AMDO SOFT
ROBOTIC · PROCESS · AUTOMATION

AmdoSoft/b4 · AUTOMATE MY DAILY OPERATIONS

b4 Technical Overview

Architecture and user interface of the AmdoSoft/b4 monitoring and automation platform.



AmdoSoft/b4 is a **comprehensive, holistic monitoring and automation tool**, delivering a robust and adaptive technology to automate repetitive business processes and meet the challenges of managing a complicated IT infrastructure.

Architecture
Controller & Bots

b4 Designer Studio
Perspectives & modules

b4 Dashboard
Web-based overview

b4 Report Designer
Custom reports

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ABOUT THIS TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

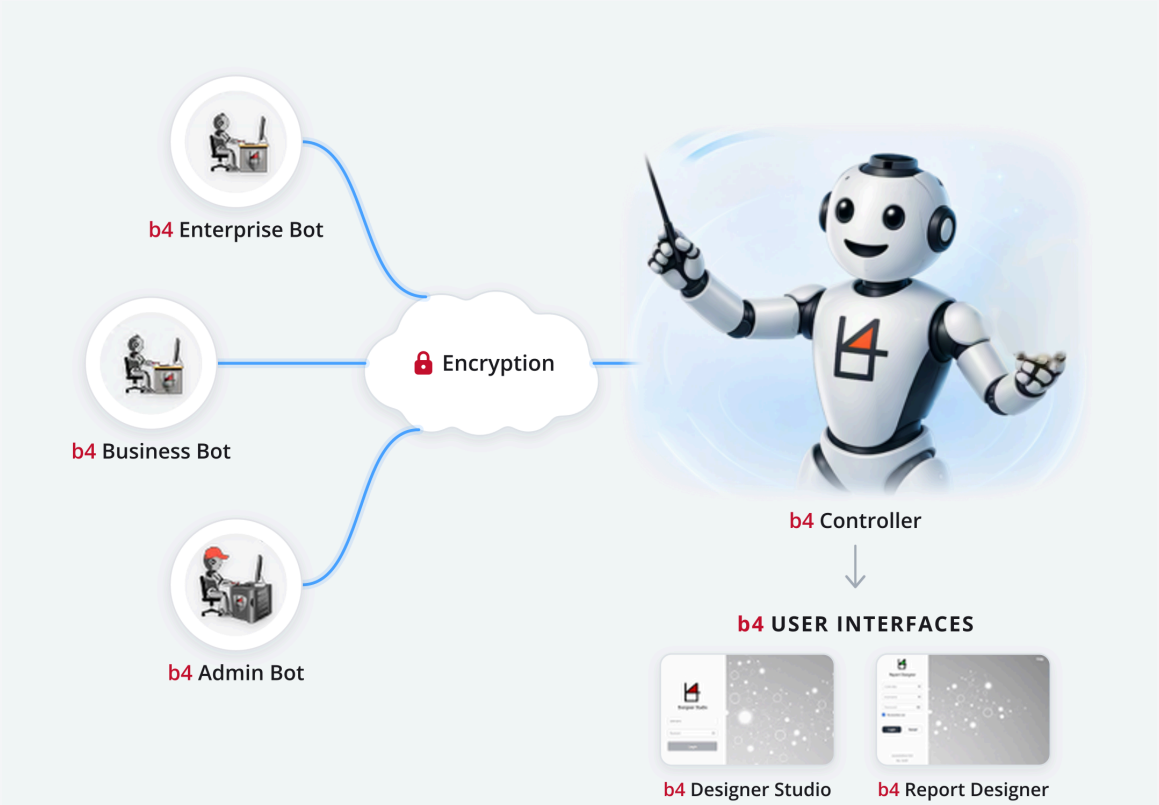
This technical overview describes the architecture and user interface of AmdoSoft/b4: the b4 Controller and b4 Bots, the b4 Dashboard, the b4 Designer Studio, the b4 Report Designer and the b4 Mobile app.

It is intended for IT managers, administrators and process owners who want to understand how b4 automates and monitors IT and business processes.

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AmdoSoft/b4 Architecture

AmdoSoft/b4 is a comprehensive, holistic monitoring and automation tool, delivering a robust and adaptive technology to automate repetitive business processes and meet the challenges of managing a complicated IT infrastructure.



While **b4 Admin Bots** ensure system security and provide a wide range of monitoring and background automation possibilities (**IT Automation**), **b4 Bots** provide true end-to-end visibility into digital employee experience (**Synthetic Monitoring**) and can capture and interpret applications for processing a transaction, manipulating data, triggering responses and communicating with other digital systems (**Robotic Process Automation – RPA**).

b4/RPA is governed by business logic and structured inputs, aimed at automating business processes. RPA scenarios range from something as simple as generating an automatic response to an email to deploying thousands of bots, each programmed to automate jobs in an ERP system.

b4 Bots emulate human actions of repetitive computer inputs and use any existing system to log in and perform manual tasks – automatically. They can read from various data sources and manipulate the user interface and functions within and across, for example, Citrix, web applications, CRMs and ERP systems.

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Components



b4 Controller

The b4 Controller is the centralised engine to which b4 Bots are connected.

- Operate IT and business processes from one workflow in parallel
- Access and management from any location
- Real-time overview and control



b4 Enterprise Bot

The b4 Enterprise Bot works like a clerk on user interfaces (with mouse click and keyboard).

- Operates independently of human intervention
- Works on its own dedicated system
- Used for tasks that are repetitive and/or data intensive
- Can be scheduled to run at specific times or triggered automatically based on specific events or conditions



b4 Business Bot

The b4 Business Bot operates on the user's machine in conjunction with a human operator.

- Works like a front-end assistant on user interfaces (with mouse click and keyboard)
- Used to assist the user with specific tasks, such as data entry or data retrieval
- Activated manually by the user, or triggered automatically based on specific events or conditions



b4 Admin Bot

The b4 Admin Bot ensures system security and provides a wide range of monitoring and background automation possibilities.

- Used for IT Automation tasks
- Runs scripts centrally managed on the b4 Controller
- Supports Windows and Linux systems

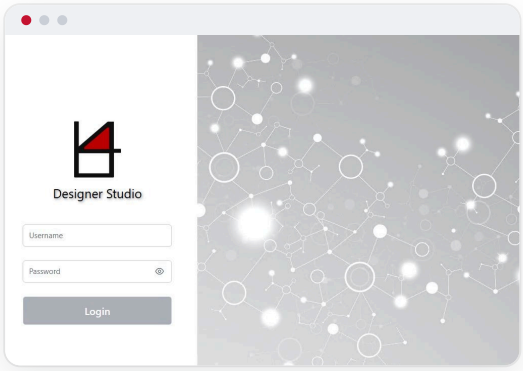
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AmdoSoft/b4 User Interface

WEB-BASED

b4 Dashboard

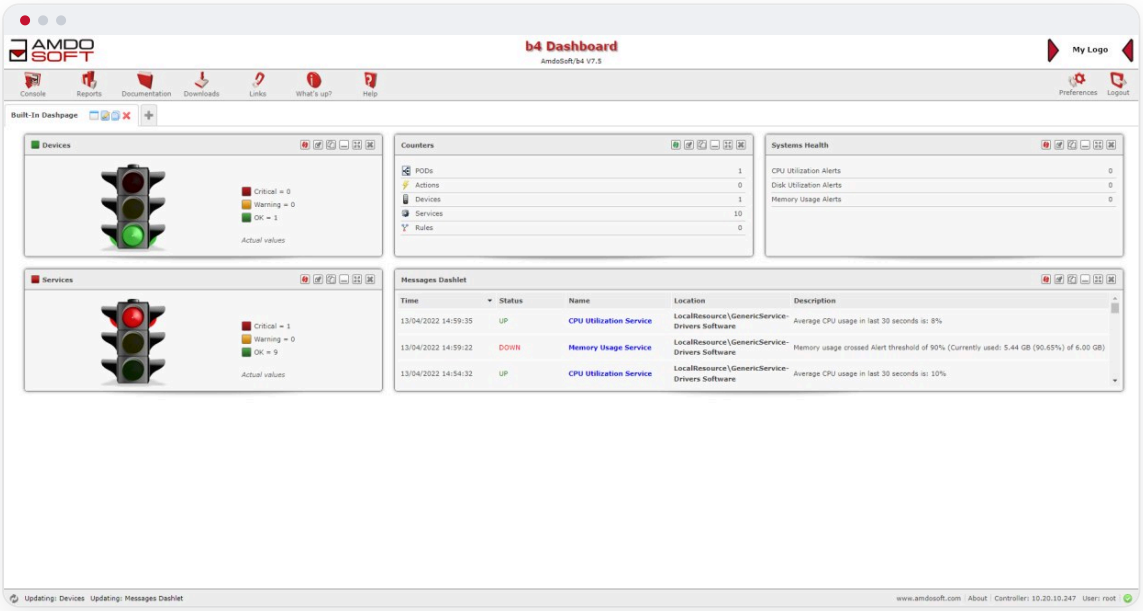
The b4 Dashboard is a web-based component of the b4 software. It is an easy-to-use and customisable interface designed to provide users with an overview of the respective b4 processes and objects, as well as the status of the RPA environment and the performance of the digital workforce at all times.



b4 Designer Studio login

ACCESS

The b4 Dashboard is accessed from **b4 Designer Studio**.



b4 Dashboard screen

b4 Dashboard

Web-based overview of processes, objects and digital workforce

b4 Designer Studio

GUI management component with customisable Perspectives

b4 Report Designer

Customised reports from b4 history data

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b4 Designer Studio

The b4 Designer Studio is a GUI management component designed to accommodate users' tasks. It is the starting point of the b4 software, from where users create their own process or IT Automation.

The b4 Designer Studio provides several preselected sets of views arranged in a predetermined way. These are called **Perspectives**, and they can be customised to suit your needs. Every perspective is designed to perform a specific task, such as managing objects, rules and users. Each of the views in the perspective is chosen to allow you to deal with different aspects of that task.

b4 DESIGNER STUDIO

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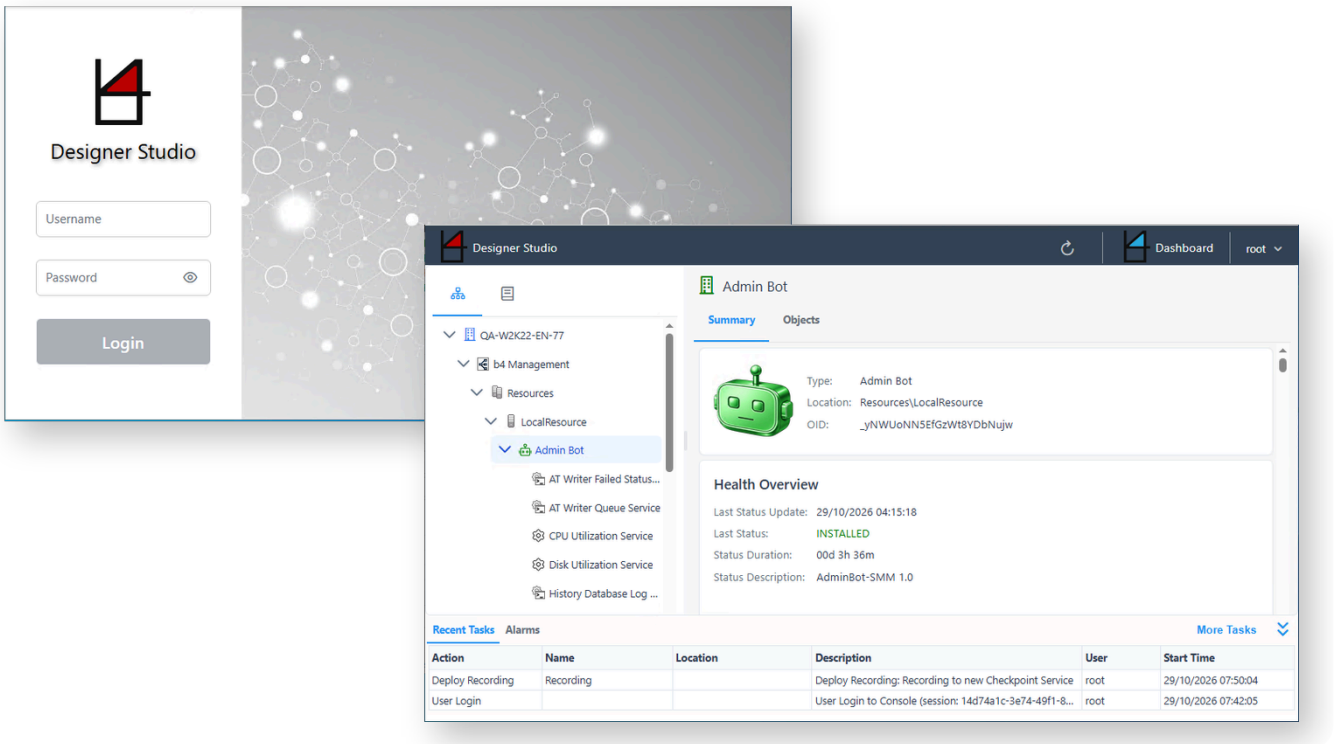
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b4 Designer Studio

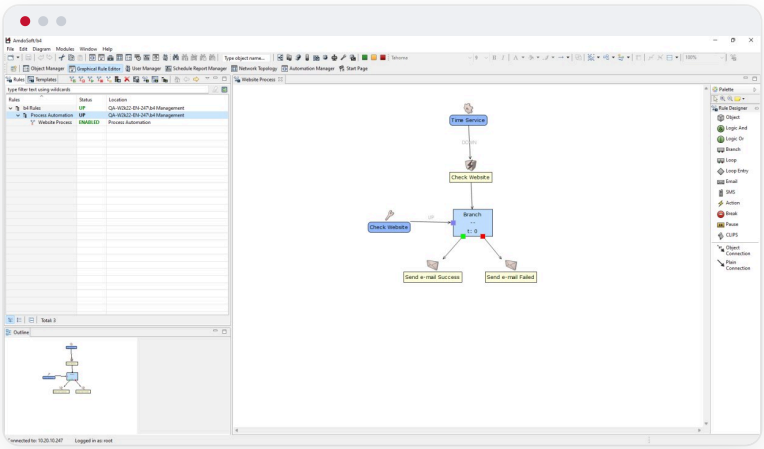
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Building automations

Graphical Rules Editor

The Graphical Rules Editor (GRE) is a predefined perspective used by AmdoSoft/b4 for the definition of automation rules.

In this module you define and configure all desired actions within the process flow, as well as logical responses to possible incidents or status changes within your network.



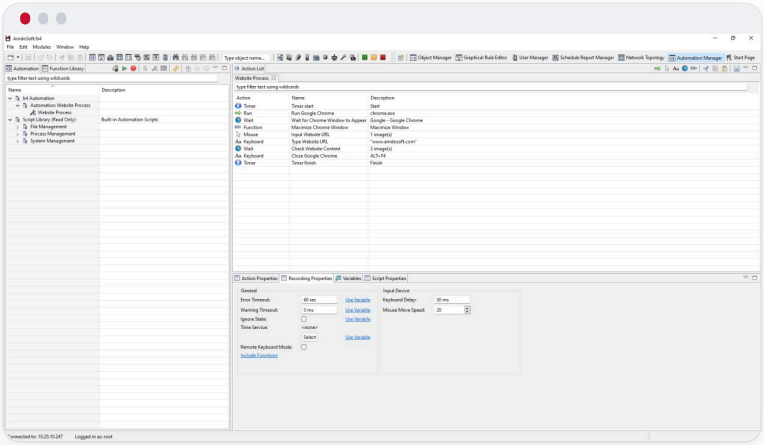
Graphical Rules Editor view

Automation Manager

The Automation Manager is a tool to record and define individual Bot automation work steps. Created work steps can be easily deployed and integrated within the graphical workflow.

SCRIPT MANAGEMENT

Already existing scripts can be incorporated. Any script language that can be used on the local machine can be integrated in the graphical rules workflow and executed on the target system.



Automation Manager view

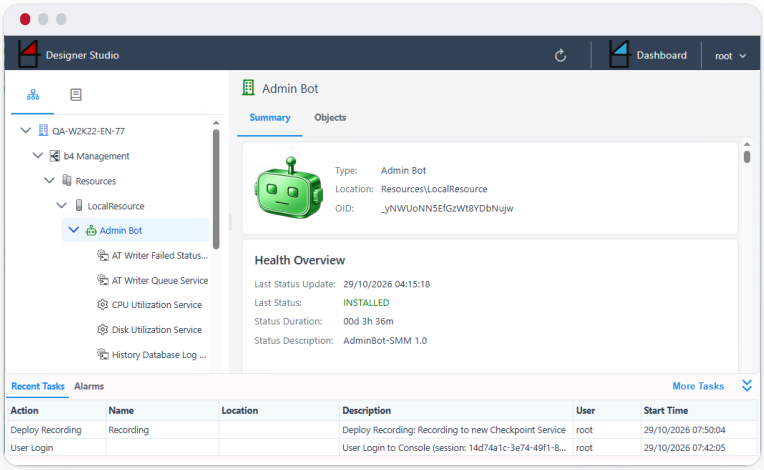
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Objects, jobs & updates

Object Manager

The Object Manager is one of the main perspectives in the b4 Designer Studio, used to manage b4 objects.

It shows the objects' hierarchy structure with their respective status and description, as well as a couple of built-in search views.



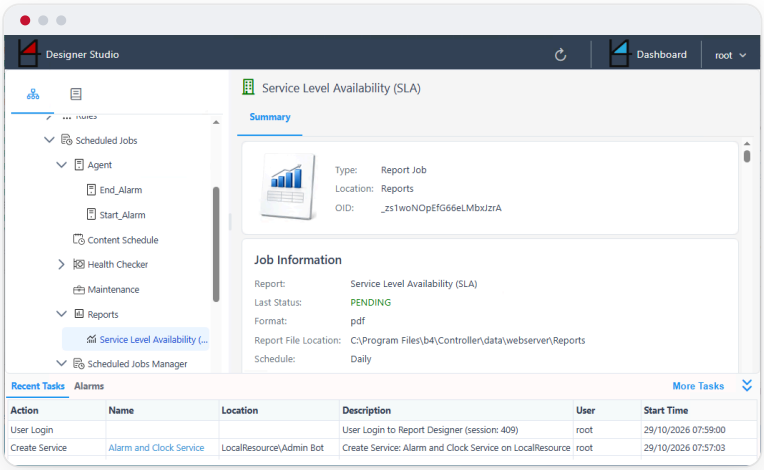
Object Manager view

Scheduled Jobs Manager

The Scheduled Jobs Manager allows you to view all jobs scheduled for the b4 environment and run them at the required date and time.

It also schedules reports defined in the b4 Report Designer: choose the time and frequency (one time or recurring), the format and the e-mail recipients the report is sent to automatically.

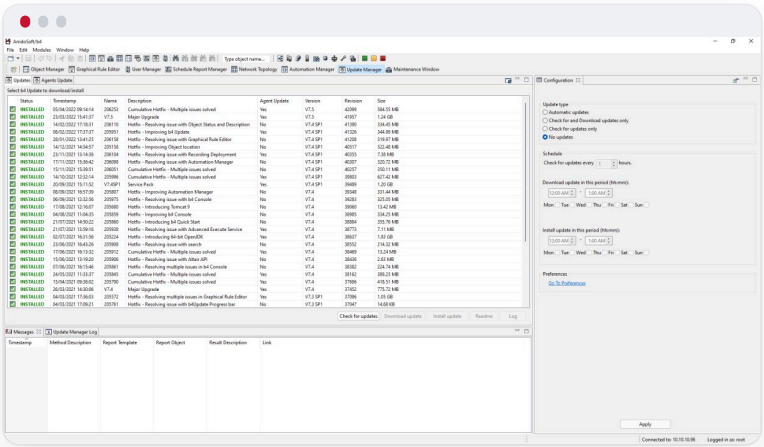
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Scheduled Jobs Manager view

Update Manager

The Update Manager lets you check for updates easily and securely, and configure automatic download and, optionally, automatic installation of updates from the AmdoSoft repository.



Update Manager view

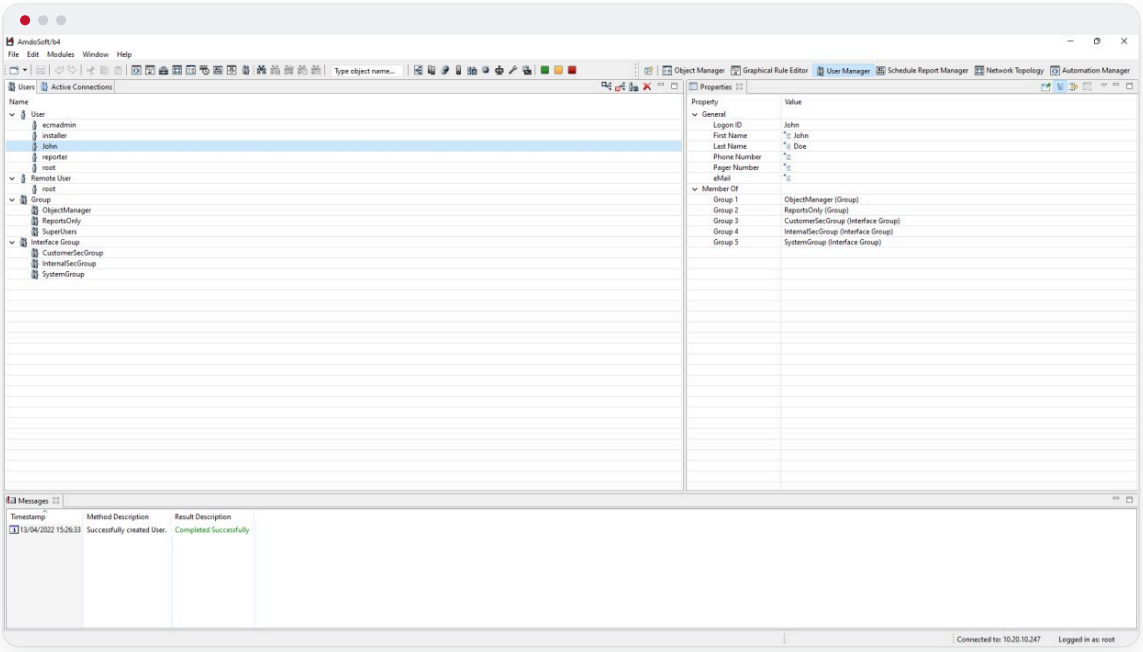
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User Manager

The User Manager is a module for administrators to manage user access to various b4 resources and objects like Bots, services and more. It enables administrators to control user access and on-board/off-board users to and from the b4 environment.

Maintaining individual user accounts allows you to control access to different parts of the AmdoSoft/b4 Designer Studio, as well as keeping track of the actions that each user performs.

From here you can add or delete users and groups, add users to groups, and set user passwords and group access.



User Manager view

USERS AND GROUPS ARE ORGANISED INTO PRE-DEFINED CATEGORIES, SHOWN AS TOP-LEVEL ELEMENTS IN THE MAIN VIEW (USERS):

User

All user accounts belong to this category. If a user has been added to a group, click on that group to see the user account.

Group

All user groups belong to this category. The Group category includes three groups by default, defining different access privileges:

ReportsOnly | ObjectManager | SuperUsers

All users must be added to a Group as well as to an *Interface* group.

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Object Visualisation Editor

The Object Visualisation Editor is a pre-defined perspective (module) that allows users to create their own graphs – a custom topological arrangement of the various process elements, with real-time status information.

This visualisation tool lets you create a graphical overview of the relations between bots, work steps and other objects within the b4 environment.

AN OBJECT VISUALISATION GRAPH MAY INCLUDE

01

AmdoSoft/b4 objects

Presented with default b4 icons that can be customised. The real-time status of objects is visible in the graph and standard object methods can be invoked just like in the Object Manager. You can also switch to the Object Manager and locate the object directly in the Object Hierarchy.

02

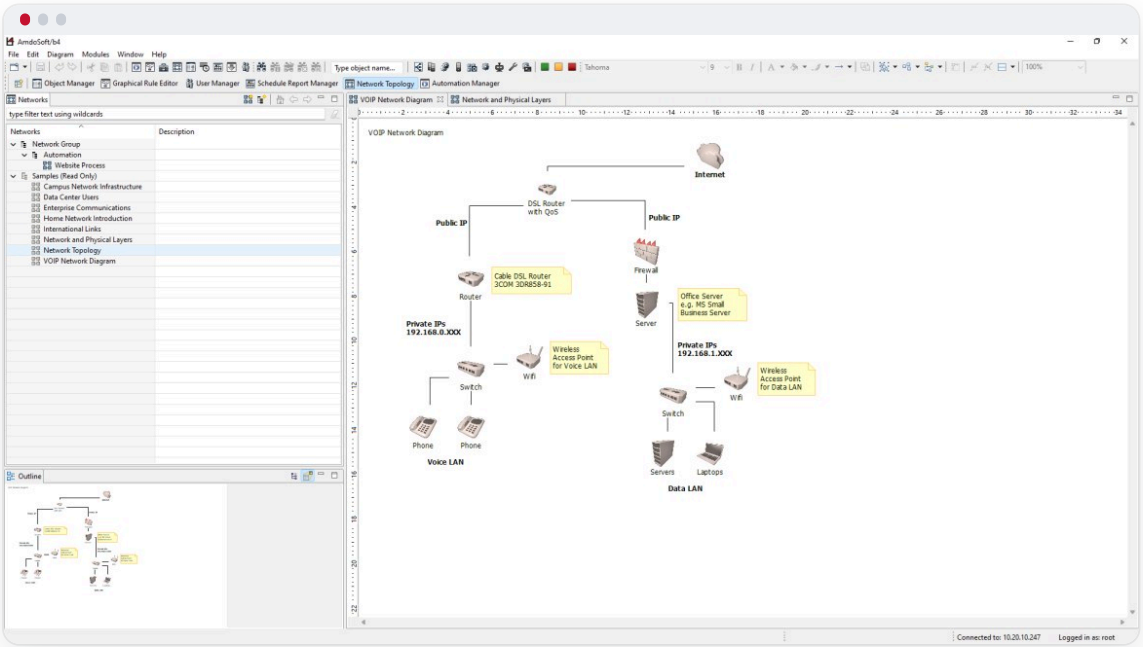
Editor elements

A palette of elements representing various IT network components: firewall, router, server, printer, UPS etc.

03

Connections

Elements used for physical or logical connections among graph elements.



Visualisation Editor graph displaying a complex network infrastructure

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Maintenance

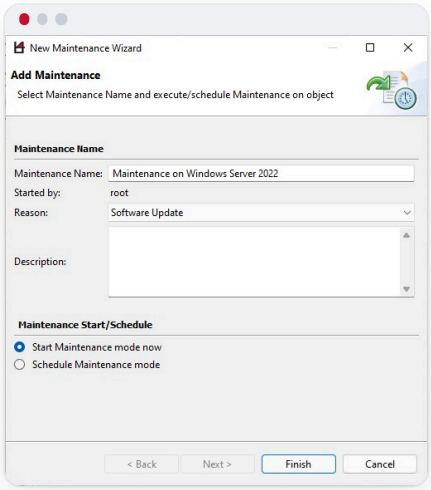
The Maintenance module lets you define maintenance periods on objects in the AmdoSoft/b4 Designer Studio, so that b4 automation mechanisms are paused while you perform maintenance tasks on the monitored resources.

Paused mechanisms include status changes, rule execution, propagating statuses to b4 reports, monitors sending e-mails and performing actions.

By setting Maintenance, an object goes into the **Maintenance state** and stays in that state regardless of any event, such as stopping the Agent, network disconnection or power outage.

During maintenance it is not possible to execute methods on objects, such as editing properties, copying objects or adding/removing members.

A Maintenance period option is available for any type of object, including **Devices, Services and Monitors**. Clicking on *Start Maintenance* opens the Maintenance Wizard, which provides two modes:



Maintenance Wizard

MODE 1

Start Maintenance mode now

The selected object and all its children go into maintenance state instantly, and a new *One time only* scheduled Maintenance period with no end time appears in the Maintenance View.

MODE 2

Schedule Maintenance mode

Provides four types of scheduling, set on the second page of the Maintenance Wizard:

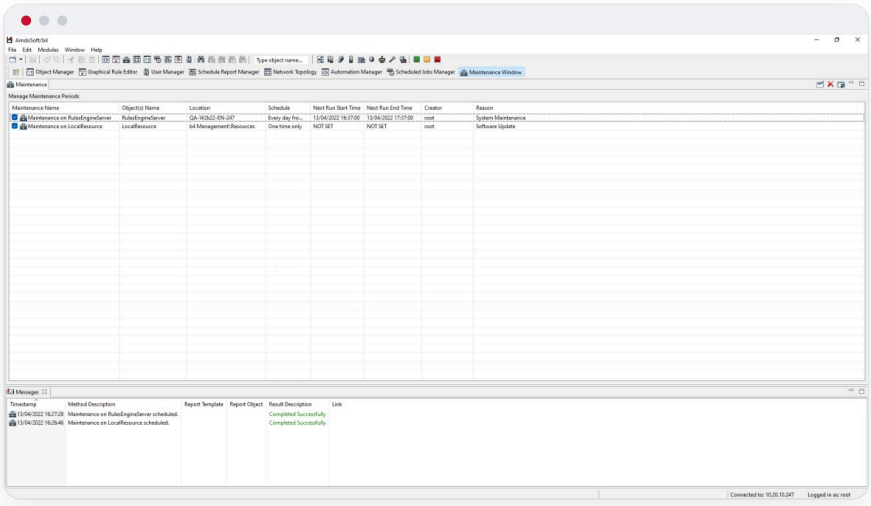
Daily · Weekly · Monthly · One time only

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance View

All Maintenance periods created through the Maintenance Wizard can be managed from the Maintenance View.

The Maintenance View stores the list of all scheduled Maintenance periods.

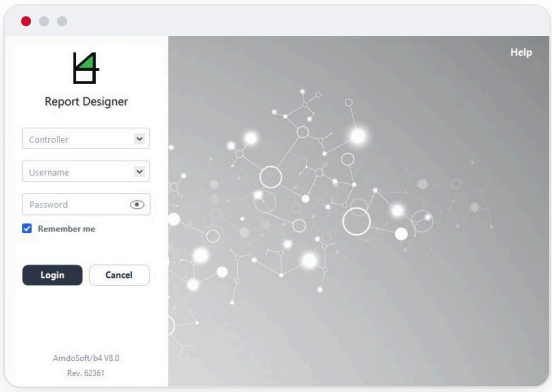


Maintenance Mode view

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b4 Report Designer

The b4 Report Designer is a standalone application that gives you access to AmdoSoft/b4 history data and lets you generate customised reports with this data.



b4 Report Designer login

It provides a Report Data Sets pane to organise and individualise the data used in your report, and tabbed views for Design and Preview so you can design a report interactively – the way you want it to look and whenever you need it.

Report Designer also includes a comprehensive list of pre-designed reports that are ready to use: create your own reports or edit existing ones according to your needs and standards.

EXCERPT OF b4 REPORT DESIGNER FEATURES

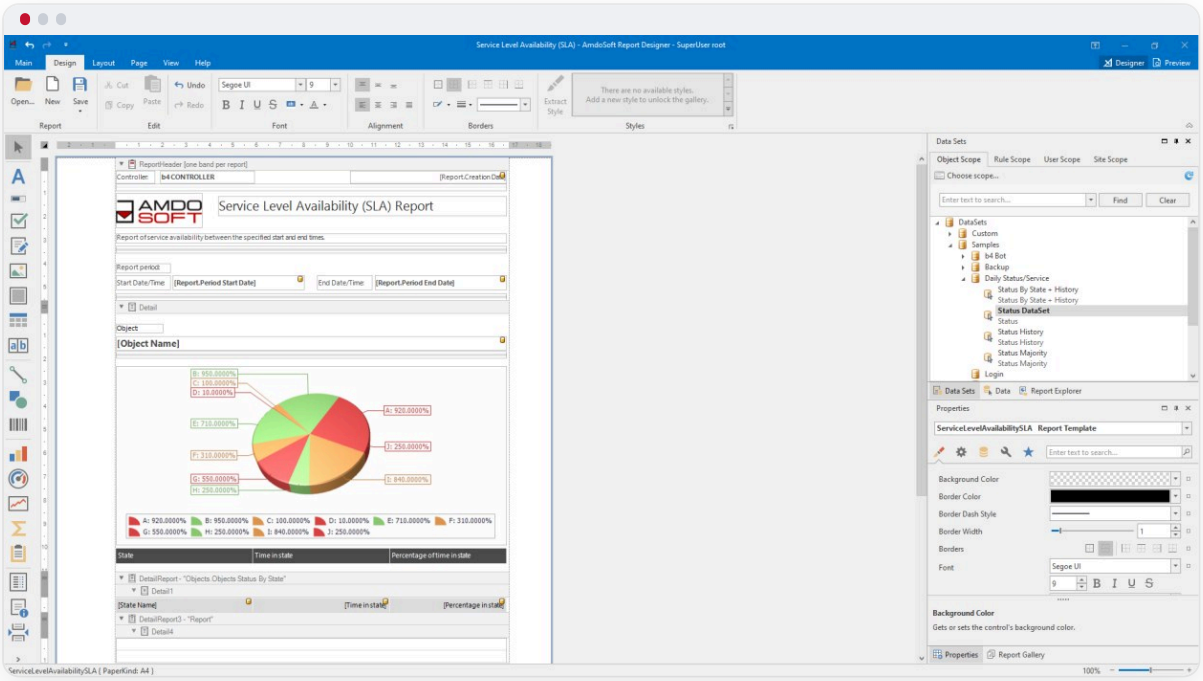
- ✓ Complete power to access data and generate custom reports
- ✓ Easy layout steps with a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) design environment
- ✓ Flexible sorting with group headers and footers, title and summary bands
- ✓ Include sub-reports within reports for maximum flexibility
- ✓ Define AmdoSoft/b4 Object, Rule, User or Site scope for a custom report
- ✓ Useful layout objects including labels, barcodes, lines, shapes, graphics, rich text, etc.
- ✓ Export files in your favourite format: spreadsheet, PDF, Word, HTML, JPG, etc.
- ✓ Custom field expressions and aggregate calculations (pivots, ...)

SCHEDULING REPORTS

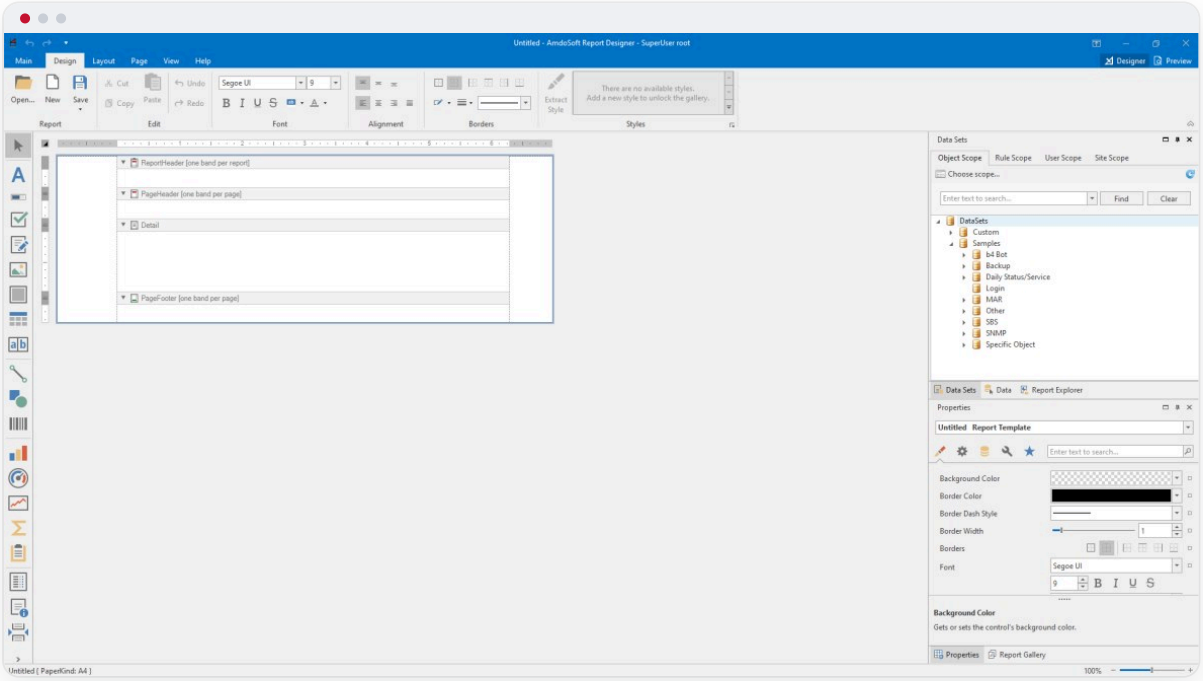
The generation of reports defined in the Report Designer can be scheduled with the **Scheduled Jobs Manager**, which is part of the b4 Designer Studio (see page 8).

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b4 Report Designer



Report Designer screen

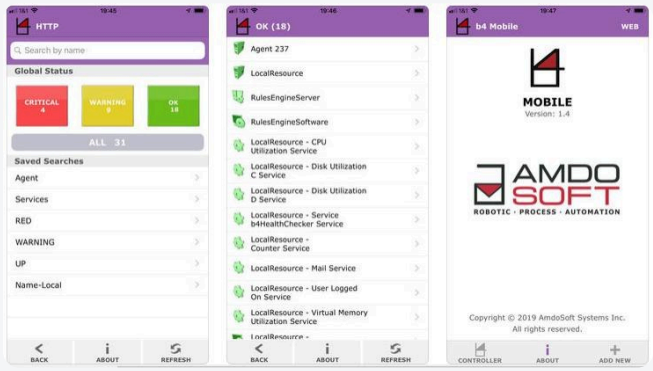


Report Designer – Design view

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b4 Mobile

b4 Mobile is an iOS app that allows you to check the status of your most important components on the go. It extends the reachability and flexibility of the b4 Automation software by providing immediate access to information about your IT infrastructure health on your mobile phone – anytime and from anywhere.



b4 Mobile app

FUNCTIONALITY OVERVIEW

- Quick access to b4 objects based on their status or name
- Object status summary
- Immediate access to information about critical objects
- Search for objects by name
- Advanced saved search criteria defined in b4 Designer Studio
- Filter search and view results by object type

REQUIREMENTS

- iOS 9.1 or above
- b4 Mobile from the Apple App Store
- Network connection (3G, EDGE or Wi-Fi)

See b4 in action

Try b4 free or talk to our team about automating your business processes.

Start free trial

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