

# **OpenText™ Exstream™**

## **Communications Designer Release Notes**

Release 16.6.0

**OpenText™ Exstream**  
**Communications Designer Release Notes**  
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**This documentation has been created for software version 16.6.0.**

It is also valid for subsequent software versions as long as no new document version is shipped with the product or is published at <https://knowledge.opentext.com>.

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# Contents

- 1 Introduction ..... 5
- 2 About Exstream Communications Designer ..... 6
  - 2.1 New features in version 16.6.0 ..... 6
- 3 Packaging and documentation ..... 9
  - 3.1 Related documentation ..... 9
- 4 Supported environments and compatibility ..... 10
  - 4.1 Communications Designer support information ..... 10
    - 4.1.1 Supported operating systems ..... 10
    - 4.1.2 Software requirements ..... 10
- 5 Installation and upgrade notes ..... 12
- 6 Known issues ..... 13
  - 6.1 Known issues and workarounds for Communications Designer ..... 13



# 1 Introduction

These Release Notes provide an overview of Exstream Communications Designer 16.6.0, including new features, delivery information, and supported platforms. OpenText recommends that you read these Release Notes in conjunction with the user documentation. If any conflicts exist, the Release Notes supersede the other documentation.

We also recommend that you check My Support (<http://support.opentext.com>) for any software or documentation updates that may have been posted after the initial release of this product.

Revision date	Sections revised	Description of revisions
2019-04-23	First release	All new content

## 2 About Exstream Communications Designer

Welcome to the first release of Communications Designer.

This section provides descriptions of the features that available in Communications Designer 16.6.0.

### 2.1 New features in version 16.6.0

This release of Communications Designer adds new functionality for the design environment and introduces the ability to create and manage data sources. It also includes improvements to documentation and bug fixes.

The following table provides a summary of the new features and functionality changes in this release.

New and updated features in version 16.6.0

Component	What's new
Asset management	<p><b>Configure data sources for use with a communication</b></p> <p>Communications Designer now supports configuring and associating data sources with a communication directly in the web environment.</p> <p>The new asset management interface in Communications Designer lets you create and configure new data sources or edit existing ones. You can then use Mapping View to map variables to data areas in a sample data file. In addition to using variables from a design pack, you can also create new variables, which can then be used to map a sample file or as design objects in a communication.</p> <p>For more information about configuring data sources, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p>

## New and updated features in version 16.6.0, continued

Component	What's new
Design	<p><b>Add interactive areas for Empower users</b></p> <p>To enable creating output that supports customer interactions, Communications Designer now supports adding interactive areas to designs that can then be edited in Empower Editor.</p> <p>In Design View, you can specify interactive properties on the following objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Text boxes</li><li>• Embedded text boxes</li><li>• Inline text within text boxes</li><li>• Variables</li></ul> <p>To enable interactive areas in customer output, you must include an Empower output queue in the Design Manager application that you package for use with Communications Designer.</p> <p>For more information about adding interactive areas for Empower users, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p> <p>For information about adding output queues to an application, see the <i>Creating Output</i> section in <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Design and Production Online Help</i>.</p>
Design	<p><b>New approval workflow options in the Communications Designer interface</b></p> <p>To streamline the approval process, Communications Designer now includes simple UI controls that let you move resources through the approval workflow directly from the Communications Designer interface.</p> <p>Communications Designer requires that all of the communications objects in a communication, including resources such as images and data sources, be approved before they can be processed by the engine.</p> <p>You can use the new UI controls to move your communication through the approval process. The basic workflow states are draft, submitted, approved, and rejected. Your ability to move resources through the approval workflow is determined by access privileges within your organization's Exstream environment. As a communication moves through the workflow, you can also see the workflow history of each communication object in the <b>History</b> tab in the <b>Properties</b> panel in Structure View.</p> <p>For more information about using the approval workflow, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p>
Design	<p><b>Directly edit components in Design View</b></p> <p>You can now directly open and edit components in Design View.</p> <p>In Structure View, you can select a page or email object to see the components that are used in that design. You can then open the component directly in Design View and make updates to it. Opening a component in Design View automatically locks it for editing.</p> <p>In Design View, you can make changes to any component property that is applicable to all instances of that component. Instance-specific component properties can be modified only when a specific instance of a component is accessed from within a design. The properties that you can modify in Design View are dependent upon the type of design object that makes up that component.</p> <p>For more information about using components, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p>

## New and updated features in version 16.6.0, continued

Component	What's new
Design	<p><b>Mark page objects as flow pages in Structure View</b></p> <p>When you create page designs in Structure View, you can now specify whether a selected page is a flow page.</p> <p>To indicate that a page will be used as a flow page that will appear in the output only as needed, select the new <b>Flow page only</b> check box on the <b>General</b> tab of the <b>Properties</b> panel. Flow pages are included in the <b>Structure map</b> of a communication, but do not appear in the output unless they are used.</p> <p>For more information about creating flowing designs, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p>
Design	<p><b>Specify names for design objects</b></p> <p>To help you easily identify design objects in your designs, you can now specify a name for each of the following types of design objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Text box</li><li>• Table</li><li>• Image</li><li>• Frame</li></ul> <p>To specify a name for a design object, select that object and then enter a name in the new <b>Name</b> box on the <b>General</b> card in the properties panel.</p> <p>For more information about creating design objects, see <i>OpenText™ Exstream™ Communications Designer Online Help</i>.</p>



## 3 Packaging and documentation

Communications Designer is available as a separately installable component of the Exstream platform, installed using the Exstream WAR file. Software downloads for the Exstream WAR file are available on My Support (<http://support.opentext.com>).

The online help for Communications Designer is integrated with the software. Designers using the Communications Designer browser-based design environment can access the online help by pressing **Alt + F1** in the Communications Designer interface.

Additional information about setting up the Exstream environment is available in the *Using Exstream Web Applications* section in the Exstream Design and Production documentation. Users can access this documentation by clicking **Help > Search Documentation** on the Menu bar in Design Manager.

### 3.1 Related documentation

Documentation for the Exstream platform is available at <https://knowledge.opentext.com/go/ExstreamDocumentation>.

## 4 Supported environments and compatibility

This section provides details about supported platforms, systems, and versions for Communications Designer.

For support information about other components in the Exstream environment, see the release notes for the following components:

- Exstream platform
- Design and Production
- Content Author
- Empower

All release notes for Exstream are available on My Support at <http://support.opentext.com>.

### 4.1 Communications Designer support information

This section provides information about the supported operating systems and software requirements for Communications Designer.

#### 4.1.1 Supported operating systems

Communications Designer can be installed on Windows and Linux operating systems. For information about the supported operating systems, see the *Exstream Release Notes*.

#### 4.1.2 Software requirements

The following software is required for installing and using Communications Designer:

- Exstream platform

For information about the system requirements for the Exstream platform, see the *Exstream Release Notes*.

- One of the following:

- Apache Tomcat application server
- Apache Web Server
- NGINX application server
- At least one of the following web browsers:
  - Google Chrome, latest stable release
  - Mozilla Firefox, latest stable release
  - Microsoft Internet Explorer version 11
  - Microsoft Edge

## 5 Installation and upgrade notes

For information about installing Exstream, see the *OpenText Exstream: Installation Guide*.

For additional installation information for Communications Designer, see *Installation and Upgrade Information* in the Exstream Design and Production documentation.

## 6 Known issues

**Note:** The issues that are reported here are not intended as statements of future support or limitations. Some issues might be related to the design of a particular application and therefore will not affect you. Some issues are defects that have already been corrected, and will be available in a future maintenance release of the software. Some issues are expected behavior, and therefore will not change in future maintenance releases. To find out whether these issues have been resolved, see the version-specific release notes or maintenance notes that accompany each release.

### 6.1 Known issues and workarounds for Communications Designer

Component	Issue	Workaround
Design	If a user selects the <b>Read alternate text</b> setting in the accessibility read options for a component, then this setting is not honored in HTML (email) output.	No workaround.  Reading alternate text is not a supported setting for email designs. However, because the same components can be used in both page and email designs, the <b>Read alternate text</b> setting is enabled in email designs so that users can select this option for components that are also used in page designs. The Exstream engine ignores this setting when producing HTML (email) output from email designs.
Design	When a user signs out of Communications Designer from Design View, the resource—design or component—that the user was editing remains locked in CAS.	To unlock a resource, users must return to Structure View by clicking the <b>Save changes</b> or <b>Discard changes</b> button in the design area before they sign out of Communications Designer.
Asset management	When switching to the <b>Communication asset management</b> widget, there is a 6-second delay before the <b>New</b> button becomes active.	No workaround.
Asset management	When a variable created in the data source editor is included in the design of a communication, the sample data is not displayed when the user clicks the <b>Variable sample data</b> button.	No workaround.
Asset management	Depending on the structure within a JSON sample data file, variables may not propagate when mapped in the data source editor.	No workaround.

Component	Issue	Workaround
Asset management	When creating or editing a data source, if a user clicks outside of the Properties panel, any changes are discarded without being prompted to save.	To retain any changes, be sure to click either <b>Create</b> or <b>Save</b> (depending on the situation) before navigating outside of the Properties panel.
Asset management	When scrolling through a data source in Mapping View, some browsers display blank areas or erratic movement of the text.	No workaround within the browser. Switching to another browser may provide better results.
Asset management	When a communication that is associated with an XML data source created in the data source editor is opened in Simulation View, an error occurs.	No workaround.
Asset management	For a simulation, Communications Designer will only use the latest sample file associated with a template. You cannot use multiple samples files for a single Communications Designer simulation job configuration.	Create a separate Design Manager package file for each sample file that you want to use with your communication simulation.
Asset management	When creating a rule in the Design interface, variables created in the data source editor are not available for use.	No workaround.
Asset management	When creating a variable name in the data source editor, using some non-Latin-based DBCS characters results in an error message.	No workaround.
Asset management	Keyboard navigation in the data source editor is still under development, with limited current functionality.	Use a computer mouse, touchpad, trackball, or other pointing device.