

NWA Quality Analyst Version 6.2 Release Update Maintenance Release Update Notes December 2010

These notes describe the update of NWA Quality Analyst Version 6.2 to the current release and explain the process. This maintenance release is being provided only to customers who have purchased NWA Quality Analyst maintenance.

For users with Version 6.2 Release 2.3.429 and older, this new release (2.3.489) includes a major upgrade to key components, providing full compatibility with the 64-bit version of Windows 7, some minor enhancements, and fixes to problems found in the previous releases (see list below).

For users with Version 6.2 Release 2.3.469 or later, this release includes limited changes and minor enhancements and you may want to review the change list below before deciding whether to update.

We recommend that everyone on maintenance with Version 6.2 now update Quality Analyst with this new release. Please contact NWA Technical Support if you have questions.

Our update notice for the initial release of Quality Analyst 6.2 included a recommendation that our maintenance users with complex or time-consuming software update processes consider waiting for the follow-on maintenance release unless they needed the new features introduced with Version 6.2. This delay allowed users to avoid two major applications updates in the same year and meant that they would be updating to a version fully compatible with 64-bit versions of Windows.

You will not be required to enter a new Activation Key. This new release will use the Activation Key entered when your original QA 6.2 was installed.

Note: This software is provided as a replacement of an existing, legally licensed product, and is covered by the license agreement for that product. The license does not allow for the installation or use of this product on a system or systems other than as covered by the initial license.

Note to Quality Analyst Web Server and Quality Analytics Server users

Both products include a copy of NWA Quality Analyst that performs the database connections and calculations used to create output and update Clients. This update/maintenance release of Quality Analyst is fully compatible and may replace your current copy of Quality Analyst without requiring any other changes.

How to get the upgrade to Quality Analyst Version 6.2 release 2.3.489

The primary distribution method for this release is via download from our website. This is provided as a single "zip" format file that can be downloaded using the following link:

http://www.nwasoft.com/NWAUpdate/QA62/QA62Update_111810.zip

Click on the link or enter the address into your browser to initiate the download.

Be sure to select to "Save" the file (do not try to "Open" or "Run" it directly). The file "QA62Update_111810.ZIP" will be saved to the location you specify.

Unzip that file and extract the contents to your system (again, don't try to run the setup from within the zip file itself). This will give you all the files as would be on the CD, in the same folder structure.

Follow the directions below to complete the upgrade process.

If you have problems with the download, contact NWA Technical Support. If you would prefer to receive a CD, contact your NWA Account Manager or Customer Service.

How to upgrade NWA Quality Analyst 6.2 to release 2.3.489

The update process requires installing the new release over your existing QA 6.2 as follows. Note that the installer will ask about uninstalling the old version first; you should answer "Yes", it does need to do this.

Single User Installation

If you are doing a single-user installation, run **Setup.EXE** and follow the instructions.

LAN Network Installation Point

If you are doing a LAN installation, run the **LANAdmin.EXE** program located in the "Eng" folder, to the same Network Installation Point you used for the original QA 6.2.

Then reinstall NWA Quality Analyst on each of the workstations by running the **LANUserSetup.EXE** program in the Network Installation Point. The new version will replace the previous version.

See the Installation Guide, "QAssetup.pdf", in the "Eng\DOC" folder, for details.

To check if the update was successful:

Start up Quality Analyst. Go to the pull-down "Help" menu, and select "About Quality Analyst". Confirm that the Editor release number is 2.3.489.

Please contact NWA Quality Analyst Technical Support if you have any questions.

Changes from previous releases

Full Compatibility with 64-bit Windows

The primary difference between this new release of Quality Analyst and the initial release (up to Release 2.3.469) is full compatibility with 64-bit versions of Windows (Vista, Windows 7). Previously, the general statistics and file manipulation routines could not execute directly on 64-bit Windows 7 and required use of "XP Mode" to work properly. This new release runs directly on all versions of Windows, 32-bit or 64-bit, starting with XP SP2, without requiring special compatibility software.

Validation

Users in regulated industries that have performed validation on Quality Analyst should review the following notes on changes in computation routines:

The initial release of NWA Quality Analyst Version 6.2 included completely new SPC statistical routines, replacing the calculation components used in previous versions. These new routines passed NWA's extensive validation suite and provide equivalent results as previous versions. However, users updating from Version 6.1 and older should consider re-validation of SPC-related output (includes Process Capability calculations and charts).

NWA Quality Analyst Version 6.2 Release 2.3.469 included replacements for the remaining statistical computation and non-SPC graphics routines, including the Shelf-life/Stability Analytics component (see separate note). Users updating from Quality Analyst releases prior to Version 6.2 Release 2.3.469 should consider re-validation of the non-SPC computation and graphics functions.

Shelf-life/Stability Analytics

The computational routine for the NWA Quality Analyst Shelf-life/Stability Analytics component was updated significantly beginning with Version 6.2 Release 2.3.469. Users who performed validation on the previous releases should consider re-validating. Those that obtained the Shelf-life/Stability Validation package from NWA can continue to use that package and expect the same results.

NOTE: Beginning with release 2.3.487, the Pooled Slope Shelf Life Estimate has changed slightly. Shelf life is estimated from the intersection of the regression confidence limit and the acceptance criterion. The equation for the confidence limit is:

$$\text{confidence limit} = \text{estimated } Y \pm t * s * \text{sqrt}(1/n + (x - \text{mean } X)^2 / SSx)$$

Previously, 'n' and 'mean X' of all the pooled samples were used. After consultation with the FDA, 'n' and 'mean X' from the batch with the shortest estimated life are used. The effect of this change depends on the number and timing of the samples, and will often be insignificant. For the published data sets in the NWA Stability Analytics Validation package, the change was less than the rounding applied to the published results.

Fixes to release 2.3.487

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The following problems have been fixed in release 2.3.489:

Access Database fields of type Decimal weren't listed in QA Connectivity dialogs.

Control Limits displayed in Chart Footers were rounded to fewer digits than in the previous version, QA 6.1.

Capability Report to a data file included a BREAKDOWN column even if no breakdown was specified.

Fixes to release 2.3.477

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The following problems have been fixed in release 2.3.487:

Formatted Report ignored the Characters per Line (\$PAGEWIDTH in RUN files) setting.

Capability Report failed with Johnson Transform if the Breakdown category had no variation.

Pareto weighted by "Cost" was still labeled as "Count".

RUN files didn't give a message if header and data files had a mismatch on column count.

The MERGE command in RUN files, when inserting columns, didn't fill shorter columns with missing data symbols.

In Descriptive Statistics, some results were reported as very small numbers in scientific notation when they should have been "zero".

Very large graphics (NWG) files couldn't be "copied" or saved, though they would display properly.

In some circumstances, Control Chart Limits entered in Parameters weren't always saved and charted.

A RUN file path or name that included a forward slash "/" failed when called from an external program.

SUMSTAT output to a data file set the variable Type for the "VARIABLE" column to the wrong type.

Fixes to release 2.3.476

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The following problems have been fixed in release 2.3.477:

Although the data editor retrieved database fields of type Boolean as 0 and -1, the RUN file CONNECT statement treated all Boolean fields as missing data.

For Subgroup data, setting "Calculation method" on the "Chart Parameters" tab in Settings to "Individual measurements" resulted in no control limits being displayed on IR charts.

A Moving Range chart on a variable with missing data and the "Missing Data Mode" set to "Don't leave space on chart for missing subgroups" produced an incorrect chart.

Fixes to release 2.3.469

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The following problems have been fixed in release 2.3.476:

Control chart limits and other parameters were discarded if a variable's name was changed.

Capability Report and Boxplot were counting "I" type data multiple times if a subgroup size was set.

Runchart didn't display X-axis descriptions.

Histogram capability limit label didn't reflect non-default sigma value.

Data breakdown on a Date or Time column containing only invalid values would result in an error.

Scatter and Runchart would fail if the x-axis variable was identified using a "column" type (one column of a subgroup). For example, WEIGHT was accepted but WEIGHT:1 would fail.

Using a "From / To" Data Filter on an Alpha column could cause an Insufficient Data message.

Enhancements to release 2.3.429

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QA is fully functional with 64-bit Windows. Statistical and data manipulation functions are now performed by .NET routines.

Data breakdown function is now available for all control charts (X, R, S, I, M, MI, CUSUM, EWMA, p, np, c, u, T-sq, SPE), Histogram, Pareto, Run Charts, Scatter, and Normal probability plot.

Several changes were made to output text. The Column Description maximum length increased from 40 to 128 characters. The Maximum Title Length was 65, now is 128. Assignable Cause / Corrective Action text length was increased from 60 to 65 characters.

Default graphics font sizes were changed. Graphics footer minimum font size increased from 4 to 6. Graphics footer callout minimum font size increased from 4 to 6.

Fixes to release 2.3.429

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The following problems have been fixed in release 2.3.469:

RUN files with QXPs created in QA 5 no longer result in an error.

Some parameters (specification limits, description variable, others) weren't being saved if they were the only changes to the data set.

EWMA limits that were set to recalculate didn't work.

Data breakdown based on text containing a single quote character was failing.

Single Variable Pareto on text containing a single quote character was failing.

External Database filter using text containing a double quote character was failing.

If numeric control chart limits existed, the "calculate from Process" button wouldn't work.

A Boxplot containing extreme values could fail.

The capability report and Boxplot didn't handle long server names.

ACCA records couldn't be modified if a key value was a four digit date.

Missing data combined with missing data mode "4" caused chart axis labels / callouts on control charts to appear with the wrong subgroup.

Windows regional settings for New Zealand caused illegal time formats to be used with database connectivity data sets.

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