BRÜEL & KJÆR® Data Analysis Software

Team Server
Helping teams share valuable test data

As most of us know, a simple request for data can easily turn into hours of browsing through folders, files and databases – especially if the data was processed years ago and the archive is shared by many.

To help solve this problem, and truly support team collaboration, Brüel & Kjær has developed Team Server.

Team Server is a service that indexes a repository of data files to offer advanced search functionality across a team of users working on a network of client PCs. The repository is a shared folder on a network drive in which the team saves and loads files on a regular basis. The index is updated continually so that new files are quickly accessible via queries in the client software.

BK Connect® is one such client for Team Server. Any team member with a BK Connect licence can add data to the shared folder. Once in the shared folder, the data can easily be queried, previewed and imported by any team member using BK Connect.

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Uses and Features

Uses
- Sharing of test data in a team environment
- Network-based file storage – no database required
- Quick and simple data queries in large data stores and archives

Features
- Indexing system that enables quick search and retrieval of data
- Connection to any BK Connect application
- Browse files and preview data without explicitly downloading or importing data including multi-selection for result comparison
- Easy installation with a streamlined installer that handles installation of all prerequisites, licence server and licence, as well as indexes all content in the assigned shared folder
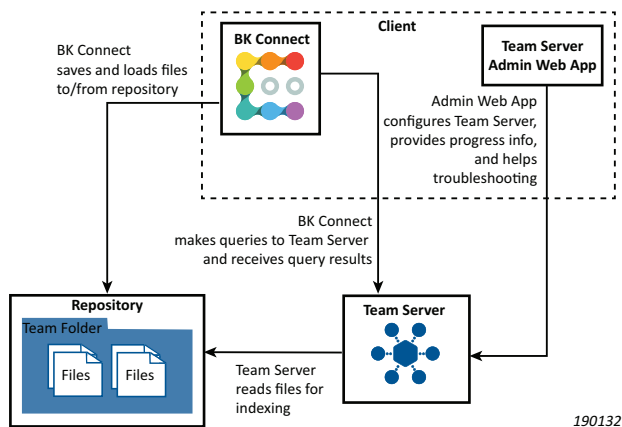- Optional: Web-based utility to monitor folder and licence server status

Team server architecture

Storing data in a database is a relatively easy and safe method when working within a closed, software environment. However, if you want to collaborate between team members, who may or may not have the same software, then data sharing can suddenly become quite cumbersome.

With Team Server, collaboration occurs across a shared folder (the repository) that all team members can access. The repository, which is simply a collection of files stored in a root folder with or without sub-folders, can be installed on the same server as the Team Server (index server) or on a separate network drive.

The repository is simply a shared folder that any team member can access using Windows® Explorer. However, with a Team Server licence and connection to the repository, team members can upload and download data through a client interface, such as BK Connect. There is no database to install or upgrade. Team Server reads, never writes, files in the repository to create an index on which queries can be performed. In BK Connect, such queries do not require download or local import, which saves you time when searching through large amounts of data.

Fig. 1   *The Team Server architecture*

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The Importance of Metadata
The value of your data is greatly enhanced by adding descriptive information – metadata. You can use metadata to find data easily and quickly when you need it, use it to create legends and captions on graphs and tables, or use it in reports. Without metadata, data is almost useless. You can waste a lot of time searching for data files, or worse, never find them, forcing you, either to re-test or move on without them.
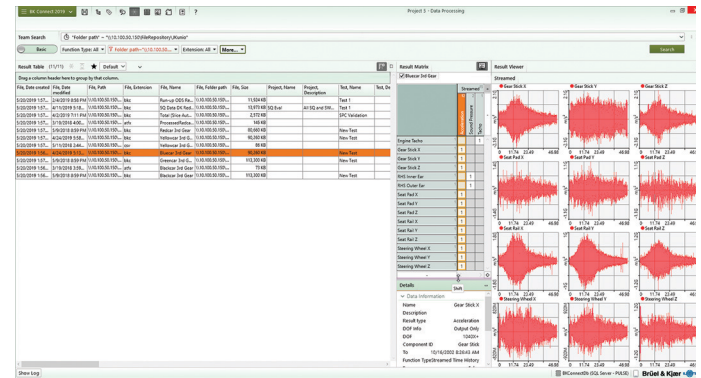
Team Server makes the most of metadata. Unlike generic document indexing systems, Team Server's indexing is based on descriptors and attributes that are relevant to sound and vibration engineering rather than just extracting keywords. This intelligent approach gives much greater value for BK Connect users.

Sharing data through BK Connect

With Team Server installed, you share data to the file repository simply by right-clicking the data in BK Connect's Project Browser. You can select to share measured, recorded or processed data in any format supported by BK Connect, though the .bkc format is recommended, as it has more attributes available to be indexed, thus making queries much easier.

Using the Team Search tool in BK Connect, data in the repository can be easily queried, previewed and imported by any team member.

Fig. 2   *Team Search in BK Connect*

Currently, the only client using Team Server is BK Connect, which means you must have a valid BK Connect licence to access the data in the repository.

✎   **Please note:** With a Team Server floating licence and the free BK Connect Data Viewer Type 8400-NT licence, there is no limit to the number of people in a team who can access the data for review and reporting.

To read more about BK Connect's Team Server capabilities, see the BK Connect Data Viewer PD.

Easy Installation

We have combined the installation of all prerequisites, the Team Server, the licence server (which manages the number of simultaneous users), and the floating licence itself into one installer with minimal configuration. Gone are the days of IT experts needed to install your data storage solution.

System Requirements

OPERATING SYSTEM
Team Server must be installed on:
- Windows® 10, version (release ID) 1809 or later
- Windows Server® 2019, version 1809 or later

PREREQUISITES
Team Server requires the following installed and enabled:
- Windows containers
- Windows Hyper-V
- Internet Information Services (IIS)
- Docker engine

The installer program will automatically install any of these prerequisites if they are not already available on the PC

UPLOADING AND DOWNLOADING
Sharing to or searching for data in the shared folder (repository) in BK Connect requires:
- A valid BK Connect 2019 (or later) licence – this includes the free licence, BK Connect Data Viewer Type 8400-NT

File Repository
- The repository may only be a single root folder (with or without sub-folders). Any root folder is acceptable
- The folder must be:
- Shared by all team members – a network drive is preferable
- Always up and running
- Always accessible
- The repository can be installed on the same 'server' as the index server (Team Server) – this is a local system; or be installed on a separate server

Ordering Information

Type 8400-T-FY	BK Connect Team Server, Single User, Annual Floating Lease Licence and Support