

QUALIFY VS. QUALITY CENTER

A Comparison Between the Micro Focus & Original Software AQM Solutions



An Original Insight



Original Software

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| VERSIONS AND EDITIONS | 2 |
| BASIS FOR SCORES | 2 |
| DETAILED COMPARISON | 3 |
| TECHNOLOGY | 3 |
| PLATFORMS | 4 |
| DATA STRUCTURES | 5 |
| WORKFLOW AND NOTIFICATIONS | 6 |
| DATA CONTENT | 7 |
| DATA IMPORT | 8 |
| DATA VISIBILITY | 9 |
| DATA VERSIONING | 10 |
| CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS | 11 |
| RESOURCES and PLANNING | 12 |
| SECURITY AND PERMISSIONS | 13 |
| INTEGRATION & ATTACHMENTS | 14 |
| OVERALL SCORE CARD | 15 |

VERSIONS AND EDITIONS

The following versions were used as the basis of this comparison:

- Qualify version YA1 (pre-release) – release due January 2018
- Quality Center 12.50 (SaaS) – released September 2015

Qualify has, in effect, two editions; the desktop client and the web client.

Quality Center has three editions; Enterprise, Express and Community.

Quality Center Enterprise was used for this comparison. It should be noted that some Qualify features are not available in the web client and this has been noted where appropriate.

BASIS FOR SCORES

- 0 – No capability
- 1 – Capability only available through custom programming
- 2 – Limited capability
- 3 – Full capability
- 4 – Market defining capability

DETAILED COMPARISON

TECHNOLOGY

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 1 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 3 | 2 |

In the five years since our previous comparison, the basic Quality Center architecture has remained the same. The user interface is still reliant upon legacy ActiveX and VB Script which inhibits its ability to deploy outside of Windows and Internet Explorer. The Quality Center score has been reduced as very little has been done to modernise the application architecture. In comparison, Qualify has been continually updated to keep in line with the latest developments in application architecture, particularly in the web client.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Development technology</i> | Microsoft .NET and ASP.NET | Legacy Microsoft ActiveX and .NET |
| <i>Deployment options</i> | Windows Desktop or Browser | Browser only |
| <i>Customization</i> | Code Free UI | VB Scripting |
| <i>Calculations</i> | Code Free UI | VB Scripting |

PLATFORMS

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 2 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 4 |

Qualify offers database support into the IBM world. Its support for any modern browser, whether on Windows, Apple OS, Linux or mobile devices, means it can embrace internal and external users where browser cannot be imposed.

Quality Center currently does not support the latest versions of Windows and still remains constrained to a single browser.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Supported databases</i> | SQL Server, Oracle, IBM i DB2 | SQL Server 2012 and 2014, Oracle 12c |
| <i>Web Servers</i> | Microsoft IIS | Microsoft IIS, Linux (5 variants) |
| <i>Designed for tablets</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Desktop OS</i> | Windows 7 and forward | Windows 7 SP1 and Windows 8.1 |
| <i>Microsoft Office integration</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Supported Browsers</i> | Any HTML 5 compliant browser with JavaScript enabled | Internet Explorer 10 or 11 32-bit |

DATA STRUCTURES

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 2 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 2 |

Quality Center is limited to a fixed structure; traditionally, a structure of Requirements, Task and Defects which severely limits its ability to contribute to and support the wider quality infrastructure. However, it should be noted that some additions have been made to the structure such as Business Process flows. In addition, Quality Center has an agile model which appears to be achieved through the renaming of the existing structures.

In contrast, Qualify can support as flexible and as expensive a structure as required, together with a complete integration with other data sources. This is amply demonstrated by the total integration offered for Atlassian JIRA.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Creatable applications</i> | Unlimited | 1 |
| <i>Data entities per application</i> | Unlimited | Fixed |
| <i>Entity Relationships</i> | Definable as Parent/Child, Linked, Soft-linked, Create and Link | Fixed |
| <i>Application Instances</i> | Unlimited | Multiple Projects |
| <i>Pre-shipped data models</i> | 10+ | Not available |
| <i>Integrate with other data</i> | .NET Plugin | Not available |
| <i>Integrate with other apps</i> | .NET Plugin | ActiveX Plugin |
| <i>Column validation rules</i> | Code Free UI | VB Scripting |
| <i>Pre-defined sub-entities</i> | Attachments, Comments, Results, Test Steps | Attachments, Comments, Results, Test |

WORKFLOW AND NOTIFICATIONS

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 1 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 1 |

Qualify has been designed from its inception to support workflow and user notifications across all aspects of the application model. Quality Center has some limited capability for Defects but primarily relies upon extensive custom programming to even approach the capabilities offered by Qualify as standard.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controllable entities</i> | Unlimited | 4 |
| <i>Definition</i> | Code Free UI | VB Scripting |
| <i>Basis</i> | Any single-select column | As programmed |
| <i>Multiple workflows per entity</i> | Yes, controlled by second single-select column | As programmed |
| <i>Controlled by role</i> | Yes | As programmed |
| <i>Electronic signatures</i> | Yes | 3 rd party Plugins |
| <i>Workflow progression emails</i> | Yes | As programmed |
| <i>Notify on row changes</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Row update emails by rule</i> | No | Limited to 4 rules |
| <i>Email templates and substitutions</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Microsoft Outlook preview</i> | Yes | No – link to item provided |



DATA CONTENT

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 2 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 2 |

The design of Qualify recognises that over time a company will want to embrace all aspects of their quality process in ways that cannot be initially predicted. It therefore offers complete customisation so that it can support the exact needs of any company. In contrast, Quality Center provides a legacy, rigid, approach.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Fixed columns</i> | None, all can be customised | Fixed per entity |
| <i>Additional columns</i> | Unlimited | 99 per entity |
| <i>Data types</i> | 19 | 6 |
| <i>Calculated columns</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Column verification</i> | Code Free UI | VB Scripting |
| <i>Edit Form Layout control</i> | Code Free UI | No |
| <i>Cross-Project Customisation</i> | Yes | Not supported in Enterprise Edition |
| <i>Individual Project Customisation</i> | Yes | Yes |

DATA IMPORT

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 2 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 3 | 2 |

Both products support the import of data but Qualify offers a more powerful approach to support the more extensive application model it provides. Since the previous comparison, significant changes have been made to the Qualify data import to enable simultaneous import of items and their related data, automatic linking to related items and removal of the reliance on Microsoft Office for data import.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Microsoft Word</i> | Yes | Via Plugin |
| <i>Microsoft Excel</i> | Yes | Via Plugin |
| <i>Tree Structures</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Parent/Child data</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>QC Data</i> | Yes | n/a |
| <i>Drag from Microsoft Outlook</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Automatic linking to related data</i> | Yes | No |

DATA VISIBILITY

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 2 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 2 |

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Choose Columns</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Column Sort</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Column Grouping</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Column summary functions</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Client-Side Filtering</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Server-Side Filtering</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Parent Columns</i> | Yes (and grandparent) | No |
| <i>Child Counts</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Child Summaries</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Linked entity data</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Shared views</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Private views</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Multi-grid view</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Entity preview</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Search column types</i> | Yes | No |



Single Instance dashboards

Yes

Yes

Global Search

Yes

via Add-In

DATA VERSIONING

Qualify

Quality Center

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <i>Score</i> | 2 | 3 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 2 | 3 |

Quality Center offers an optional versioning mode with full check in/out which Qualify does not currently provide. Qualify does provide a full auditable history of all information as standard.

Detailed Comparison

Qualify

Quality Center

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| <i>Full audit trail</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Rollback to prior versions</i> | No | Via Check In/Out |
| <i>Check In/Out</i> | No | Yes |
| <i>Concurrent update warning</i> | Yes | No |



CONSOLIDATION OPTIONS

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 0 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 0 |

Thanks to Qualify's ability to hold multiple instances of an application, consolidated reporting and management of multiple projects is simple. In contrast, Quality Center needs the definitions of multiple application instances to be manually kept in line.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Multi-instance dashboards</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Multi-instance data views</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Multi-instance search</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Multi-instance reporting</i> | Yes | No |

RESOURCES and PLANNING

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 1 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 4 | 1 |

Qualify provides a complete solution for management of personnel so that their current assignments can be rapidly understood, and their reassignment simply accomplished. In addition, individuals can easily manage their workload through their own worklist.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Single application instance</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Cross application instances</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Cross application</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>In-line reassignment</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Bulk reassignment</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>In-place edit duration/start</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Public and Private Holidays</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Multi-Country Holiday Support</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Milestone Tracking</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Personal Worklists</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Timesheets and resource costs</i> | Yes | No |

SECURITY AND PERMISSIONS

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 3 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 3 | 3 |

Both products offer a robust set of features to control access to data although they offer different approaches to data access at a more molecular level. Qualify provides row level security so that groups or individuals will not even be aware that certain data exists. In contrast, Quality Center does not offer this capability but does allow individual columns to be shielded from specified users or groups.

Qualify now supports LDAP to provide single-sign-on, as well as state-based protection for individual columns to make data read-only when the entity is in a specified state.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>LDAP Integration</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Column Level Security</i> | No | Yes |
| <i>Row Level Security</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Role Based Security</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>State-based column protection</i> | Yes | No |

INTEGRATION & ATTACHMENTS

| | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Score</i> | 4 | 1 |
| <i>Previous Score</i> | 3 | 1 |

Qualify can include practically any data source within its application models, whereas Quality Center is limited to the basic attachment of files. Qualify can, therefore, totally integrate with the rest of the corporate data and act as a single point of reference (single truth) for that data.

| <i>Detailed Comparison</i> | <i>Qualify</i> | <i>Quality Center</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Attach files</i> | Desktop Only | No |
| <i>Upload files</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Attach Links (URLs)</i> | Yes | Yes |
| <i>Attach voice notes</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>View external data in place</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Create links to external data</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>External data-based columns</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Link to external data editing</i> | Yes | No |
| <i>Vendor test tool integration</i> | Yes | Yes |

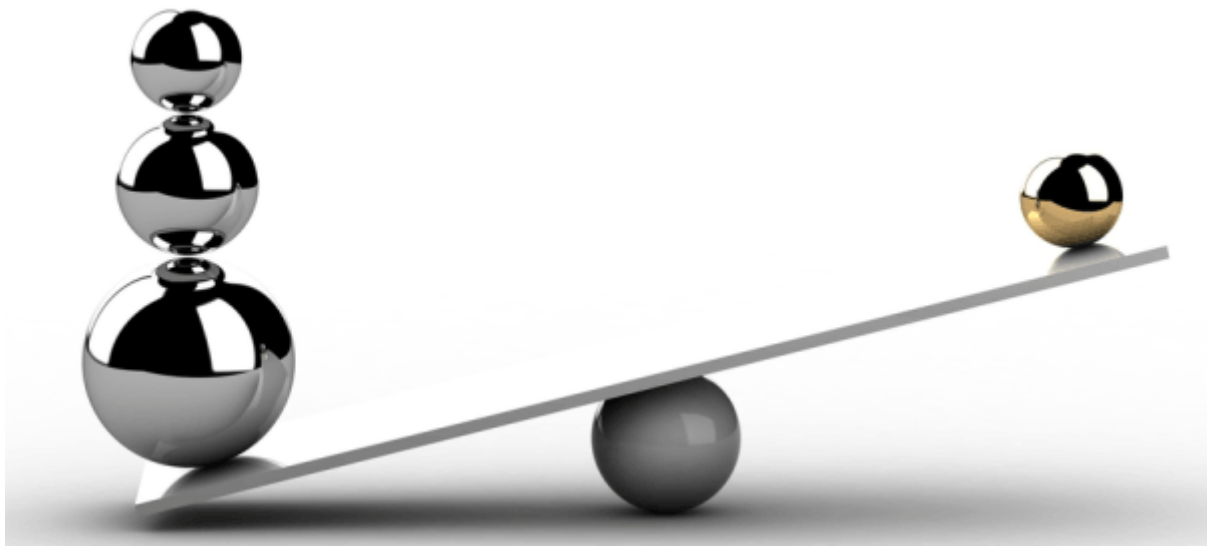
OVERALL SCORE CARD

A full capability score in each section would be 4 marks. There are 12 sections, so the maximum mark is 48.

| | CURRENT SCORE | PREVIOUS SCORE |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| QUALIFY | 46 or 96% | 42 or 87% |
| QUALITY CENTER | 20 or 42% | 23 or 48% |

A natural reaction to these scores will be to question how the historic market leader scores so poorly both in an absolute and a comparative sense. The answer is simply that what the market demands and what a modern solution can now deliver has moved on.

It is clear that Quality Center has not deteriorated since our last comparison and there have been a number of incremental improvements. However, it is also clear that there has been little innovation in the product. In comparison, Qualify continues to improve, with significant enhancements and improvements delivered with each release.



[Find out more about Original Software – Qualify](#)