Blue Ant
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Blue Ant
Update Information 24.5

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 **24.5**. The most important new features are:

- Filter work-times by **comments** (page 5)
- Allow structural plan changes despite the basic plan (page 6)
- New widgets for reports in monitoring (page 7)
- Import/export contacts in the resources connector (page 9)
- New **Azure Boards Connect** interface (page 10)

Important notes:

- Under ADMINISTRATION / MASTER DATA / GENERAL / IMAGES, the configuration option for the images of old status reports (header graphic, footer graphic, legend) has been removed. This functionality of status reports no longer exists and is now done via BIRT reports.
- With the next version **25.0** (LTS 2025) there are some technical and functional changes in Blue Ant
    - The technical switch to **Jakarta EE 10** will take place. This will also require **Apache Tomcat 10.1** as a new installation requirement, older Tomcat versions are no longer compatible.
    - The following features will be removed
        - 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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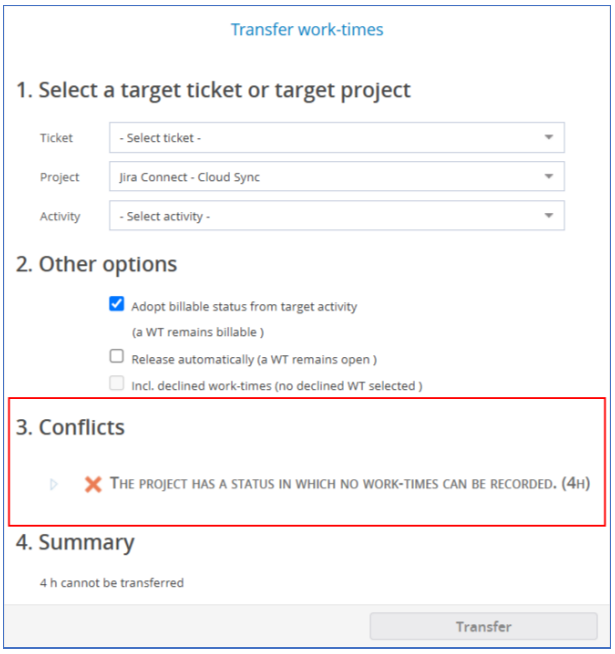
1. Work-Times

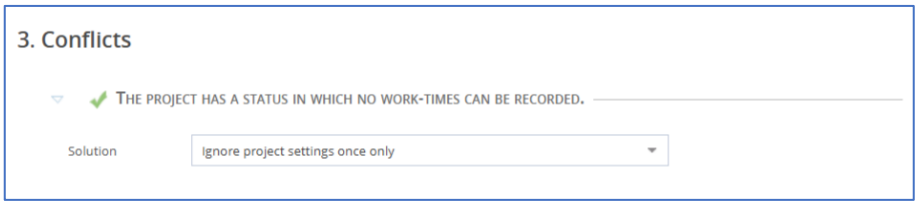
Conflict resolution when transferring work-times expanded

When transferring work-times, the project status properties **WT-Recording for PM/Deputy** and **WT and percent complete recording** are now taken into account and reported as a conflict.



New conflict when transferring work-times

The transferring work-times can be carried out as before, even if the project status does not allow work-times recording or only recording for project managers and deputies. However, you will receive information about this and make this decision knowingly.



New conflict when transferring work-times

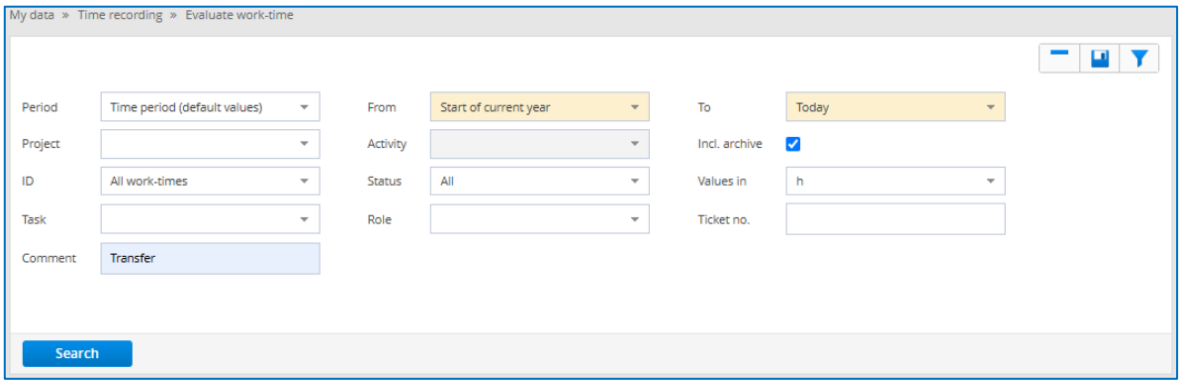
This extension is available to you in the following masks:

- MANAGEMENT / TRANSFER WT
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES / PROJECT MANAGER
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES / LINE MANAGER
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES

Filter work-times by comments

With version 24.5 you can now filter work-times by comment. The new **Comment** field is available to you in the **Display all search fields** filter option in the following masks:

- MY DATA / TIME RECORDING / EVALUATE WORK-TIME
- RESOURCES / WORK-TIMES
- RESOURCES / WORK-TIMES (PM)
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES / PROJECT MANAGER
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES / LINE MANAGER
- RELEASES / WORK-TIMES
- MANAGEMENT / TRANSFER WT



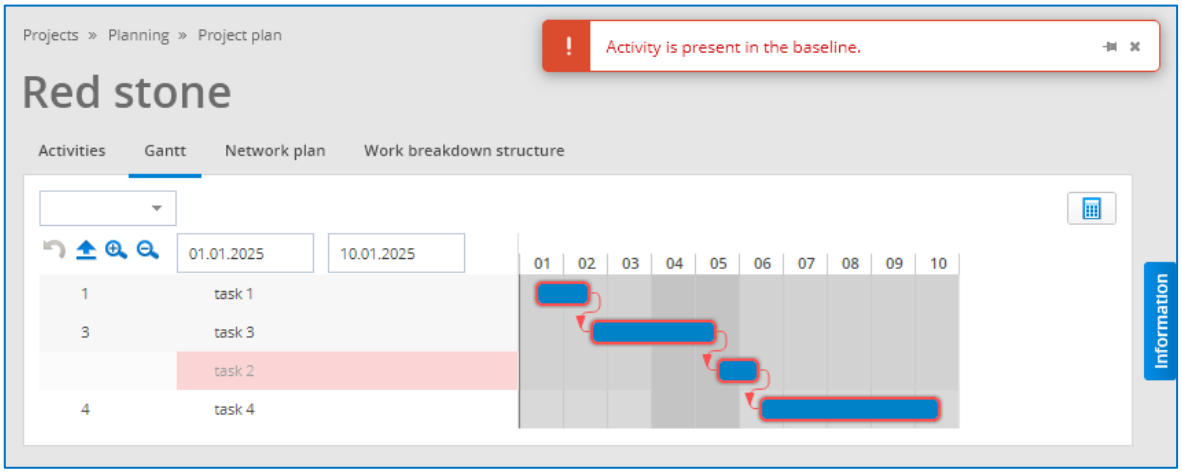
New filter field Comment in own work-time evaluation

The *comment* search field can also be used in the REST API in the /v1/worktime/all/worktimes and /v1/worktime/my/worktimes endpoints.

2. Projects

Allow structural plan changes despite the basic plan

Previously, activities in planning could no longer be rearranged if they were part of a baseline plan. We have removed this restriction so that you can now also make structural changes in project planning (e.g. moving activities in the Gantt view).



Removed arranging restriction

Search filter expanded

The search filter for PROJECTS and CONTROLLING / LANDSCAPE as well as CONTROLLING / KEY FIGURES has been expanded to include new filter options. Using the **PM company division** field, you can now specifically filter projects according to the company division of the project manager.

The new field is available in the filter option **Show all search fields**.

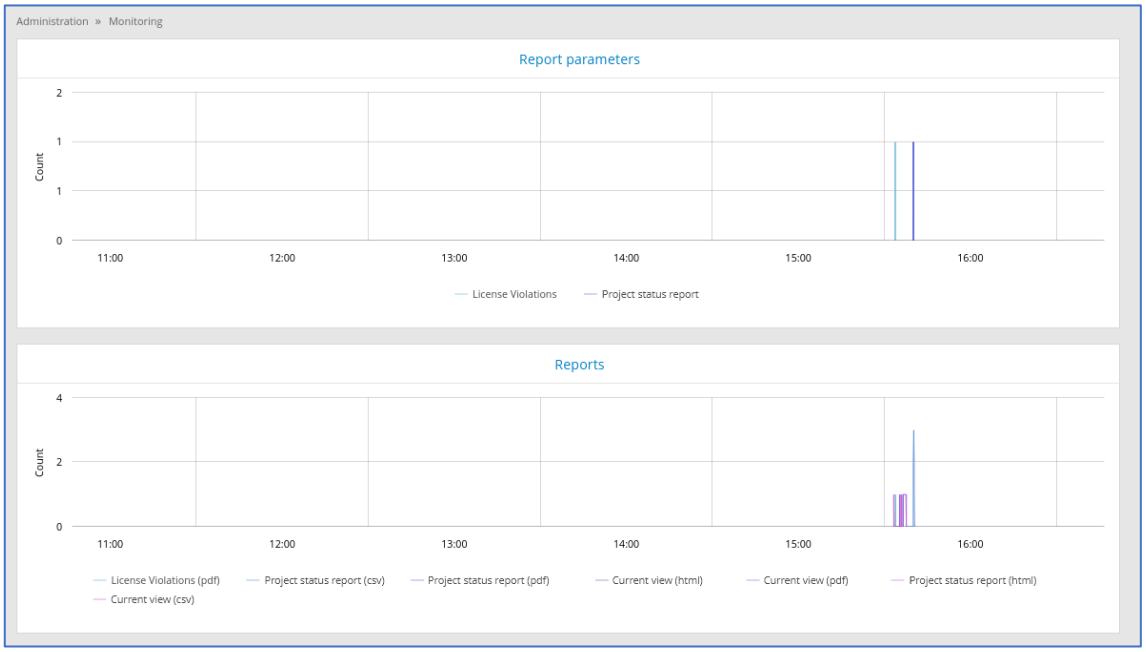
Note: The search only takes project managers into account, deputies are not included.

3. Administration

New widgets for reports in monitoring

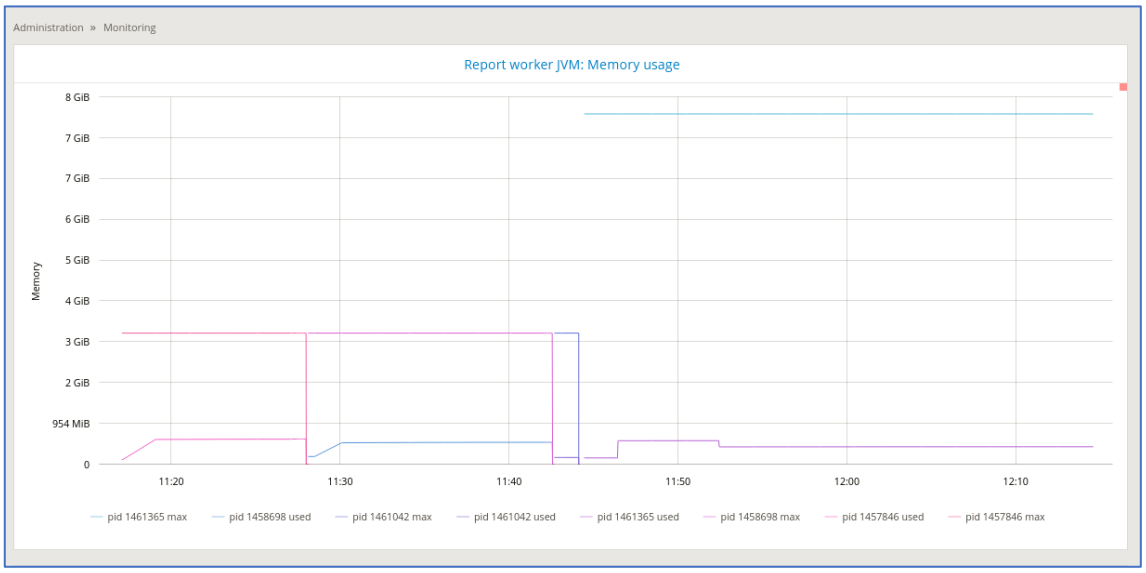
New widgets for report calls and the memory consumption of the reporting processes are now available on the ADMINISTRATION / MONITORING screen.

The **Reports** widget gives you an overview of the reports that have been executed. The **Report parameters** widget provides you with an overview of the report parameters used in the accessed reports.



Report execution and report parameters used in monitoring

The JVM memory usage of report processes is evaluated in **the Report worker JVM: Memory usage** widget. This contains the maximum memory and the used memory of the JVM for all running report processes (both separate and remote). The data are automatically recorded and logged every 2 minutes, as well as when the report is executed (start and end).



Memory consumption of reporting processes

With the update, the three widgets will be automatically added to the **All** view.

Each execution of a report (manual execution, batch runs) is viewed and shown in the graphic.

System configuration for SOAP extended

The number of maximum possible parallel requests via **SOAP** can now be set via the entry *ba.webservice.max.parallel* under ADMINISTRATION / CUSTOMIZING / SYSTEM / SYSTEM CONFIGURATION. The previous server-side configuration is still valid as long as the new key is not entered in the system configuration. The initial change to the configuration will only take effect with the next system restart. Further adjustments to the configuration take effect via a SOAP request. A new restart is then not necessary.

4. Interfaces

Import/export contacts in the resources connector

The **Resources** Connector has been expanded to include the ability to import and export contacts. For this purpose, the **Internal/External** field was renamed to **Type** and expanded.

You can now use the following values for this connector field:

- Sync type **Integer**
  - Internal resource: *1*
  - External resource: *3*
  - Contact: *2*
- Sync type **Text/name**
  - Internal resource: *InternalStaff*
  - External resource: *ExternalStaff*
  - Contact: *Contact*

PDF document in JSON export for webhooks

The webhooks for invoices have been expanded. You can now also integrate the invoice document/activity confirmation in the invoice webhooks. To do this, configure the connection setting *invoice.entity.extended.include.pdf=true* in the webhook connector. The invoice layout set for the respective client is used in PDF format. The integration in the webhook takes place as a Base64-encoded character string.

New Azure Boards Connect interface

With version 24.5 we provide you with an interface for **Azure DevOps**. Specifically, it is a connection to Microsoft's **Azure Boards** project management tool. To use the new **Azure Boards Connect** interface, all you need is an updated license. There are no additional license costs in the Enterprise Edition.

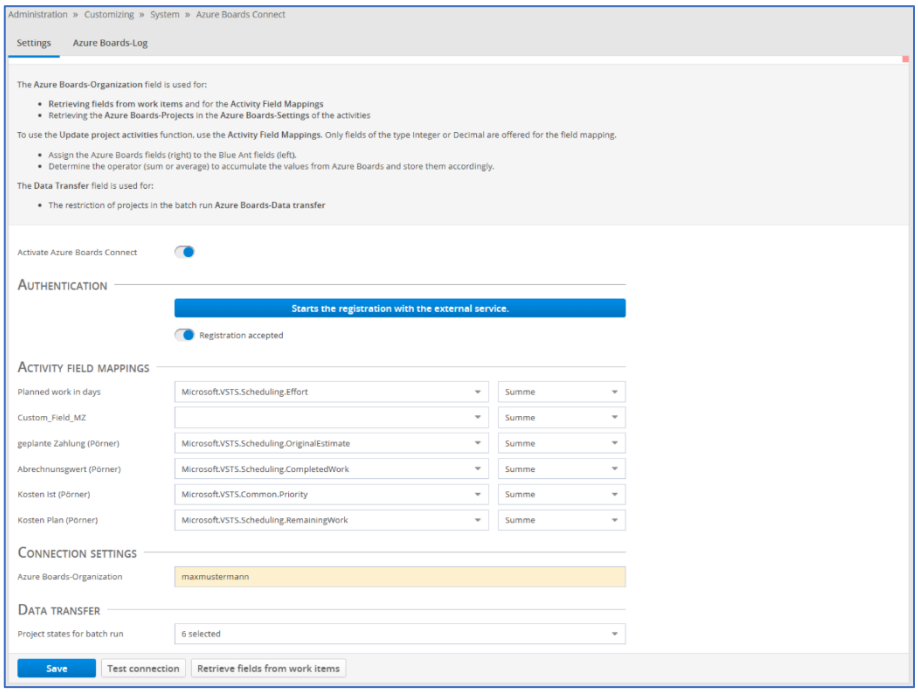
With **Azure Boards Connect** you can collect data from your Azure Work items and push it to Blue Ant activities. You determine the assignment between the data from Azure Boards and the fields in Blue Ant. It is also possible to create the Azure work items as activities or ToDos in Blue Ant using a connector.

Administration

The interfaces are set up in the ADMINISTRATION / CUSTOMIZING / SYSTEM / AZURE BOARDS CONNECT mask. In addition to the authentication information, you specify the Azure Boards organization to retrieve its fields. You can link the work item fields from the Azure Boards organization with the Blue Ant fields from the activity context (including individual fields). For each link you can define how the data should be treated (sum or average).

These settings are used by default for all projects and can be overridden in the project if necessary.

The Azure Boards-specific information and entries are stored in the associated log.

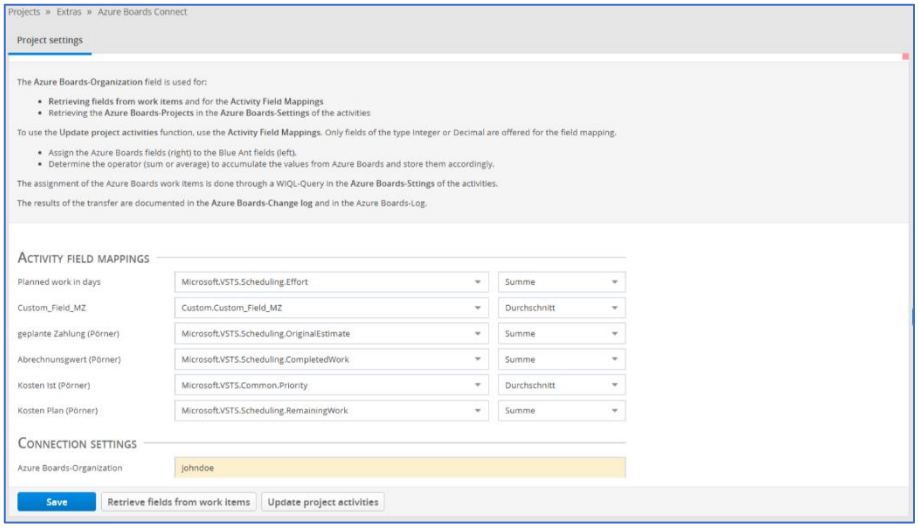


Setting up the interface in administration

Project settings

The field links and connection settings can be individually adjusted per project. This means that different **Azure Boards organizations** and thus field links can be used in the system.

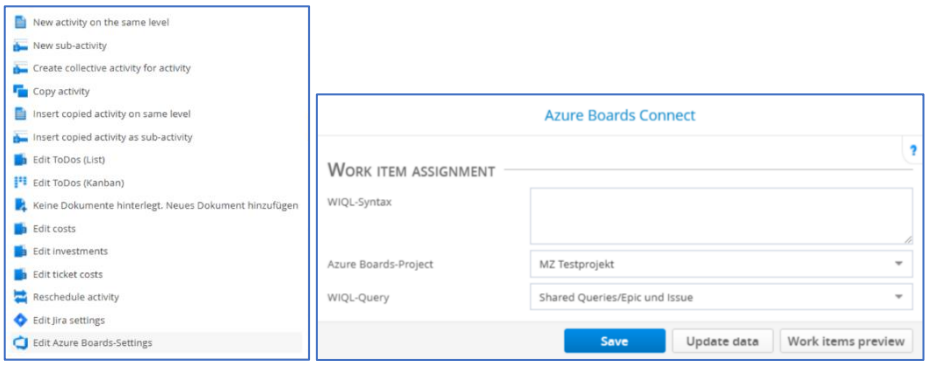
In addition, you can carry out data transfer for all activities in the project in the PROJECTS / EXTRAS / AZURE BOARDS CONNECT mask. The transferred data is documented in the **Azure Boards changelog**.



Configuration of the interface in the project

Project plan

One or more work items are assigned to an activity in the PROJECTS / PLANNING / PROJECT PLAN mask via the context menu of the respective activity. You determine the number of work items that belong to an activity either directly using a **Work Item Query Language** (WIQL) query or using WIQL syntax. You can choose from all shared queries from the selected Azure Boards project. The query or syntax can be executed directly and the result is displayed in a preview. It is also possible to update the activity data directly. The transferred data is documented in the Azure Boards changelog.



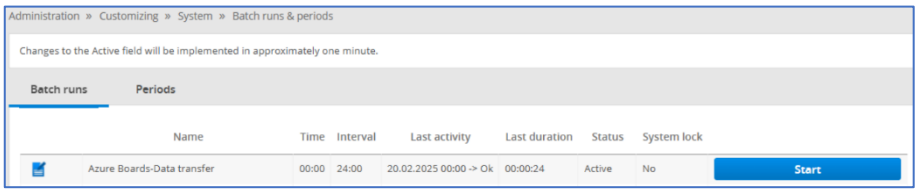
Use interface in the project plan

Data transfer

There are 3 variants for transferring data from Azure Boards to Blue Ant:

- Manually per activity under PROJECTS / PLANNING / PROJECT PLAN
- Manually for all activities of a project under PROJECTS / EXTRAS / AZURE BOARDS CONNECT
- Manually or automatically for all projects using the batch run Azure Boards data transfer

To limit the data to be transferred, select the project statuses for which data transfer via batch run is relevant.



Batch run for data transfer

Connectors

In addition to the WIQL queries at the activity level, the new connection type Azure DevOps Boards is available for connectors. This allows you to create ToDos or activities in Blue Ant from Azure Work Items. You can also define the links between the work item data and the Blue Ant fields. In contrast to the WIQL query at the activity level, only one work item can be assigned to an activity or a ToDo in the connector.