



## Frequently Asked Questions

# NEW USER EXPERIENCE FOR M-FILES DESKTOP

VERSION 1.3 | LAST UPDATED 23 JANUARY 2025

## Contents

1. Introduction .....	2
1.1 What separates M-Files Desktop from M-Files Web? .....	2
2. Release Information .....	2
2.1 Who will have access to the new client experience? .....	2
2.2 Which product components are part of this update? .....	2
2.3 How will I get the new client experience? .....	3
2.4 Is the new client experience compatible with older versions of M-Files Server? .....	3
3. What Changes? .....	3
3.1 Are all features of the classic M-Files Desktop supported in the new client? .....	3
3.2 How long can users switch between the new and classic clients? .....	3
3.3 Can I still use the appearance options in Advanced Vault Settings? .....	3
3.4 Will metadata card configurations continue to work normally? .....	4
3.5 Can users select between the classic and new client experience? .....	4
3.6 Will all my M-Files UI extensions continue to work? .....	4
3.7 Will the task area be included? .....	5
3.8 Will advanced search be included? .....	5
3.9 How long will the classic M-Files Desktop be available? .....	5
3.10 Which of the classic client's features are available in the new client? .....	5
4. Change History .....	6

## 1. Introduction

M-Files October '24 Update contains a new client experience for M-Files Desktop, which is built on modern technologies and has a fresh look and feel. The new client is a new desktop application that runs on top of M-Files Web. All functionalities and the user interface are the same as in M-Files Web, but the new client also comes with the benefits of a desktop application.

With the new desktop client you can:

- Use the same functionalities that are available in M-Files Web.
- Edit documents directly with other desktop applications. For example, Microsoft Word, and Notepad.
  - In M-Files Web, you must use M-Files Web Companion to do this.
- Switch between the new and classic user experience.
- Select a vault that you want to log in to when you start M-Files Desktop.

### 1.1 What separates M-Files Desktop from M-Files Web?

#### Convenience of work

- Using M-Files to easily open content in other desktop applications
- Deep integration with other desktop applications
- Opening M-Files content through other desktop apps
- Saving content to M-Files through other desktop apps
- Support for content flows that start through other applications

#### Optimized performance

- A more optimized performance for the client through the desktop client

#### Switching between vaults

- Effortless switching between vaults through vault switch icon

## 2. Release Information

### 2.1 Who will have access to the new client experience?

For the new experience to be available, these requirements must be met:

- M-Files Desktop must use M-Files October '24 Update or later.
- M-Files Server must use [M-Files June '24 Update](#) or later.
- The vault must use a gRPC connection. Refer to [Setting Up M-Files to Use gRPC](#) and [Switching from RPC to gRPC in an M-Files System](#) for details.
  - With other protocols, the classic M-Files Desktop is automatically used and the toggle is not shown.
- The vault must be in the [online mode](#). The new experience does not support offline mode.

For a smooth transition, check out the following [transition instructions](#).

### 2.2 Which product components are part of this update?

This update affects M-Files Desktop only. In addition to the new client experience, a toggle to switch between the classic and new experience is added to the classic M-Files Desktop.

## 2.3 How will I get the new client experience?

The new client is available through the normal M-Files release process.

## 2.4 Is the new client experience compatible with older versions of M-Files Server?

The new client is available when M-Files Server uses M-Files June '24 Update or later.

# 3. What Changes?

## 3.1 Are all features of the classic M-Files Desktop supported in the new client?

All features available in the classic M-Files Desktop are not supported in the new client. We are constantly working on identifying the most important features and keep adding them to the new client.

To truly bring value to our users, we do not simply copy the old features. Instead, we carefully evaluate the value that we want M-Files to bring and build new features around that value – with improved and more modern user experience. To do this, we must also deprecate some features. This lets us focus on the most important use cases and continue to develop a modern client with an intuitive user interface and tons of powerful features.

## 3.2 How long can users switch between the new and classic clients?

We understand that there is still work to be done in terms of the value parity of the new and classic clients. We will continue to focus on developing new value for the new client and to evaluate the timeline for the classic M-Files Desktop ramp-down as we go.

## 3.3 Can I still use the appearance options in Advanced Vault Settings?

Yes. All appearance settings for M-Files Web are used in the new M-Files Desktop. Please note that the appearance settings for M-Files Web are different than those for the classic M-Files Desktop.

Currently, we are not planning to further develop the M-Files Web appearance settings.

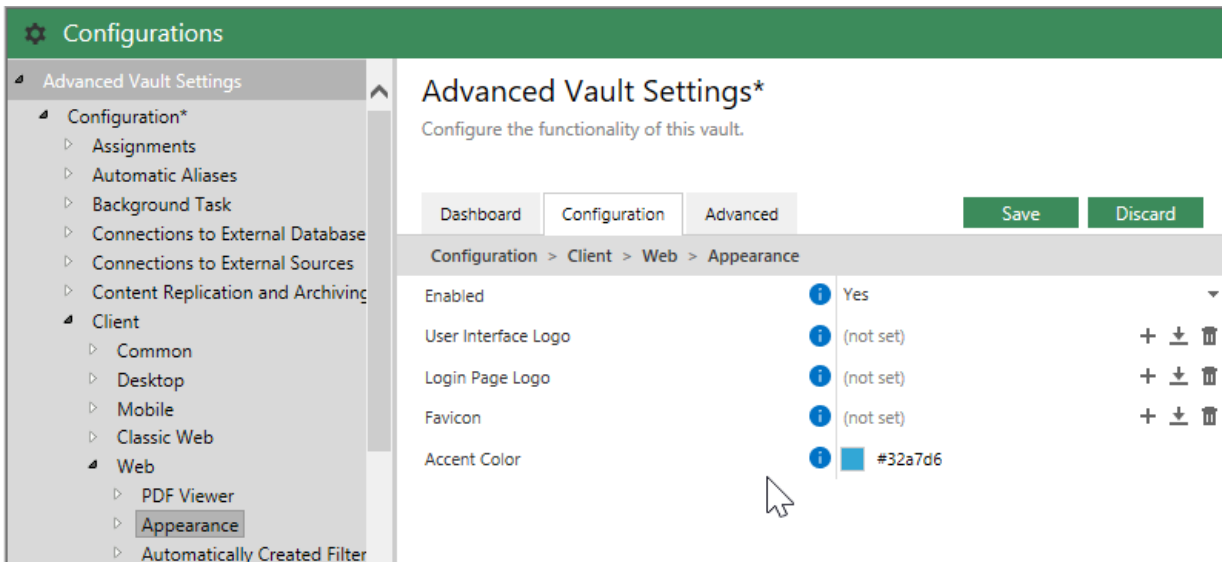


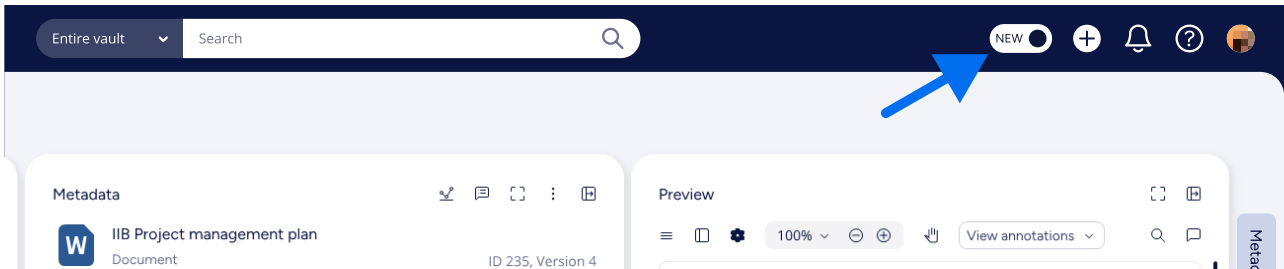
Figure 1: Appearance settings for M-Files Web in Advanced Vault Settings.

### 3.4 Will metadata card configurations continue to work normally?

Yes. Metadata card configurations, including theming rules, will continue to work as they currently work in M-Files Web. Note, however, that even though the metadata card configurations are the same for M-Files Desktop and M-Files Web, M-Files Web – and thus the new M-Files Desktop – do not support all the same functionalities.

### 3.5 Can users select between the classic and new client experience?

Yes. Users can switch between the two client experiences with the **NEW** toggle in the upper right corner of the user interface:



### 3.6 Will all my M-Files UI extensions continue to work?

Both M-Files Web and the new M-Files Desktop use a new, more modern approach to UI applications. This means that the older UI applications that are for the classic M-Files Desktop or the classic M-Files Web will not work in the new M-Files Desktop and M-Files Web.

The development for bringing some of our common UI applications to both new environments is ongoing. For example, these UI applications have been developed:

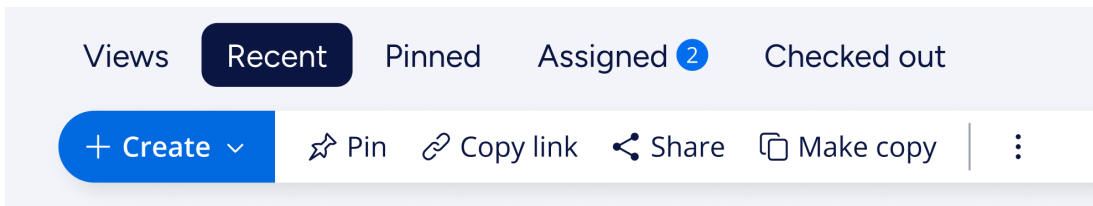
- A version of M-Files Aino that works both in the new M-Files Desktop and M-Files Web was released in the M-Files June '24 Update.
- M-Files Compliance Kit has reached full compatibility in October 2025.
- We also continue to make our wider M-Files solution catalog available for the new clients.

Partners can update their UI applications with the instructions available in [M-Files Developer Portal](#). Support for building new UI applications is available in [M-Files Community](#). We encourage customers to work with their partner or their M-Files services team to discuss updates to any custom applications that have been built for them.

We will continue the development around adding features and functionalities both to the new UI framework and the tooling available for partners and customers. Details of these improvements will be released in M-Files Community.

### 3.7 Will the task area be included?

The main capabilities of the task area are available in the new **task bar**, located below the navigation tabs:



The task bar will get new features and improvements over time. The first release includes these capabilities:

- Creating objects
- Pinning and unpinning objects
- Copying links
- Making copies of objects
- Adding collection members
- Checking in
- Showing UI extension actions (configured separately)

Workflow state action changes and adding shortcuts to the task bar are planned to be included in 2026. For more information about the task bar, refer to [October 2025 update](#) in M-Files Community.

### 3.8 Will advanced search be included?

Advanced search is included in the new M-Files Desktop.

### 3.9 How long will the classic M-Files Desktop be available?

It will take some time and development before the new M-Files Desktop can offer the same value as the classic client. The classic M-Files Desktop will be available until the new M-Files Desktop can offer enough value. We will provide a notice period of at least 12 months before any deprecation takes place.

### 3.10 Which of the classic client's features are available in the new client?

For information on feature availability, refer to [M-Files Client Feature Comparison](#) in M-Files Support Portal.

## 4. Change History

The table describes the changes by document version.

VERSION	DATE	ESSENTIAL CHANGES
1.0	2024/09/09	Initial version.
1.1	2024/11/14	Sections 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9 added.
1.2	2025/10/29	Sections 3.1, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 updated. Added section 3.10.
1.3	2026/01/23	Information about the task bar added.