

These Release Notes contain the following sections:

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## 1. Enhancements and Changes

For information on changes to the content of our master, please see our Subscriber web page at [http://www.bssoftlink.com/speclink/sl\\_subscribers.htm](http://www.bssoftlink.com/speclink/sl_subscribers.htm) or view our Quarterly Newsletter at <http://www.bssoftlink.com/linkline/current/index.htm>.

## 2. Hardware and Software Recommendations

Listed below are recommended hardware and software requirements for operation of SpecLink. As with any Windows application, faster system components and more system memory will enable superior software performance. Higher resolution video cards and monitors will enable more information to be displayed on the screen.

### Recommended configuration

- Intel-compatible processor, 1 GHz or better
- Windows XP 32-bit or above **Note:** English (US) settings are required. If necessary, change in your Regional Options in the Control Panel.
- 512 (or more) megabytes of RAM
- 500 MB of available disk space
- XGA or better monitor (1024 x 768 resolution and matching video card)
- CD-ROM or DVD reader
- 600 dpi laser printer
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher (5.0 minimum)
- High Speed Internet Connection required (for Meter Account)

## 3. Installation Procedures

For complete installation instructions, please see the file named sl\_installation.pdf located in the SL+\_Doc folder on the current BSD SoftLink CD or on our Download Center.

.Net Framework Installation:

- The Microsoft .Net Framework installation will be performed if it has not previously been installed on your computer. This is a one-time installation that supports use of a Meter Account and enables data transfer via the Internet.

For Network Server Installation Updates:

- Perform the Network Server Installation first. Once the Network Server Installation is complete, the Network Client installations must be performed from the Client folder under the SpecLink+ folder on the server.
- If you are running SpecLink on a server, you must perform both the Network Server and the Network Client installations every quarter. After installing the software, the version should read 14.1 (or higher) and the master database effective dates should be November 1, 2011 – March 12, 2012. (Your

master may have a later end date, depending on your subscription.) Please check the version and dates after installation. The version can be checked by clicking on Help | About BSD SpecLink+. The master database effective dates can be checked by closing all projects and clicking on File | Registration and Settings.

- Perform the Network Server Installation from a Client machine. If this is an update, you should perform the server installation from a machine where you have been running SpecLink+. This way the installation can check the registry entries and install the software in the correct location.

#### Additional Notes:

- You must have administrator rights to perform an installation.
- If you are installing on a peer-to-peer network, the “server” machine needs to have both the network server and the network client installation performed.
- The installation will automatically install 2 projects during the application installation. One is sample.spp for people who are evaluating the software. The second is a model project called platinumschool.spp. If you have modified either of these without renaming them, you need to rename them before performing the installation or they will be overwritten.
- The Network Server installation creates a Projects folder on the server, so you will have a Projects folder in both the Server and the Client application folders.
- If you have customized the toolbar, you may need to customize it again after installing the new version of the software.
- If you do not have Internet Explorer Version 5.0 or higher on your computer, you will not be able to run the software. The latest version of Internet Explorer can be downloaded from Microsoft's website: <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/default.asp>

#### 4. Configuring SpecLink with your Access Key in another office

The following are steps to improve performance when the Access Key (and nothing else) is on a remote (WAN) server to allow use by multiple sites or users. We are using the term WAN to mean a Wide Area Network, or a computer in a remote location, and LAN to mean a Local Area Network, or a server in your current location.

1. Perform a network server installation to a folder on the WAN, typically in a folder called SpecLink+. All users must be able to add, edit and delete files in this folder. The installation should not be done over the WAN – you need to be in the same location as the WAN computer.
2. If there are multiple users at the remote locations, perform a network server installation on a server (LAN) accessible by each user at the location. For a single user at one remote location, perform a standalone installation and go to step 5.
3. Perform a client installation on all user machines that will use SpecLink. This should be done to a folder on the user's local drive, typically C:\SpecLink+. The client installation is done by double-clicking SpecLink\_setup or SpecLink\_download from the Client folder on the LAN.
4. Copy the file named softlink.bsd into the C:\SpecLink+\System folder for each user. This file is located on the BSD SoftLink Products CD in the Misc folder. It is also located in the SpecLink+\System directory of each network install and is available for download as part of the zip file at <http://www.bssoftlink.com/downloadcenter/wanfiles.htm>.
5. Using Notepad, modify the BSDWAN.INI text file to replace the Permissions path and filename with the path to your remote server Security.key file. Be sure to include the Security.key filename. This file is a text file that can be edited using Notepad or other text editor. Do not use MS Word or another word processor to edit the file. An example of this file is located on the BSD SoftLink Products CD in the Misc folder. It is also available as part of the zip file for download at <http://www.bssoftlink.com/downloadcenter/wanfiles.htm>.
  - If the SpecLink+ application is installed in a location other than the default C:\SpecLink+ directory you will need to replace all uses of this path in the BSDWAN.INI file with the actual path to the SpecLink+ application directory on the particular user's machine.

- If there are multiple users in a remote office, it is best to use the LAN location for the aecLinkMan file that was created by your LAN network install (typically \SpecLink+\System). Edit the BSDWAN.INI file to include the path to the aecLinkMan directory:

[aecLinkMan]

Path=G:\SpecLink+\system (where G: is a LAN, not a WAN.)

6. Place the BSDWAN.INI file in the SpecLink+ application directory of all computers that will use the remote license file.
7. You should be able to use SpecLink+ to manage and edit projects on your computer or on your local network at the same speeds as would be obtained if the key were placed locally. Note that the project needs to be on the LAN or local drive and not on the WAN.
8. When installing quarterly updates, you will need to redo the network server installation on the WAN and on all LANs each quarter. Network client installations need to be done each quarter also.

You should be able to verify that the BSDWAN.INI file is working by looking in the Registry at the SpecLink+ System folder settings to confirm that they are the same as those in the INI file. The path in the registry is HKEY\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\VB and VBA Program Settings\BSD SpecLink+\System. In the System Settings tab of the Registration & Settings dialog box, there will be an asterisk at the end of the Security Database Location line when you are using the BSDWAN.INI file. To see the location of the access key, click on the asterisk.

## 5. Updating to the New Master – Projects Created in a Previous Version of SpecLink+

Please refer to the updating instructions in the SpecLink User Manual. A copy of the User Manual is on our CD, and it can also be downloaded from our [Download Center](#).

Points to Consider:

- If you choose not to update your project, the titles of folders in the tree for those sections where changes would be made will be displayed in magenta, and the status columns of paragraphs that would be affected by the update will be marked with a rust color in the Document Panel. After reviewing the changes for your project, it is quickest to Update to the new Master for the entire project, rather than section by section. To update entire sections or entire project, choose Update to Master from the Tools menu. You can also accept changes on a paragraph by paragraph basis by clicking on each paragraph that has been changed, choosing Tools | View Updated Master Paragraph, then clicking on Update.
- You can update all Reference Standards or all Manufacturer Listings by choosing either of those options on the Tools menu.
- If you choose Apply Master Paragraph Updates to Project, there is a default setting to Preserve and Mark Deleted Paragraphs. If you choose to Preserve and Mark them, the titles of sections containing deleted paragraphs will be a magenta color in the tree, and the deleted paragraphs will be indicated by rust colored status columns in the Document Panel. After reviewing the deleted paragraphs for your project, it is quickest to Update to the new Master for the entire project, rather than section by section. To update entire sections or the entire project, choose Update to Master from the Tools menu. You can also accept the changes on a paragraph by paragraph basis by choosing Tools | View Updated Master Paragraph, then clicking on Update.

## 6. Technical Support

Technical Support for BSD SpecLink is provided via the Building Systems Design Support Group in Atlanta, GA  
 Technical Support Hours: 8:30 am to 5:30 pm ET.

Phone: 800-266-7732 or 404-365-9226

FAX: 404-365-8912

E-Mail: [support@bsdsoftlink.com](mailto:support@bsdsoftlink.com)