

GRANTA MI™ version 8.1

GRANTA MI 8.1

System Requirements

GRANTA MI™ is the leading system for materials information management in engineering organizations. It enables you to control, analyze, and securely share critical corporate data on materials and processes, managing the materials information lifecycle.

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1 Introduction

In this document, configurations are referred to as either **certified** or **supported**.

- **Certified** means a full set of functional regression tests have been run on this configuration.
- **Supported** means some tests have been run on this configuration, and/or it is a configuration for which we would investigate issues and, where possible, provide fixes.

Granta's general support policy is to make every effort possible to get the software working in the environment in which it has been deployed, irrespective of whether it has been certified for or tested in that type of environment. However, if a reported issue appears to be due to the environment in which the software is running rather than a fault with the software itself (i.e., the fault cannot be reproduced in a certified environment), then it may not be possible to resolve the issue and any attempt to do so may require extended reciprocal support from the customer's IT organization, and fees may be payable.

2 Software requirements

The general prerequisites for running GRANTA MI are:

- **Microsoft® Windows Server® 2008 SP2** or later with all critical Windows® updates at time of release; see Section 2.1 and Section 2.2
- Microsoft SQL Server® 2008 or later; see Section 2.3
- A web browser; see Section 2.4
- Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) ; see Section 2.5
- Microsoft .NET Framework Runtime v4.5.2 (included in the installation package)

In addition to mandatory components required for the installation of GRANTA MI, there are additional third-party components that can improve the user experience or functionality of GRANTA MI. These are covered in Section 2.7, Additional third-party software considerations.

2.1 GRANTA MI application and web server

The following table lists the supported platforms for hosting the MI:Server application and the web server that enables browser access to your GRANTA MI database via GRANTA MI:Viewer:

Table 1. Supported GRANTA MI application and web server platforms

	64-bit	32-bit
Windows Server 2012 R2	Certified	n/a
Windows Server 2012	Supported	n/a
Windows Server 2008 R2	Supported	n/a
Windows Server 2008 SP 2	Supported	Supported
Windows 8.1	Supported ^a	Supported ^a
Windows 8		
Windows 7 Professional		

a. This configuration is only supported in trial installations

2.2 GRANTA MI client applications

The following table lists the supported platforms for GRANTA MI PC client applications such as MI:Toolbox and MI:Admin.

Table 2. Supported GRANTA MI PC client application platforms

	64-bit	32-bit
Windows Server 2012 R2	Certified	n/a
Windows Server 2012	Supported	n/a
Windows Server 2008 R2	Supported	n/a
Windows Server 2008 SP 2	Supported	Supported
Windows 8.1 Windows 8 Windows 7 Professional	Supported	Supported

2.3 GRANTA MI databases

The following tables show the supported 64-bit and 32-bit operating system and SQL Server platforms for hosting GRANTA MI databases.

Table 3. Supported 64-bit and 32-bit platforms for hosting GRANTA MI SQL Server databases

64-bit	SQL Server Version					
	2014	2014 Express	2012	2012 Express	2008 R2	2008 R2 Express
Windows Server 2012 R2	Certified	Certified	Certified	Certified	Certified	Certified
Windows Server 2012	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Windows Server 2008 R2	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Windows Server 2008 SP2	-	-	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported
Windows 8.1 Windows 8 Windows 7 Professional	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a

32-bit	SQL Server Version					
	2014	2014 Express	2012	2012 Express	2008 R2	2008 R2 Express
Windows Server 2008 SP2	Supported	Supported	Supported	Supported	-	-
Windows Server 2008	-	-	-	-	Supported	Supported
Windows 8.1 Windows 8 Windows 7 Professional	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a	Supported ^a

a. This configuration is only supported in trial installations

2.4 Supported web browsers

The GRANTA MI core web applications MI:Viewer and MI:Remote Import can be used on current and recent major releases of Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Chrome.

Applications built on the Granta's new web platform technology, including User Manager, MI:Explore, and MI:BoM Analyzer, take advantage of the improved display capabilities and performance of newer browsers, and so users of those applications will need the minimum browser versions indicated below.

		Microsoft Internet Explorer	Mozilla Firefox	Google Chrome
Core MI apps	MI:Viewer MI:Remote Import	Supported on IE7 & later; certified on IE11	Supported	Supported
Web Platform apps	User Manager MI:Explore v2.0 MI:BoM Analyzer v1.0	IE v11	Not recommended ^a	Chrome v34

^a Severe performance issues caused by a known bug in Firefox Version 34 ([Bug 1015474](#)) mean that we do not recommend using any Granta web platform apps on Firefox at this time.

2.5 Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS)

Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) is an optional component of the Windows operating system. It is used to host the GRANTA MI website and must be installed before installing GRANTA MI:Viewer. If your operating system supports IIS 7 or later, then the Installation Manager will attempt to install and configure IIS for you.

2.6 Virtualization platforms

GRANTA MI has been installed on Microsoft Hyper-V® 2008 R2, VMware® ESXi™ v4 and v5 and Citrix® XenServer® v5.6 and v6.0. The virtual environment must be configured to have the same resources available as a typical physical server for running GRANTA MI.

GRANTA MI can also run in Microsoft Virtual PC and VMWare Workstation™ for limited size pilot projects. It is not certified or tested in other virtualization environments, but is known to run without issue in Amazon EC2®.

2.7 Additional third-party software considerations

In addition to mandatory components required for the installation of GRANTA MI, there are additional third-party components that can improve the user experience or functionality of GRANTA MI. The following components are not mandatory but should be considered by deployment planners.

2.7.1 Indexing software

iFilters ('indexing filters') allow the text content of different files types imported into a GRANTA MI database to be indexed, enabling those files to be searched in MI:Viewer. Storage and display of files does not require an iFilter, only searching.

If Microsoft® Office is not installed on your GRANTA MI server, then Office iFilters will need to be installed on the MI:Server host to allow any .docx, .pptx, or .xlsx files in the GRANTA MI database to be searched. Office iFilters are included in Microsoft Office Filter Packs, which can be downloaded from the Microsoft Download Center [here](#). Note that Granta cannot guarantee the working of any third party iFilter.

Adobe® PDF files stored in GRANTA MI are indexed using a custom indexer installed in an `indexers` subfolder within the MI:Server software installation folder. In a typical installation, this will be:

```
C:\Program Files\Granta\GRANTA MI\Server\bin\indexers
```

It is not necessary to install any third-party PDF iFilters for indexing/searching PDF files in your database. Adobe PDF iFilters are not compatible with GRANTA MI, and will not be used even if they are available on the server: the custom indexer supplied with MI:Server will be used instead.

2.7.2 Microsoft® Office

GRANTA MI is tested with Microsoft Office 2007 and above.

3 Typical hardware requirements for GRANTA MI

3.1 GRANTA MI server

GRANTA MI is deployed with a wide variety of types of database, user audience, and patterns of use. The hardware requirements listed below are guidelines for a typical small enterprise using a database containing an even proportion of data types, with an even spread of tool usage by users. Other deployments may require more processor speed for the same number of users, and memory requirements may also vary.

Table 4. Server Hardware Requirements

Component	Minimum Requirement	Notes
Processor (per tier)	Intel® Xeon® x3440 2.53 GHz or better	The performance of the GRANTA MI application tier scales linearly with processor performance and with concurrent usage: a faster processor will always yield better performance. In configurations where tiers are hosted

Component	Minimum Requirement	Notes
		<p>together, it is recommended (although not required) that each tier be able to use an individual processor or processor core.</p> <p>The processor recommended here is a guide for reasonable level of performance; it does not indicate a requirement for brand or architecture, and is not necessarily appropriate for all situations. We recommend using 64 bit processors where databases are large, or where there are many installed databases (more than 10, for example).</p>
RAM	8 GB min; 16 GB recommended	<p>The application tier requires a minimum amount of memory to initialize, the amount of which is strongly dependent on the content of the database(s), and an additional ~30MB per concurrent user. The minimum and recommended numbers given here should be adequate for typical installations.</p> <p>In cases where the amount of memory is limited (e.g. a 32-bit or virtual environment) and/or the number and size of databases is large, Granta can estimate the amount of memory required (this will require a detailed analysis of the database structure to be provided to Granta).</p> <p>The web tier requires additional memory (~100-200MB). The database tier benefits from free access to RAM to allow SQL Server to optimize data access. We suggest allowing at least 1GB for SQL Server.</p>
Storage	40 GB	<p>GRANTA MI databases vary in file size from a few hundred MB to several gigabytes.</p> <p>Again, size is strongly dependent on content. For a GRANTA MI server, 40 GB disk space should be regarded as a minimum, and a more typical allowance is 200-250GB.</p>

3.2 GRANTA MI clients

MI:Viewer clients use a web browser to access GRANTA MI data. There are no particular hardware requirements specific to GRANTA MI for running browsers.

GRANTA MI has rich clients such as MI:Toolbox and MI:Admin. Granta recommends that machines running these clients have at least 2GB of memory. While these tools will run with less memory, they may have issues with manipulating large databases.