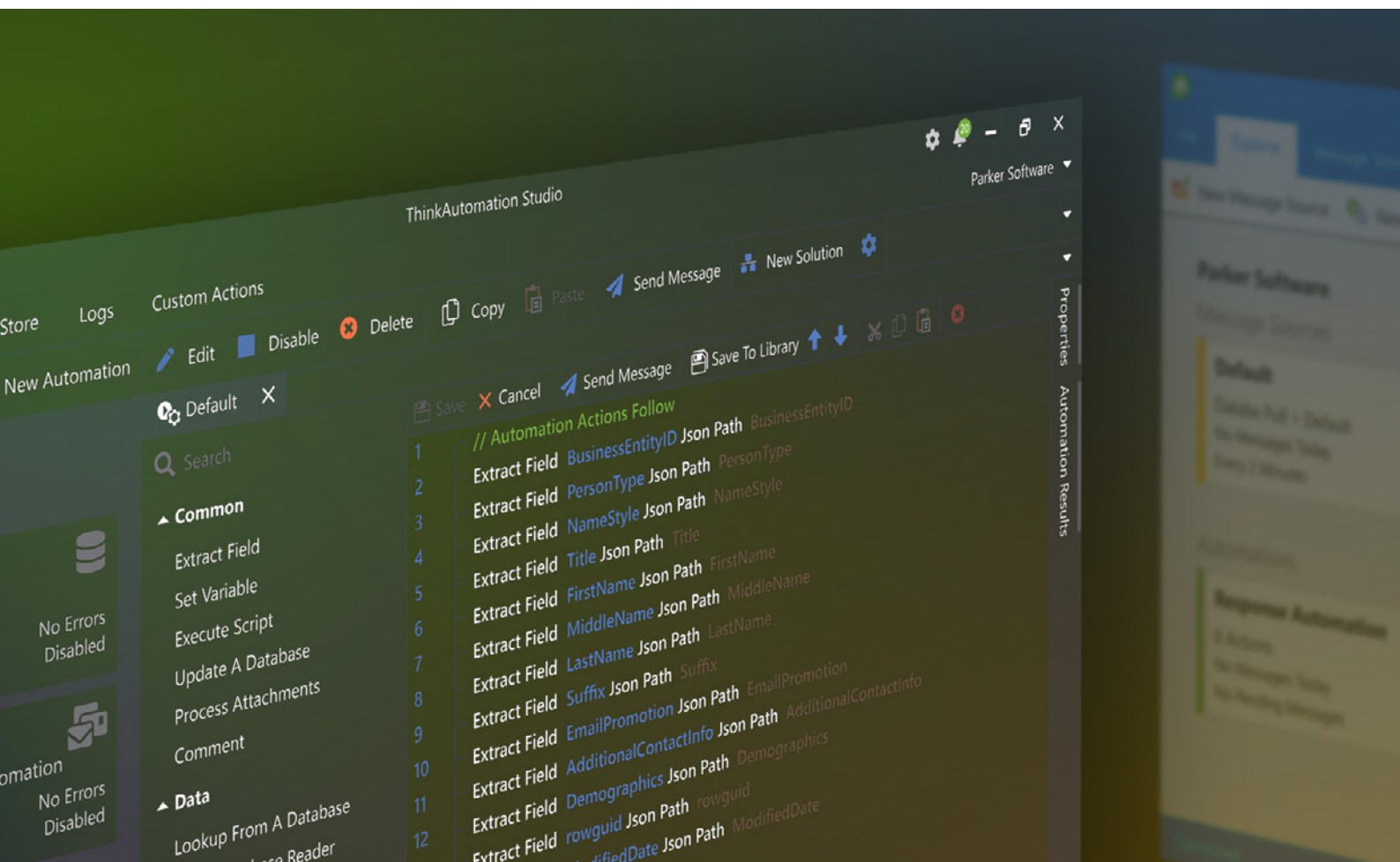


Introducing the next generation of automation

Your upgrade from ThinkAutomation 4 to ThinkAutomation version 5

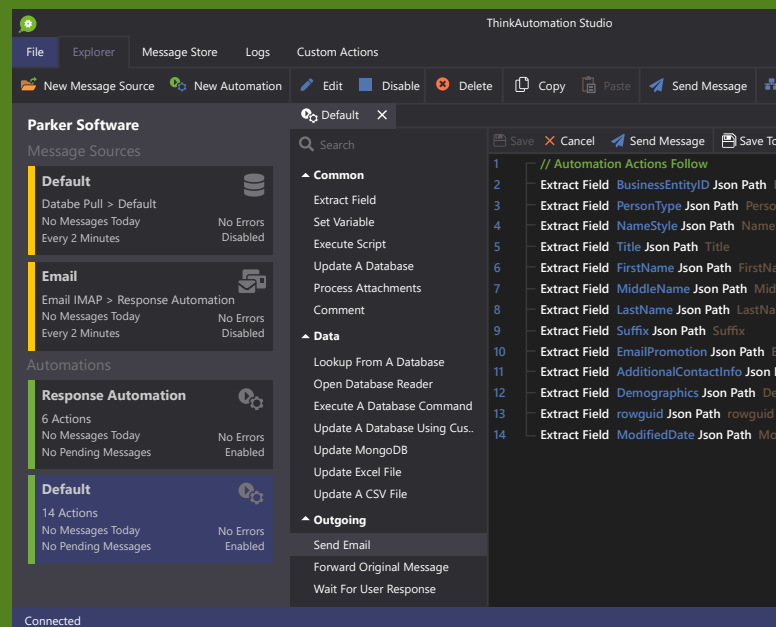
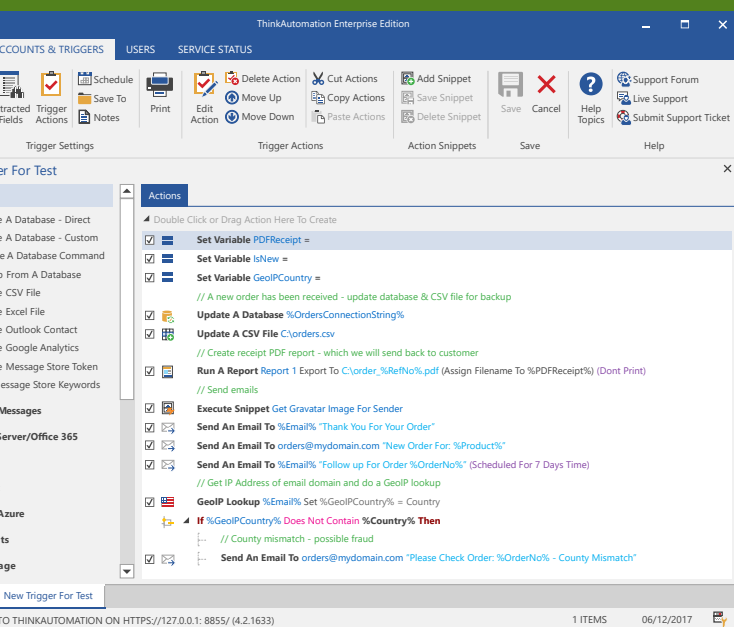




We've upgraded ThinkAutomation to give you more processing power, more automation scope, more baked-in features, more back-end security, and even more value for your money.

The new ThinkAutomation release outperforms its predecessor from every angle. And it's yours to unlock at no extra cost – requiring only the time it takes to transition to the upgraded platform.

So, how does your upgrade stack up against the version it replaces? Here's a side-by-side comparison.



ThinkAutomation version 4 vs version 5: a side-by-side comparison

Performance

The new version of ThinkAutomation has been rewritten from the ground up. It offers a fresh codebase with speed and resilience at the core – plus key infrastructure changes.

	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Codebase	<p>Built primarily in VB6, with some legacy components.</p> <p>VB6 is an older coding language lacking support.</p> <p>Being tied to VB6 enforces more boundaries and makes integrations into new systems more challenging.</p>	<p>Built in 100% .NET managed code.</p> <p>.NET is the leading server-side scripting technology. It offers superior memory management, security, and exception handling than anything achievable with VB6.</p> <p>Using .NET also allows us to leverage the power of the .NET framework and its rich integration ecosystem.</p>
Core processing	<p>Does not read messages from multiple sources concurrently.</p> <p>Each automated action is executed one at a time.</p>	<p>10x faster than ThinkAutomation version 4.</p> <p>Offers a resilient core processor powering concurrent message processing, plus concurrent automation executions.</p>
Core service connections	<p>Uses HTTP connections between core ThinkAutomation services.</p> <p>HTTP calls are not kept open.</p> <p>HTTP is also a higher latency method – meaning a longer data syncing delay.</p>	<p>Uses WebSocket connections between core ThinkAutomation services.</p> <p>WebSockets are continuous and connections can be kept open.</p> <p>You get fluid, low-latency communication across your client and server.</p>

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	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Implementation ease	<p>Core services are directly connected to the metadata and message store databases.</p> <p>From an implementation perspective, this makes multi-computer configurations time-consuming.</p>	<p>All communication relays via secure WebSocket – not over a direct connection.</p> <p>So, setting up ThinkAutomation across multiple workstations is a much smoother process.</p> <p>Secure, remote access to ThinkAutomation is also easier.</p>
Database connections	<p>Database queries don't always use parameters. Database actions run via OLEDB connection.</p>	<p>All database queries are parameterised. Database actions now use ADO.NET directly (for improved performance).</p>
Logging	<p>Multi-line logging can cause lags. For example, if fast executing triggers generate a high volume of log lines in rapid succession, the ThinkAutomation administrator may become temporarily unresponsive.</p>	<p>Optimised for maximum stability. The ThinkAutomation studio is usable regardless of the server load.</p>

1 - Provided you have an active support and updates plan in place. Does not include optional add-ons / subscriptions / bandwidth excesses.



Features

As well as all the functionality you're used to, ThinkAutomation version 5 comes with a vast mix of new features developed with fast, endless processing in mind.

	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Orchestration	Happens inside the ThinkAutomation administrator.	Happens inside the ThinkAutomation studio. Your new automation studio is designed for scalable, accessible orchestration – with hundreds of available actions.
Message stores	Supports message store databases in SQL Server and SQLite formats only.	Supports MongoDB and MySQL message stores. (As well as SQL Server and SQLite.) So, you can take advantage of high performance and unlimited storage.
Custom actions	Available on request, via a professional service.	Design your own custom actions using a new UI builder and fully-featured code editor. Build as much as you like, as often as you like, however you like.
Scripting	Must be written using VBScript.	Offers a built-in IDE to write your own scripts. (Using .NET, C#, or VB.NET as preferred.) You can also reference external assemblies and paste directly from Visual Studio.

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	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Web forms / surveys	Does not have a public-facing web form builder as an out of the box feature.	<p>Build publicly accessible web forms and surveys from inside ThinkAutomation.</p> <p>You can customise forms in any number of ways: from design, to input fields, to validation rules, to the sequence of automations that follow a form submission.</p> <p>Forms can integrate into websites, be embedded via iframe, or linked / shared in any other way desired.</p> <p>ThinkAutomation can then process your public-facing forms on-premises, and execute instant automations.</p>
JSON	Limited JSON parsing.	Comes complete with advanced JSON parsing. This is powered by a friendly UI and accompanied with a JSON editor to assist building automations.
Local REST API	The local API is a SOAP-based web service and requires IIS to be installed.	<p>Offers a local API for fast, embedded data processing in a client environment.</p> <p>This API is REST-based, accepts JSON, and does not require IIS to be installed.</p>
Public cloud API	Does not come with a web API.	Offers a public web API gateway for smooth, continuous data flows with third-party cloud services.
Automation chaining	<p>Offers a “pass to” action in which a value can be passed to another trigger for processing.</p> <p>Actions passed to do not execute immediately.</p>	<p>Automations can now “call” other automations with any value and receive the result instantly.</p> <p>This enables rapid value exchanges and immediate executions.</p>

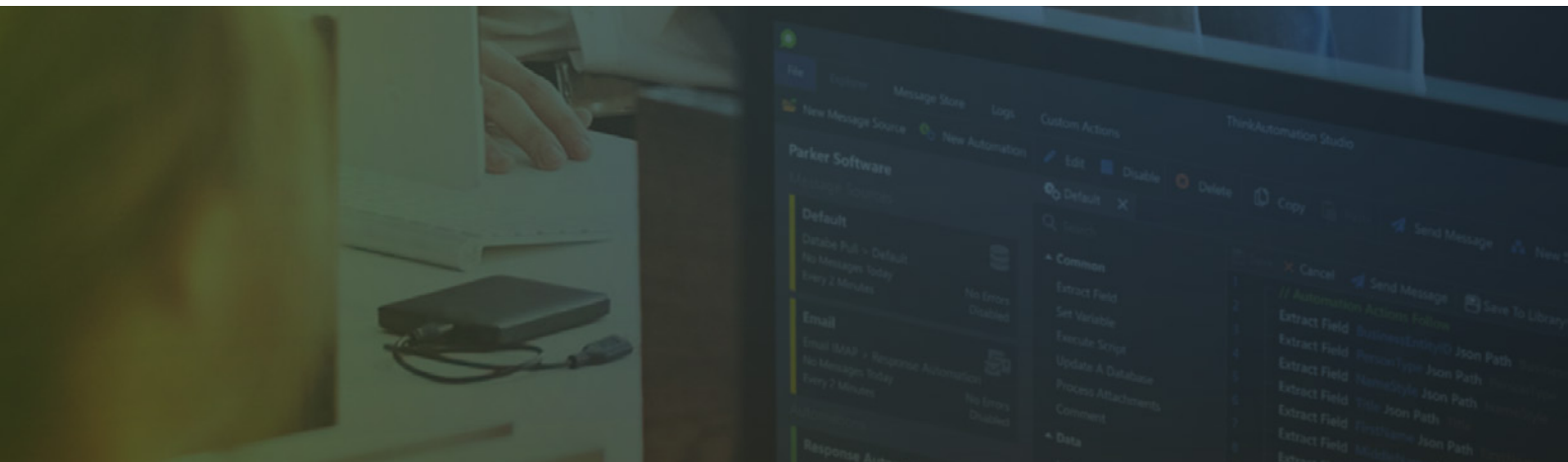
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	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Accessibility	Legacy web-based message viewer only. Views are updated at scheduled intervals.	Enables remote access to a convenient, easy to manage web-based dashboard and message store viewer. Activity updates in real-time. (Not available at early beta.)
File pickup	File pickup happens at scheduled intervals.	File pickup happens in real-time, via continuous .NET monitoring of selected folders.
Markdown support	Does not support markdown for outgoing email messages.	Includes markdown support. So, you can send stylised auto-responses / outgoing messages.
Mail server	Has an inbuilt mail server.	<p>Uses a specialist smart host to send outgoing emails.</p> <p>Using a smart host offers improved system performance, email deliverability, and overall security.</p>
Available actions	Action types are now capped to the existing range.	<p>Offers the most-used actions types available in ThinkAutomation version 4, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create document • Convert document to text • Summarise text • JSON to Azure Cosmos DB • Document to MongoDB • Call other automations • Create hash • Delete scheduled email • Math (formula execution) • Tokenise text • Extract field (inc JSON) • Open database reader • Mask profanities • Mask credit cards • Extract concepts from text • Markdown to HTML

Longevity

ThinkAutomation version 5 supersedes its predecessor. As the older product retires, its upgrade ramps up and is continuously futureproofed.

	ThinkAutomation version 4	ThinkAutomation version 5
Updates	Will receive support for 4 years. This includes patches, bug fixes, and security updates only.	Will receive continuous updates, enhancements, and R&D efforts.
New features	As a superseded product, no new features will be added to this version moving forwards.	Will continue to be actively developed and extended by a dedicated team of programmers. This includes all manner of new features, actions, integrations, etc.
Community	Has a legacy forum only.	Offers an online library to create, share and discover custom automations. So, you can draw from a growing community to find new, user-generated actions in one shared hub.



Managing your upgrade

The new ThinkAutomation platform represents a total reset in your automation capacity. This upgrade is the result of more than 15 years of listening to customers like you. And, in turn, of continuously upscaling product performance.

So, start unlocking the capacity of the new upgrade. We recommend beginning the transition to ThinkAutomation version 5 as soon as possible – but there's no need to do so in a single session.

As you explore the upgrade, you can keep your existing ThinkAutomation configuration up and running. The two versions can run side by side for a smoother, more gradual switchover.

And, for a smoother switchover yet, we also offer a fully managed migration service. We can rebuild your setup in the new platform, as well as offering optimisation advice and implementing any new automations. Get in touch to get started.

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