

SLIM Companion™ Explorer 1.7.1.0 Release Notes

2020/10/23

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1. Introduction

SLIM Companion Explorer is a browser-based tool that mimics File Explorer and allows users to access SharePoint using an intuitive and efficient interface. The tool was previously named SLIM Companion Migration Manager, but the name has been changed to reflect its File Explorer like capabilities.

2. About SLIM Companion Explorer

SLIM Companion Explorer accelerates and enriches SharePoint. The browser-based tool mimics File Explorer and allows users to access SharePoint using an intuitive and efficient interface.

Explorer increase the user productivity and allows users to migrate content to or from SharePoint using a browser. It also provides a simple integration with Outlook or other mail clients. The tool supports multiple browsers and is very easy to deploy since it does not require any change to SharePoint or the user's computer.

Throughout this document SharePoint is used to refer to SharePoint Online, OneDrive for Business, SharePoint 2013, SharePoint 2016 and SharePoint 2019.

3. Supported Environments

This section provides information on the supported environments. SLIM Companion Explorer is a browser-based application and does not require installation of software on SharePoint or the user's computer.

3.1 Supported Client Operating Systems / Browsers

SLIM Companion Explorer is supported on the following client operating system and browser combinations (latest release and preceding release).

Client Operating System	Chrome	Opera	FireFox	IE 11	Edge	Safari
Windows 8	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A
Windows 8.1	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A
Windows 10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A
mac OS 10.10 and up	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓

IE11 stands for Internet Explorer 11. Client Operating System / browser combinations not listed have not been tested and are not supported.

3.2 Supported SharePoint / OneDrive for Business Versions

The following SharePoint / OneDrive for Business versions are supported.

Versions	Supported	Notes
SharePoint Online (Office 365)	✓	
OneDrive for Business	✓	
SharePoint 2013	✓	
SharePoint 2016	✓	
SharePoint 2019	✓	

SharePoint versions not listed have not been tested and are not supported.

3.3 Internationalization

The current version of SLIM Companion Explorer only supports English. The code allows for easy deployment in other languages by using an embedded resource file. This can be made available if there is enough demand.

4. Releases

This section provides an overview of the new features and bug fixes per release.

4.1 Feature and bug fix (1.7.1.0)

1. Change search scope when clicking a library or folder name in the tree (only affects SharePoint Online).
2. Fix bug to allow use of paste (CTRL V) in the search bar (only affects SharePoint Online).
3. Extend the context menu with the option “Refresh” for libraries and folders to retrieve the latest information from SharePoint.
4. Extend the context menu with the option “Properties” for libraries.
5. Fix bug selecting folders in the search result list (only affects SharePoint Online).

4.2 Feature and bug fix (1.7.0.0)

1. Additional options in the context menu of documents
 - “Download and Zip”
 - “Versions”
 - “Move”
 - “Copy”
2. Additional options in the context menu of csv and xlsx documents
 - “View in app”
 - “Edit in app”
3. Additional options in the context menu of libraries and folders
 - “Paste”
 - “New folder”
4. Support metadata extraction from DWG files.
5. Support metadata extraction from PSD files.
6. 100 GB max file size for SharePoint Online.
7. Support for moving items with # and % characters.
8. Fix bug with mapping original path and name to SharePoint columns.
9. Fix bug preventing viewing of SharePoint properties of zip files.
10. Automatic selection of output email format: msg for Windows and eml for mac OS.
11. Fix bug using the search bar to search for words containing the character C (SharePoint Online only).
12. Windows 7 is no longer supported since Microsoft has ended extended support in Jan 2020.
13. Support for Edge (Chromium) on mac OS.
14. Increased default font size from 11px to 12px.

4.3 Feature (1.6.5.0)

1. View and edit Office files (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Visio) using Office apps (e.g. Word) on the user's computer. The context menu is extended with the following options:
 - "View in app" (only for Office files)
 - "Edit in app" (only for Office files)
2. The optional App automatically opens the current library.

4.4 Feature (1.6.4.0)

1. Support for extracting XMP metadata from TIFF files.

4.5 Feature and bug fix (1.6.3.0)

1. Extract XPKywords from TIFF files as Unicode characters.
2. Allow viewing of TIFF files on SharePoint Online for browsers that do not natively support viewing TIFF files.

4.6 Feature and bug fix (1.6.2.0)

1. Fix bug affecting jpg files with IPTC metadata segments with size 0 bytes.
2. Extract IPTC digest and the width and height of the jpg file.

4.7 Bug fix (1.6.1.0)

1. Fix bug affecting Internet Explorer 11 use.

4.8 Feature and bug fix (1.6.0.0)

1. Add search bar (only available for SharePoint Online).
2. Optimisation of user interface by adding a right-hand click menu (like File Explorer).
3. Enable the Explorer tree to be opened in a specific library.
4. Fix bug preventing opening libraries that exceed the list view threshold.
5. Fix bug with extracting properties from PDF files generated using Microsoft Office.
6. Users are notified when they need to refresh the page when a new version has become available.
7. Increased the maximum URL length for SharePoint Online to 400 characters (was 261).
8. Add icons for Visio and OneNote files.

4.9 Bug fix (1.5.6.0)

1. Fix bug with the "Back" button affecting the use of the SLIM Companion Explorer App in subsites.

4.10 Bug fix (1.5.5.0)

1. Fix bug affecting the extraction of Comments from PDF files.
2. Fix bug uploading files into a SharePoint folder containing a ' character.

4.11 Bug fix (1.5.4.0)

1. Fix bug affecting use of the optional App to start the SLIM Companion Explorer tool.

4.12 Bug fix (1.5.3.0)

1. Fix bug affecting extracting comments from a subset of PDF files and capturing the values into a SharePoint column.

4.13 Bug fix (1.5.2.0)

1. Fix bug affecting extracting comments from PDF files and capturing the values into a SharePoint column.

4.14 Feature (1.5.1.0)

1. Support for extracting comments from PDF files and capturing the values into a SharePoint column.

4.15 Feature and bug fix (1.5.0.0)

1. Provide functionality to download and zip folders/documents plus document metadata (in json format)
2. Fix bug in “Download & Zip” that may result in incomplete zip files.

4.16 Bug fix (1.4.6.0)

1. Cater for multiple values in XMP dc:subject.

4.17 Bug fix (1.4.5.0)

1. Cater for UCS2 encoded EXIF properties like XPTitle, XPKeywords, ...

4.18 Feature (1.4.4.0)

1. Support for columns of type lookup.
2. Support for using existing Enterprise Keywords when uploading items.
Note: adding new Enterprise Keywords when uploading items is not supported.

4.19 Bug fix (1.4.3.0)

1. Increase the row limit for search results from 100 to 1024 to cater for systems with a large number of sites.

4.20 Bug fix (1.4.2.0)

1. Fix bug affecting the EXIF XPKeyword field.
2. The preview “document properties” no longer shows EXIF metadata fields that have no proper label.
3. Minor IPTC fixes:
 - strip spaces from IPTC metadata values containing multiple values. The values are separated by semi-colon characters.

- show Country Code as label instead of the hex value 0x64.
- show Copyright notice instead of the hex value 0x74
- 4. Fix bug when downloading & zipping a set files containing one or more zip file.

4.21 Feature fix (1.4.1.0)

1. Disable modification date check for uploaded files.
This check would fail on computer system's having incorrect time settings even though the upload was successful.

4.22 Feature and bug fix (1.4.0.0)

1. Support for SharePoint 2019
2. Support for encrypted files:
 - identify encrypted files (Office, zip and pdf) or by file extension (e.g. pgp) during uploading
 - configurable behavior to handle uploading of encrypted files (ignore/warn/skip)
 - mark encrypted files in the Explorer tree
 - report on encrypted documents (via Advanced Reporting mode)
3. Make the properties of Office files available on SharePoint 2013 and SharePoint 2016.
4. Make the properties of Office files within zip files available.
5. Allow users to view the document properties of adjacent documents in the same folder (or document set) using the left arrow and right arrow keys on the keyboard.
6. Support for using # and % characters in document names for SharePoint Online (and OneDrive for Business) and SharePoint 2019.
7. Expose GPS coordinates in additional notations:
 - decimal degree notation (e.g. 40.446151 and -79.982303) to allow capturing GPS coordinates in SharePoint Location columns
 - sexagesimal degree notation (40° 26' 46" N 79° 58' 56" W)
8. Extend naming conventions for uploading emails.
Circumvent overwriting existing emails by creating a unique file name consisting of the email subject with the sent date and sent time.
9. Minor improvements for extracting metadata from PDF files.
10. Fix bug preventing downloading zip files in the tree by clicking on the name.
11. Fix bug preventing extraction of some document properties using XMP format.
12. Fix bug in Internet Explorer 11 preventing extraction of document properties using XMP format.

4.23 Feature and bug fix (1.3.0.0)

1. Complementary App to provide easy access to the Explorer tool by adding a separate button to the SharePoint ribbon. The App also simplifies deployment of the tool in environments with many libraries. The App is only available for Office 365 Business and Enterprise plans.
2. Support for extracting metadata from mp4 and mov files.
3. View document metadata of mp4 and mov files in SharePoint.

4. Fix bug with reading files during uploading. Multiple read errors may have resulted in the application behaving unresponsive or the upload statistics not being shown.
5. Fix bug with expanding zip files in the browser.
6. Fix bug uploading large files using chunks.
7. Increased standard chunk size for uploading large files from 25 MB to 100 MB.
8. Configurable chunk size.
9. Fix bug preventing the deletion of zip files.

4.24 Bug fix (1.2.5.0)

1. Fix bug parsing properties from PDF files resulting in an uncaught error.
2. Fix bug with extracting properties in PDF files that use octal notation.
3. Fix bug with extracting properties in PDF files that use UTF-16 notation.

4.25 Feature and bug fix (1.2.4.0)

1. Support for dragging emails (and/or attachments) directly from Outlook to SharePoint using Chrome (version 76 and up).
2. Increase maximum length for multiple line columns from 255 to 63999 characters.
3. Give precedence for the ID3v2.4 genre property over the ID3v1 genre property in mp3 files.
4. Fix bug with using content types containing integer columns.
5. Fix bug with byte-order-mark characters in mp3 properties.
6. Convert the mp3 TLEN property (length of the recording) from ms to s.

4.26 Feature and bug fix (1.2.3.0)

1. Support for dragging emails (and/or attachments) directly from Outlook to SharePoint using Edge.
2. Fix bug affecting HTML when using Edge.

4.27 Feature and bug fix (1.2.2.0)

1. Added filtering capabilities for uploading content: filter by modification date, size, extension and document name. This provides granular content which content is upload and enables incremental migrations of content from source systems.
2. Improved logic to extract EXIF metadata from jpg files.
3. Fix bug extracting metadata of type Yes/No (checkbox) from source documents.
4. Fix bug extracting EXIF metadata from jpg files.
5. Fix bug with URL's containing /sites/ or /teams/.
6. Fix bug affecting file properties of audio files in zip files.

4.28 Feature and bug fix (1.2.1.0)

1. Support for extracting metadata from wma and wmv files during uploading.
2. View document metadata of mp3, wma and wmv files in SharePoint.
3. Fix bug with incorrect metadata value for the duration of MP3 files.
4. Automatic previewing of images with the correct orientation.

5. Support for viewing thumbnails in dwg files.

4.29 Feature and bug fix (1.2.0.0)

1. Product name has changed from SLIM Companion Migration Manager to SLIM Companion Explorer in order to reflect the tool's characteristics.
2. Support for Safari on macOS.
3. Extended existing zip functionality:
 - open zip files in browser (without downloading entire zip file)
 - preview or download individual files from zip files
4. Support for extracting metadata (e.g. GPS coordinates) from multiple file types and mapping to SharePoint columns during uploading. Specifically,
 - Office formats (docx, xlsx, pptx and vsdx)
 - Image formats (jpg, png, gif, bmp, tif and svg)
 - HTML formats (htm and html)
 - PDF formats
 - email formats (msg and eml)
 - audio (mp3)
5. Easy to use method to map file metadata properties to SharePoint columns.
6. Move or copy documents within a library or between libraries in the same site using drag and drop (only on Chrome and Edge)
7. Advanced PDF functionality:
 - view PDF files directly in the browser
 - view PDF metadata in the browser
8. Extended existing preview functionality:
 - preview docx and pptx files (SharePoint Online and OneDrive for Business only)
 - preview XML and text files formats like xml, txt, csv, etc...
 - preview image thumbnails in Asset libraries and Picture libraries
 - preview image files (jpeg, png, gif, bmp, tiff and svg) in document libraries
 - automatically extract thumbnails from jpeg files to improve performance
 - rotate and zoom image previews in the browser
 - preview multiple files in an efficient way
9. View image properties like GPS coordinates, XMP metadata etc... of image files (gif, jpg, png, bmp, tiff and svg).
10. Report on the document extensions present.
11. Minor fixes:
 - close popup window using esc key
 - preview previous or following items using left or right arrow keys
 - extract separate value for "From" and the "From address" details from eml files
 - extract "From address" without encapsulating < and > characters
 - fixed incorrect value for downloaded document volume when using Download & Zip

- fix incorrect count for skipped items
- improved user interaction when uploading large data sets (100000+ items)
- supporting for tab separated value log files
- show running total with the numbers of items uploaded

4.30 Feature and bug fix (1.1.0.0)

1. Support for large lists (exceeding the 5000 List View Lookup Threshold)
2. Support for emails in eml format (extract email metadata, preview and mail attachments)
3. Support for uploading folders using FireFox
4. Support for downloading very large data sets (10's of GB's)
5. Support for Picture and Asset libraries
6. Support for OneDrive for Business
7. Download document library contents in CSV format
8. Several user interface improvements (e.g. use modal windows instead of popup windows)
9. Fix bug which affected the initial use of the tool
10. Automatically display the contents of the current site
11. Allow for larger time offsets between SharePoint / OneDrive for Business and client computers

4.31 Bug fix (1.0.3.6)

1. Cater for managed paths named teams.

4.32 Feature and bug fix (1.0.3.5)

1. Automatic detection of SharePoint version.
2. Changed default naming convention for duplicate document names when flattening folders to standard Windows behavior. For example, duplicate file names are uploaded with a sequence number like document(1).docx

4.33 Bug fix (1.0.3.4)

1. Fix bug with mapped paths starting or ending with / characters.
2. Fix bug with flattening folders and mapping source properties (only applies to SharePoint 2013)

4.34 Bug fix (1.0.3.3)

1. Fix bug with mapping properties such as modification date and name.

4.35 Bug fix (1.0.3.2)

2. Change name from SLIM Companion to SLIM Companion Explorer.

4.36 Bug fix (1.0.3.1)

1. Fix bug with nested email attachments.

4.37 Feature and bug fix (1.0.3)

1. Support for SharePoint 2016
2. Support for custom metadata (and Content Types)
3. Support for mapping source properties to SharePoint columns (e.g. modification date)
4. Support for uploading folders on Edge (see also known issues Edge)
5. Support for flattening folder structures
6. Copy links(s)
7. Mail SharePoint documents as attachments (Outlook only)
8. Bug fix for uploading large files on Office 365
9. Bug fix with showing libraries from Office 365 Groups
10. Provide Help pages
11. Optimize URL for setting metadata (this avoids unnecessary trimming of item names)
12. Add icon for csv files
13. Split application into 2 parts: a small html file (10 kB) and a separate JavaScript file (1.1 MB)
14. Email previews are no longer shown in separate popup windows.

4.38 Feature and bug fix (1.0.2)

1. Support for Office 365 Groups (both private and public).
For private Office 365 Groups see section 5.1 Known Issues: General
2. Import and export of list with sites
3. Show metadata columns for each document library separately
4. Implement browser dependent threshold for document upload volumes. Default value is set to 100 GB.
5. Show the current URL in the drop-down list after selecting a site
6. Fix bug to show all subsites in the tree
7. Cater for http 409 responses when uploading documents concurrently
8. Fix bug with spaces in site names

4.39 Feature and bug fix (1.0.1)

1. Add basic reporting capability
2. Add functionality to purge document versions
3. Fix bug with email date fields (locale related)
4. Optimize memory usage for “Download & Zip” on Chrome and Opera browsers
5. Support filters (e.g. only list failed items) on the upload report to cater for very large data sets.

4.40 Initial release (1.0)

1. Mimic Windows Explorer in a browser window
2. Tight integration with standard SharePoint functionality (e.g. Word Online)
3. Upload documents using parallel processes through drag and drop

4. Upload complete folder structures using parallel processes through drag and drop (only on Chrome and Opera)
5. Save upload log file for auditing purposes
6. Cater for illegal characters
7. Cater for items with long names
8. Automatically zip blocked files
9. Skip 0 kB files
10. Report on potential long URLs
11. Automatically extract email metadata from Outlook msg files (plus fill SharePoint columns)
12. Preview Outlook msg emails in SharePoint (plus open attachments and attached emails)
13. Mail Link(s) to items stored in SharePoint
14. Download complete folder structures using “Download & Zip
15. Several throttling mechanisms in place (e.g. number of parallel processes, maximum zip volume, ...) to avoid deterioration of the SharePoint service.
16. Support for uploading 10 GB documents on Office 365 (SharePoint Online)

5. Known Issues

This section lists known issues.

5.1 Known issues: General

1. Uploading large files (25 MB and up) on OneDrive for Business, SharePoint Online, Office 365 Groups and SharePoint 2016 to document libraries with versioning enabled results in two versions: the actual file (latest version) plus a small empty file (previous version).
2. For SharePoint 2013 the maximum upload file size is browser dependent. The details are listed below:

Browser	Maximum upload file size (in MB)
Chrome	125
Opera	125
FireFox	600
Internet Explorer 11	250
Edge	1000

Note: this does not apply to OneDrive for Business, SharePoint Online, SharePoint 2016 and SharePoint 2019 where the maximum upload file size is determined by server configuration and not the browser. At the time of writing the maximum file size for OneDrive for Business, SharePoint Online and SharePoint 2019 is 15 GB. The maximum file size for SharePoint 2016 is 10 GB.

3. The maximum document size for an individual file in a zip when using “Download & Zip” is browser dependent. The details are listed below.

Browser	Maximum document size (in MB)
Chrome	250
Opera	250
FireFox	250
Internet Explorer 11	50
Edge	500

NB: the maximum download volume is no longer restricted as of version 1.1 and up

4. Files with the extension .map are not uploaded
5. The check for the resulting URL length is made for the selected target location when dragging the items. If the user changes the target location the URL length calculation is not restarted, and this may result in failed uploads due to too long URLs.
6. The list with sites is retrieved through search. Hence the search needs to be available. In case the search is not available the SLIM Companion Explorer tree will only display the document libraries in the current site.
7. Leaving SLIM Companion Explorer open in the browser and then losing network connectivity results in a message about failed retrieval of security token. The message is shown for each subsite. The messages can simply be closed.
8. SLIM Companion Explorer only supports environments with a single Managed Metadata Service.

9. The widths of the right-hand pane cannot be changed when it shows a standard SharePoint page. Changing the pane's width is possible in all other cases (e.g. email preview).
10. When a list exceeds the SharePoint List View Lookup threshold (5000) and changes are made to SharePoint by other users or via the out-of-the-box SharePoint pages this does not automatically update the Explorer tree. To view the current content in SharePoint, reload the Explorer page.
11. Reporting on lists with multiple subfolders exceeding the SharePoint List View Lookup thresholds is not supported. Exclude subfolders by double clicking the checkbox.
12. The Explorer.aspx file needs to be uploaded to a document library (or SiteAssets library) in the root site collection or a subsite.
Opening the.aspx file in a document library that is created as part of an Office 365 Group or a Community site will result in a file download instead of opening of the file in a browser.
13. Downloading folders from zip files present in SharePoint is not supported. Downloading multiple documents is supported.
14. Dates are shown in a fixed date format yyyy-mm-dd and does not use the user's date format preference.
15. Move or copy folders (or document sets) is not supported. This is planned for in a separate release.
16. Move or copy documents to a different site is not supported. This is planned for in a separate release.
17. Svg files in a zip file cannot be previewed.
18. No warning when expanding a zip file containing encrypted content.
19. Office files within a zip file cannot be previewed.
20. Thumbnails in dwg files within a zip file cannot be previewed.
21. This affects uploading image content when using the filter option with a date field to exclude content by modification date: SLIM Companion Explorer uses the modification date stored within the image file itself. This internal modification date may differ from the modification date shown by File Explorer.
22. The duration field for mp3 files is calculated using the file size and the bit rate. This calculated value may differ from the actual duration for small mp3 files containing metadata.
23. Files using compression within the file itself (e.g. PDF or Office) that are part of a zip file are not identified as encrypted files. Files with an extension like pgp or hc within zip files are identified as encrypted files. Files encrypted by the zip tool are properly identified in all cases.
24. The following encrypted files are supported: Office files, PDF files and zip files.
PDF files using "blank passwords" for users are also flagged as encrypted even though the files can be opened by users for viewing.
25. Adding new Enterprise Keywords during uploading is not supported. Note: existing Enterprise Keywords can be used when uploading new content.
26. Metadata extraction from legacy AutoCAD versions (DWG tag AC1018 and earlier, March 2005) is not supported.

27. “Mail as Attachment” on mac OS downloads an eml file with the selected file(s) attached. Opening the file using Outlook opens the email in read-only. To mail the email (plus attachment(s) use the “Forward” button and modify the email’s subject and body text.
28. Placing focus on the text box “Enter a URL to your site” and using "CTRL-C" or "CTRL + V" or "Del" shows a warning message.
29. Previewing a document and then using the left or right cursor when renaming a document or folder results in the previewing of the previous or successive document.
30. Sites created for SharePoint hosted apps (e.g. optional SLIM Companion Email Manager App) are shown in the tree. There is no contents exposed but it may confuse users.
31. Using the “Exclude Items” button in the metadata popup window does not allow users to continue after excluding one or more items.
32. The current version does not provide support for hub sites in order to group sites.
33. The email preview function provides download links to email attachments. It is not possible to view the attachments directly in the browser.

5.2 Known issues: Chrome

1. Chrome may display a warning when using the “Download” functionality for multiple documents. Click “Allow” to proceed with downloading multiple documents.
2. BMP thumbnails that are present in old DWG versions cannot be previewed.

5.3 Known issues: Opera

1. Opera may display a warning when using the “Download” functionality for multiple documents. Click “Allow” to proceed with downloading multiple documents.
2. No support for moving documents.
3. BMP thumbnails that are present in old DWG versions cannot be previewed.

5.4 Known issues: FireFox

1. Documents without extension and a document size being a multiple of 4096 B may incorrectly be classified as folders and consequently skipped. The user is informed about this. To circumvent this limitation change the document name by adding a file extension prior to starting the upload request.
2. Folders uploaded through FireFox may not have the correct modification date in SharePoint / OneDrive for Business when they are mapped to the “Modified” original property. The most recent modified date of documents in a folder is used to determine the modification date for the

folder in SharePoint. The modification date is set to today in case the folder only contains folders.

3. Uploading a folder structure only uploads folders containing documents. Empty folders are skipped.
4. No support for moving documents.
5. BMP thumbnails that are present in old DWG versions cannot be previewed.
6. Uploading folders using drag and drop requires permissions to “Open Pop-up Windows”.

5.5 Known issues: Internet Explorer 11

1. Drag and drop of folders is not supported.
2. No support for moving documents.
3. Viewing emails in msg format fails. Emails in eml format are viewed properly.

5.6 Known issues: Edge

1. Edge is limited in the number of items that can be uploaded in a single request. Currently Edge allows uploading of folder structures containing up to 1000 items (only affects older Edge versions that are not based on Chromium).
2. Edge may display an error while collecting the details of the selected items like “... is not responding”. Wait until the details of the selected items are listed in the right-hand pane.
3. Folders uploaded through Edge may not have the correct modification date in SharePoint / OneDrive for Business when they are mapped to the “Modified” original property. The most recent modified date of documents in a folder is used to determine the modification date for the folder. The modification date is set to today in case the folder only contains folders.

5.7 Known issues: Safari

1. Drag and drop of folders is supported but the user is shown a separate “Select Folder” dialog. Note: multiple documents can be uploaded directly using drag and drop without the additional dialog window.
2. No support for moving documents.
3. BMP thumbnails that are present in old DWG versions cannot be previewed.

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