As technology advances, Instron® makes the best effort to stay on the forefront of innovation and provide our customers with the best solutions for mechanical testing. Bluehill Universal, Instron's latest version of static testing software, is built for touch interaction, helping you and your organization take advantage of faster and simpler workflows, while maintaining the power and flexibility users expect from Bluehill software. As we introduce new versions of software, we recommend that users stay as up to date as possible to take advantage of the latest features, bug fixes, and operating systems.

There are a number of feature additions and enhancements in Bluehill Universal that optimize your testing workflow to save you time, make you more productive, and allow you to create the most advanced testing setups.

What's staying the same?

Much of the workflow and file structure of Bluehill Universal remains the same as it did in Bluehill 2. Building a method, running a test, and setting up calculations should all feel familiar. In addition to updating the look and feel of Bluehill Universal, we have added several new features, and have optimized the user experience of many of the existing Bluehill 2 features. We understand that operator training is a concern of many labs and have made an effort to minimize that burden with our evolving versions of Bluehill software.

What are the biggest changes?

Verbiage: We have made some small word changes to better reflect industry norms and user preferences. Most notably, the following words have changed from:

- Bluehill 2 > Bluehill Universal
- Load > Force
- Extension > Displacement
- Real Channels > Physical Measurements
- Derived Channels > Virtual Measurements.

Transducers: Transducers now have customized set-up within the Admin page to change information such as the name, connector, unit group, and limits information. User-defined transducers, such as temperature or displacement devices, can be used to create virtual measurements that can be used for calculations and graphs.

Navigation: Some sections of the method-building screen have changed location to better reflect the most common workflows.

Converting Methods: Opening a Bluehill 2 method in Bluehill Universal automatically converts the method file to the latest version of Bluehill. All method parameters get migrated, with the exception of user calculations and some TestProfiler methods, which should be set up again in Bluehill Universal.

Expression Builder: User calculations can now be set up with an easy-to-use module called "Expression Builder" which provides the user with variables and inputs from the test to create functions, domain starts and ends, and calculations.

TestProfiler: TestProfiler has a new and improved user interface focused around blocks, looping, and logic.

Exports: Bluehill 2 supports exporting to an Access database (.mdb) and ASCII files (.rlt and .raw) with limited configurability. Bluehill Universal supports exporting to TrendTracker (SQL database) and ASCII files (.csv) with extensive configurability options.

Replay: Replay allows you to apply a new set of calculations and virtual measurements in a method file to data in an existing sample file.

Operating System: Bluehill 2 runs on Windows XP, and some later versions run on Window 7. Bluehill Universal is compatible with Windows 7 Pro and Windows 10 Pro (64 Bit).

Touch Interface: Bluehill Universal's user experience is optimized when used with a touch monitor side mounted on the test frame as opposed to a traditional desktop PC.

VersaChannel: VersaChannel is no longer supported in Bluehill Universal. Other analog transducer input options exist to replace this.

Available Service tools for migration:

As a part of your software upgrade, your Field Service Engineer will transfer up to 5 of your existing test methods. It is recommended that all software upgrades be purchased with training to ensure operators and method-builders are up to speed on the latest features. On-site training is typically provided with new versions of software. Additional training and classes are available at any time, either on your site or at an Instron® site.

Support for Legacy Software Moving Forward:

As we release new versions of software, we continue to provide technical support for older versions of software, but we do not make any further feature additions, enhancements or bug fixes unless they are safety critical. Please understand that this is our best effort to ensure that you and your organization are getting the most out of your current software solutions from an operating system, feature, and support point of view.