Studio Tools 26.05 Release Overview

Every organization wants an infrastructure that enables fast feature delivery, supports continuous integration and continuous deployment (CI/CD), and produces high-quality, safe, and compliant embedded software. The Wind River Studio Tools 26.05 release strengthens that foundation with platform enhancements that speed onboarding and streamline upgrades. It introduces rightsized deployment options that help teams reduce operational friction and stay focused on building great software.

The release builds on those platform improvements, with significant updates to the Wind River Studio Testing Suite with Wind River Studio Virtual Lab and Wind River Studio Test Automation and major advancements in Wind River System Simulation. They help software developers and quality assurance (QA) engineers scale testing, increase reliability under load, and streamline access to virtual and physical test resources, without requiring a rip-and-replace approach.

Studio Tools 26.05 delivers improvements across these key areas:

- Faster time to value
- Rightsized deployment environments
- Improved scaling and performance
- Intel® Simics® simulator platform updates

Together, these updates help teams test earlier in the software development lifecycle, validate software sooner, and deliver superior, predictable embedded systems.

FASTER TIME TO VALUE

A common bottleneck in embedded development is simply getting started. Teams lose momentum before they even write a line of code when installation, configuration, or upgrades take too long. Studio Tools 26.05 focuses on removing that friction.

One significant advancement is the shift to a GitOps-based installer, which provides a familiar, cloud-native installation experience. Teams can use their existing GitOps tooling or adopt Argo CD, tested and documented by Wind River, for faster and more consistent onboarding.

Studio Tools 26.05 also gives teams more control over their environments. Software developers can install only the components they need, thus simplifying installation. When updates are required for the core Studio Tools platform, atomic upgrades apply changes only where necessary, making the process faster and more predictable.

To support cloud-scale environments, the release includes improved role-based access control efficiency to handle spikes in authorization traffic

This focus on developer productivity extends to simulation workflows. Intel Simics 7 release 26.05 introduces substantial performance improvements to the Intel Simics Model Builder. The result is a reduction in complex target build times — from minutes to seconds — and performance gains exceeding 60x. These improvements dramatically shorten iteration cycles and make large-scale simulation more practical in environments that stress continuous integration.

Together, these enhancements reduce setup time, simplify upgrades, and keep environments running smoothly. Teams can focus on building and testing embedded software rather than managing their tools.

RIGHTSIZED DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENTS

Teams regularly scale their testing workloads and bring more developers onto Studio Testing Suite. However, infrastructure needs vary widely across programs, suppliers, and stages of the development life cycle. Studio Tools 26.05 introduces the ability to select small, medium, or large deployment environments. Administrators, chief technology officers, and business decision makers can choose the configuration that best fits their needs.

This new sizing model helps customers optimize performance and control operational costs, whether the team is running lightweight early-stage testing or supporting large, distributed programs with high concurrency requirements. Everyone can reduce unnecessary overhead, improve resource efficiency, and ensure that Studio Testing Suite deploys in a way that matches their scale, budget, and growth plans.

VIRTUAL LAB'S IMPROVED SCALING AND PERFORMANCE

Even if a team has gotten up and running quickly, testing can slow progress if too many software developers or QA testers need the same resources at once. As workloads grow, developers often compete for simulated devices, OS images, and shared hardware. That leads to delays that ripple across the entire workflow. Studio Testing Suite 26.05 strengthens Virtual Lab to prevent such bottlenecks, giving teams a testing environment that scales with demand and stays reliable under pressure.

To keep environments responsive, the release adds autoscaling for critical microservices, allowing Virtual Lab to automatically increase capacity when demand is high and reduce unused service instances when activity slows. Combined with broad performance and scalability improvements, developers see faster execution and consistent test execution. The addition of automatic recovery for the Virtual SLC Gateway further reduces downtime by eliminating manual reset steps after upgrades.

For teams that rely on shared physical hardware, Virtual Lab introduces queued reservations for shared physical hardware, which ensures that requests are not dropped during peak demand. With priority-aware scheduling, teams gain predictable, reliable access to critical physical hardware, which is important for CI/CD pipelines and large-scale testing.

To expand testing flexibility, Virtual Lab now supports the deployment of virtual targets on AWS Graviton processors, enabling ARM-on-ARM simulation. This enables a 30% performance improvement compared with x86-based emulation, helping teams accelerate validation while staying aligned with real-world target architectures.

Together, these enhancements make Virtual Lab more scalable and performant. The happy takeaway: Software developers and QA teams run more tests in parallel, avoid delays, and deliver high-quality embedded software faster.

INTEL SIMICS PLATFORM UPDATES

Intel Simics continues to evolve as a pillar of the System Simulation commercial offering and the Studio Tools portfolio. The Studio Tools 26.05 release includes significant investment in model development, particularly for aerospace, defense, and government use cases, enabling teams to validate software earlier and with greater confidence. In addition to model expansion, the latest Intel Simics release delivers major scalability and performance improvements that align with modern CI/CD pipelines, which means that simulation can scale across larger teams and more complex systems without sacrificing developer velocity.

As part of ongoing platform evolution, Intel Simics 6 will reach end of life in June 2026. Customers are encouraged to transition to Intel Simics 7 to take advantage of continued investments in performance, scalability, and model development. In addition, a new multiyear license agreement for Intel Simics provides greater commercial flexibility and long-term planning confidence.

(*Note: Intel and Simics are trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries.*)

NEXT STEPS

With the Studio Tools 26.05 release, Wind River continues to expand the performance, flexibility, and scalability that modern embedded development demands. By accelerating onboarding, strengthening test infrastructure, and enhancing simulation capabilities, this release empowers teams to deliver safer, higher-quality software faster and with greater confidence. As organizations push toward increasingly complex, connected systems, Studio Tools provides the foundation needed to innovate at speed and at scale.

WNDRVR