

Release Notes for PowerGen V16.5

Thank you for your interest in PowerGen Professional V16.5 the premier tool for automating the build process for PowerBuilder applications.

You can receive phone support at

(603) 226-4041

during our business hours 8:30 - 5:30 EDT.

E-mail at

support@ecrane.com.

We would welcome any of your suggestions for further Enhancements.

What's New

Continuing Support for PowerBuilder 2025 Beta Releases

PowerGen V16.5 has been tested with the PB 2025 R2 Beta.

PowerGen V16.5 supports the PowerBuilder 2025 PBL architecture. It will handle "Workspaces" as in previous versions, but not the new "Solutions". This is currently a limitation of the PB ORCA-API (not orcascript) which has not been upgraded to handle the Solution architecture. PowerGen uses the ORCA-API to access PowerBuilder build and library functions.

All previous versions of PowerBuilder, V5.0 and above, are supported.

Special Characters in UTF8 Object Source Files

Certain UTF characters in object source are not imported properly by PowerBuilder and the

ORCA-API. An example is the "📌" character. This has, apparently, been a long-standing problem.

The problem is in the conversion from UTF8 to Unicode, during the import process. This conversion is necessary because all the source is stored in the PBL as Unicode.

The solution is for PowerGen to intercept a UTF8 import. After the file is read into a buffer, the buffer is then converted to Unicode by PowerGen before being imported.

This is all done "behind the scenes" so you won't see anything different.

Bootstrap Import™ and Synchronize Improvements

PowerGen V16.5 Bootstrap Import™ and Synchronize functions will import a collection of objects with mixed character encodings. So, for example, if the objects include a mix of UTF-8 and HEXASCII encoded object source, the functions will complete successfully.

Change to Make Paths Relative Function

The default path for the “Root directory for Relative Paths” was changed to the full path of the Application PBL.

Before this change the “Root directory..” default was extracted from the Project file (*.gen). This could result in the relative path being used to anchor another relative path. Potentially this could result in errors or unexpected results.

VersionEdit Update

In the VECLI utility (command line) the /sk function will create the key if it doesn't already exist before updating the associated property.

Background to the VECLI update

PowerGen creates EXEs by calling the ORCA-API *PBORCA_ExecutableCreate*. This is a C++ callable function.

In PowerBuilder 2025 the behavior of *PBORCA* changed. The *File description* and *Copyright* properties were no longer added to the EXE.

As a consequence, the VersionEdit scripts you have used prior to PB 2025 will report an error trying to set these properties.

For example:

```
VECLI.exe pbtest.exe /sk="LegalCopyright" /sv="Contains licensed copyright material by  
Apeon and others." /sl=040904E4  
Key 'LegalCopyright' does not exist in string table.
```

With this VECLI update (V2.5) the above example will complete without errors.

Need for PFC Library Update

Many of you are working with PowerBuilder applications based on the PowerBuilder Foundation Class (PFC) libraries.

There have been a couple reports of runtime problems with these applications built with PowerGen (and probably PowerBuilder) for PB 2025. The reports relate to Windows that are “open” but not visible.

The problem has been corrected in a couple cases reported to us by upgrading the PFC libraries. These updated libraries are available at:

<https://github.com/OpenSourcePFCLibraries>

Help System Updated

Additions to explain process for building applications with Themes and clarification for digitally signing applications.

Corrected description of PowerGen's project file (*.gen) format for the \$AppName entry.

Bug Fixes

- Special UTF characters in object comments will be correctly imported in Bootstrap Import™ and Synchronize operations.
- Comments over 251 characters will be truncated to avoid corruption