Human Power and Technology

NTT AT

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NTT Advanced Technology Corporation

WinActor® Ver.7.0, the first edition of its major upgrade, is now on sale. It aims to be a "next-generation RPA" that prevents the user, whether a programmer or a beginner, whether for enterprise use or desktop use, from "Falling into a misstep"

- This full upgrade with faster operation and better UI/UX ensures customer success! -

On January 30, 2020, NTT Advanced Technology Corporation (NTT-AT, headquartered in Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa, Japan; President and CEO George Kimura) will begin to sell Ver.7.0, the latest version of WinActor, an RPA that has been commanding popularity since its commercial sale in 2014.

The Ver.7 series has further advanced WinActor's primary feature - "field-friendly." It aims to be a "next-generation RPA" that supports both beginners and advanced programmers, for both desktop use in the field and large-scale enterprise use. It is so easy to use that the user "will not fall into a misstep."

In the first edition, Ver.7.0, the software architecture has been reconstructed from scratch. This has dramatically increased the operating speed, renovated the user interface (UI), and greatly improved user experience (UX), resulting in a dramatic enhancement of scenario creation productivity that realizes stress-free work environment.

Ver.7.1, which is to be released in the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, will provide a scenario editor for advanced programmers and another editor for those who are totally new to programming. It will also support multiple languages to facilitate global use, and provide an audit log output function to enable enterprise users to verify retrospectively when and what the RPA did.

In addition to these upgrades to core functionality to proactively satisfy sophisticated and diversified customer needs, the Ver.7 series offers extensive scenario creation environments, such as a tutorial, and scenario libraries. It also facilitates the use of existing scenarios by seamlessly working with "WinActor Cast on Call" (cloud-based RPA service), and provides an environment for easy interworking with external cloud services and applications. By expanding the scope of automation in these ways, we are aiming to realize a new world of automation brought about by an RPA that can be easily used and fully exploited by anyone.

To assist customers with their DX (digital transformation) work, NTT-AT provides WinActor and related solutions under the brand name "DXACTORS," and is committed to helping customers reform their work style and improve their operational efficiency.

■ About WinActor

WinActor is an RPA that NTT-AT has developed as a commercial product based on a technology originated by NTT Access Network Service Systems Laboratories. It can accurately reproduce recurring routine tasks or tasks that handle a large volume of data. In addition, it can automate complex operations that have been executed manually as well as data entry that relates to multiple systems, without any need to modify the existing systems. It thus dramatically improves the efficiency, quality, and cost-effectiveness of manual work.

WinActor is one of the RPAs that are in the spotlight in Japan as tools to assist with reforming work style and improving operational efficiency. It is a domestically developed RPA suited to business operations in Japan. It has been introduced by more than 4,500 companies in a wide range of industries, from finance to logistics and retail, and by not only large enterprises but also small businesses and local governments across the country. The number of its users is continuously growing.

■ New functions of WinActor Ver.7.0

•Easy-to-use and refined user interface:

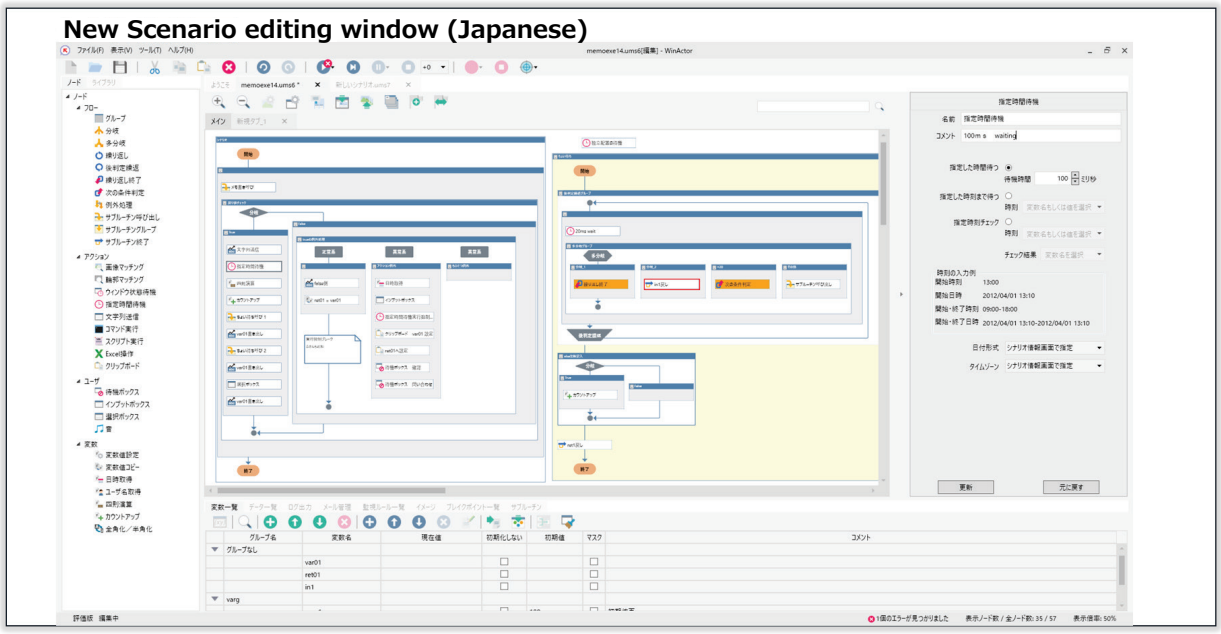
⇨ The user interface has been extensively revised to improve visibility and operability. The aim is to further evolve WinActor's guiding principle - "field-friendly" - and provide an easier-to-user UI/UX. Namely, WinActor prevents the user, whether an advanced programmer or a beginner*, from "falling into a misstep."

The user can choose from three types of scenario editing window mode: "main mode," which is the most refined; "classic mode," which retains the conventional window mode; and "dark mode," which is good for the eyes when the tool is used over a long period.

The "docking window" allows the user to customize the window layout to his/her liking.

*: According to our questionnaire survey, 54% of WinActor users have had no programming experience.

[WinActor new scenario editing window (main mode)]



•Improved scenario creation productivity and debugging efficiency:

⇨ Unlike the previous version, which permits display and editing of only one scenario, the new version allows multiple scenarios to be edited simultaneously. Consequently, the user can perform copy and paste across different scenarios or create a scenario while referring to or comparing with other scenarios, leading to a dramatic improvement in productivity when creating or maintaining scenarios.

The addition of debugging-related buttons and the improvement in displaying error locations in case of an error (indicating an error element in a red frame and displaying the number of errors, etc.) has significantly enhanced the debugging efficiency.

•Dramatic increase in the processing speed over the previous version:

⇨ In the Ver.7 series, the software architecture has been reconstructed from scratch. This has dramatically increased the operating speed over the previous version. This helps not only to automate tasks on desktop but also to dramatically shorten processing time in enterprises that handle large-scale and massive operations, thereby considerably boosting the user's operational efficiency.

•Tutorial renovated for Ver.7.0 realizes the user's successful experience:

⇨ To help users enjoy learning WinActor, the new tutorial, entitled "Let's Create! Hands-on Training," has a story line. The user can learn all necessary processes, from the basics for scenario creation to practical and application-oriented operations, with two

characters who appear in the plot, Mr. Uin (Win) and Mr. Masuta (Master). This enables the user to gain the necessary skills so that he/she will "not fall into a misstep," and command success.

■ **"New World of Automation" brought about by WinActor Ver.7 series**

Ver.7.1, which will be released in the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, will offer the followings:

•New and even more beginner-friendly scenario editor:

⇨ To completely lower the hurdle of scenario creation, a new and even more beginner-friendly scenario editor function (low-code editor) will be added. It eliminates programming-like features as much as possible. Programming-like features, such as "repeat" and "branch," can be easily specified using more intuitive mouse operations and visual expressions. Scenarios can be written without using "variables," the very stumbling block on which beginners are especially likely to trip. Thus, even those with no knowledge about or experience in programming can easily create and maintain scenarios. This will further expand the scope of tasks that can be automated.

•Scenario editor for advanced programmer:

⇨ Advanced programmers will be able to develop scenarios using an ordinary text editor they are familiar with. This facilitates comparison of scenarios for differences, search, and batch replacement - operations that can dramatically improve scenario development productivity.

•Support for multiple languages to allow global use:

⇨ The user will be able to switch languages to suit the execution environment in use. In addition, scenarios created in Japanese can be executed without modification in the environment of another language. Since both WinActor Manager on Cloud and Cloud Library support multiple languages, WinActor can be used around the world (Ver.7.1 supports only Japanese and English).

•Screen OCR that accurately recognizes text on screen:

⇨ Ver.7.1 will have a screen OCR in addition to the image recognition function available in the previous version. Thus, the new version can recognize both images and texts on screen. Accurate identification of information on screen will reduce glitches during scenario execution.

•Audit log that allows retrospective verification:

⇨ When combined with WinActor Manager on Cloud, WinActor will be able to save scenario execution logs in secure cloud storage. By examining such audit logs, auditors can

retrospectively verify when and what WinActor did through a series of automated operation processes. Thus, WinActor can satisfy stringent enterprise requirements.

We will continue to evolve WinActor's guiding principle - "field-friendly" - and pursue an RPA that prevents the user, whether an advanced programmer or a beginner, from "falling into a misstep," thus providing an RPA that can be used and fully exploited by anyone. In collaboration with many partner companies involved in the development of WinActor, we will continue to rapidly and steadily develop products and provide the necessary environment to proactively satisfy sophisticated and diversified customer needs in a wide variety of applications, from large-scale usage by enterprises to desktop usage in small business and local government. Through these efforts, we will help our customers reform their work style and improve operational efficiency.

■ About scenario compatibility

WinActor Ver.7 series features backward compatibility with scenarios created for the Ver.5/6 series, as a fundamental principle. Customers can continue to use their scenario assets.
Note: Details about the time-frame for compatibility with Ver.7 series of past versions scenarios will be announced separately on the NTT-AT website.

[Contact point for inquiries about the product]
NTT Advanced Technology Corporation
Website for inquiries about WinActor
https://www.ntt-at.com/product/rpa-tool/

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