WATS Release Note - Platform Upgrade, Serial Number History Enhancements, and Client Configuration Updates - 26.2

Major Feature Areas

Overview

This release introduces a major platform upgrade to **.NET 10**, along with significant improvements to **Serial Number History**, **Operator Interface**, and **System Manager configuration capabilities**.

The platform upgrade enhances overall **performance, stability, and security**, while preparing WATS for future capabilities such as improved APIs and modern integrations. Users can expect a smoother and more responsive experience without changes to core workflows.

The **Serial Number History** and **Operator Interface** have been refined with improved grids, better navigation, and enhanced usability, making it easier to track units and manage production data.

In **System Manager**, new support for centralized **Client Configuration** and **Software Distribution** enables more efficient management of WATS Clients, including remote configuration of Package Manager and Yield Monitor settings. Additional enhancements, including the new **Map View (preview)**, improved navigation, and multiple usability improvements across modules, further strengthen the overall user experience.

Platform Upgrade to .NET 10

The application has been upgraded from .NET Framework 4.8 to .NET 10, moving the platform onto a modern and fully supported runtime. This change does not affect the core functionality of the system, and users will continue to work with the application as they do today.

You may notice that the REST API documentation UI (Swagger) has a refreshed look and slightly different layout compared to the previous version. This comes from framework-level updates and does not impact how the API documentation or test endpoints are used.

Beyond this, most users will simply experience a smoother and more responsive application. .NET 10 provides improved performance, better memory management, and a more efficient execution pipeline, which together can reduce load times and increase overall stability.

The upgrade also strengthens security. By moving to the latest runtime, the platform benefits from current encryption standards, updated libraries, and ongoing security patches from Microsoft - ensuring a stronger and future-proof security posture.

Finally, this modernization prepares the application for future enhancements, including improved API capabilities, cloud-native features, and potential AI-driven functionality that relies on a modern runtime foundation.

Serial number history & Operator interface improvements

Unit history has been replaced by the new and improved serial number hierarchical grid, along with a production grid when production is enabled in operator interface. “Unit info” and “Unit Consist Of” have also been improved, alongside other miscellaneous changes outlined below. Notably, users can now change the revision and batch number of a unit in “Unit info”.

Operator Interface

Features described in this section are unique to operator interface

Layout Changes

- The configuration page navigation has been moved to the bottom of the side menu, while the serial number history is now positioned at the top. This adjustment makes frequently used features more accessible for operators

Configurations

- The start page dropdown has been updated to reflect the new layout, enabling users to navigate more intuitively to their preferred starting point

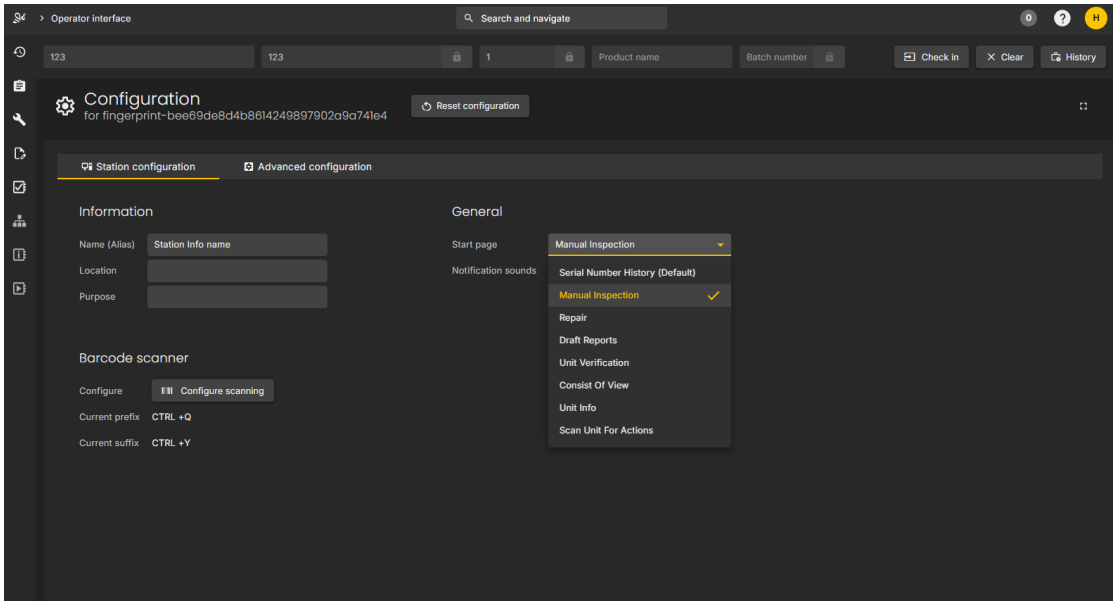


Figure 1 Layout and configuration

Serial Number History

- The comment column is now enabled by default in the hierarchical grid, allowing users to view comments more easily during unit tracking.
- Units can now be checked in from both the hierarchical and production grid, allowing for faster and more efficient navigation between units.

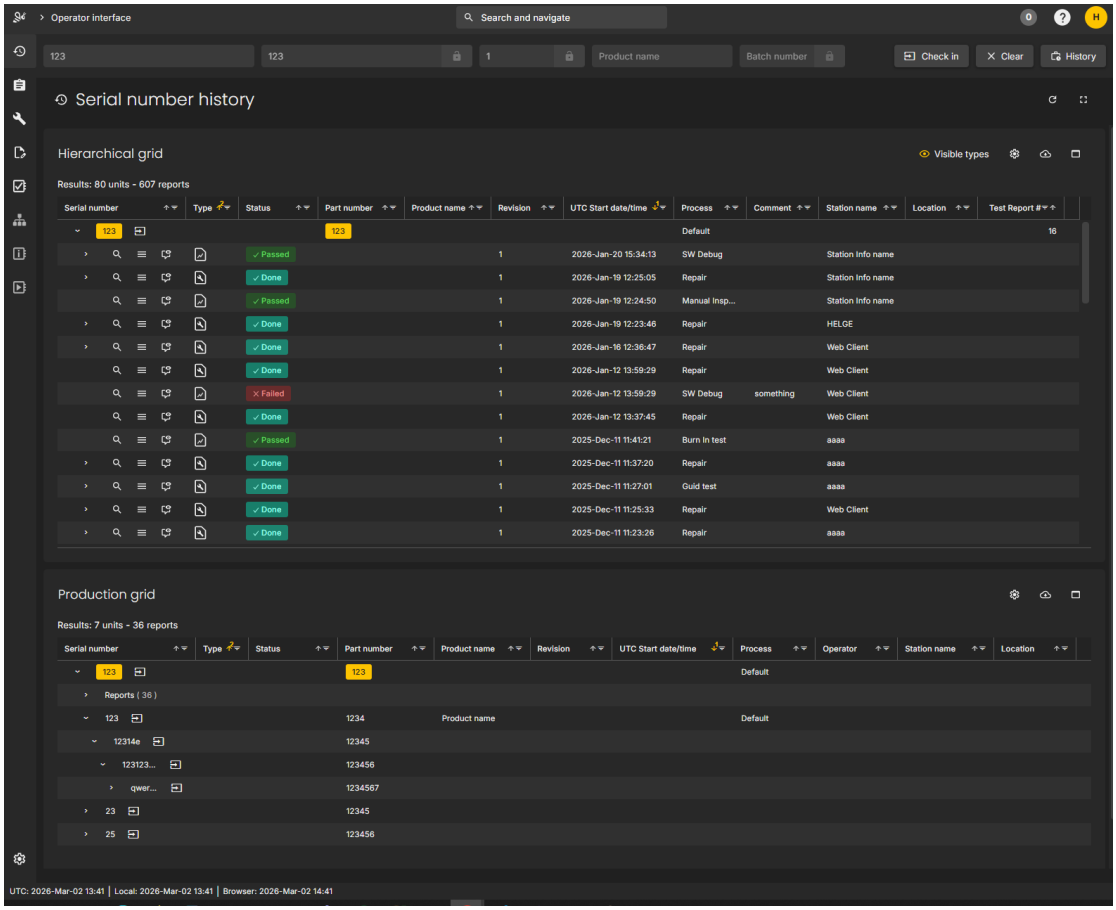


Figure 2 Operator interface - Serial number history

Unit Consist Of

- The appearance of the grid has been slightly enhanced to improve readability and user experience.
- The “Add Unit to Production” dialog now fully supports adding a batch number to a unit.

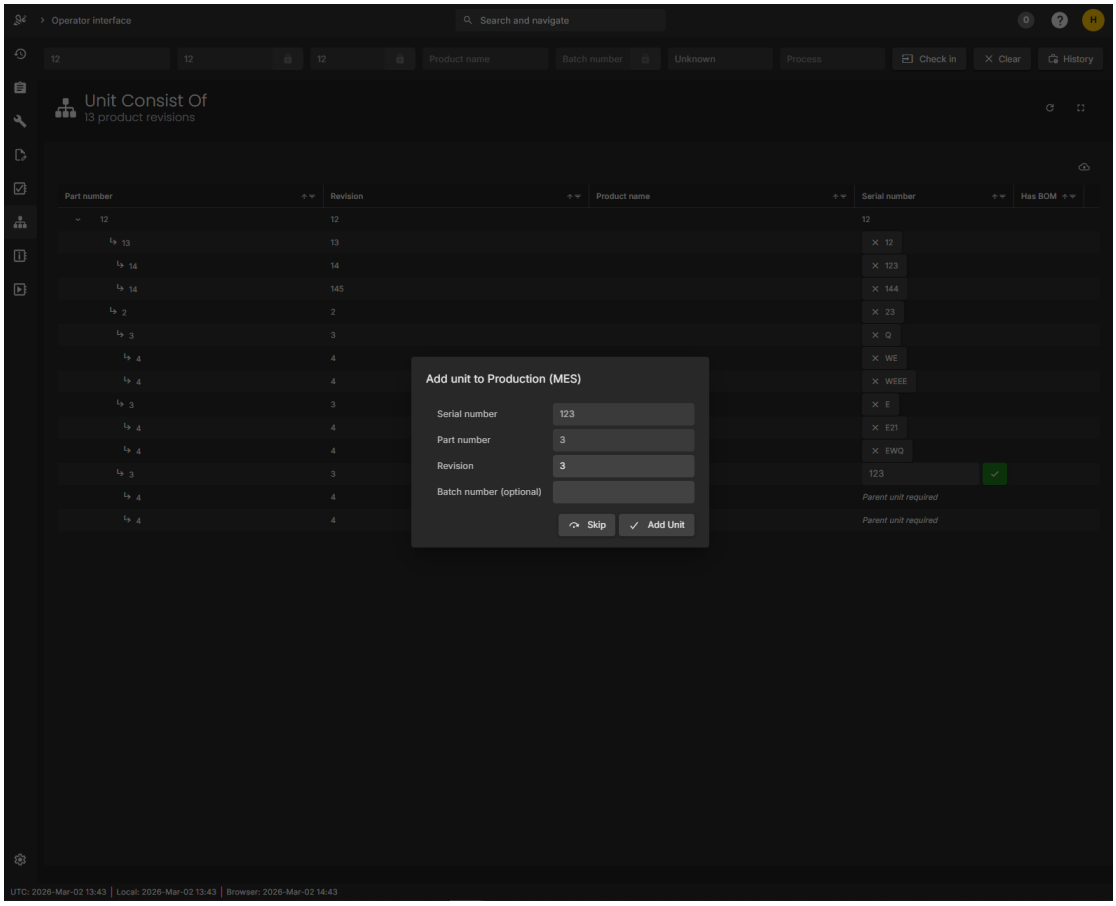


Figure 3 Unit consist of, add unit to production

Unit Info

- Quick navigation to the product manager has been added.
- The tag manager can now be accessed from the unit info page, streamlining tag management.
- The “Current Box Build” table and unit info tab have been visually enhanced for improved readability.
- The unit info table now displays the complete box build hierarchy, including parent and child units, providing a comprehensive overview.
- Unit revision can now be changed directly from unit info, provided the unit is not part of a box build.
- Unit batch number can now be changed from unit info.
- Unit tags can be added and edited using the grid in the unit tags tab, offering greater flexibility in unit tag management.
- The appearance of product and revision tags has been improved for better clarity.

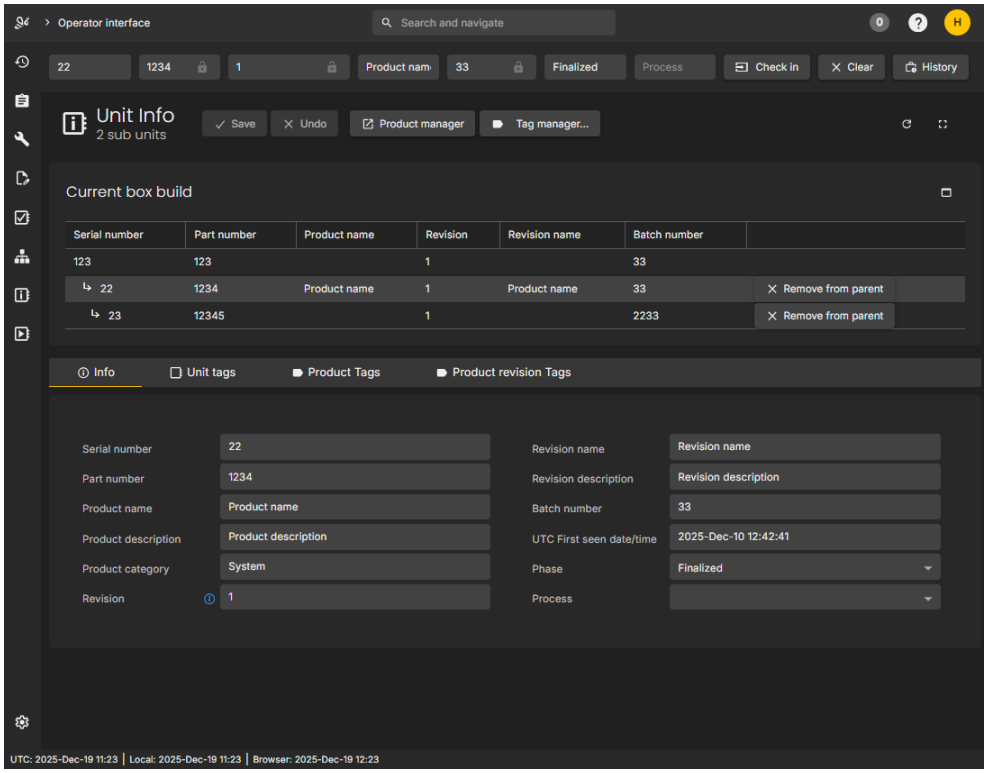


Figure 4 Unit info, info tab

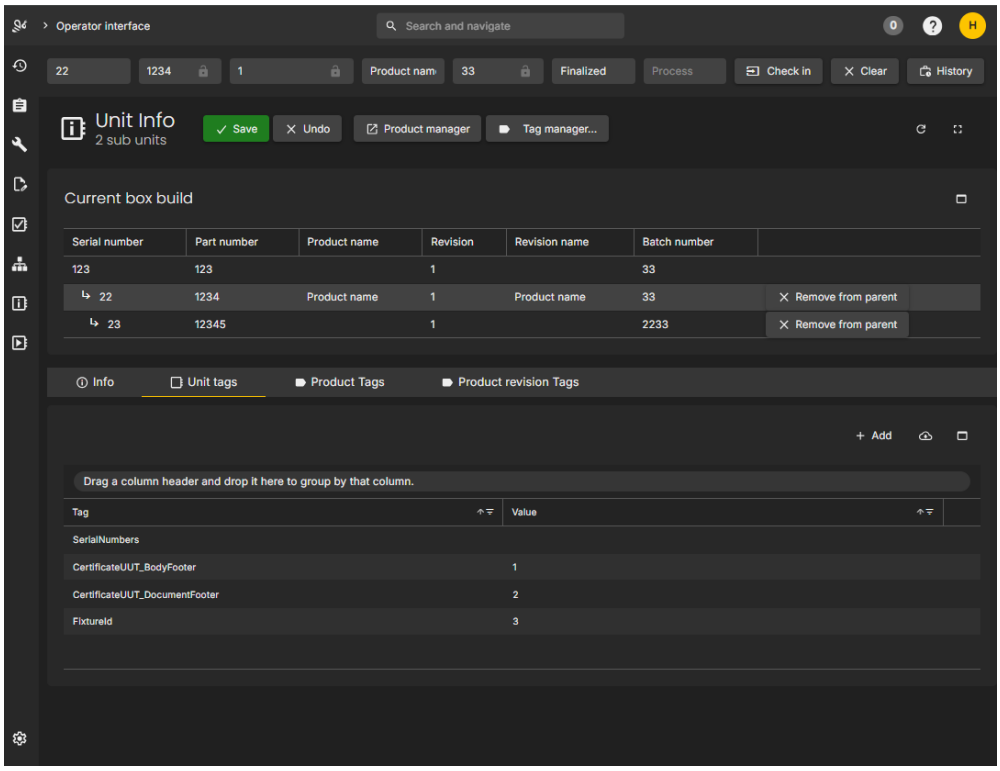


Figure 5 Unit info, unit tags tab

History log

- The history log has been visually enhanced

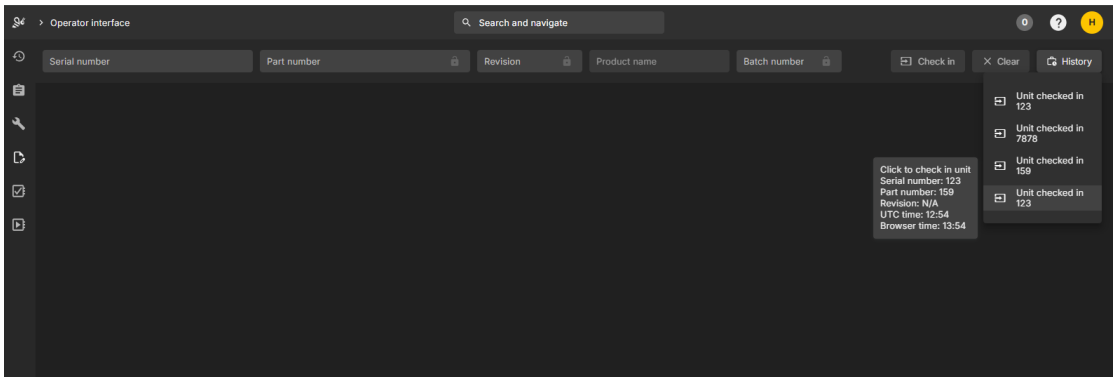


Figure 6 History log

Serial number history

Features described in this section are implemented both in Analytics and in Operator interface.

Serial Number History

- The preview report layout has been visually enhanced for better readability.
- A new action menu has been added, allowing WATS Alvea to display context-sensitive suggestions to users.
- The grids can now display: “Software filename”, “Software version”, “Step caused UUT fail”, “Step caused UUT fail Path”.
- Unit/report count now reflects dynamically loaded reports/units in hierarchical and production grid.
- When expanding a row with child items, both the hierarchical and production grids will automatically scroll to bring a portion of the children into view, improving navigation.
- The hierarchical and production grids will now auto-expand the serial numbers matching the filter value or scanner value in operator interface. The exception from this is draft reports in operator interface where the selected report takes precedence. This auto-expansion also applies when there is only one matching serial number.
- A “Visible types” filter has been introduced in the hierarchical grid, allowing users to customize which reports are displayed.
- Hierarchical grid default sorting is now “UTC Start date/time, Type”. Ensuring correct order of UUT report and Repair report when both are submitted through manual inspection in the same operation.

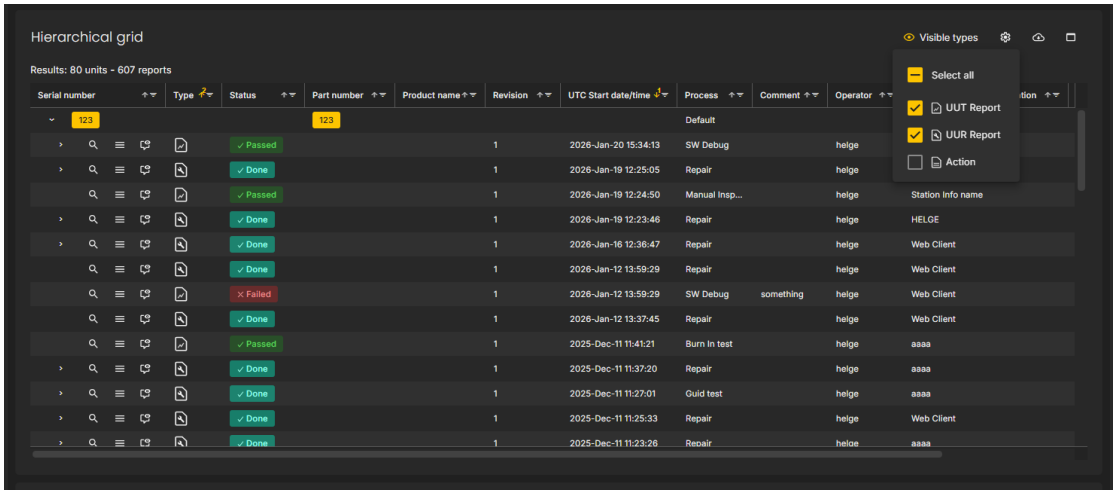


Figure 7 Serial number history - hierarchical grid

- Matching serial numbers and part numbers from the filter (scanner input in the operator interface, except for draft reports where the selected report takes precedence) will now be highlighted in the production grid for easier identification.
- The production grid now features folders for UUT and UUR reports, improving readability.

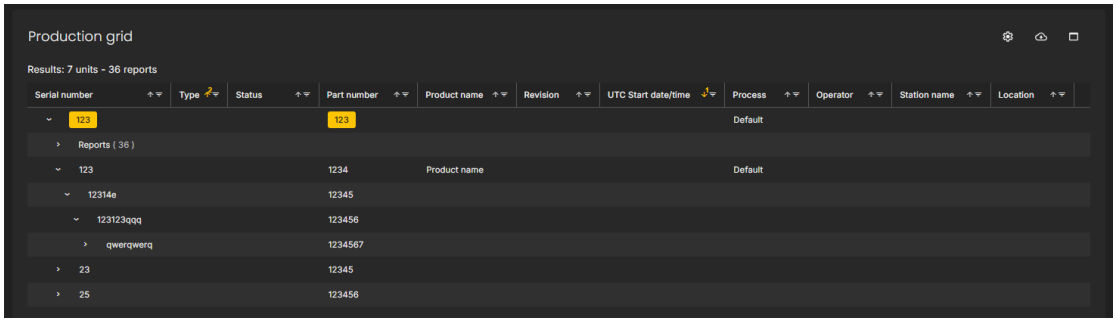


Figure 8 Serial number history - production grid

Minor Changes

- Distinct icons have been introduced for serial number history, change log, and the history log in operator interface, improving visual differentiation and making navigation more intuitive
- The “Apply scanned unit” button in the operator interface (scanner input fields) has been renamed to “Check in unit” for greater clarity.

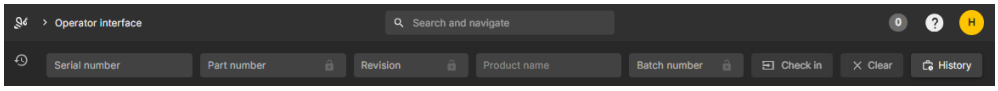


Figure 9 Scanner input fields

- Navigation to and from the repair page has been improved when repair is set as the start page in the operator interface.
- Navigation to and from the manual inspection page has been improved when manual inspection is set as the start page in the operator interface, enhancing user experience.

Client configuration and software distribution

System Manager now supports remote configuration of Package Manager and Yield Monitor settings through dedicated Yield Monitor and Software Distribution tabs under Control Panel. This enables centralized management of WATS Client behaviour across stations.

Client configuration

WATS Clients automatically retrieve updated configuration settings once every hour. Centralized configuration of Yield Monitor and Package Manager settings improves installation efficiency, particularly in environments with large packages or limited network bandwidth.

If settings are changed in both the WATS Client and System Manager Package Manager within a short time period before synchronization occurs, the most recently updated configuration will be applied.

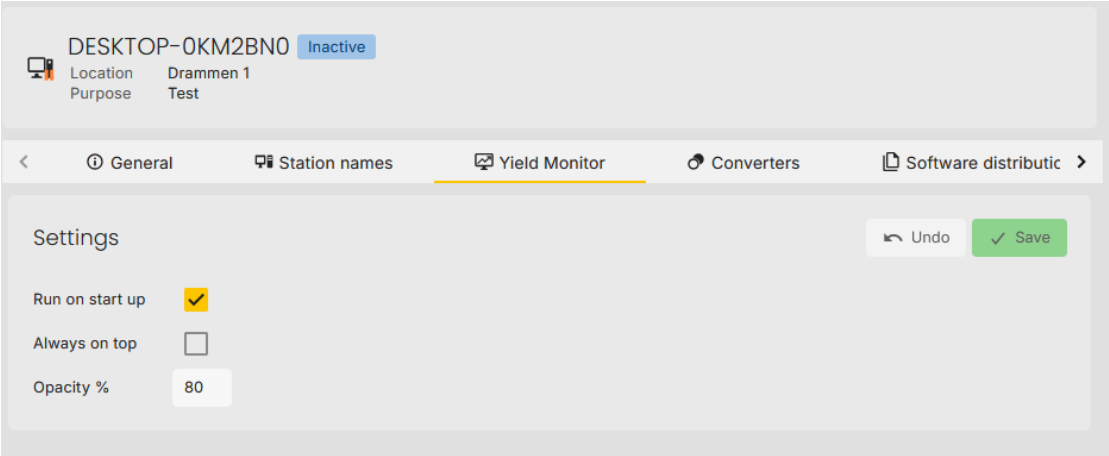
Yield Monitor and Package Manager configuration is supported only on WATS Client version 7.1 or later.

Yield Monitor

The Yield Monitor tab supports the following configurable settings (depending on client version and permissions):

- Run on start up
- Always on top
- Opacity %

These settings control the appearance and behaviour of the Yield Monitor application on the client.



Software distribution

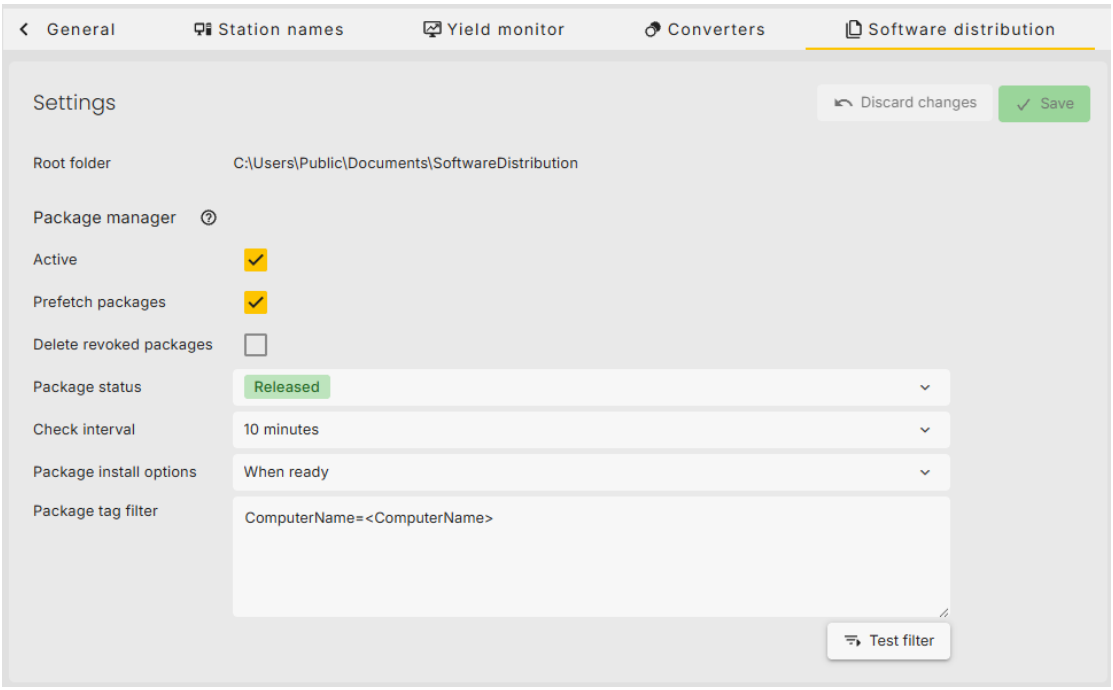
The Software tab in System Manager has been renamed to Software Distribution. It now displays the installation root folder, Package manager, along with package status indicators such as Prefetched and Installed, providing improved visibility into package deployment and installation progress.

Package Manager

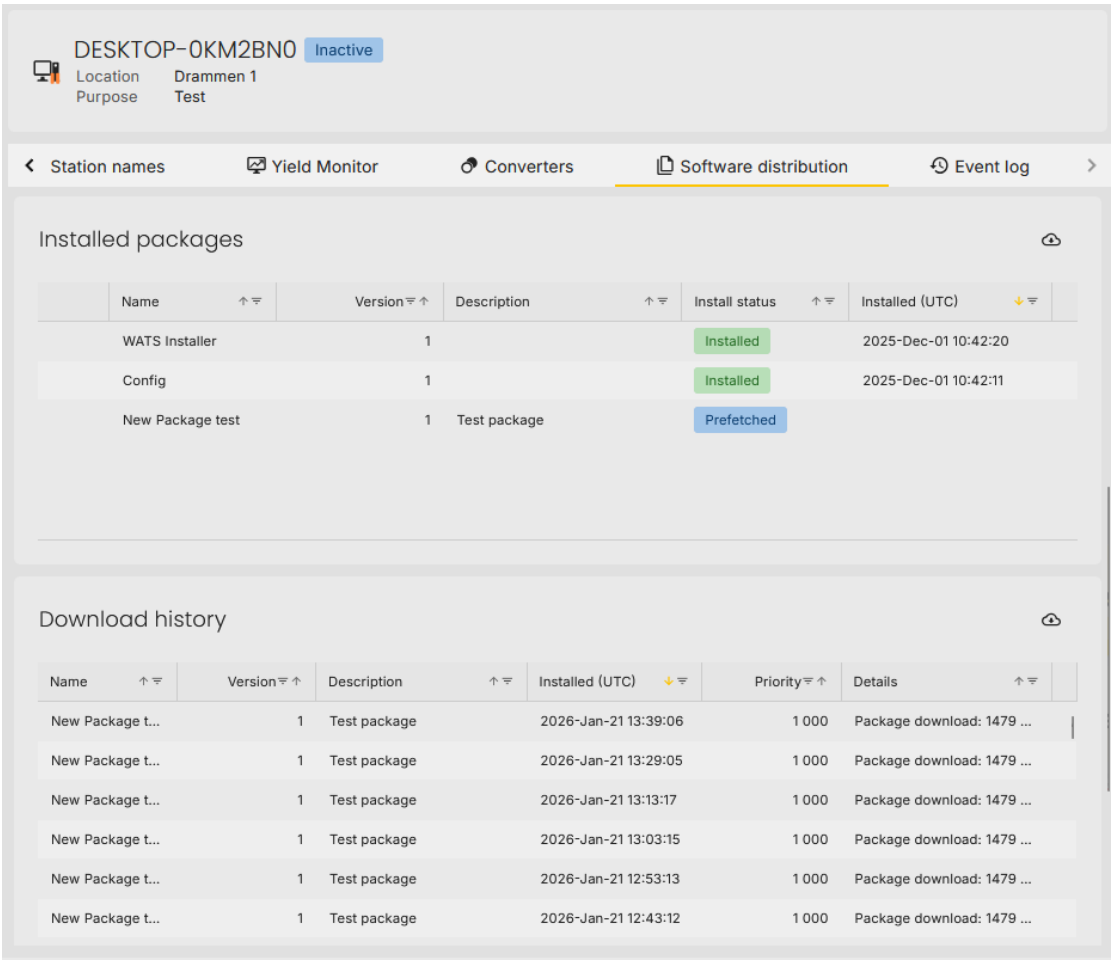
The following Package Manager settings can be configured from the System Manager (depending on client version and permissions):

- Active state
- Prefetch packages
- Delete revoked packages
- Package status
- Check interval
- Package install options
- Package tag filter

These settings define how and when packages are checked, retrieved, prefetched, and installed on the station.



Packages are now downloaded in the background to a local cache before becoming available for installation. Once fully downloaded, installation occurs locally on the client file system, significantly reducing installation time.



On Master servers, the Yield Monitor and Package Manager settings are available in read-only mode. To modify these settings, access the configuration from the corresponding regional or local server.

Map view (Preview)

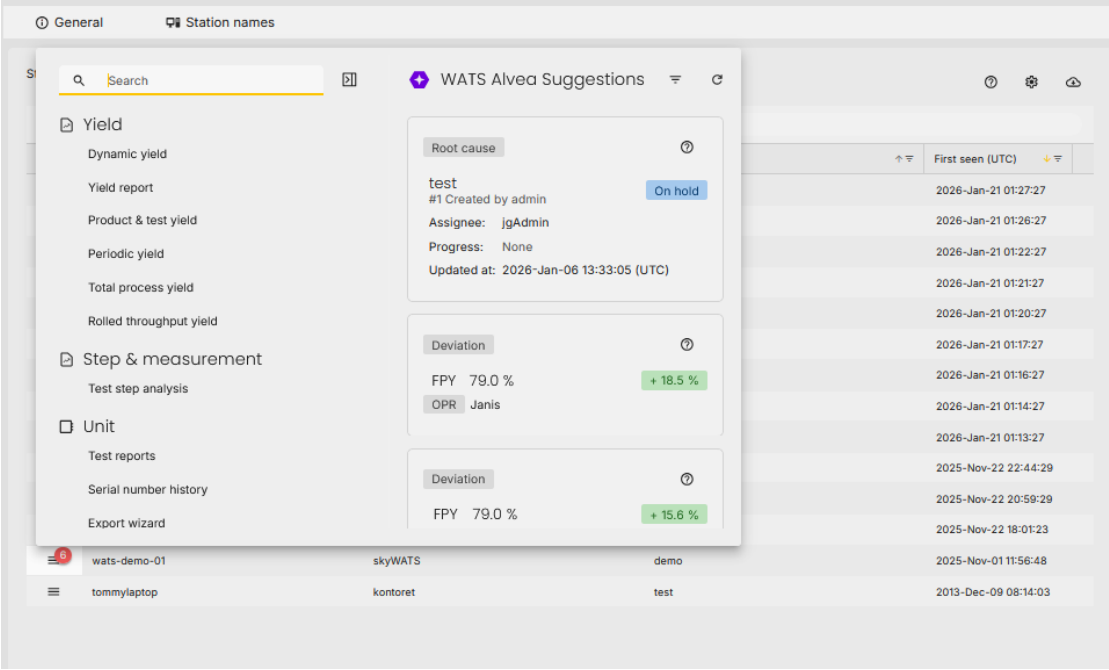
A new Map View has been added to System Manager, providing a geographical overview of all clients and virtual levels. Each entity is represented by a pin, with entities sharing the same coordinates grouped into a single pin.

The map supports zooming and panning for easier navigation. Selecting a pin zoom to its location, while double-clicking opens the default management view for the entity. From the default view, the entity's location can also be accessed via the globe icon next to the coordinate fields.

Pins are displayed only for entities with defined coordinates. For test stations (WATS Clients), location services must be enabled for coordinates to be available.

Station names

The Station Names grid row menu has been enhanced with smarter drill-down options and added support for Alvea suggestions.

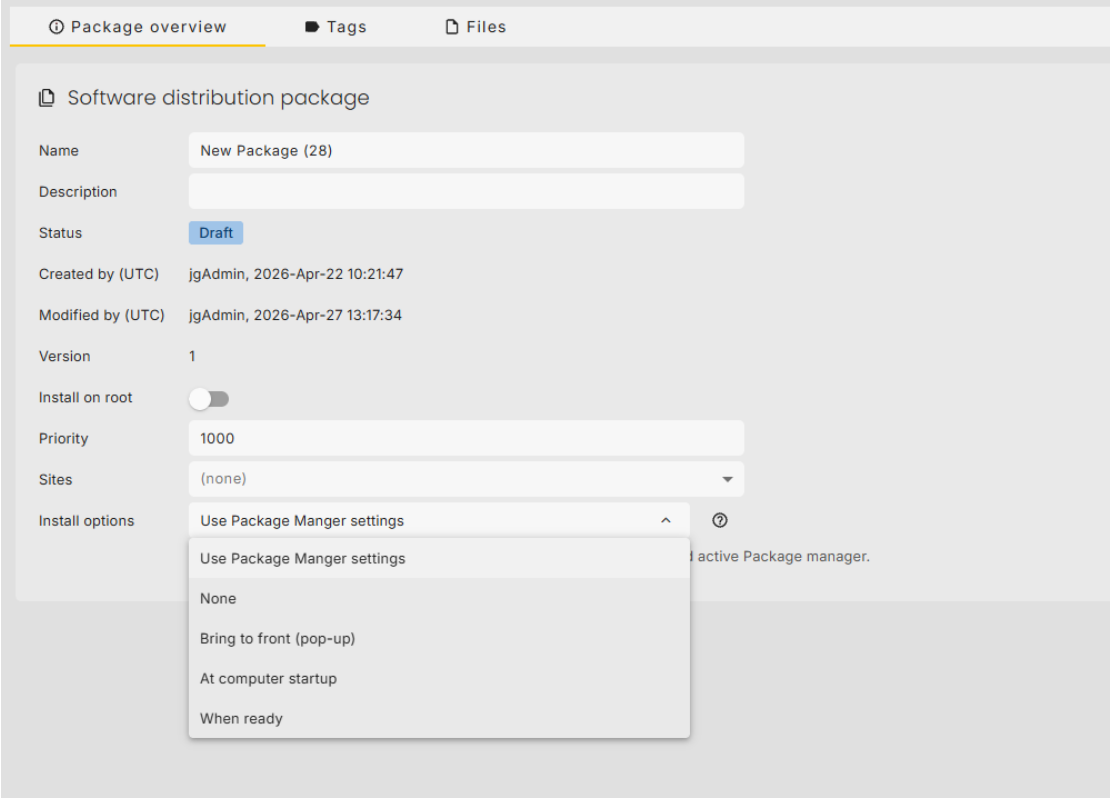


Production manager – Software package install option

The Install option settings controls how software packages are deployed to WATS Clients. It works in conjunction with the Package Manager application on the client.

This feature requires WATS Client version 7.1 or later, with Package Manager installed and active.

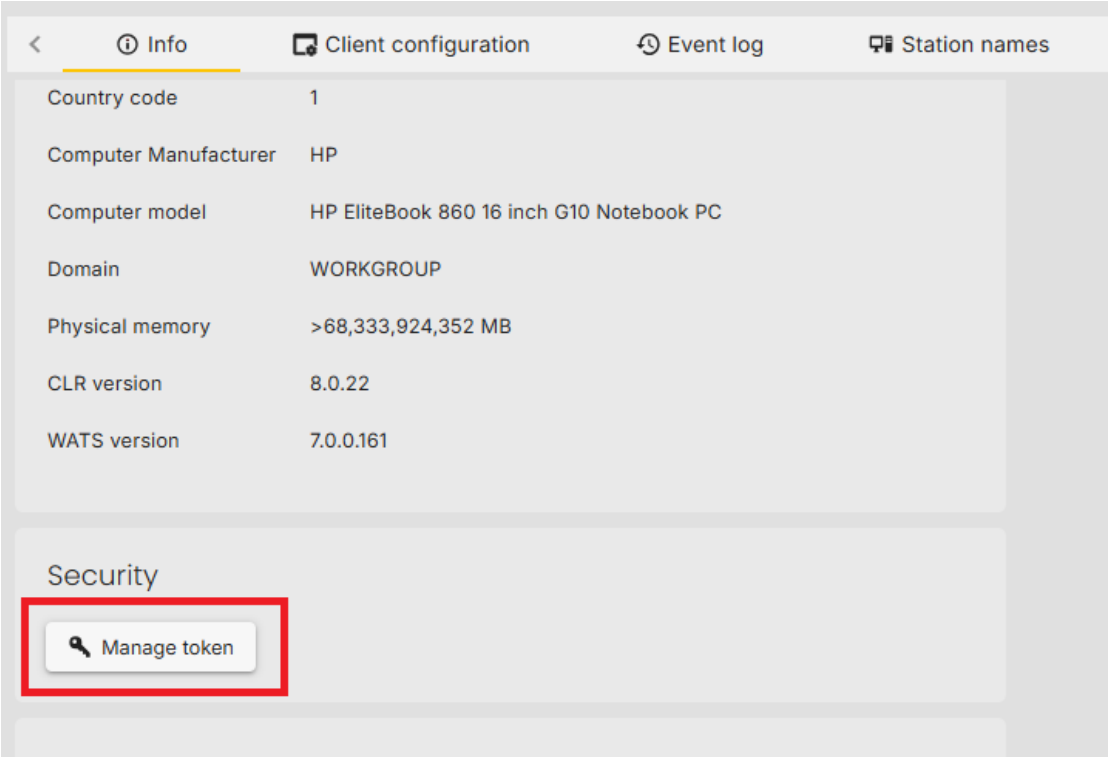
By default, package deployment follows the configured Package Manager settings. Selecting a different install option will override the Package Manager configuration defined in the WATS Client and the System Manager Software Distribution settings.



Manage token

In the test station (Client) Info tab, the Security section now includes a Manage Token button. This opens the Token module and displays the active client token, where token levels and expiration date can be viewed and updated.

Client tokens are accessible only through Client Info and are not displayed in the Tokens grid list.



Other improvements

- **UUR:** Added support for HTML content in comments, including header and failure comments. This enables richer formatting, such as adding links and inline images.
- **Unit flow:** Improved End node overview for better clarity, now including Repair In and Repair Out metrics.
- **Unit flow:** Added search functionality for selected serial numbers, making it easier to locate and analyse specific units within the flow.
- **Users:** Improved username validation to provide clearer and more informative feedback.
- **Processes**: Improved handling of the *Active* state for more consistent behaviour.
- **Serial number handler:** Improved error messaging and “only in sequence” validation to provide clearer and more accurate user feedback.
- **System manager**: Validation added to restrict unsupported special characters in names, ensuring consistent and reliable configuration.
- **System Manager**: Improved the user interface to more clearly distinguish between Web Clients, Clients, and regional/local server clients.
- **Change log**: Improved change log with the ability to open entries in a dialog for a clearer and more detailed overview.
- **Product manager:** Improved user feedback when revisions cannot be deleted due to existing unit associations, providing clearer and more actionable guidance.

- **Product manager:** Improved saving of Product and Revision information. Changes are no longer triggered on blur, reducing the risk of lost input, and now include dedicated Save and Discard changes options for better control.
- **Product manager**: Improved box build validation to prevent self-references and circular relationships.
- **Product Manager**: Improved *Display inactive products/revisions* behaviour after Box Build to retain its previous state instead of resetting to active.
- **Tag Manager**: Added a new system tag “ComputerName”, enabling reference to the name of the test station (WATS Client).
- **Step Chart**: Added axis-specific zoom and pan, allowing users to hover and scroll to zoom or drag to pan individual axes in charts with multiple axes.
- **Step caused UUT fail chart**: Implemented support for expanding the “Other” bar, allowing users to click it to reveal and display its underlying records as individual bars.

Breaking changes

- End of support for provisioning tokens with GetToken rest API, see Feature and Functionality Deprecation
- Spaces are no longer permitted in usernames. Affected user accounts will be automatically updated so that the username matches the email address. If multiple users share the same email address, spaces in secondary account usernames will be replaced with ‘-’ where possible. If any user accounts remain affected after the update, please contact WATS Support at https://support.wats.com.