimate. Using the new **Tools | Project Environment | Agile Increments tab**, users can define a base increment, such as “Sprint”, and an optional level 2 increment, such as “Program Increment”, that occurs after a specified number of base increments. A toolbar icon and View menu item were added to toggle between displaying project Milestones or Agile Increment Lines. Time Series and Gantt reports now calculate and display the effort and cost between increments for the base and level 2 increments. New and upgraded SLIM-Estimate workbooks will include the QSM default Agile increment configuration, but the display of Agile increments will be “OFF”. To turn on the display, select **Tools | Project Environment** from the menu and check the “**Use this configuration**” checkbox on the **Agile Increments tab**. You may also need to use the MS vs. Increments toggle button on the toolbar.
- Enhancement** The Agile Increment configuration can be imported from the QSM Default or other SLIM-Estimate workbooks by selecting **File | Import... | Workbook Components** and checking the **Agile Increments** checkbox on the **Project Environment** tab.
- Enhancement** The **Project Options report** has been updated to show the Agile Increment configuration settings.
- New Feature** Quadrant charts are now available to analyze estimate risk due to trend variance. Users can select core metrics to display the deviation from the average trend for both vertical and horizontal axis metrics. An optional bubble size metric can also be configured to scale the data points. Users can opt to display the Current Solution, Logged Solutions, and History data points.
- New SLIM-Estimate workbooks will have a QUADRANT CHARTS folder in the Navigator with several quadrant charts. Upgraded workbooks will not provide quadrant charts automatically, but they can be added manually or by importing the QSM default workbook outline (**File | Import.... | Workbook Components**).

- Enhancement** Added a “**Remove All Skill Configuration Data**” button to **Tools | Refine Resources and Cost dialog** to make it easier to create new skill allocation schemas from scratch.
- Change** Changed some chart sizes and fonts for improved display on high resolution monitors, using Estimate’s **Modern - High Resolution theme** for screen.
- Change** Improved handling of scenario when creating an Estimate solution via the History menu item and the **Create Solution from a Completed (DataManager) project** with invalid phase data. Formerly, a generic error appeared, followed by a series of Extremely Bad Things. Users will now see an error message with a brief description of the problem and the user is returned to the current solution.
- Change** Two sizing techniques were removed from the WEB estimation template.
- Change** The following changes have been made to the **Agile-Story-Pt-Estimation.sew template**:
- Modified the view layout and associated charts and reports to better support Agile project estimation.
 - Incorporated the new quadrant charts (see the QUADRANT CHARTS folder in the Navigator).
 - Changed the staffing shapes from Rayleigh to Level Load.
 - Turned the default Agile increment lines configuration ON by default to display Agile increment lines and effort/cost data on Time Series and Gantt charts and reports.
 - Updated gearing factors for the project level **IUs per Story Point** and the **Story Points/Story** in the default size calculator technique to reflect the latest Agile data from the QSM industry database.
 - Updated and corrected INSTRUCTIONS note panel.
 - Changed the default code counting status to Validated End Product to better match the point at which Agile teams take credit for completed code.
 - Removed time slice checkmark from the Minimum Marketable Features Complete milestone.

SLIM-Control

- New Feature** Agile increment lines and the effort and cost between increments can now be displayed on Time Series and Gantt charts/reports in SLIM-Control. Using the new **Tools | Customize Project Environment... | Agile Increments tab**, users can define a base increment, such as “Sprint”, and an optional level 2 increment, such as “Program Increment”, that occurs after a specified number of base increments. Increment lines are available for the plan only (when no actuals exist), actuals + forecast, or the actuals + plan when no forecast is available. A toolbar icon and View menu item allow users to toggle between displaying project Milestones or Agile Increment Lines. Time Series and Gantt reports now calculate and display the effort and cost between increments for the base and level 2 increments. New and upgraded SLIM-Control workbooks will include the QSM default Agile increment configuration with the display of Agile increments turned “OFF”. To turn on the display, select **Tools | Customize Project Environment...** from the menu and check the “**Use this configuration**” checkbox on the **Agile Increments tab**. You may also need to click the MS vs. Increments toggle button on the toolbar.
- Change** The plan and actual data in the Agile SLIM-Control template have been updated for consistency with the updated Agile estimation template. Agile increments have also been turned ON.
- Bug Fix** Fixed problem that caused cumulative chart start dates to differ from cumulative curves in SLIM-Estimate 10.1 and earlier versions of SLIM-Control. The fix makes the starting point of cumulative charts consistent with rate curves for the same metrics.
- Bug Fix** Fixed problem that caused SLIM-Control to crash when running a forecast on a “zig-zagged” custom metric and plan where every other weekly data point was a zero. The fix treats rate metrics with custom data as cumulative metrics when forecasting.
- Change** Improved handling of scenario when creating a new Control project with the **Based on a Completed (DataManager) project** with invalid phase data. Formerly, a generic error appeared, followed by a series of Extremely Bad Things. Users will now see an error message with a brief description of the problem and will be allowed to edit the plan manually.
- Change** Modified the IU/Story Point gearing factor to be consistent with SLIM-Estimate’s Agile template.
- Change** Improved scaling on the **Create Snapshot grid** to accommodate high resolution displays.

SLIM-Metrics

- New Feature** Quadrant charts are now available to analyze trend variance for the projects from a single dataset. Users can select two core metrics and display the deviation from the average trend for both vertical and horizontal axis metrics, along with a third (optional) bubble size metric. Bubble data points can be displayed for up to 500 data points per chart from a single data set.
- New SLIM-Metrics workbooks will have a QUADRANT CHARTS folder in the Navigator with several quadrant charts. Upgraded workbooks will not provide quadrant charts automatically, but they can be added manually or by importing the QSM default workbook outline (**File | Import.... | Workbook Components**).
- Change** Restored the ability to show data labels on bar charts when selecting the option to display the Avg, Min, Max. Semi-transparent bars are used to show the Min-Max range instead of the black lines used previously.
- Bug Fix** Fixed several issues that degraded application performance when drawing scatter plot charts with very large data sets.
- Change** Added a Quadrant Charts view section and sample view layouts to the SW-Metrics Demo.smw sample workbook. The data set definitions in this workbook were also assigned a default reference group so they can be displayed on quad charts.

Multiple Applications

- Bug Fix** Increased the allowed number of custom metric items from 99 per category to 999. The limit was causing a “Field too small to accept data” error when writing out the list of custom metrics and categories to the data dictionary and the entire list could not be written out.
- Change** Removed one installation confirmation message to enable proper update to Windows Control Panel when running a silent install script.
- Change** The installation program was updated to use Visual Studio 2017 and InstallShield 2018.
- Change** To make SLIM tools more compatible with high security environments, the automatic check for updates on the application splash screens has been removed for all five applications. The manual **Help | Check for Updates** menu item is still functional.
- Enhancement** Modified field-level validation to allow numeric data with the thousands separator to be copied from Excel and pasted into applicable fields that accept numeric content.

APIs

- Enhancement** A new function has been added to allow new/modified/unmodified size values to be entered directly using the SLIM-DataManager API. Previously, these values were derived from the Total Size and new/modified/unmodified percentages. When the size was very large, this resulted in minor precision issues.