**Rapid Reporter++** 



A non-intrusive exploration note-taking tool, expanded

<https://github.com/jankcat/rapidreporterplusplus>

Built for SBTM software testing, but can be used for more than that.

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# Introduction

Hello! This is Rapid Reporter++:  


Rapid Reporter++ is a tool built carefully in order to enhance the experience of Managing Tests Based on Sessions (*Session Based Test Management[[1]](#footnote-1)*). It aims **boosting good note taking during test sessions** and **building reports that invite analysis and discussion**. Notes are easy to record and easy to debrief.

As a tester, you will find that Rapid Reporter++ lets you master the session, doesn’t interrupt your lines of thought and helps you keep track of notes during tests. It may increase the quality of your testing.

If you are a test lead, manager, or a peer tester, you will find that Rapid Reporter++ provides easy-to-study reports, which can be viewed from a web-browser. My personal experience is that the review of files in this format is more fruitful than other formats of notes or reports I have tried: This application was useful where the other options failed, due to being minimalist. As it doesn’t do much, it doesn’t divert the tester’s attention from the testing session.

# System Requirements

Rapid Reporter++ **requires .NET framework 4.0 or later**. That means it will also **require a Microsoft Windows Operating System**, at least until .NET 4.0 is ported to other platforms.

# Benefits

Some of the benefits of Rapid Reporter++, in no particular order:

* One single standalone file - Requires **no** installation, keep it in your disk-on-key and use it in any computer (*that complies with the* [*System Requirements*](#_System_Requirements)).
* Always-on-top interface - No more switching windows or looking for the note taking application.
* Customizable background color and transparency - Blend Rapid Reporter++ into the background or make it pop!
* Every note has a type, a timestamp, and you can add two types of attachments: a screenshot, or a larger note (PlainText Note).
* There is no editing or tinkering with the notes of the session - This helps preserve the testers thought process.
  + This allows the tester to tell the story of his session in the order and with the details the session happened.
* The whole session, including attachments, is recorded in an HTML file which provides portability and readability.
* A progress bar shows the tester how close the end of the session is. There are no noisy alarms, testers own their session time.

# Basic Usage

## Testing Notes

The first thing a tester does when opening Rapid Reporter++ is enter a few special notes: His name (Reporter), Session ID, Charter, Environment details, and Version numbers.

After these are entered, Rapid Reporter++ starts advancing the session timer (*default is 90 minutes*). The session does not really end when the timer is over. The timer is only an indication, and testers can decide to stop before or after time is up.

To keep notes, a testers can **enter notes in the notes line**, and **change the type by pressing the up or down arrow** (*even if they’re currently entering a note*).

Each note entered is saved by pressing the enter key.

There are two types of attachments: Screenshots and PlainText Notes. Pressing the Screenshot button will, by default, capture all monitors and then allow the user to drag over a selection. The selected area (encompassed by a red box) will be saved to the session. The PlainText Note button will show a dialog where users can enter additional information. This has multiple uses: Adding more information to a one-line note, pasting test results or data to augment a one-line note, or any other use that a tester finds useful.

## Session Ending

After the closing the application via the Save button in the top right corner, Rapid Reporter asks the tester where they would like to save the HTML file. Anywhere that windows can save files, RR++ can save session, including SharePoint folders and Home drives. The session folder will be the folder from which Rapid Reporter was executed, unless you pick a different folder.

# Detailed Usage: How to

## Enter a note

1. Write your note in the note area (*the big blank space in the middle of the app*)
2. The note is saved into the session when the enter key is pressed.
3. Press the up or down arrow to iterate between the note types. This can be done before the actual note is written or while it is being written. A note type cannot be changed from within Rapid Reporter after the enter key is pressed.

## Attach screenshots or plaintext notes

1. Attachments can be added to a note before the note they relate to is written or while it is being written. A note attachment cannot be changed from within Rapid Reporter after the enter key is pressed.
2. Press any of the two attachment buttons to take a screenshot or to add an extended note.

Screenshots:

* 1. By pressing the button, the user will be able to click and drag across a portion of the screen to select an area to screenshot, much like the Snipping Tool in Windows.
  2. Pressing the button while holding the SHIFT key will open the screenshot for editing in MS Paint. This is useful when you are interested in adding a note or performing extended cropping on the screenshot.
  3. Pressing the button while holding the CTRL key will save the entire screen to a screenshot, including all monitors if multiple are attached to the computer.

Plaintext notes:

1. These notes can be used to add log info, error messages, etc.
2. Any HTML typed here will show up as typed in the output file. Eg <b> will not make bold text, but will show <b> in the session output.

## Edit a note

Notes cannot be edited from within Rapid Reporter’s interface.

There is no much reason to edit it or fix it. In fact, if there is a reason to fix the note, this would be important material for the session debrief, so mistakes and confusions in notes are worth being kept.

## Changing RR++ Color or Transparency

Rapid Reporter++ allows users to change the transparency or color of the application. This is useful in ensuring that Rapid Reporter++ stays out of mind, and that the tester’s focus remains on the test at hand.

To change transparency, use the slider on the very left of Rapid Reporter++. Slide down to increase transparency, slide up to decrease transparency.

To change the color of Rapid Reporter++, right click anywhere in the app, except for the Save button or the Note Taking area, and select “Pick Color”. A dialog will appear with some preset color options, and the ability to set a custom color.

Note: These changes are persistent: Rapid Reporter++ remembers these settings each time the application is opened!

## Completing a Session

To complete a session, press the Save button in the top right corner of Rapid Reporter++. This will ask you where you would like to save the session, create a lovely HTML file, and exit the application.

Note: If you accidently press “Cancel” on the Save File dialog, the HTML file will still generate. The default name will be used for the file.

## Starting a New Session without Exiting

To start a new session without exiting Rapid Reporter++, right click the Save button and select “Save and Start New Session”. This will finish your current session, ask you to save it to an HTML file, and start a brand new session.

## Pausing and Resuming Sessions

Note: Once an HTML file has been generated, the session cannot be resumed. A new session should be started in this case.

To pause a session, simply right click the Save button and press “Pause Session”. This will timestamp your session with a pause time and exit the application. Make sure to leave any attachments (images and plaintext notes) in the same folder as the session’s csv file, or they will be lost when resuming the session!

To resume a session, open Rapid Reporter++ and do not start a new session (do not enter a Reporter, Charter, etc.). Right click the Save button and press “Resume a Session”.

## Updating RR++

Rapid Reporter++ will automatically check <https://github.com/jankcat/rapidreporterplusplus/releases> for new versions on start-up. If one is available, a message will be shown prompting the user to update. If the user presses “Ignore Update”, they will not be prompted for the same version again. When a new version is released beyond that, they will see a prompt. If they would like to update sooner, right clicking the application will show a context menu, of which “Check for updates…” is an option.

1. Information about Session Based Test Management, or SBTM, can be found at <http://satisfice.com/sbtm> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)