Instron Bluehill® LE Software to Phase 4 – Discontinued Product

This is a formal notice to inform you that Instron's Bluehill LE software entered Product Life Cycle Phase 4 – Discontinued Product on July 1, 2024. "Discontinued Product" is the final phase of the Product Life Cycle and means that equipment will receive limited support and no further updates of any kind. The section below details the conditions which apply to a product in Phase 4.

Instron's Product Life Cycle Policy is intended to help you plan the maintenance and ultimate evolution of your Instron test system. Notices are issued at life cycle milestones to inform you of pending changes and provide recommendations on how to move forward.

Affected Systems
- All Instron or Satec test systems using Bluehill LE

Upgrade Recommendation
Bluehill® Universal Upgrade

Bluehill Universal is Instron's latest generation materials testing platform. Bluehill Universal features new ways to optimize testing and is fully compatible with the latest Windows operating systems. Existing test methods and test data can be easily converted in most circumstances. For quoting details, reach out to your Instron Sales representative. *See next page Bluehill Universal product details.*

Bluehill LE Support in Product Life Cycle Phase 4

The following conditions apply to Bluehill LE software in the "Discontinued Product" life cycle phase:
- No further software updates addressing critical or non-critical bugs
- No further additions of features or enhancements
- No support for newer PC hardware or operating systems
- No support for newer Instron hardware accessories
- Technical support assistance will be offered on a reasonable effort basis

Please note: System services, such as preventative maintenance and verifications, are still available.

Take action now to better position your laboratory:
- Ensure equipment software is supported and is compatible with the latest, most secure operating systems
- Increase operator productivity with user-friendly software
- Reduce risk of invalid testing with revision history and security features

Bluehill Software Evolution
Instron's Bluehill LE software was released in 2014 and moved out of production and into Phase 2 in 2021. After 3 years of limited support, Bluehill LE will be discontinued. As you know, Instron equipment is built to last and Bluehill LE has become an integral tool for your lab's productivity. However, the evolution of technology has put your testing capabilities at risk as updates to the latest Windows® 10 and 11 operating systems and other software tools are not supported by Bluehill LE. As your organization migrates to the latest version of Windows, please consider the necessary action to continue operating your Instron equipment.

BLUEHILL® UNIVERSAL

Simpler, Smarter, Safer Materials Testing Software

Bluehill Universal is the testing industry's most advanced software platform. The portrait layout and touchscreen interface feature an outstanding visual design that improves user experience while also incorporating safety features. Intuitive workflows make it easy to train users, simplify operator training, and allow you to start testing faster than ever before. Below are some of the features you can look forward to implementing in your lab.

Revision History

Revision history allows users to view the full revision history of Bluehill methods, tested samples, and report templates. Each revision contains the details of the affected item, including a time stamp, both the previous and the new value, and the name of the user who made the change.

QuickTest

For when you need results fast, QuickTest allows users to enter a few simple parameters and run their test within seconds.

ExpressionBuilder

Build your own custom functions using a list of variables, measurements, and raw data. For example, users can set test speed as a function of specimen width and thickness or create a custom raw data expression such as subtracting out drag force when testing in a fluid bath.

Pass/Fail

Allows users to add a test component to the workspace to quickly visualize if a test passed or failed based on the acceptance criteria set in the test method.

Choice Inputs

Choice inputs provide users with a preconfigured list of options that minimize data entry time and reduce the risk of error for commonly used inputs, such as operator name, color, or specimen type. Each choice can be linked with other parameters, such as test rate or dimensions.

Traceability Module

Bluehill Universal's Traceability Module (optional) enables users to meet the audit requirements associated with FDA 21 CFR Part 11, ISO 17025, Nadcap, and others. Through seamless integration of electronic approvals and an automated audit trail, this powerful add-on combines with Bluehill's built-in security to provide unmatched data traceability.

TrendTracker

With the TrendTracker add-on, Bluehill Universal exports results and associated sample information directly to Bluehill Central's SQL database. From the TrendTracker module in Bluehill Central, users can easily query relevant data sets to analyze process control metrics of your testing.

Customizable Exporting

Export anything post-test, from a professional report with graphs and tables, to customized text files to integrate with your Lab Information Management System.

Security

Bluehill Security allows a Lab Manager to configure permission in the software, granting access to trained personnel, such as super users, and limiting access where needed. Bluehill Security allows login permissions to be configured directly in Bluehill, or linked to the local Windows login or Windows Active Directory.