

NEURALTOOLS VERSION HISTORY

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NeuralTools 7

Version 7.6.1

Users of any of the DecisionTools Suite products will be notified automatically of any updated releases with a pop-up message that once clicked will open a dialog window with a variety of options to update the software. You can also check for available updates by clicking on **Help>Check for Software Updates** in the @RISK ribbon.

September, 2019

Changes of Note

- **Support for Windows Security Updates:** A set of windows security updates in mid August 2019 caused the message "Invalid procedure call or argument" to occur. Palisade has worked around the issue.

Version 7.6.0

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Build #35 - October, 2018

Changes of Note

- **Support for Excel 2019:** Palisade continues to keep pace with Microsoft Excel's version updates by seeing to it that our software is compatible with their latest version of Excel.
- **Improved support for Multiple Monitors:** With more and more of our users utilizing multiple monitors in their day-to-day tasks, we have improved the way our products interact with multiple monitors and various DPI settings.
- **Added product telemetry for all DecisionTools Suite products:** To improve future software releases, Palisade has included the ability to detect how you are using this product. Usage data is anonymous and includes basic information about your computer's environment (e.g. OS version, Office version, system language) as well as some statistics about which features of the product you are using (e.g. commands clicked, function types used, number of iterations performed). You can find out more information in the software's readme file, accessible from the Help>Documentation menu. The user can choose to opt in or opt out of this at any time by choosing the Usage Reporting item from the Help menu.

Version 7.5.2

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Build #083 - January, 2018

Changes of Note

- **Data Execution Prevention Security Setting:** Palisade software was incompatible with some more restrictive "Data Execution Prevention" security settings in Excel; this release resolved the issue. This also allows all products in the DecisionTools Suite to run inside the 32-bit Excel process for versions 2013 and higher, meaning processing times are faster and more efficient.
- **Large Address Aware:** Palisade software was previously unable to take advantage of the ability of 32-bit Excel to allow users with 64-bit operating systems (which is most users) to use 4 GB of RAM instead of just 2 GB. This has been fixed to now allow Palisade software to support 4 GB of RAM in this environment, speeding up model performance.
- **Improved Licensing Security for Networks:** The FLEXnet licensing system in Palisade software has been upgraded to take advantage of licensing security improvements. This makes it harder for malicious software to access sensitive directories on network servers.
- **Windows XP and Windows Server 2003:** We will no longer support these older operating systems. This is because the latest version of the FLEXnet licensing system no longer supports these.

*** A Selection of Significant Maintenance Fixes ***

12621 Buffer overflow vulnerability in FLEXnet Publisher was fixed by upgrading to a new version of FLEXnet software.

12707 If maintenance expired July-Sept 2016, software did not allow running 7.5.1.

Version 7.5.1

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Build #146 - October 24, 2016

*** A Maintenance Fix ***

12677 Help windows sometimes come up behind Excel.

Version 7.5.0

Build #104 - July 12, 2016

Users of any of the DecisionTools Suite products will be notified automatically of any updated releases with a pop up message that once clicked will open a dialog window with a variety of options to update the software. You can also check for available updates by clicking on **Help>Check for Software Updates** in the Neural Tools ribbon.

Optimized for Windows 10 and Excel 2016

All DecisionTools Suite products, including NeuralTools, have been retooled for optimal performance and presentation in the latest Windows 10 and Office 2016 environments.

Interface Improvements

The user interface has been updated to make common tasks easier to perform, saving time and clicks.

Enhanced Support for Ultra HD Displays

We've leveraged the power of ultra high definition displays to ensure that all DecisionTools graphs and reports look better than ever.

Ability to switch between Languages More Easily

Switch between any of the language versions without having to change a corresponding code page.

Other Changes of Note

In addition to some minor fixes, the following Maintenance Fix has also been taken care of.

*** Maintenance Fix ***

12412 Lower parts of some letters in dialogs cut off with the 150% "Custom Text Size" settings.

Version 7.0.1

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Build #393 - February 10, 2016

*** A Selection of Significant Maintenance Fixes ***

11678 Mouse wheel disabled after report creation.

12084 Obsolete license blocks license manager from being displayed.

12227 Manually installed license file not automatically found.

Version 7.0.0

Users of any of the DecisionTools Suite products will be notified automatically of any updated releases with a pop up message that once clicked will open a dialog window with a variety of options to update the software. You can also check for available updates by clicking on **Help>Check for Software Updates** in the NeuralTools ribbon.

Updated Release - August 13, 2015 - Build #289

Deployment of Network licenses

NeuralTools version 7 is available as a network license. For more information please contact your Sales Representative, or email sales@palisade.com.

Deployment of Course Licenses

NeuralTools version 7 is available as a course license. For more information please contact your Sales Representative, or email sales@palisade.com.

Support for Extended Trial Licenses

If a user has the initial version 7 release (Build #281) of any of the DecisionTools Suite they will be unable to receive an extension code to extend the trial past the standard 15-day trial, without updating to build #289. If the trial has already expired the user will need to download the latest installer from the [Palisade website](http://www.palisade.com) and then enter the code provided by your Palisade representative.

Build #281 - July 31, 2015

For more details on the following enhancements please visit http://www.palisade.com/decisiontools_suite/7/whatsnew.asp.

Data Viewer

The Data Viewer provides a convenient interface for looking at the statistical properties of any NeuralTools data set using graphs and tables.

Improved Support for High-DPI Monitors

High-resolution monitors require special Windows settings that scale up the size of text and some elements of dialogs; otherwise, those items would be too small. Compatibility with this setup has been improved.

Supported Excel Versions

NeuralTools now requires Excel 2007 or higher. Excel 2003, or earlier versions, are no longer supported.

A Selection of Significant Maintenance Fixes

11064 Protected Workbook dialog sometimes is displayed behind Excel 2013.

11390 The “pipe symbol” list separator ‘|’ prevents NeuralTools from running properly. NeuralTools will now check this when the product launches.

NeuralTools 6

Versions 6.3.1 / 6.3.0 / 6.2.1

6.3.1

September 2014 - General Maintenance Release and fix of #11124 VBA Macro warning displayed even if macros are enabled via a Group Policy.

6.3.0

June 2014 - General Maintenance Release

6.2.1

March 2014 - General Maintenance Release and Fixes to the 2 following issues:

10778 The TrainingStoppedTooEarly property in the Excel Developer Kit always returned False.

10815 Some examples did not work with the Textbook version, because the data sets were bigger than permitted by the limitations in this version.

Version 6.2.0

August 2013

Russian Language Support

Version 6.2 software now is localized for Russian, in addition to the previously available English, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Note: Only the Russian software and a subset of the examples have been localized. Help files and other documentation files are not available in Russian at this time.

New XDK Functionality and Documentation

The NeuralTools Excel Developer's Kit (XDK) has been updated to include new a new "Automation Guide" and a large number of new examples to help you get started using this powerful feature.

Other Changes of Note

Graphics Server removed from installation

This was a third-party component from Graphics Server Technologies, contained in a file named graphs32.ocx. That company no longer supports this component. It was removed from NeuralTools and DecisionTools Suite installers. NeuralTools now uses Palisade's own graphing engine instead.

Check for Software Updates

This feature has been streamlined to no longer use the "FlexConnect" utility.

Support for IPv6

The Palisade licensing system now has support for networks running IPv6.

Localized Palisade Server Manager

The Palisade Server Manager, which is a utility for managing concurrent or enterprise licenses of Palisade software, can now be installed in English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian.

A Selection of Significant Maintenance Fixes

6733 Number formatting of progress graph labels sometimes did not correspond to selected regional setting.

10594 With 64-bit Excel 2010, using the Back button in the Training dialog sometimes caused the Training dialog to disappear behind the Excel window.

Version 6.1.2

April 2013

International Documentation Available

Localized documentation and example files are now available in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Version 6.1.0 / 6.1.1

Version 6.1.0 was a Preview Release (December 2012)

Version 6.1.1 was an Official Release (February 2013)

Support for Windows 8 and Excel 2013

The software has been made compatible with the latest Excel and Windows releases.

International Language Support

Version 6.x software now has been localized for Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Note: The documentation and example files, however, are only available in English. Localized versions of these resources will be made available in Version 6.1.2.

NeuralTools Ribbon Automatically Activated

When the product boots, the NeuralTools ribbon will be automatically activated.

Version 6.0.1

October 2012

Support for Network Licenses

The version 6.0.0 supported only standalone licenses. Version 6.0.1 adds full support for concurrent and enterprise network licenses.

Version 6.0.0

June 2012

New Examples

NeuralTools 6.0 includes a completely revised set of example files, designed and written by leading MBA professor and author Dr. Chris Albright of Indiana University. Each example includes plain-language descriptions, and may be edited to suit your situation.

New Video Tutorials

New video tutorials have also been added by Dr. Albright. A new, interactive Quick Start tutorial shows new users how to build and understand a simple optimization model in less than 30 minutes. In addition, other video tutorial resources have been developed to help experienced users get the most out of their software.

New License Manager

A new License Manager has been created to help you view your license information, activate software you have purchased, help you move licenses from one machine to another, and perform other related tasks.

Testing Sensitivity Analysis Added

Testing results may differ from run to run, if the subset of cases to be used for testing is selected randomly. The Testing Sensitivity analysis helps to determine if the results are stable under different selections of testing cases. It also helps answer what percent of cases should be set aside for testing: the analysis report presents graphically the stability of the testing results for different percent values.

Option to "Select Same Cases" for Automatic Testing Added

The training dialog includes a new check box for fixing the selection of testing cases to be used during multiple training sessions. One may want to remove the variability related to random selection of testing cases, for example when comparing testing results for different types of neural nets.

Licensing Changes

Ability to Select From Multiple Software Licenses

In some cases, you may have more than one license for a Palisade product. For example, if you are both employed by a company that gave you a professional license, but also have a student license from a university you attend, there is more than one possible license that could be used.

In version 5.x you were given no choice in this matter; the software would choose one of the licenses for you and proceed to run. In version 6.x, the Activate License Dialog now allows you to look at all your existing licenses, and choose which one to use.

Improved Support for SSD Installations

New licensing capabilities ease installation and licensing when SSD drives are used.

NeuralTools 5

Version 5.7.1

May 2011

General Maintenance

General maintenance and fix of #8416 After performing some NeuralTools operations, workbooks closed without Excel showing the prompt to save changes.

Version 5.7.0

September 2010

Support for 64-bit Excel

Starting with version 5.7, NeuralTools is compatible with the 64-bit version of Microsoft Excel.

Support for Simplified Chinese

Starting with version 5.7 NeuralTools is available in Simplified Chinese.

.NET Framework 2.0

NeuralTools was converted to use .NET Framework 2.0. Previous versions used .NET Framework 1.1.

Live Prediction Faster

Live Prediction cells update many times faster in this version when independent values change. For example, in Auto Loans with Solver.xls the Live Prediction cells update multiple times during the Solver run. As a result of this performance upgrade Solver is more than 10 times faster with this example.

Maintenance Fix

Fixed #7182 Eliminated error that occurred if Escape key was pressed while a report was being generated.

Version 5.5.1

January 2010

Loading Other DecisionTools Suite Add-ins

A new menu item in the Utilities menu allows you to load other Palisade DecisionTools products from within NeuralTools.

NeuralTools Now Appears in Excel's Add-in List

You have always been allowed to add NeuralTools add-in (NeuralTools.xla) to the Excel add-ins list so it will automatically load every time Excel starts. However, this process was difficult because it required you to browse for the correct file. Now, NeuralTools will automatically appear in the add-ins list (unchecked) the first time you launch it, making it easier to access.

Language Switching Does Not Require Administrator Permissions

If you have installed more than one language version of NeuralTools on a machine, you can now switch the active language (via the Application Settings) even if you do not have administrator rights.

A Selection of Significant Maintenance Fixes

5847 Progress dialog could not be minimized when neural net training was paused

5890 Problems navigating the net selection dialog using keyboard

5977 Error unloading NeuralTools when file with NeuralTools macros was open

6191 Error if user entered disjoint range in Data Set Manager dialog

6351 Pressing F1 key when NeuralTools dialogs were displayed showed Excel help instead of NeuralTools help

Version 5.5.0

May 2009

Version 5.0.0 released May 2008

Developer Kit

NeuralTools Developer Kit was added. It makes it possible to write Visual Basic for Applications code that specifies NeuralTools settings and performs NeuralTools commands.

Linear Regression

The option to Perform Linear Regression was added. If selected, linear regression is performed before training a neural net, and if the linear function makes better predictions on the testing data, it is used in place of the neural net.

Maintenance Fixes

3605 Cannot use Arrow keys or CTRL arrow keys in all Excel reference dialogs

3928 PalDSManager error in Excel 2007 when training network after doing Swap in either @RISK or TopRank

3937 After canceling the closing of Excel, you can't reload NeuralTools (or StatTools)

3967 Scatter plots in Training reports are blank when using non-English regional settings and Excel 2007

5380 Errors in "Import Variable Types" dialog