Blue Ant

Update Information 24.3

Dear Users,

In this document you will find an overview of new functions and functional enhancements that are available to you with Blue Ant version **24.3**. The most important new features are:

- Duration for billing in time recording (page 4)

- Update of the BIRT environment to 4.16 (page 7)

- Adjustments to email authentication (page 14)

- REST extensions for project resources, master data and company divisions (page 8)

- Work-time import connector with automatic project assignment (page 10)

- CSV export connectors extended to include webhook configuration (page 11)

Important notes:

- The **SMTP after POP** and **SMTP after IMAP** authentication methods for sending emails are obsolete and will be removed from Blue Ant with version **24.3**.

- With version 25.0 (LTS 2025), the following functions will be removed from Blue Ant:

  - NTLM-SSO (BlueAntSSOFilter)

  - Exchange Synchronizer

  - Service assignments

  - Reservation plans

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know via the Blue Ant support page (at blueant.de).

Wishing you success in your project work with Blue Ant
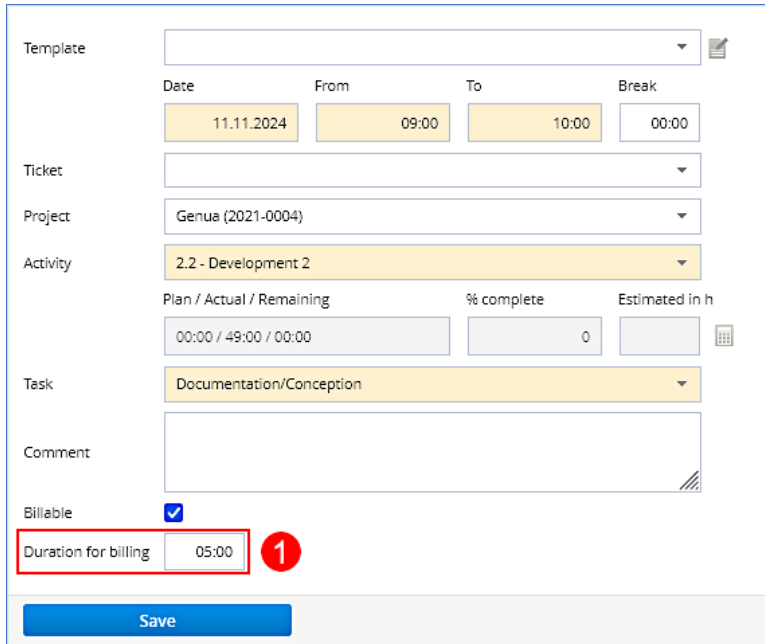
Your Blue Ant Team

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1. Work-times

Preset duration for billing in time recording

Previously, the duration of a work-time could only be adjusted **within a billing run**. With version 24.3, you can enter a different duration **(1)** for billing directly in time recording. This value is then used instead of the original work-time duration when creating a billing run.

New field 'Duration for billing'
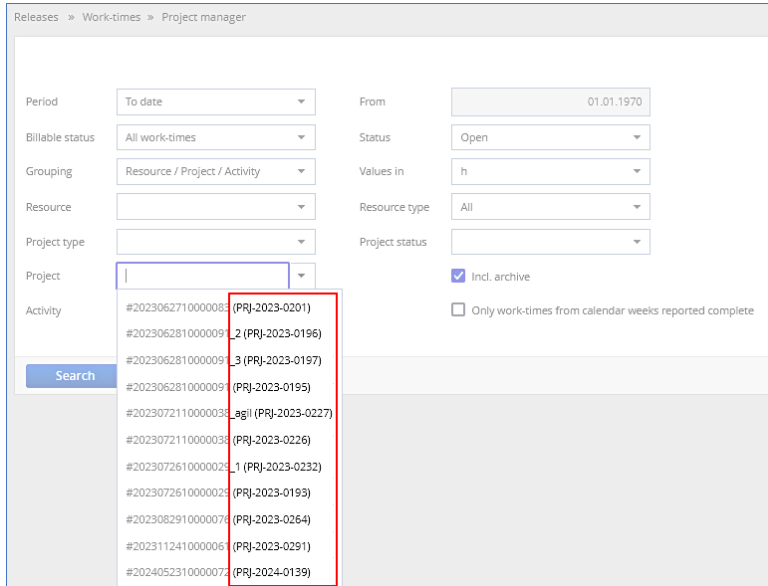
After the update, the new entry **Duration for billing** is set to **Forbidden** for all rights groups in Time recording (single) and Time recording (mobile).

This also applies to the entry in the ⊞ **Column configuration** for time recording.

There is no further option or restriction in the project or Customizing settings for controlling the field.

Extension of the project listbox with project numbers

In the release and transfer screens for work-times, the project numbers are now also shown in the **Project** listbox.

Project numbers in project listbox

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2. ToDos

Email template "todos_change_overview" extended

The email template **todos_change_overview** has been extended by the parameter **{8}** for the ticket number. Add this parameter to output the ticket number in the email.

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3. Interfaces

BIRT adjustments

The BIRT component has been updated with Blue Ant version 24.3. We have also expanded the **Portfolio, Program** and **Resource** datasets.

Update of the BIRT Runtime

The **BIRT Runtime** in Blue Ant has been updated to version 4.16. This means that version 4.16 of the **BIRT Report Designer** is now also supported. You can download the new version from the BIRT download page.

Please note that the download area for the **Blue Ant BIRT Eclipse plugin** has changed. A new update page (https://blueant-update-site.blueant.cloud/ba-birt-plugin/latest/) is available for this purpose.

With the new BIRT version, the output of the image elements (image, chart, etc.) has changed, so that these elements may be enlarged if a percentage size specification is used. We therefore recommend that you check your BIRT reports in this respect before the Blue Ant update 24.3.
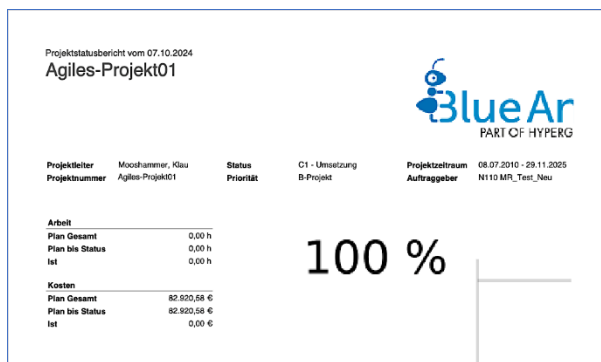
Enlarged display of picture elements

There are two solutions for correcting the display:

- For a percentage size specification, enter the attribute *Fit to Container = true* for the **image** element.

- Use an absolute size specification (e.g. 3 cm) instead of a percentage size specification for the **image** element.
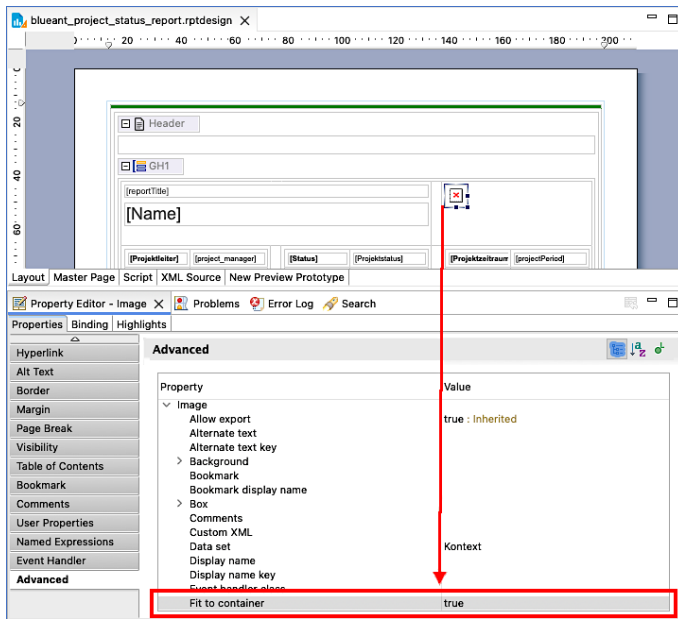
Solution variant: Fit to container = true

💡 We will be happy to check your reports and correct them if necessary. Simply book a one-hour appointment for a fee directly via our team's Online calendar.

Output of projects as a Gantt chart

The BIRT **Portfolio** and **Program** datasets now also offer the option of outputting projects as **Gantt charts**. Use the new attribute *projects_gantt_chart* for this purpose.

Resource information extended

The **Resource** dataset has been expanded to include information on whether the resource has to report calendar weeks complete.

REST extensions for project resources, master data and company divisions

Version 24.3 provides you with various enhancements for editing project resources via **REST API.**

Resource editing

Add project resources

New REST endpoint (POST /projects/{projectId}/resources) for adding a project resource. You can create all types of resources by specifying the project:

- Resource
- Simulated resource
- Team resource
- Simulated team resource
- Virtual resource

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When creating new project resources, different fields are available depending on the resource type. It is not possible to specify reservation periods.

Change project resources

New REST endpoints (PUT & PATCH /projects/{projectId}/resources/{resourceId}) for editing a project resource. You can make changes by entering the project and the resource. Different fields are available depending on the resource type.

Delete project resources

New REST endpoint (DELETE /projects/{projectId}/resources/{resourceId}) for deleting project resources. By specifying the project and the resource, you can remove it from the project.

Add a project resource to an activity

New REST endpoint (POST /projects/{projectId}/planningentries/{entryId}/resources) for assigning a project resource to an activity. You can assign resources to the activity by specifying the project and the activity.

You can add all types of resources to an activity, regardless of whether you are planning your project in a classic or agile way. Detailed planning (work, share, periods) is still carried out in Blue Ant.

Retrieve project resource of an activity

New REST endpoint (GET /projects/{projectId}/planningentries/{entryId}/resources) for retrieving the project resources of an activity. By specifying the project and the activity, you will receive all the resources assigned to the activity.

Remove project resource of an activity

New REST endpoint (DELETE /projects/{projectId}/planningentries/{entryId}/resources) for removing a project resource from an activity. By specifying the project and the activity, you can delete the resource from the activity. The resource is still included in the project, but is no longer assigned to this activity.

Change project manager

New REST endpoint (POST /projects/{projectId}/changeleader) for changing the project manager. You can make the change by specifying the new and old project manager (including authorizations) and the project.

Project

Retrieve project roles including charge rates

New REST endpoint (GET /projects/{projectId}/roles) for retrieving the roles and charge rates used in a project. By specifying the project, you receive all roles used in the project including the stored charge rates.

Retrieve reservations

New REST endpoint (GET /projects/{projectId}/resources/{resourceId}/reservations) for retrieving the reservations of a project resource. By specifying the project and the resource, you can retrieve their reservations.

Master Data

Retrieve work-time calendars

New REST endpoint (GET /masterdata/worktimecalendars) for retrieving all work-time calendars.

New REST endpoint (GET /masterdata/worktimecalendars/{id}) to retrieve a single work-time calendar.

Permissions

Retrieve project groups

New REST endpoint (GET /permissions/projectgroups) for retrieving all rights groups from the **Projects** context.

Company divisions

Services for company divisions extended to include invoice layout

The REST endpoints (GET, POST, PUT, PATCH) for company divisions have been extended. If you have saved reports of the **Billing** type as invoice layouts, these are output in the *invoiceLayout* field.

You can change the invoice layout by specifying the name of the report template. If you do not specify an invoice layout in the *invoiceLayout* field in the PUT service, the default value Manual layout is automatically set. If the *Manual layout* invoice layout is set in the company division, it is not output in the REST API.

Connectors: Work-time import with automatic project assignment

A project assignment and a reservation[1] of resources is mandatory for the import of work-times. With the new connection setting *worktime.add_staff_and_reservate*, you now have the option of bypassing these requirements. Resources are automatically assigned to the project and reserved. Other requirements and restrictions on the import of work-times remain valid.

[1] As long as the **Project reservation required** for work-time recording option is activated in the Administration area.

Connectors: User Connector extended to include export

You can now also export **Users** via a connector. Previously, it was only possible to import them. To do this, select the **Export** transfer direction in the connector configuration.

- The **Account type** and **Password** fields are not available in the export.

- In contrast to the import, the static texts **NAMED_USER** and **CONCURRENT_USER** are used in the **Licence** field instead of numerical values.

- For the **Resource ID**, the sync type **User-defined** has been expanded to include the parameters *firstname* and *lastname*.

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Connectors: Filter for project export extended

The connector for projects has been extended by the **Connection setting** *project.filter.istemplate,* which enables a **separate** export of projects and project templates. The following settings are available:

- Checkbox selected: only templates are exported

- Checkbox not selected: only projects are exported

- Setting is not configured: Projects and templates are exported

The new filter setting is independent of the existing *project.filter.ignoretemplates* setting.

Connectors: Webhook configuration for CSV export

For connectors of the **CSV file** connection type, you can now also send the file to a REST endpoint. To do this, use the following connection settings:

- *webhook.targetAddress*: Entry of the REST endpoint

- *webhook.basicAuthLogin*: User name for HTTP basic authentication

- *webhook.basicAuthToken*: Password for HTTP basic authentication

- *webhook.bearerAuth*: Bearer token for token-based authentication

- *webhook.contentType*: Entry of the content type (default: application/octet-stream)

- *webhook.maxRetries*: Number of retries in the event of an error

- *webhook.statusCodesRetry*: HTTP status codes for which a resend attempt should be made

- *webhook.retryAfterInSeconds*: Number of seconds between retransmission attempts

- *webhook.maxRetries*: Maximum number of retransmission attempts

- *webhook.timeoutInSeconds*: Duration to wait for the server response after sending (in seconds)

Connectors: 'Invoice webhooks' extended

The following enhancements have been made to the connectors for 'Invoice webhooks':

- Changes apply to connectors of the connection type 'Webhooks (JSON)' and the data contexts:
  - Create invoices
  - Change invoices
  - Invoices all events
  - With the exception of: Delete invoices

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- The *invoice.filter.invoiceState* key can now also be used for exporting data filtering by invoice status (several statuses can be specified as a comma-separated list).

- The *invoice.filter.invoiceType* key can now also be used for exporting data filtering by invoice type (several types can be specified as a comma-separated list).

  - ProposalCalculated: Invoice with "Items based on actual"

  - ProposalByPosition: Invoice with "Items based on quote"

  - Fixed: Invoice "Fixed – without invoice proposal"

  - Actual: Invoice "Actual costs - without invoice proposal "

- The **Standard field scope** of the webhooks for invoices has been expanded to include the following attributes:

  - clients: Output of all clients including the invoice share

  - currency: Output of the currency including the exchange rate to the euro

  - discount: Output of the invoice discount

  - proposalId: Internal ID of the invoice proposal (only when invoicing an IP)

- New key *invoice.entity.extended* for exporting extensive data in **Extended mode**

- The key *invoice.entity.extended = true*, **Extended mode** provides the following data (in addition to the standard field scope):

  - references / clients: All referenced clients including master data and all individual fields

  - references / customFields: All referenced individual fields (from the context **Project**, **Quote**, **Quote item**, **Client** and **Resource**)

  - references / roles: All referenced roles of resources with billed work-times

  - references / projects: The relevant project including master data and all individual fields

  - references / resources: All referenced resources (including master data and all individual fields) with billed work-times and receipts

  - items: Invoice items based on invoice proposal

  - items / receipts: Billed receipts

  - items / worktimes: Billed work-times

  - quote / items: Referenced quote including quote items

- New key *entity.customfield.whitelist* to restrict the individual fields

💡 **Please note that sensitive resource data can be sent via the webhook when using extended mode. You should therefore check whether your data protection requirements are being adhered to on the recipient side.**

🔅 Personal data could be sent via the individual fields in particular. To restrict these fields, use the option of storing a list of permitted custom fields (report ID comma-separated) under the key entity.customfield.whitelist.

Connectors: Individual risk export extended

The **Number** field has been added to the connector for **individual risks**. This means that it is now also possible to export the risk number.

QuoteServices in SOAP API extended

In the **SOAP API**, you now also have the option of querying and changing the individual fields from the **Quote item** context. To do this, use the new *customFieldList* parameter in the following service methods:

- ◾ QuoteService.getQuoteList
- ◾ QuoteService.createQuote
- ◾ QuoteService.createQuotePosition
- ◾ QuoteService.changeQuote
- ◾ QuoteService.changeQuotePosition

For details, please refer to the documentation in the *webservices_soap_24.3.zip* archive, which you can download from the Support area of our website.

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4. Administration

Adjustments to email authentication

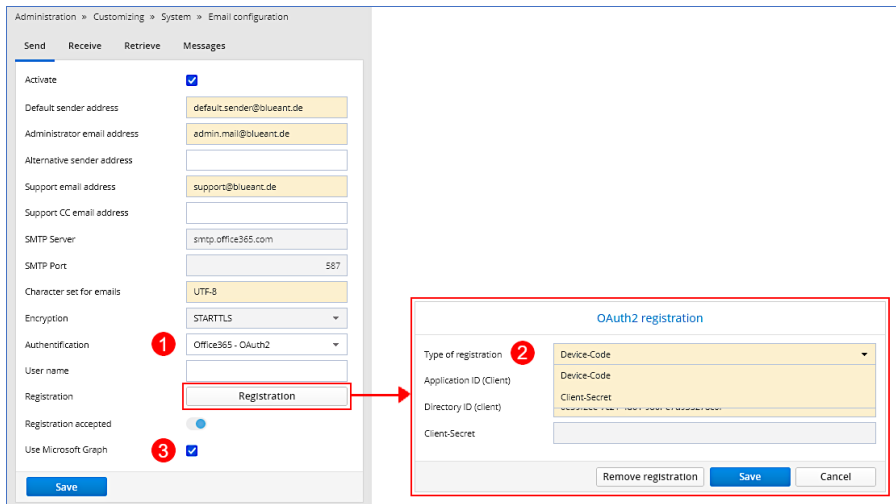**OAuth2 login with Service Principal**

Authentication via **OAuth2 (1)** has been extended. You can now choose between two login types **(2)**:

- **Device-Code:** Previous login type via user principal login (user ID)
- **Client-Secret:** New login type via service principal login (device login)

This change affects the following OAuth2 configurations in Blue Ant:

- Email dispatch (ADMINISTRATION / CUSTOMIZING / SYSTEM / E-MAIL CONFIGURATION, **Send** tab)
- Email retrieval for ticket creation (ADMINISTRATION / CUSTOMIZING / SYSTEM / E-MAIL CONFIGURATION, **Retrieve** tab)
- Connector connection type **Azure AD** user list (ADMINISTRATION / CUSTOMIZING / SYSTEM / CONNECTORS)

The **Microsoft Graph API** option **(3)** can also be activated for authentication. Microsoft Graph is mandatory for the Client Secret login type.
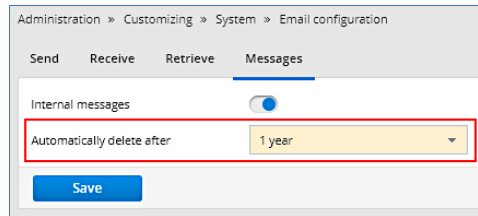

Configuration for sending emails

Modification for internal messages

You can now define a deletion interval for internal messages. One year is defined as the default.

Deletion interval for internal messages

Obsolete authentication methods removed

The **SMTP after POP** and **SMTP** after **IMAP** authentication methods for sending emails are obsolete and have been removed from Blue Ant with version **24.3**.

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