

What's New in Pentana Vision 2.1

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What is Pentana Vision 2.1?

Pentana Vision 2.1 is a performance optimisation release, designed to improve response times throughout the application. It also includes some enablers with regard to forms-based authentication and maintainability of product customisations, while some known bugs are also fixed.

Pentana Vision 2.1 is not a functional enhancement release. As such, customers who are already on 2.0 are unlikely to notice any discernible difference from a user perspective.

What does Pentana Vision 2.1 contain?

Performance optimisation

The internal indexing strategy of the SQL Server database has been overhauled in order to significantly improve performance. Customers who may have experienced poor performance should notice better response times in 2.1, especially when executing commands that involve bulk updates to data.

One consequence of the new indexing strategy is that the separate 'Reporting View' tables are no longer necessary and so have been removed from the schema.

Forms-based authentication

Support for forms-based authentication (i.e. user names and passwords) has been introduced, as an alternative to the Windows authentication and certificate-based authentication options. We have leveraged industry-standard Microsoft technologies in order to deliver a best practice solution.

Note that Pentana Vision 2.1 does not itself contain its own user interface for managing the user details and passwords; rather, these are delegated to the Microsoft environment which is inherently more secure.

Pentana will utilise forms-based authentication as our preferred approach for hosted Pentana Vision customers and for our Public Demo instance, rather than relying on certificated-based authentication which involves a higher administration cost.

Product customisations

With regard to product customisations, such as custom fields and rules, Pentana Vision 2.1 improves the way Property Grid definitions are maintained in order to reduce the recurring effort (and hence the cost) of reapplying customisations with each new product release.

Other

We have added new calculated fields against Entities and Audits, which expose the parent Org Unit hierarchy and (in the case of Audits) the Process Hierarchy and parent Entity(ies) for reporting purposes. This means, for example, the 'Level 1' Org Unit can be included as a column on all relevant data grids, on screen and in exports to Excel.

When signing off an Audit as 'Complete', the 'Upload to Entity' previously occurred automatically and there was no ability to control the upload. In Pentana Vision 2.1 the user has the option to decide whether and which items to upload to Entity.

A number of minor bug fixes have also been processed, as described in the accompanying 'Read Me' file.

Implementation considerations

We recommend that all Pentana Vision customers upgrade to 2.1 at their earliest convenience.

Due to the nature of the changes, especially the new indexing strategy, customers must 'check in' all of their offline Audits and any reserved files before the upgrade can be performed.

Where customers or partners have developed their own reporting solutions directly against the old reporting view tables, these will need to be modified in order to use the primary tables.

For more information about Pentana Vision, please contact Pentana or your local partner.