



ALM Client Launcher

Software Version: 3.1

User Guide

Go to **HELP CENTER ONLINE**

<http://admhelp.microfocus.com/alm>

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Working with the ALM Client Launcher

ALM Client Launcher is a lightweight, portable, and flexible tool that enables you to run an ALM client on any Windows machine without the need of downloading it from an ALM server and without Windows administrator permissions.

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What's new in version 3.1

- **Include ALMClientLauncher.exe file (for version 3.0) in the ALM 15.5.1 release bundle:** In the ALM qcb.in page, you can directly download ALM Client Launcher 3.0 from ALM server without the need for the site admin to first upload the exe file to the server. See the [ALM 15.5.1 online help](#).
- **Add launcher.config path to the registry table:** Run the `ALMClientLauncher.exe -configpath` command, and the launcher.config file path will be added in the registry table.
- **Run ALM Client Launcher in an unattended mode:** Run the `ALMClientLauncher.exe -unattended` command to run ALM Client Launcher in an unattended mode. For each yes/no question, ALM Client Launcher will select yes without user interaction until an error occurs.
- **Force-download client files from the server before launch:** Run the `ALMClientLauncher.exe -forcedownload` command to download client files from the server before launch, regardless of whether you already downloaded client files or whether the downloaded version is different than the server version.
- **Show message when errors occurred during file extraction:** When an error occurred during file extraction, a message is shown. Clicking the message, you will see the error details. See ["Use ALM Client Launcher for the first time"](#).
- **Support CAC authentication:** ALM Client Launcher supports Common Access Card (CAC) authentication. See ["Go to Web Server and Proxy Settings"](#).

Preparation - performed by admin

Admin tasks involve the following:

- ["Package ALM client files in the server"](#)
- ["\(Optional\) Customize where to package ALM client files"](#)

Package ALM client files in the server

As the administrator, you should first upload ALM client files to the ALM Server, and then end users can use ALM Client Launcher to have the ALM client files automatically downloaded to their local machines.

Select one of the following two methods to upload ALM client files.

<p>Have ALM client files automatically packaged in the server during ALM installation</p> <p>Available and recommended for ALM 15.5 and later</p>	<p>During the ALM installation, ALM can now automatically generate and package the client files in the <ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcb\bin\Apps\ClientPackages folder. They can be used by ALM Client Launcher without the need for you to package and distribute them.</p> <p>For details, see ALM 15.5 Help Center.</p>
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Manually upload ALM client files to the server

1. Download the ALM client files.
 - a. Open ALM in Internet Explorer.
 - b. Access the ALM login page. If you would like to access ALM Site Administration with ALM Client Launcher, access the ALM Site Administration login page.

The ALM client files are downloaded to the ALM Client Deployment Folder (typically under %localappdata%\HP\ALM-Client).

By default the client folder name is the same as the ALM server version number, for example, 15.00.0.0_952.
2. Copy the ALM client files (all the files located under the version folder, for example, the 15.00.0.0_952 folder) to a new folder.
3. (Optional) Delete the **.cab** files from the new folder to reduce the package size.
4. Select all the ALM client files, zip the files, and name it `ALMClient.zip`. Do not zip the folder that contains the ALM client files.
5. Upload the zipped file to the ALM Server. If you are in a cluster environment, make sure you upload the zipped file to all the nodes.
 - **Windows:** <ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcbn\Apps\ClientPackages\`ALMClient.zip`
 - **Linux:** <ALM deployment path>/webapps/qcbn/Apps/ClientPackages/`ALMClient.zip`

Note: You should manually create a folder named `ClientPackages` under the `Apps` folder.

Extra steps required for SSO servers:

 - a. Add the line
`<url>/qcbn/Apps/ClientPackages/ALMClient.zip</url>`
to `nonSecureURLs` in the `auth_filter_config.xml` file.
 - **Windows:** <ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcbn\WEB-INF\auth_filter_config.xml
 - **Linux:** <ALM deployment path>/webapps/qcbn/WEB-INF\auth_filter_config.xml
 - b. Restart the ALM Server.

(Optional) Customize where to package ALM client files

By default, ALM Client Launcher automatically downloads client files from the default server path <ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcbn\Apps\ClientPackages\ALMClient.zip. You can define a custom

location from which client files are downloaded by configuring the `packages.xml` file.

When the `packages.xml` file is not available, ALM Client Launcher downloads client files from the default path. When the file is available, ALM Client Launcher reads the file to download client files.

You define a custom location usually when a patch has been deployed on the server and you want end users to download upgraded client files.

To configure the `packages.xml` file:

1. Create an xml file and name it `packages.xml`.
2. Put the file in the repository: `<ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcb\bin\Apps\ClientPackages`.
3. Copy the following into the `packages.xml` file, update the highlighted parts with your server information, and save the file.

```
<serverPackages version="1.0">  
<package version="<version number>" type="full" state="ready">  
  <url>http://<ALM server>:<port>/<ALM client files package location></url>  
</package>  
</serverPackages>
```

<version number>	<p>The version format should be: <code><xx>.<xx>.<xxx>.<x></code>. For example, <code>15.50.412.0</code></p> <p>ALM Client Launcher compares the first three numbers (for example, 15, 50, and 412) with the numbers in the server version. If any of the three numbers defined here is different from the server version, it will automatically download the client files from the location defined in the "url" element.</p> <div data-bbox="738 1266 1412 1476"><p>Note: To check the server version, open ALM Client, click the Help icon in the lower left corner of the page, see the OTA Client build number in the right of the Help page.</p></div>
http://<ALM server>:<port>/<ALM client files package location>	<p>Define the location where you have zip the upgraded client files.</p> <p>For example, <code>http://my_alm_server:8080/qcb\bin\Apps\ClientPackages\ALMClient_p1.zip</code></p> <p>In ALM SSO mode, we recommend you package client files in the default path: <code><ALM deployment path>\webapps\qcb\bin\Apps\ClientPackages</code>.</p>

Use ALM Client Launcher for the first time

If you use ALM Client Launcher for the first time, it can automatically download the ALM client files for you.


1. Download ALM Client Launcher from [Marketplace](#).

Note: If you are using ALM 15.5 and later, you can also download ALM Client Launcher from the ALM server in the qcbn page. For details, see [ALM 15.5 Help Center](#).

2. Run **ALMClientLauncher.exe**.
3. Enter the ALM Server URL. This is the server the ALM client files will be downloaded from.
Which folder will the ALM client files be downloaded to?
By default, the ALM client files will be downloaded to the folder: <ALM client file default path>\<ALM server>:<port>.
<ALM client file default path> depends on the **Default Client File Download Path** setting. See "[Default Client File Download Path](#)".
You can also specify a different location for the ALM client files. See "[Customize client file download path](#)".
4. Click **GO**.
5. Wait until the download is completed.
If an error occurs during file extraction, a message will be shown. Clicking the message, you will see the error details.


Customize client file download path

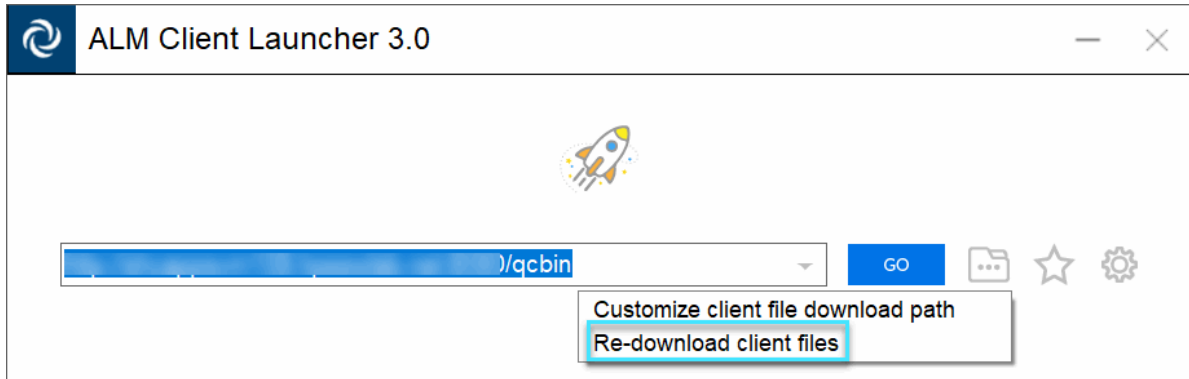
You can define a custom location for client files that are downloaded from a specific server. This setting overrides the default client file download path that is set in "[Default Client File Download Path](#)".

1. Enter the server URL.
2. Click  > **Customize client file download path**.
3. Specify a folder for the client files.

Re-download ALM client files

If the ALM client files already exist, and you want to re-download the files to the folder and replace the existing files, you can do the following:

1. In ALM Client Launcher, select the target server URL from the drop-down list.
2. Click  > **Re-download client files** to start the download.




Launch ALM, Site Administration, or Lab Management


1. **Prerequisite:** You have the ALM client files in your local machine.
2. Run **ALMClientLauncher.exe**. The ALM Client Launcher dialog box opens.

Action	Details
Launch ALM	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Enter the ALM Server URL, for example, <code>http://<ALM Server>:<Port>/qcbin</code>.b. Click GO.
Launch ALM Site Administration	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Enter the ALM Server URL followed by <code>siteadmin</code>, for example, <code>http://<ALM Server>:<Port>/qcbin/siteadmin</code>.b. Click GO.
Launch Lab Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Enter the ALM Server URL, for example, <code>http://<ALM Server>:<Port>/qcbin/lab</code>.b. Click GO.


Configure ALM Client Launcher settings

1. Run **ALMClientLauncher.exe**.
2. Click the Settings icon ().

Option	Details
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Open ALM Links with Client Launcher	<p>If you enable this option, you can access an entity (such as requirement, defect, and test instance) in ALM Client Launcher by clicking the entity link that is embedded in your email or copied to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the option is not selected, and you have previously deployed the ALM client on your machine via Microsoft Internet Explorer, then the entity link will open from Internet Explorer by default.• If the option is not selected, and you have not previously deployed the ALM client on your machine, the entity link will not open.
Default Client File Download Path	<p>Specify the default folder to which the ALM client files will be downloaded. If it's not specified, client files are by default downloaded to the same folder where <code>ALMClientLauncher.exe</code> is located.</p> <p>This default folder applies to client files that are downloaded from all servers. If you want to override the path setting for a specific server, use the Customize client file location option. See "Customize client file download path".</p>
Go to Web Server and Proxy Settings	<p>Click  to configure Web Server and proxy settings.</p> <p>Limitation: If you want to use IE proxy, make sure the proxy server does not require credentials. Otherwise, you cannot use IE proxy.</p> <p>If you want to get authenticated with CAC, you should upload the certificate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. In the Web Server Settings tab, click the Use client certificate checkbox.b. Click Select to upload the certificate.

Add and manage favorite ALM Server URLs

1. Run **ALMClientLauncher.exe**.
2. Click the favorites icon () to open the Edit Favorites window.
You can use this window to add favorites and edit existing favorites.

- **Name:** Give the ALM Server a name to help you quickly identify it.
- **URL:** Specify the ALM Server address.

Your favorite ALM Server URLs will be listed in the ALM Server URL drop-down list.

Register ALM client components

Registering ALM client components enables you to work with other Micro Focus testing tools as well as third-party and custom tools based on ALM OTA API.

You can only use ALM Client Launcher with command line to register ALM client components.

Register ALM client components	<p>Run the command:</p> <pre>ALMClientLauncher.exe -reg</pre> <p>or</p> <pre>ALMClientLauncher.exe -r</pre> <p>This command registers ALM client components on the current execution folder. If you want to register ALM on another folder, include the <code>-clientpath</code> or <code>-cp</code> option in the command to specify the folder.</p>
Unregister ALM client components	<p>Run the command:</p> <pre>ALMClientLauncher.exe -unreg</pre> <p>This command unregisters ALM client components on the current execution folder. If you want to unregister ALM on another folder, include the <code>-clientpath</code> or <code>-cp</code> option in the command to specify the folder.</p>

Use ALM Client Launcher with command line

Besides the ALM Client Launcher UI, you can also use the command line as an alternative to work with ALM Client Launcher.

The command line supports all the available features of ALM Client Launcher.

For details about how to work with the command line, see the command line help. To show the help, run the `ALMClientLauncher -help` command.

Note: If you download the ALM client files in a non-default path, to launch ALM, you should include the `-clientpath` or `-cp` option in the command.

ALM Client Launcher limitations

- SiteMinder external authentication is not supported.

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