

tts performance suite

# What's New in Release 2021r2



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## tts performance suite 2021r2

Release 2021r2 of the tts performance suite adds new functionalities for content creation using the Creator. For example, the Creator now offers you the possibility to make sensitive content unrecognizable with a blur effect or to highlight particularly relevant aspects in non-IT steps with marking frames.

The new template-based upload functionality for external documents using the Creator should also make it easier for your subject matter experts to upload content to the Curator and share it within the company.

The keyboard control for SmartComponents and the ability to add subtitles to videos in tts performance suite 2021r2 will further improve the accessibility of your content.

Mistakes during content creation will be minimized in the future by the possibility to hide configurations. This ensures that your authors are only offered those configurations for selection that are currently meant for the creation of content.

Numerous improvements and optimizations, among others to the search in QuickAccess and WebAccess as well as the context recognition in Chrome round off the release. An overview of all the new features is provided below.

## 1 Performance Support

### 1.1 Singular/Plural Search in QuickAccess and WebAccess

By adapting the search logic, QuickAccess and WebAccess as of release 2021r2 of the tts performance suite are also able to take into account the singular or plural form of an entered search term when determining and weighting the search results. For example, when searching for "password", documents that only have the plural form "passwords" in their content or metadata are also found.

By default, this change will affect the content languages German and English at first. However, in consultation with our consultants, it is also possible to activate the function in other languages to suit customer-specific needs.

### 1.2 Improved Chrome context detection with browser extension

Since Google's Chrome browser does not yet support a sufficient programming interface for determining object information from the HTML code of a website, only the title and URL of a website could be used for context detection in Google Chrome so far.

Especially for complex applications, where different contexts can arise without a clear change of either title or URL, this kind of context detection can therefore reach its limits.

To enable QuickAccess users to find the appropriate help in such situations, it is possible to use an additional Chrome extension to support HTML context detection starting with tts performance suite version 2021r2.

By embedding the extension directly into the browser, it is possible to access the HTML code of a web application. The extension then makes the required information for context detection available to QuickAccess, so that it can use the context as usual to provide the appropriate content.

## 2 Content creation

### 2.1 Highlight image areas

Since tts performance suite version 2021, the Creator has been able to manually insert images into step-by-step instructions in order to graphically illustrate information outside of classic IT applications.

With tts performance suite 2021r2, it is now possible to add highlights in the form of red frames to the images inserted in this way. This allows you to draw attention to specific aspects of an image in an uncomplicated and effective way.



Figure 1: Highlighting in the Creator

These highlighting frames can be freely scaled, positioned and rotated and can be inserted in any number per image.

## 2.2 Blurring image areas

When recording IT applications to explain a specific use case, sometimes it is unavoidable that the recorded screen shots contain personal or sensitive data that should be kept hidden from the eyes of later users.

The tts performance suite version 2021r2 offers an uncomplicated way to make such areas unrecognizable. With a single click, you can add as many regions as you like that make the parts of the image behind them unrecognizable by using the "blur" effect. These areas can be freely scaled and positioned.

While editing a step list, newly added blurs can be moved, resized or deleted at any time. When a step-by-step guide is uploaded, the blurring becomes permanent, so that even users who edit the file later no longer have access to the original readable screenshots.

The blur option is available for both IT recordings and manually added images.

## 2.3 Upload external documents

Step-by-step instructions are an efficient way to support your users for most IT as well as for many non-IT use cases. However, there are situations where it is more efficient or even necessary to make locally available external files available in QuickAccess.

No matter if it is an Excel file for accounting travel expenses, a company guideline in PDF format or a keyboard shortcut reference as an image: With the external file upload function provided

by the Creator in the tts performance suite 2021r2, even these files can be made available to QuickAccess users with just a few clicks.

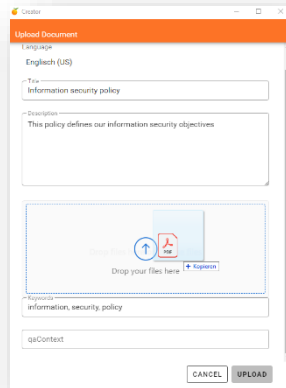


Figure 2: Template-based upload of external documents

The external file upload uses the same template mechanism that is used for the step-by-step instructions in the Creator. This reduces the number of metadata requested during the upload to a bare minimum and adds useful default values.

The file to be uploaded can be selected conveniently via drag & drop or using a dialog.

## 2.4 Improved usability in the Creator

Needless to say, we are also continuously working on improving existing functionalities and increasing the overall user-friendliness of the tts performance suite.

In version 2021r2 there are some improvements in the Creator. For example, the possibility to define an image section has been streamlined and integrated directly into the Creator's image editing dialog. It is no longer necessary to switch between different editing modes. Instead, the image section can be resized or moved in the same view as the interaction object or the high-light frame and/or the blur effect.

The upload window now provides visual feedback on the process of uploading and its completion before closing automatically like before.

In addition, when copying and pasting steps, the corresponding images are now also copied and transferred to the pasted step.

## 2.5 Enhanced accessibility for SmartComponents

In order to enable keyboard control in HTML5 learning units in particular and thus improve the accessibility of the content as a whole, the SmartComponent API has been extended in release 2021r2 of the tts performance suite to include the option of an accessibility mode.

The API extension enables SmartComponents to react to the activation of this accessibility mode (via "AltGr" or "Ctrl+Alt" key) by displaying an individually defined keyboard shortcut for the use of the respective component and acting accordingly when the shortcut is used.

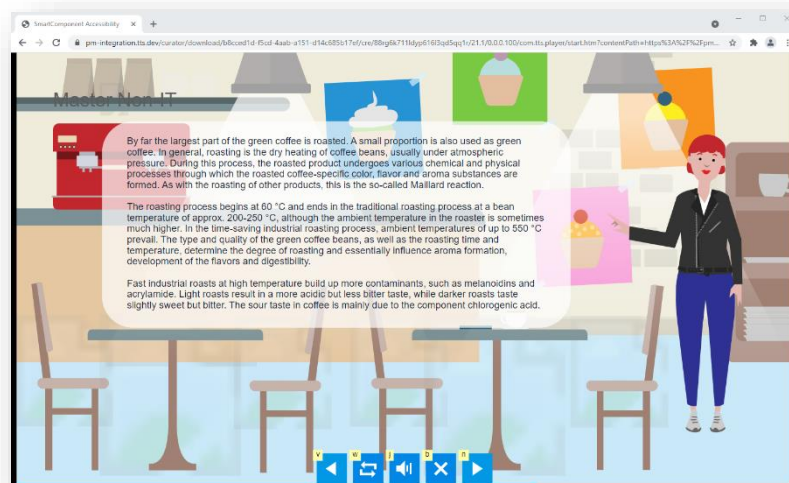


Figure 3: At the bottom of the image: tooltips in accessibility mode

All navigation components have already been updated to include the new functionality in SmartComponent Release 8.0. The default shortcuts for the SmartComponents and the position in which the shortcut is to be displayed can be adjusted as needed in the respective settings dialogs of the components.

## 2.6 Consecutive numbering

In Producer, it is now possible to continue numbered lists within a text box even after they are separated by a differently formatted paragraph.

The corresponding option can be selected either in the context menu or in the properties of a text box. The option of consecutive numbering is available in all three formats, meaning in e-learning, documentation and guides.

## 2.7 New SmartComponents

### 2.7.1 Mark as visited

The new "Mark as visited" SmartComponent can be used to mark individual or multiple steps of a learning unit as "visited" so that they can be taken into account accordingly in the learning result and in the sitemap.

In this way, for example, optional learning paths can be realized by placing the new SmartComponent at the following step of such a path and thus marking all optional steps as visited, regardless of whether they were actually completed or not. If users decide not to view the optional steps, this will not have a negative impact on their learning results.

In the options of the SmartComponent it can be selected whether all, all previous, all subsequent or some specific steps (defined by a comma-separated list) should get a "visited" marker. The component itself is placed on a page as a transparent object - not further visible during playback - and makes the selected marking when reaching the step it is located on.

## 2.7.2 Improvements to existing SmartComponents

We are also continuously improving existing SmartComponents. With the SmartComponent release for tts performance suite 2021r2, for example, it is possible to add subtitles to videos in the video component.

This is done with the help of so-called web video text tracks in the form of vtt files, a common standard procedure for providing subtitles in web videos. The subtitles not only allow learners to understand the full content of the videos even in environments where no sound can be used, but together with the keyboard shortcuts described above, they also provide another important element in the creation of accessible content.

In the sitemap, it is now also possible to mark steps that have already been visited. This functionality can be activated in the options dialog of the component. It is also possible to customize the appearance of the "visited" marker there.

The "Evaluation" component has been extended with numerous new options for customizing the layout. This means that you can now adapt your evaluation pages to your individual design in an even more accurate way.

With the last release, the single-choice/multiple-choice quiz elements were already enhanced with the option of defining alternative image strips for the assessment mode. This option has now also been added to the other quiz elements (Drag & Drop, Single Choice with direct evaluation).

## 3 Curation and management of content

### 3.1 Hide configurations

In addition to the configuration in which new content is supposed to be created, many tts performance suite systems usually have other configurations that are needed to play existing content. For example, old HTML4 configurations or configurations that were shipped with standard content.

Until now, all configurations available in the Curator were offered for selection both when logging in and when creating new documents. In order to avoid possible mistakes caused by selecting an incorrect or outdated configuration when creating a new document, tts performance suite 2021r2 offers the option of hiding configurations in which new content should no longer be created.

The configurations to be hidden are selected via a comma-separated list in the Curator configuration file. Configurations hidden in this way are then neither offered for selection when the Producer is started, nor when a new document or document variant is created.

Existing documents in hidden configurations, however, can still be found, edited and played as usual.



## 4 Miscellaneous

### 4.1 Optimized High DPI support for the Producer

With tts performance suite version 2021r2 you have the possibility to use the Producer also on screens with active Windows zoom due to high resolution. Further compatibility settings are therefore no longer required.

## 5 End-of-life announcements

In some cases, functions and technical components must be discontinued in order to create room for innovation and to adequately meet future technological requirements. This section summarizes the relevant points for version 2021r2.

### 5.1 End of support for Internet Explorer 11

Microsoft will discontinue support for Internet Explorer 11 in August 2021. With Edge, Microsoft has had a modern browser alternative available for a while that is also supported by the tts performance suite in all relevant areas. With Chrome and Firefox, users can also use the tts performance suite with all other relevant browsers for their usage scenarios. To ensure that we can continue to provide you with support for modern browser technologies in the future, we are therefore focusing our maintenance and further development activities on the browsers mentioned above and, as previously announced, will discontinue support for Internet Explorer 11 from tts performance suite 2021r2.