

What's new in IBM Rational Functional Tester Version 8.0

Skill Level: Intermediate

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New capabilities make it easier than ever to test more applications from one test tool.

Software quality assurance teams rely on IBM® Rational® Functional Tester to validate application functionality. This tool supports testing a wide variety of applications, including those based on Java™ technology, Microsoft® Visual Basic®, Microsoft® .NET, HTML, terminal-based, SAP®, Siebel software, and Web 2.0 applications. This article describes some of the key advancements introduced in Version 8.0.

Extended application support

The most significant change in the V8.0 release of Rational Functional Tester is the inclusion of extended application support. A base license now includes the ability to test SAP, Siebel, and terminal-based applications. These new capabilities make it easier than ever to test more applications from one test tool.

Enhanced environment support

The V8.0 release includes enhanced support for the latest test environments and for applications built using these technologies:

- Adobe® Flex 3.0
- Java 1.6

- Microsoft .NET 3.0 Framework and WPF controls
- SAP GUI 7.1
- Siebel 8.0

Rational Functional Tester V8.0 also includes new support for applications built using these tools

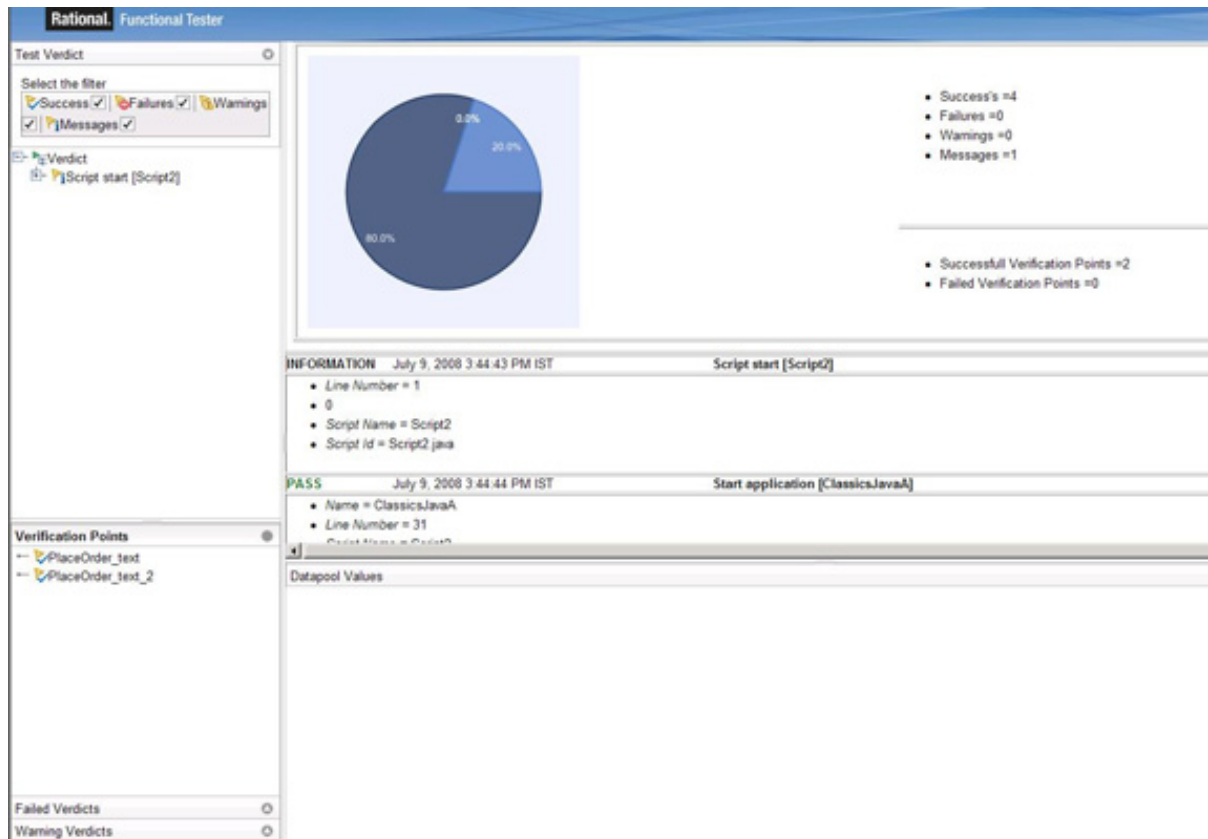
- Dojo Toolkit
- PowerBuilder 11
- Eclipse GEF (Graphical Editing Framework)

Usability improvements

This release improves the tester's experience through these key enhancements:

- Improved logging (see Figure 1)
- More robust version control integration
- Addition of an image comparison tool for dynamic verification points

Figure 1. New Web 2.0-style log viewer



Increased test management integration

The IBM Rational portfolio of products now includes two new products:

- **IBM® Rational® Quality Manager**, which is a new Web-based, centralized test management environment that provides a collaborative and customizable solution for test planning, workflow control, tracking, and metrics reporting that is capable of quantifying how project decisions and deliverables affect and align with business objectives.
- **IBM® Rational® Test Lab Manager**, which enables lab administrators to automatically install Rational Functional Tester on remote physical or virtual test lab resources.

You can launch Rational Functional Tester V8 tests from IBM Rational Quality Manager. Support for IBM Rational Test Lab Manager has also been added to this release.

To learn more about these new features, as well as about existing capabilities of IBM Rational Functional Tester and to download a trial version, check the citations in [Resources](#).

Resources

Learn

- To find more information about IBM Rational Quality Manager and related products, check the [Software testing and quality management](#) page on IBM.com.
- Read the white paper titled [Testing SOA applications with IBM Rational quality management software](#) (May 2007).
- Visit the [Rational software area on developerWorks](#) for technical resources and best practices for Rational Software Delivery Platform products.
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About the author

Matthew Holitza

Matt has over 10 years of experience in software development. He has been in many roles over his career, programmer, tester, test automation architect, change management administrator, performance test lead and most recently as a QA Manager. He now serves IBM as a quality advocate for the Rational brand. Matt administers the Rational Quality Manager page on Facebook.