

Borland® Gauntlet™

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is Borland® Gauntlet™?

Borland® Gauntlet™ is a continuous build and test automation system that improves software quality and developer productivity by proactively building and testing code, isolating defects, and reporting on key development metrics. It works transparently with existing version control systems to continuously analyze changes, promoting code to the main line only if it builds successfully and passes all gating tests. Virtual sandboxes confine problematic code until fixed, eliminating broken builds and limiting the impact of defects on other developers. The Gauntlet dashboard provides visibility and historical context for the entire development team, with both real-time snapshots and time series analysis of metrics like build performance, test results, code coverage, and project activity. Gauntlet also offers an open plug-in interface for custom and 3rd party tests, enabling users to automate anything from simple source code analyzers like FindBugs or CheckStyle, to complex security vulnerability detection or license compliance enforcement solutions.

What's in the Gauntlet Early Access?

Borland is making an Early Access release of Gauntlet available so developers can get a sneak peak at the technology and begin evaluating it ahead of the 1.0 release planned for later this year. The main features supported by the Gauntlet Early Access release include:

- **Server-based build and test automation:** Gauntlet will automate the execution of your build scripts, including any Ant tasks you have defined, whenever you check changes into the version control system (or at scheduled intervals).
- **Sandboxing:** Gauntlet will build and test your changes in sandboxes and automatically integrate them into the main code line only if they build successfully and pass all gating tests. Changes that fail to do so will remain in the sandbox until fixed.
- **Reporting and trending:** Gauntlet automatically parses JUnit and code coverage output and associates them with revisions in the version control system. The web dashboard charts these results (alongside other metrics such as build performance) over time to give you a better sense for the stability and quality of your builds.
- **Correlation:** Because Gauntlet measures and tracks results over time, it can give you insight into hidden dependencies by showing you what files most often cause build or test failures when changed – this can be a sign that those files need to be refactored or perhaps locked down with a mandatory code review.
- **Publishing:** Gauntlet provides a convenient web interface to access current and previous distributions, along with their associated artifacts and reports. You can even rebuild your entire project at any revision with the push of a button.

Borland® Gauntlet™ FAQ

- **Replay:** Gauntlet can import data from an existing CVS, Borland® StarTeam®, or Subversion repository, allowing you to build old versions of your software with new tests or dependencies. Replay can also be configured to run continuously, which allows you to use Gauntlet alongside your current SCM or version control system without replacing it.
- **Non-intrusive:** Gauntlet is IDE-agnostic, and developers can use their existing version control/SCM clients to check-in code.

Some of the features that are not available in the Early Access but are planned for the 1.0 release include:

- **Improved User Interface:** Gauntlet Early Access has a very preliminary web interface. The UI will be enhanced for the 1.0 release.
- **Plug-in SDK:** An open API for writing custom Gauntlet plug-ins is planned for the 1.0 release.
- **Documentation and help:** The documentation and help system for Gauntlet is still under construction. In the meantime, quickstart guides and other resources are available at <http://www.borland.com/us/products/silk/gauntlet/resources.html>

Does Gauntlet work with Borland StarTeam?

Yes, the Gauntlet Early Access release will work with StarTeam through the continuous replay feature, which will allow StarTeam users to take advantage of server-based build and test automation, reporting and trending, correlation, and publishing. Sandboxing with StarTeam will be supported in a future release.

Does Gauntlet work with any of the Borland® Silk™ suite of products?

The Gauntlet Early Access release is not integrated with Borland Silk products. Silk support is planned for the 1.0 release.

What do I need to evaluate Gauntlet?

Not much. Gauntlet comes with its own Subversion version control system and repository, so all you'll need is a Windows® or Linux machine to run it on and a Java project with existing build scripts (projects that use Ant and JUnit are ideal). Alternatively, you could use the replay feature to import data from a public CVS or Subversion repository, such as the one for Apache Ant itself: <http://ant.apache.org/svn.html>.

Can I install Gauntlet on top of my existing Subversion repository?

No, for the Early Access release, Gauntlet installs its own Subversion repository, although you can replay data from your existing Subversion repository into Gauntlet's Subversion repository. Configuring Gauntlet to work with an existing repository without using replay may be supported in a future release.

When will Gauntlet be available for purchase and what will it cost?

Gauntlet will be available for purchase as a stand-alone product before the end of the year. Pricing will also be announced later this year.

Borland® Gauntlet™ FAQ

How can I integrate my product or tool with Gauntlet?

The Gauntlet SDK is not yet available to the public. However, if your company would like to participate in the Gauntlet Partner Program, feel free to post a request on the Gauntlet discussion forum at <http://answers.borland.com/category.jspa?categoryID=12> and we'll get the request routed to the right people.

Where can I find more information about Gauntlet?

More information about Gauntlet is available on the Borland Web site at: <http://www.borland.com/gauntlet>.
A Gauntlet discussion forum is available at <http://answers.borland.com/category.jspa?categoryID=12>.

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