



WinSPC 9
ReadMe
(Release 9.0.5)



29200 Northwestern Hwy • Suite 350
Southfield, MI 48034 USA

1-866-4WINSPC • winspc.com

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document introduces the defect fixes included in WinSPC Version 9.0.5. It also summarizes the features and defect fixes included in earlier releases in the WinSPC 9 series.

For instructions on upgrading to Version 9.0.5 from an earlier version of WinSPC, see the **WinSPC 9 Upgrade Instructions** (document version 9.0.3.A). Because the upgrade procedure has changed considerably for the Version 9 series, it is highly recommended that you closely follow the documented upgrade procedure when you upgrade.

For instructions on installing and configuring this release—applicable to new WinSPC installations as opposed to upgrades—see the **WinSPC 9 Installation and Configuration Guide** (document version 9.0.5.A).

These documents are included with your WinSPC 9 materials.

If you have any questions about any information in this document, please contact WinSPC Support at (248) 447-0140 or support@winspc.com.


 New Fixes

FIXES IN RELEASE 9.0.5

Fixes for the following defect numbers are included in this release:

- **125:** When uploading data collected offline, WinSPC now manages any termination of the connection to the main WinSPC database in such a way that the upload resumes and completes properly once the connection is restored.
- **1263:** Translation of the **Synchronization** progress bar now occurs as expected. (This progress bar appears after checking the **Can Work Offline** check box and clicking **OK** on the **Station Setup** window's **Miscellaneous** tab.)
- **1299:** Collecting data offline now results in a local database that is the appropriate size.
- **1487:** Adding a blank value to a list of assignable causes, corrective actions, or notes and then synchronizing an offline WinSPC database and main WinSPC database no longer occasionally duplicates values in the tables for assignable causes, corrective actions, or notes.
- **1492:** Dropdown lists of tag values are now visible and function as expected when collecting offline data.
- **2064:** Free format tag values can now be entered when collecting data offline (even if the tag is configured with a **Response Type** of **Both** and a **List Update** of **None**).
- **2795:** Erroneous values in the **WinSPC.ini** file that prevent WinSPC from finding the database no longer interfere with WinSPC's offline functionality.
- **2981:** Uploading of values in the **PREVTAGVALUE** table now occurs as expected when synchronizing databases after offline data collection.
- **3096:** The circumstances that occasionally caused an **Access Violation** error associated with the **Tags** prompt when loading a collection plan no longer cause this error.
- **3286:** After using **Task Manager** to stop the synchronization of an offline database with a main database, WinSPC now resumes and completes the sync the next time WinSPC is run on the station with the offline database and establishes a connection to the main database.
- **3688:** Report templates configured to group tag values now do so correctly.
- **3693:** A **Cannot change Visible in OnShow or OnHide** error will no longer occasionally occur when clicking on a subgroup or prompting for notes in Data Collection.
- **3742:** New user passwords can now be changed to blank when offline functionality is enabled.
- **3768:** Users who get locked out when working in WinSPC offline are now able to get their account unlocked. The unlock procedure is performed by a qualified supervisor and consists of clicking the **Unlock User** button that appears in the **Access Center** when an offline user has been locked out and, in the **Unlock User** window that appears, supplying the name of the locked-out user and his or her own supervisor credentials. A qualified supervisor, in this case, is a user who has been assigned the **Edit Users and User Groups** permission and is hierarchically senior to the user group to which the locked-out user belongs. (The **Admin** user is a qualified supervisor to all other users.)
- **3792:** When running a Simplified Chinese translation and editing tag information, the circumstances that occasionally caused a **Format '%d' invalid or incompatible with argument** error no longer cause this error.
- **3847:** Clicking **Cancel** on the **Tags** prompt for a collection plan that is configured to prompt for tags (or job tags) on collection plan load no longer occasionally loads the **Collection Plan** window when the user, instead, should be taken back to the window from which they attempted to load the collection plan.
- **3852:** Users can now have WinSPC release 9.0.5 (or newer) installed and install earlier releases in the version 9 series.

- **3854:** The typo "toautomatically" in the *WinSPC Upgrade: Security Credentials Required* window has been corrected to "to automatically".
- **3862:** The *LotSize* and *Total* OLE properties of the *Data Collection* object (used for attribute data collection) now work as intended.
- **3882:** The *Last Week* and *This Week* data filters now work consistently.
- **3888:** Changing the ID of a station in offline mode no longer interferes with proper synchronization when a connection to the main database is reestablished.


 Earlier
Features

FEATURES IN EARLIER VERSION 9 RELEASES

VERSION 9.0.3

1. **Chart-Only Mode for Collection Plans:** Administrators can now setup a collection plan so that no data entry fields are visible. With this setup, when the collection plan is loaded in Data Collection, only the chart(s) will be visible. The setup is accomplished using the new (*none*) option for the **User Interface Type** in the **Collection Plan Setup** window (specifically, the **General** subtab of the **Step Options** tab in this window). The value of this new mode is it improves the display of the collection plan when data entry fields are not needed, such as when data is being collected automatically from a device. (Feature Request Number: 505.)
2. **Improved Active Directory Searching:** The ability to search **Active Directory** for users or user groups from within WinSPC has been enhanced. Now, using the **Find** button on either the **User Group Setup** window's **Defaults** tab or the **System Settings** window's **Active Directory** tab, users can specify more precise conditions and, in so doing, get more targeted results. (Feature Request Number: 2022.)
3. **Ability to Limit the Number of Threads to be Used by the WinSPC Application Server:** In prior releases, the WinSPC Application Server used two threads per application server machine core for caching operations. Particularly for machines with a large number of cores, server admins may want to reduce the number of threads used. They can now do this using a new **MaxCacheThreads** setting in the **WinSPCsvr.ini** file. As documented in this file, the default value for this setting is **0**. When set to this value, two threads per core will be used by the application server as it historically has. When set to a specific number, the total threads used for caching the main database will be limited to that number. (Feature Request Number: 2112.)
4. **WinSPC OLE/API Changes:** Existing applications that utilize the WinSPC API may be impacted by these three changes:
 - a. **Automatic Quiet Mode for an OLE Launch:** When WinSPC is launched through OLE (using any of the WinSPC OLE objects), the splash screen and login screen will now always be hidden. Applications that have previously enabled Quiet Mode for WinSPC for an OLE launch (by adding the "/q" command line option to the WinSPC OLE registry entries) no longer need to do so. If an application needs to display a login screen for the user to have a GUI session in addition to the OLE session, the application can launch WinSPC directly through a shell command (by running the **WinSPC.exe** executable). (Feature Request Number: 780.)
 - b. **LoginFormVisible Property Removed:** This property has been removed from the **DataCollection** OLE object due to the WinSPC OLE launch changes noted above, as the login screen will now always be hidden.
 - c. **LoginAsWindowsUser Property Added:** This new property (added to all four WinSPC OLE objects) allows an application to login to WinSPC as the current Windows user. This property will only function if **WinSPC Active Directory Integration** is enabled, the current Windows user is a WinSPC managed user, and the current station is configured to hide the login screen (configured in the **System Settings** and **Station Settings**). This property is intended to replace usage of the **Username** and **Password** properties to login to the OLE object when WinSPC is configured to automatically login the current Windows user through Active Directory (as in the case when the application does not have access to the current Windows user's password and could not use the normal **Username** and **Password** properties).

VERSION 9.0.2

1. **WinSPC Application Server Specifics Displayed for Easy Reference:** To streamline the installation and upgrade of a WinSPC application server instance, the instance's version number and instance name are now displayed within WinSPC. The number and name can be found on the **Server** tab of the **System Settings** window. (Feature Request Number: 1821.)
2. **Enhanced Installation:** The installation process for WinSPC clients as well as the WinSPC application server has been substantially enhanced. It now provides even better security and simplifies the readying of multiple instances on the same station. As part of the latter enhancement, new capability for both repairing and uninstalling instances is introduced. (Feature Request Number: 861, 1822.)
3. **Enhanced WinSPC Security Utility:** The **WinSPC Security Utility** has been modified to permit the selection of domains. This enables users of the utility to be logged into one domain and grant WinSPC permissions to users and user groups who are members of other domains. (Feature Request Number: 664.)
4. **Single-Click Access to Important Directories:** The WinSPC remote directory, also known as the shared WinSPC folder, is now accessible by clicking a link in WinSPC's **About** window (which itself is accessible from the WinSPC **Help** menu). Similar single-click access has also been added for the **WinSPC Application Directory** and the **WinSPC Data Directory**. (Feature Request Number: 734.)
5. **More Favorable Permissions for the Shared WinSPC Folder:** The requirement to grant the **Authenticated Users** group permission to the shared WinSPC folder has been dropped. When installing the WinSPC application server, all that is now required is that the application server machine itself be granted **Read** level **Security** permission to the shared WinSPC folder (assuming the shared folder is on a machine other than the application server machine). When installing WinSPC on additional WinSPC clients, permissions beyond those applied by the **WinSPC Security Utility** are no longer required. (Feature Request Number: 1847.)

VERSION 9.0.0

6. **A Contemporary New Look:** An update of WinSPC's entire look-and-feel, including every button on every tool bar.
7. **New Archiving Capability:** A reengineering of your ability to archive content and work with archives after-the-fact. The new archiving capability allows for archives to be stored in an Oracle or SQL Server database, scheduled for automatic execution, and accessed using WinSPC's standard analysis and reporting tools. (Feature Request Number: 803.)
8. **Enhanced Security Configuration Utility:** A redesign of the **WinSPC Security Configuration** utility to make applying WinSPC-specific permissions both easier and more flexible.
9. **Active Directory Integration:** Support for **Active Directory**, Microsoft's technology for managing users. This feature facilitates the automatic creation and management of WinSPC users with Active Directory and allows for automated login to WinSPC based on the current Windows user. (Feature Request Number: 248.)
10. **Report Designer Enhancements:** New ability to report on attribute and collection plan data and a comprehensive self-study guide for users to learn the **Report Designer** in depth. (Feature Request Numbers: 546, 670, 823, 856, 927, 936, 1034, 1037, 1050, 1069, 1100, 1108, 1174, 1426, 1591.)
11. **The Attribute Analyzer:** A new tool for analyzing an attribute, similar to the **Variable Analyzer** introduced in the Version 8 series for analyzing a variable. (Feature Request Numbers: 116, 168, 323, 492, 823, 1050, 1214, 1302, 1591.)
12. **New Options for Exporting Data:** New ability to export attribute data and enhanced ability to export variable data. (Feature Request Numbers: 168, 492, 1050.)
13. **Improved Procedures for Forcing Logouts:** Reorganized tools and procedures for forcing the logout of users when required. (Feature Request Number: 772, 1502.)

14. **Streamlined License Management:** Enhanced tools and options for license management tasks. (Feature Request Number: 772, 1502.)
15. **Reengineered Database Migration Procedure:** A new *Migration Wizard* that simplifies and enhances the migration of a WinSPC database.
16. **New User Permissions for the Administrator Window:** A new, more intuitive structure for managing *Administrator* window user permissions.
17. **Expanded Chart Schemes:** A significant reworking of what was previously referred to as color schemes to give users granular control over a greater number of chart types and chart elements. (Feature Request Numbers: 987, 1112, 1269, 1405, 1427, 1551, 1699.)
18. **New Easier-to-Use Administrator Window:** Two new *Administrator* window features: the ability to resize icons and enhanced cut/copy/paste functionality. (Feature Request Numbers: 87, 1268.)
19. **Compatibility with Windows 8.1 and Windows Server 2012 R2:** Internal lab certification of *Windows 8.1* and *Windows Server 2012 R2* for use with WinSPC. (Feature Request Number: 1374.)
20. **More Powerful Data Sets:** Data sets extended to attributes and collection plans. (Feature Request Number: 856.)
21. **New Password Management:** Improved procedure for managing system-wide password policies.
22. **Expanded Support for Excel Devices:** New support for *XLXS* and *CSV* file formats when capturing data user an Excel device. (Feature Request Number: 785.)
23. **Dashboards:** Dashboards are new presentation modes to display and share your data. Customizable dashboards can be used to harness the power of data sets to display a *big screen* view of your WinSPC data. Dashboard visualizations include control charts, box plots, Paretos, tables, statistics, graphical display gauges, and more. (Feature Request Numbers: 74, 1153.)
24. **Chart Drill-Down:** A new drill-down capability when working with charts, permitting you to filter your view of a chart's data with a single mouseclick. (Feature Request Number: 1214.)
25. **Translation Utility:** A new visual localization and language string editing tool enabling you to customize WinSPC for speakers of languages other than English.
26. **Additional Visual Groups:** An increase in the maximum number of visual groups that can be configured for a collection plan from 10 to 20. (Feature Request Number: 47.)
27. **Variable Analyzer Refresh Timer:** Two new *Variable Analyzer* tool bar buttons—*Refresh Now* and *Periodic Refresh*—that give users the ability to refresh the data in the *Variable Analyzer* with updates that occurred since the *Variable Analyzer* was launched. (Feature Request Numbers: 882.)
28. **New Variable Analyzer Chart Types:** A variety of new chart types, including Pareto charts and pie charts, in the *Variable Analyzer*. (Feature Request Numbers: 1302.)
29. **Variable Setup Enhancement:** An automatic default of the *Subrange Size* to **2** whenever the *Subgroup Size* in basic *Variable Setup* is set to **1**. (Feature Request Number: 1538.)
30. **Application Server Enhancement:** An alternative method of connecting a WinSPC application server to a WinSPC database that does not involve a UDP broadcast. (Feature Request Number: 1634.)

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FIXES IN EARLIER VERSION 9 RELEASES

VERSION 9.0.4

- **3850:** When running an archive configured to delete data, only the appropriate notes, assignable causes, and corrective actions are now deleted. (Since, in earlier releases, the potential exists for notes, assignable causes, and corrective actions to be irreversibly deleted during the archiving process when they shouldn't be, customers who archive are encouraged to upgrade to release 9.0.4.)

VERSION 9.0.3

- **3600:** Complete functionality of the WinSPC application server now resumes after an inability to locate the *WinSPC.ini* file.
- **3645:** Users can now toggle off the **Spreadsheet Date Entry** pane in the **Data Collection** window for one variable separately from other variables in the same visual group.
- **3678:** A change to the *on* or *off* state of a collection plan's **Spreadsheet Date Entry** pane in the **Data Collection** window now persists until the state is changed again, even if a subsequent change is not made until a later data collection session.
- **3690:** The WinSPC installer executable should no longer be reported as corrupt or invalid when downloaded using Internet Explorer.
- **3692:** The complexity of a specific customer's domain that prevented integration between Active Directory and WinSPC no longer prevents integration.
- **3703:** The precise circumstances that resulted in an error when exiting WinSPC no longer have this effect. The circumstances include, among other things, content having been copied to the WinSPC client's clipboard.
- **3704:** Data collection in WinSPC now operates at normal speed following the archiving of large amounts of data.
- **3711:** Archive databases can now properly be cached without affecting the cache of the main database.
- **3719:** The OLE properties **DefectIndex**, **DefectName**, **LocationIndex** and **LocationName** properties can now be used as documented.
- **3721:** An edit to a sample value, regardless of how many times that value was previously edited, is now reflected in that value's parent subgroup and on charts.
- **3753:** When loading a collection plan through OLE, an **Invalid Pointer Operation** error could rarely occur. This has been resolved.
- **3757, 3775:** The WinSPC application server now properly shuts down (and saves the current cache) when the server operating system is shut down or restarted.
- **3762:** Active Directory users are now properly auto-populated in WinSPC implementations that employ an Oracle database.
- **3765:** If Active Directory integration is enabled and the current station is configured to hide the login screen, launching WinSPC through OLE on the current station will no longer perform a login automatically. Now, the OLE application will need to supply a specific username and password to login or use the new **LoginAsWindowsUser** OLE property to login as the current Windows User. (For related details, see the new features section above regarding the WinSPC OLE changes.)
- **3769:** Scheduled archives now start and stop as expected.
- **3797:** The misspelling of the word *dashboard* has been corrected.
- **3798:** Complete functionality of the WinSPC application server now resumes after an inability to locate the shared WinSPC folder.

- **3590, 3801:** The WinSPC application server now successfully archives variables with an extremely large amount of data.
- **3662, 3802:** Values entered into data entry cells in the **Data Collection** window now remain visible up to the 9th digit.
- **3664, 3803:** WinSPC now continues to function normally after an attached OLE session exits.
- **3718, 3804:** The current values of the **DefectIndex** and **StepDefectIndex** OLE properties are now accurately returned.
- **3745, 3805:** The **Visible** and **RunHeadless** OLE properties now function as expected regardless of whether they are set before or after login.
- **3661, 3806:** The **Change User Password** window's **Old Password** field now appropriately has no default value.
- **3751, 3807:** The settings related to changing passwords (on the **System Settings** window's **Password Control** tab) now prompt users to change passwords only when it is appropriate.
- **3638, 3808:** Users are now consistently free to leave their passwords unchanged when the **Required password change every** check box (on the **System Settings** window's **Password Control** tab) is unchecked.
- **3825:** The **Active Directory Resolver** window now properly lists unlinked Active Directory users.
- **3826:** The specific rare circumstances that prevented WinSPC from launching through OLE no longer have this effect.

VERSION 9.0.2

- **3585:** In the report designer, the **PointsPerGraph** property of the **WinSPCChart** component now works as expected.
- **3596:** A **Remote Desktop Services** client that suffers a fatal error can now successfully reload the collection plan that was active at the time of the error.
- **3599:** The access violation that sometimes occurred when exiting WinSPC no longer occurs.
- **3615:** Collection plans that contain multiple prompted network devices no longer generate an access violation when exiting Data Collection.
- **3616:** Upgrades no longer occasionally result in two or more report templates having the same name.
- **3619:** The **ReadyForLogin** property of the OLE **DataCollection** object now functions as intended.
- **3620:** The performance of data-intensive reports in environments with an active application server has been enhanced.
- **3621:** The **CollectingAsStationName** and **CollectingAsStationID** properties of the OLE **DataCollection** object now properly set the station alias.
- **3625:** Long lists of **Active Directory** user groups are now imported quickly into WinSPC.
- **3631:** Data can now be filtered by tags when running WinSPC in a Chinese Simplified Windows environment.
- **3636:** Archiving data that contains a large number of tags now takes significantly less time.
- **3647:** Data can now be collected using a virtual **Serial** device in **Remote Desktop Services** (formerly known as **Terminal Services**) environments.

VERSION 9.0.1

- **2835:** Capability parameters in the Variable Analyzer are now consistent with those in legacy report books.
- **3516:** Excel devices will now collect data from an Excel spreadsheet regardless of whether or not that spreadsheet contains hyperlinks.
- **3529:** WinSPC databases created in **SQL Server** that contain one or more tables with a schema that differs from the schema for the primary WinSPC tables can now be upgraded.
- **3531:** Tag values can now be collected from an ODBC device regardless of whether or not that device uses channels.
- **3533:** The format of data in an Excel file is now retained when that data is collected into WinSPC using an Excel device.
- **3541:** **Text File** devices in use prior to an upgrade to WinSPC 9 now continue to function properly following the upgrade.

- **3571:** A collection plan that is configured to collect its data under a station alias now retains that configuration when that collection plan's properties are viewed or edited. (Configuring a collection plan to use a station alias is done in the *Station Selection* pane of the *Collection Plan Setup* window's *Collection Plan Options* tab.)
- **3579:** Semicolons can now be used to separate email addresses when configuring an *E-mail* trigger.
- **3581:** The unique condition that prevented a Version 9 upgrade from adding dashboards and upgrading report templates and data sets no longer causes these effects.
- **3584:** Reports now run considerably faster.
- **3594:** WinSPC installations that contain one or more custom color schemes can now be upgraded.
- **3595:** WinSPC no longer hangs when a network device is prompted for data.

VERSION 9.0.0

- **1303:** Data points on a *Pre-Control* chart in the *Data Collection* window can now be edited without generating an *Access Violation*.
- **2153:** The *Lifetime* notification setting on the *Timed Data Collection* subtab of the *Collection Plan Setup* window's *Step Options* tab can now be configured when variables and attributes are multi-selected on the *Step Options* tab.
- **2229:** Archiving an attribute now results in a *Historical* marker being added to charts for that attribute.
- **2304:** Adding one or more additional defect types to a previously configured attribute but clicking Cancel before those additional types are saved now discards those types as expected.
- **2306:** When collecting attribute data, clicking in the *New Value* field no longer occasionally submits the data to the WinSPC database.
- **2308:** When collecting attribute data, clicking *Done* no longer occasionally generates an *Out of Order Reading Rejected* message.
- **2310:** When collecting attribute data, clicking *Done* no longer occasionally records the data incorrectly.
- **2334:** The drop-down list of characteristics now expands as expected, even when one of the characteristics in that list is an attribute for which keyboard data entry is not allowed.
- **2342:** The *Automatically prompt device* option on the *Timed Data Collection* subtab of the *Collection Plan Setup* window's *Step Options* tab is now properly disabled for attributes.
- **2446:** The list of users and user groups in *WinSPC Security Utility* now properly and efficiently populates, even when the domain contains an unusually high number of users and user groups.
- **2534:** Excel devices now correctly process data from an Excel file that contains merged cells.
- **2616:** Querying an archive that has been converted from *Paradox* (used prior to the WinSPC 8 series) to *Advantage* (used in the WinSPC 8 series) no longer occasionally results in an *Access Violation*.
- **2644:** Custom queries in the *Report Designer* can now be edited when parameters are employed for a report template without generating a *List Index Out of Bounds* error.
- **2784:** Archiving is now considerably faster.
- **2823:** Report templates created using the *Report Designer* wizards now function as expected.
- **2927:** The *Data Listing* report template can now be used with WinSPC databases created in *Oracle 9i* and *Oracle 10g*.
- **2928:** Custom queries in the *Report Designer* can now be created when parameters are employed for a report template without generating an error.
- **2954:** The presence of a *Timed Data Collection Prompt* window indicating time has expired for the collection of attribute data no longer generates an error when *Done* is clicked in the *Data Collection* window.
- **2970:** When creating a new user, the *Inherited* check boxes for *Screen Display* and *Printed Reports* are now checked by default on the *User Setup* window's *Defaults* tab.
- **2994:** The axis labels on *Pareto* charts are now properly aligned.
- **2996:** When working in the *Chart Properties* window from within the *Report Designer*, modifications to the following *Element Visibility* settings on the *General* subtab of the *Line Charts* tab are now saved as expected: *Upper Chart Visible*, *Middle Chart Visible*, and *Lower Chart Visible*.

- **3023:** A user can now change the password of another user only when the following two conditions are met: the user changing the password has been granted the **Edit Users and User Groups** permission; and the user whose password is being changed belongs to a user group that descends from the user group to which the user changing the password belongs.
- **3036:** A user who is authorized to change the password of another user is now also authorized to set the **User must change password at next login** setting for that other user.
- **3038:** Collecting data for an attribute that counts defective units and is configured with a fixed lot size of 1 no longer causes an error when the following sequence of actions is taken: enter 1 in the **New Value** field; left-click in the **Total** field; and click **Done**.
- **3138:** Character limits for the **TEST.TESTNAME** and **TESTFLDR.FOLDERNAME** database fields are now 250 characters, regardless of previous upgrades performed.
- **3203:** A scripting property for the **Historical Control Limits Visible** chart option is now available in the Report Designer.
- **3209:** The savings-related columns in the **Process Improvement Savings** report are now properly highlighted.
- **3222:** Exporting from the **Variable Analyzer to CWR** when one or more tag values are blank now results in the data being properly exported.
- **3319:** When data is being collected by an OLE application, the unique sequence of actions that unloaded a collection plan before displaying a **Prompt For Notes** and **Message Box** trigger when such a trigger should have been displayed no longer has this effect.
- **3395:** In multi-select mode, with a variable and attribute selected, the **Automatically prompt device** check box on the **Timed Data Collection** tab is enabled and should be disabled.
- **3404:** When collecting attribute data, pausing the ribbon by clicking in the **Total** field, editing the data, and then clicking **Done** now results in the edited data being saved to the database as expected.
- **3409:** When collecting attribute data, the following sequence of actions no longer generates an error: enter a **Lot Size** value; press **Enter**; click in the **Total** field and enter a value; click **Done**.
- **3429:** WinSPC can now be run on a Windows 8.1 client.
- **3440:** The specific circumstances that resulted in an **Out of Memory** error in the app server log when caching a large volume of data no longer cause that error.
- **3447:** When a user in **Data Collection** is logged out as a result of the **Automatic logout due to inactivity** interval specified on the **General** tab of the **System Settings** window in the **Administrator** window being exceeded, that user's session is now cleanly and fully terminated.
- **3487:** Device overrides configured on the **Station Setup** window's **Device Overrides** tab are no longer removed by a running of the **DBSweep** utility.
- **3488:** User-defined sample level control tests that involve an evaluation of spec limits (**Self.USL**, **Self.Target**, **Self.USL**) now properly evaluate those limits.