

SystemTest™ Release Notes

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SystemTest™ Release Notes

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Summary by Version

This table provides quick access to what's new in each version. For clarification, see “Using Release Notes” on page 1.

Version (Release)	New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Latest Version V2.2 (R2008b)	Yes Details	No	Bug Reports Includes fixes	Printable Release Notes: PDF Current product documentation
V2.1 (R2008a)	Yes Details	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No
V2.0 (R2007b)	Yes Details	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No
V1.1 (R2007a)	Yes Details	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No
V1.0.1 (R2006b)	No	No	Yes Details	No
V1.0 (R2006a+)	Yes Details	No	No	No

Using Release Notes

Use release notes when upgrading to a newer version to learn about:

- New features
- Changes
- Potential impact on your existing files and practices

Review the release notes for other MathWorks™ products required for this product (for example, MATLAB® or Simulink®) for enhancements, bugs, and compatibility considerations that also might impact you.

If you are upgrading from a software version other than the most recent one, review the release notes for all interim versions, not just for the version you are installing. For example, when upgrading from V1.0 to V1.2, review the release notes for V1.1 and V1.2.

What's in the Release Notes

New Features and Changes

- New functionality
- Changes to existing functionality

Version Compatibility Considerations

When a new feature or change introduces a reported incompatibility between versions, the **Compatibility Considerations** subsection explains the impact.

Compatibility issues reported after the product is released appear under Bug Reports at the MathWorks Web site. Bug fixes can sometimes result in incompatibilities, so you should also review the fixed bugs in Bug Reports for any compatibility impact.

Fixed Bugs and Known Problems

The MathWorks offers a user-searchable Bug Reports database so you can view Bug Reports. The development team updates this database at release time and as more information becomes available. This includes provisions for any known workarounds or file replacements. Information is available for bugs existing in or fixed in Release 14SP2 or later. Information is not available for all bugs in earlier releases.

Access Bug Reports using your MathWorks Account.

Version 2.2 (R2008b) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 2.2 (R2008b):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Yes Details below	No	Bug Reports Includes fixes	Printable Release Notes: PDF Current product documentation

New features and changes introduced in this version are:

- “Signal Builder Block Test Vector” on page 3
- “Multiple Test Vector Groups” on page 3
- “New Plot Element” on page 4
- “Simulink Design Verifier Data File Test Vector” on page 4
- “Model Coverage Support for Reference Blocks” on page 5
- “Run Status Hyperlink Change” on page 5

Signal Builder Block Test Vector

If you have created a Simulink model test harness using a Signal Builder block, you can automate the running of all your test cases by integrating them into a SystemTest™ test. This also offers the ability to collect cumulative model coverage metrics for all your Signal Builder test cases.

For more information on this feature, see “Creating Signal Builder Block Test Vectors”

Multiple Test Vector Groups

The ability to create multiple test vector groups has been added to the SystemTest software. A test vector group is a collection of test vectors of the same length whose values are indexed sequentially with the other

vectors in the group. Groups are commonly used for Monte Carlo and Design of Experiments (DOE) based testing, or when multiple vectors have a relationship (e.g. the mass and damping values of different throttle body types). Until R2008b, you could only create one test vector group.

For example, you could have a model of an automobile motor with two blocks – one block for the fuel system and one for the oxygen flow. Each block has a number of inports that are mapped to SystemTest vectors. In previous release you could not create a test that checks how the model behaves when performing a Monte Carlo test on both the fuel system and oxygen flow at the same time. With multiple test vector group support, you can now perform a Monte Carlo style test on both blocks, saving time in the test run.

For more information on this feature, see “Creating Grouped Test Vectors”.

New Plot Element

The new General Plot element offers support of all MATLAB plot types. You can plot any type of data, using any MATLAB plot types, or Simulink data.

The General Plot element allows you to plot data produced from a Simulink model. The supported data types are such [time signal] array, a structure, a structure with time, or a time series. Note that the element creates a line for each signal in the Simulink data. If time is not present, the signals are plotted against their indices.

You can also plot Simulink data provided by test vectors, such as the Signal Builder Block test vector, the Simulink Design Verifier Data File test vector, or the Spreadsheet Data test vector.

For more information on this feature, see **Working with the Basic Elements > Basic Elements > General Plot Element** in the SystemTest help.

Simulink Design Verifier Data File Test Vector

The Simulink Design Verifier Data File test vector can read test cases created by the Simulink® Design Verifier™ software. In order to use this test vector, you need a Simulink Design Verifier data file with test cases.

To use this feature, you first run Simulink Design Verifier with the appropriate configuration. Then you can do one of two things:

- Generate a SystemTest harness for the model from Simulink. When it completes, a new test opens automatically in SystemTest and a Simulink Design Verifier Data File test vector is automatically created. This workflow is described in “Automatically Creating a SystemTest Test Harness from Simulink Design Verifier”.
- If you already have a data file from Simulink Design Verifier, you can create a test vector in SystemTest that uses the data, and configure overrides in a Simulink element. This workflow is described in “Creating a Simulink Design Verifier Data File Test Vector”.

Model Coverage Support for Reference Blocks

The SystemTest software now supports Model Coverage for Reference blocks. The Simulink element will allow model coverage to be gathered for referenced models.

For more information on this feature, see “Using Simulink Model Coverage”.

Run Status Hyperlink Change

Prior to R2008b, after a test ran, the **Run Status** pane contained a link “Open Test Results in Viewer.” This is no longer available. However, you can still open the results in the Test Results Viewer by selecting the **Tools > Test Results Viewer** menu or setting the automatic launch option on the **General** tab in the **Test Properties** pane.

The hyperlink in **Run Status** has been replaced by a link that opens the test results object in MATLAB.

Version 2.1 (R2008a) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 2.1 (R2008a):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Yes Details below	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No

New features and changes introduced in this version are:

- “Overriding Individual Simulink Inport Blocks” on page 7
- “Improvements in the Simulink Element” on page 7
- “M API to Access Test Results in MATLAB” on page 8
- “Test Vector Types” on page 9
- “Option to Reuse Test Vector Values” on page 9
- “Reading Microsoft Excel Data into Test Vectors” on page 9
- “Test Vectors User Interface Change” on page 11
- “Test File Format Change” on page 11
- “General UI Changes” on page 12
- “Default Setting Changes” on page 13
- “Test Results Viewer Notes” on page 13

Overriding Individual Simulink Inport Blocks

You can now override individual Simulink Inport block signals via the Simulink element.

In the element, you can map test signals to individual Simulink Inport blocks using the new **Override Inport Block Signals with SystemTest Data** section on the **Mappings** tab.

For information on using this feature, see *Overriding Inport Block Signals* in the SystemTest documentation.

Limitations and Restrictions

When you select **Inherit from model** as the mapping for an individual Inport block, it will not support models that defined their `ExternalInput` as expressions of `t`, time series, Simulink Time Series, or `TSArray`.

Individual Inport mappings restrict the dimension of the mapping variable to a vector (dimension = 1).

Improvements in the Simulink Element

The Simulink element has been updated to use collapsible panes for the different mapping options, offering better usability within the element. Any mappings from previous TEST-files are loaded into the appropriate collapsible pane. The four collapsible panes consist of:

- Inport Block Signals (new feature – Importing Simulink Inports)
- Block Parameters
- To Workspace Variables
- Outports

In previous releases, when loading TEST-files, Simulink models associated with a Simulink element were not automatically loaded into memory during load time. In Release 2008a, the Simulink element will now load its model during load time, which is indicated by the load progress bar.

In previous releases, the Simulink element would not recognize To Workspace blocks stored within locked masks or block parameter fields for sample time, data type, and scaling. These options are now accessible through the element.

M API to Access Test Results in MATLAB

After you run a test that includes results you saved using the **Saved Results** in the **Test Browser**, you can view the results in MATLAB using a test results object. This feature is useful for comparing the results of separate test runs and for postprocessing of test results.

After running a test, a MATLAB variable named `stresults` is made available, allowing you to access the test results object and work with the data in MATLAB. One of the main advantages to accessing test results in the command line is that all of the MATLAB plotting tools are available to use on the results data. You can plot the data using any of the plot types MATLAB offers.

Another major use of the test results object is to quickly access and view your results in the form of a dataset object. The dataset object offers a convenient form for managing and displaying a large amount of data.

For information on using the new test results object, see [Accessing Test Results from the MATLAB Command Line](#) in the SystemTest documentation.

In previous releases, test results were not accessible during test execution. In Release 2008a, the most current test results can be accessed at any time in the test by using the `systest.testresults.getCurrent` function.

Compatibility Considerations

In previous releases, test results were managed in an undocumented MATLAB structure accessible as a variable named `stresults` or from the test results MAT-file. For Release 2008a, the test results are now managed as a documented test results object. Any dependencies on the previous undocumented test results format will need to be updated to use the new test results object.

For information on using the new test results object, see [Accessing Test Results from the MATLAB Command Line](#) in the SystemTest documentation.

Test Vector Types

In this release, three test vector types are now available, described as MATLAB Expression, Spreadsheet Data, and Probability Distribution. Test vector data for TEST-files from prior releases will be loaded as a MATLAB Expression test vector type.

Other Test Vector Changes

The Probability Distribution support now recalls the configuration values used to generate the distribution, avoiding the need to reenter the configuration values when a distribution needs to be edited.

The Probability Distribution test vector now uses default values for its fields. Previous versions configured the fields blank. You can replace the defaults with the values you want to use.

Option to Reuse Test Vector Values

You can now choose to reuse test vector values each time a test is run. This is useful for Monte Carlo testing when used in conjunction with the new Probability Distribution test vector type. To reuse test vector values, do not select the option called **Evaluate Test Vector each time the test is run** when configuring a Test Vector.

Note About This Feature

In previous releases, test vector values were always reevaluated upon loading and running the test. To maintain this behavior, in Release 2008a, any existing TEST-files will be loaded with their test vectors configured to **Evaluate Test Vector each time the test is run**, which is the new configuration option for test vectors. Any new test vectors created though will, by default, not be configured to reevaluate each time the test is run.

Reading Microsoft Excel Data into Test Vectors

A new test vector type, Spreadsheet Data, is now available to read data from Microsoft® Excel® files into the SystemTest software. You can import data from multiple files, and can read whole sheets or a subset of a sheet.

For information about using this feature, see [Creating Spreadsheet Data Test Vectors](#) in the SystemTest documentation.

Notes About This Feature

If a file has been added to a Spreadsheet Data test vector, any changes within the file (i.e., sheets being renamed, added, or removed) will not be automatically reflected within the SystemTest software. To have the SystemTest software reflect the change, remove the file from the test vector and then add it back.

Specific rows/columns from a Spreadsheet Data test vector can be selected using a new mapping option provided in the Simulink element's **Override Import Block Signals with SystemTest Data** option on the **Mappings** tab. This selection option is not currently supported for other Simulink mapping types or other test elements.

The Spreadsheet Data test vector is officially supported on Windows® platforms and can read all Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheet files. This also includes CSV files. On platforms other than Windows, the SystemTest software only supports reading XLS files and does not support CSV files.

The following undo/redo actions are not currently supported for the Spreadsheet Data test vector:

- Adding, removing, moving up, moving down, selecting, or unselecting of files/spreadsheets
- Any edits made on the **String Mappings** tab

The Spreadsheet Data test vector stores the absolute path to any files added. If the file changes location, even if the file is still on the MATLAB path, it will not be found. You should remove and add the file again if the location or name changes.

The other two test vector types (MATLAB Expression and Probability Distribution) clear their values and set their length to 0 whenever an "Evaluate" fails. For the Spreadsheet Data test vector, if an "Evaluate" fails, then the last known values, headers, and string replacements remain and will only be updated when an "Evaluate" is successful. This can lead to

discrepancies between the actual values used and the way the Spreadsheet Data test vector user interface is configured.

- For example, if the test vector successfully reads Column A, the values are stored, etc. If the test vector is configured to read Columns B to C, and that leads to an error somewhere, the text fields will still show Columns B to C, even though the values that would be used are from Column A.
- In this same example, a failed evaluation would put the test vector in error. However, if you save and then reload the test vector, the error state is removed. Therefore, you could have saved this test vector reading from bad data in Columns B to C, and then reload and the red error borders are gone. When it runs (if you do not reevaluate each time the test is run, or manually, before pressing the **Run** button) it will use old values from column A, even though the information in the **Test Vectors** pane says Columns B to C.

Test Vectors User Interface Change

The overall UI for test vectors and test variables has been redesigned into a table and embedded edit area, offering easier management and interaction. By default, the test vectors and test variables are no longer docked in the bottom left of the desktop. Instead, they are docked in the middle pane along with the **Properties** pane. A listing of test vectors and variables are also provided in the **Test Browser**.

The list of test vectors in the **Test Browser** will always reflect an alphabetized order, regardless of their order in the **Test Vectors** edit pane. The test variables tree is not currently alphabetized and will reflect the order from the edit pane.

Multiple test vectors can be selected in the edit pane to allow for multiple test vector evaluation or deletion. Multiple test vector editing, though, is not currently supported.

Test File Format Change

The following changes have been made.

Compatibility Considerations

TEST-files are being saved in a new internal binary format as of Release 2008a. Files from previous releases are compatible with Release 2008a and can be loaded without any problems. TEST-files saved in Release 2008a will not be loadable in previous SystemTest releases.

The results MAT-file generated by the SystemTest software, or those saved by the Test Results Viewer, stores data in the form of a new test results object for Release 2008a. These result MAT-files are not loadable by previous SystemTest releases.

General UI Changes

The desktop toolbar has been updated to offer a more concise set of options.

- The **Run** and **Stop** buttons have been relocated toward the right end of the toolbar.
- The buttons that launch the Test Results Viewer, Test Report, and Simulink have been removed. These options continue to be available from the menu bar.
- The Current Directory chooser at the top of the desktop has been removed. The current directory can still be changed by using the MATLAB desktop Current Directory chooser.

A progress bar has been introduced providing status when TEST-files are loaded.

The **Run Status** progress bar has been updated to an indeterminate bar, suggesting ongoing testing when working in distributed mode. The new progress bar no longer displays the percentage complete. Information on current progress is still provided via the status text above the progress bar.

The **New** button in the **Test Browser** pane, originally used to add elements, can now be used to add elements, test vectors, and test variables.

Compatibility Considerations

Three reserved names have been introduced, restricting the names that can be used for Test Vectors, Variables, Saved Results, or Derived Results (created in the Test Results Viewer). These reserved names are:

- ObsNames
- Properties
- VarNames

Any existing TEST-files that use these names will be loaded with a warning indicating what alternate name is being used in place of the restricted name.

Default Setting Changes

With the addition of a new test results object for exploring and analyzing test results, by default, the **Visualize and plot saved results by launching the Test Results Viewer** option is turned off when new TEST-files are created. The option is still available in the **Test Properties** pane.

The default desktop layout no longer displays the **Elements** pane by default. It is still available via the **Desktop** menu.

Test Results Viewer Notes

The Test Results Viewer currently supports viewing scalar, vector, time series, and image data. It is not currently compatible with any other data formats. Attempting to load other data formats will produce an error. In particular, using the new Spreadsheet Data test vector to read in multiple columns/rows of data, producing a matrix of values for each test iteration, will likely not be loadable by the Test Results Viewer. It is recommended the new test results object, which is compatible with all data formats, be used instead to view and analyze test results.

When configured to launch, the Test Results Viewer would always launch at the end of a test, even when the test was unable to run to completion or if there were no test results to view. In Release 2008a, the viewer will only launch if the test runs to completion and if test results are being saved. Otherwise the request is ignored.

Version 2.0 (R2007b) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 2.0 (R2007b):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Yes Details below	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No

New features and changes introduced in this version are:

- “Distributed Testing” on page 14
- “Randomized Test Vectors” on page 14
- “Grouped Test Vector Support in the Test Results Viewer” on page 15
- “Run SystemTest Tests from the MATLAB Command Line” on page 15
- “Platforms No Longer Supported” on page 15
- “Invalid Characters in Element Names” on page 15

Distributed Testing

You can now distribute the SystemTest software tests across multiple computers or processors for faster performance. You must have a license for the Parallel Computing Toolbox™ software to use this feature.

You can set up a test and then distribute the test iterations as tasks, which are performed by different workers. No changes to the test setup are required. This can speed up the total time the test takes to execute.

Randomized Test Vectors

The SystemTest software now provides an easy way to generate randomized test vector values for your test. Probability distribution functions can be used to set up test vectors, which is useful for performing Monte Carlo analyses.

If you have the Statistics Toolbox™ software, the SystemTest software integrates with it to provide use of some of its probability distribution

functions, such as Exponential, Gamma, Lognormal, T, and Weibull. If you don't have the Statistics Toolbox software, you have access to MATLAB probability distribution functions such as Normal (Gaussian) and Uniform.

Grouped Test Vector Support in the Test Results Viewer

The Test Results Viewer now lets you use grouped test vectors in plot configurations.

You can also show grouped test vectors as dependent variables in scatter plots. If a dependent variable is a grouped test vector, you can now explore the relationship it has with the other vectors in the group.

Run SystemTest Tests from the MATLAB Command Line

You can now run tests that you set up in the SystemTest software from the MATLAB command line. This is useful for running multiple tests as a batch or calling a test file as part of an M-file.

Platforms No Longer Supported

The following platforms are no longer supported for use with the SystemTest software:

- Solaris™ 64
- PowerPC® Mac®

Note that since these platforms are not supported, you cannot have any worker machines in a distributed testing cluster that use these platforms.

Invalid Characters in Element Names

The following characters are now considered invalid to include within element names:

- ' ,

- <
- >

You cannot use these three characters in element names. If you create a new test element with one or more of these characters in the element name, then the SystemTest software throws an error dialog and the element name is reset to the default value, which is the name of the element type.

Compatibility Considerations

If you try to load an existing test with an invalid element name (containing one or more of the three characters listed above), the SystemTest software displays an error dialog indicating that the element name is invalid. The test will load successfully, but the element with an invalid name is reset to use the default name for the element.

If this occurs, simply rename the element to a name that does not contain any of the invalid characters. You rename an element by double-clicking its name in the **Test Browser**.

Version 1.1 (R2007a) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 1.1 (R2007a):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Yes Details below	Yes Summary	Bug Reports Includes fixes	No

New features and changes introduced in this version are:

- “Enhanced Limit and Tolerance Checking” on page 17
- “Undo/Redo Support” on page 17
- “Flexible Test Iteration Definition Using Grouped Test Vectors” on page 18
- “Enhanced Reporting of Test Execution” on page 18
- “Test Results Viewer Save and Load Capabilities” on page 18
- “Remove Test Vectors from the Limit Check Element” on page 18

Enhanced Limit and Tolerance Checking

The Limit Check element has new functionality that creates many more options for defining the pass/fail criteria for a test. In addition to scalar versus scalar comparisons, other comparison types are now supported: scalar versus vector, vector versus vector, and matrix versus matrix. You can now perform tolerance checking as well. This feature allows you to check absolute tolerance or relative tolerance of variables used throughout the SystemTest software.

Undo/Redo Support

Undo/redo support is now available in the SystemTest desktop.

Flexible Test Iteration Definition Using Grouped Test Vectors

Test vectors can now be grouped, in order to affect the way iterations are run. By grouping test vectors, they will be combined sequentially with the other grouped vectors, and then permuted with all the ungrouped test vectors. This gives you more control over the flow of your tests and is useful for Monte Carlo or Design of Experiments (DOE) based testing as well as defining signal groups, similar to those defined in the Simulink Signal Builder block.

Enhanced Reporting of Test Execution

Reports generated for the test execution now contain more information. For example, the new report includes test description text, snapshots of the plots generated by Plot elements, and snapshots of the models used in Simulink elements.

Test Results Viewer Save and Load Capabilities

Users can now save the plotting and analysis work done in the Test Results Viewer. Data, constraints, and plots created in the Test Results Viewer can be saved and then reloaded in order to continue working on or viewing the data, or to share it with others.

Remove Test Vectors from the Limit Check Element

Test vectors are no longer available in the **Test Variable** column of the Limit Check element since there is no rationale for that use case. The “Test Vector” choice has been removed from the drop down in the Limit Check table.

Compatibility Considerations

Any existing tests using Test Vectors will have their Limit Check tables now launch in an error state. Tests cannot have Test Vectors in the **Test Variable** column. To correct the problem, choose an available variable for the limit check or create a new variable.

Version 1.0.1 (R2006b) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 1.0.1 (R2006b):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
No	No	Yes Details	No

The SystemTest software was introduced in R2006a+. See “Version 1.0 (R2006a+) SystemTest Software” on page 20 for details about this product.

This release includes bug fixes or enhancements, which are listed below.

Bug Fixes or Enhancements

The following enhancements were made in Version 1.0.1:

- The Stop element can now be used in Pre Test. In Version 1.0, it could be used only in Main Test. It is now available in both Main Test and Pre Test.
- The Stop element now generates a hyperlink in the **Run Status** pane that gives the name of the Stop element that terminated the test and shows the element in the SystemTest desktop.

Version 1.0 (R2006a+) SystemTest Software

This table summarizes what's new in Version 1.0 (R2006a+):

New Features and Changes	Version Compatibility Considerations	Fixed Bugs and Known Problems	Related Documentation at Web Site
Yes Details below	No	No	No

Version 1.0 was released in Web-downloadable form after R2006a, and includes the features listed below.

The SystemTest product provides a software framework for developing tests that exercise MATLAB algorithms and Simulink models. It includes predefined test elements that let you build and maintain standard test routines. You can save and share tests throughout a development project, ensuring standard and repeatable test verification from research and development through preproduction. You can map test variables into a result set for analysis.

SystemTest is integrated with MATLAB, enabling you to use the MATLAB scripting language and analysis tools to explore large data sets and gain further insight into the behavior of the system. Key features include:

- Develops, manages, and edits test structures
- Uses predefined test elements to test MATLAB algorithms and Simulink models
- Incorporates MATLAB scripts directly into a test
- Maps MATLAB and Simulink workspace variables to test variables
- Offers reusability, so that after you design a test, you can save it for later use by you or others
- Visualizes and analyzes multidimensional test results

Compatibility Summary for SystemTest Software

This table summarizes new features and changes that might cause incompatibilities when you upgrade from an earlier version, or when you use files on multiple versions. Details are provided in the description of the new feature or change.

Version (Release)	New Features and Changes with Version Compatibility Impact
Latest Version V2.2 (R2008b)	None
V2.1 (R2008a)	See the Compatibility Considerations subheading for these changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M API to Access Test Results in MATLAB • Test File Format Change • General UI Changes
V2.0 (R2007b)	See the Compatibility Considerations subheading for this change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invalid Characters in Element Names
V1.1 (R2007a)	See the Compatibility Considerations subheading for this change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Remove Test Vectors from the Limit Check Element” on page 18
V1.0.1 (R2006b)	None
V1.0 (R2006a+)	None