



Release notes

Element Software

NetApp
October 23, 2024

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/element-software-125/concepts/concept_rn_whats_new_element.html on October 23, 2024. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

- Current and previous release information 1
 - NetApp Element software 1
 - Management services 1
 - NetApp Element Plug-in for vCenter Server 1
 - Storage firmware 2
 - Find more information 2
 - What's new in Element software 12.5 and later 2

Current and previous release information

You can find links to the latest and earlier release notes for various components of the Element storage environment.



You will be prompted to log in using your NetApp Support credentials.

NetApp Element software

- [NetApp Element Software 12.7 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.5 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.3.2 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.3.1 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.3 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.2.1 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.2 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.0.1 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 12.0 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.8.2 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.8.1 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.8 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.7 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.5.1 Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Software 11.3P1 Release Notes](#)

Management services

- [Management Services Release Notes](#)

NetApp Element Plug-in for vCenter Server

- [vCenter Plug-in 5.3 Release Notes](#) *NEW*
- [vCenter Plug-in 5.2 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 5.1 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 5.0 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.10 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.9 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.8 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.7 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.6 Release Notes](#)

- [vCenter Plug-in 4.5 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.4 Release Notes](#)
- [vCenter Plug-in 4.3 Release Notes](#)

Storage firmware

- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.175.0 Release Notes](#) *NEW*
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.164.0 Release Notes](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.150 Release Notes](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.146 Release Notes](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.99.2 Release Notes](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.76 Release Notes](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.27 Release Notes](#)
- [H610S BMC 3.84.07 Release Notes](#)
- [Supported firmware and ESXi driver versions](#) *NEW*

Find more information

- [SolidFire and Element Software Documentation](#)
- [NetApp Element Plug-in for vCenter Server](#)
- [Documentation for earlier versions of NetApp SolidFire and Element products](#)
- [SolidFire all-flash storage overview](#)

What's new in Element software 12.5 and later

NetApp periodically updates SolidFire and Element software to bring you new features, enhancements, and bug fixes. Element 12.7 is the latest release and includes security and system component updates, operational improvements, and resolved issues.



The cumulative software and firmware updates are installed as part of an Element 12.7 upgrade based on the current Element version running on a storage cluster. For example, if a cluster is currently running Element 12.3.x, you can upgrade directly to Element 12.7 to get the cumulative updates from both Element 12.5 and 12.7. For supported upgrade paths, see this [KB article](#)

Element 12.7

Learn more about what is new in Element 12.7.

Secure CHAP algorithms

Element 12.7 includes support for secure FIPS compliant Challenge-Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP) algorithms SHA1, SHA-256, and SHA3-256. [Learn more.](#)

Dynamic block (bin) sync-in rate

Cluster operations like additions, upgrades, or maintenance of nodes, or addition of drives, and so on, trigger block (bin) sync to distribute block data to the new or updated nodes in a cluster layout. Using a single slow speed as the default sync-in rate causes these operations to take a long time and does not take advantage of the higher processing power of larger nodes. Beginning with Element 12.7, the sync-in rate is dynamically tuned based on the number of cores on the storage node, enabling these operations to go significantly faster.

For example, when you add large 28-core storage nodes (H610S, SF19210, and SF38410) running Element 12.7 to an existing cluster, the sync-in rate for data automatically tunes to 110Mbps instead of 60Mbps. Additionally, when you bring these large storage nodes out of node maintenance mode, for example, during an upgrade from Element 12.3.x or later to Element 12.7 using NetApp Hybrid Cloud Control, the sync-in rate for changed block data rate automatically tunes to 110Mbps instead of 20Mbps.

When you add the medium 16-core storage nodes (H410S) and small 12-core storage nodes (SF4805) to an Element 12.7 cluster, the sync-in rate for data remains at 60Mbps; however, for syncing changed blocks when you bring them out of node maintenance mode during upgrades from Element 12.3.x to Element 12.7, the sync-in rate automatically tunes from 20Mbps to 60Mbps for medium storage nodes and 40Mbps for smaller storage nodes.

When you remove storage nodes, there is no impact on the block sync-out rate which avoids performance impacts on client I/O.

Garbage Collection improvement

For clusters with larger storage nodes, for example, an H610S-4, that have 1PB of used space, are running very high workloads with overwrites, and have high deduplication and compression, the Garbage Collection operation can now keep up as the default bloom filter size has been increased for the larger nodes from 700GB or greater of memory to 1048576 bits. This change automatically takes effect after you upgrade your storage nodes to Element 12.7 and has no impact on smaller nodes.

Scale improvement

With Element 12.7, you no longer need to follow specific sequencing when adding multiple storage nodes worth of block and metadata drives to an existing cluster. Using the Element UI or API, you can simply select all available drives and bulk add them simultaneously. Element 12.7 automatically manages the data synchronization such that all block services are synced in simultaneously. As the block services for each node complete syncing, the metadata drive on that node becomes assignable to host volumes. This scale improvement significantly reduces read response latency and prevents performance degradation while data is syncing across newly added storage nodes.

Storage node firmware updates

Element 12.7 includes storage firmware bundle version 2.164.0, which includes support for new system components. [Learn more](#).



There are no new firmware updates in the Element 12.7 release. However, based on the current firmware bundle running on the storage nodes, the cumulative updates are installed when you upgrade to Element 12.7.

SolidFire Active IQ documentation

In the SolidFire Active IQ UI, you can now navigate to the QoS Management page to view recommendations and node throttling information for your cluster. In addition, the cluster dashboard now displays the total

snapshot count. Other recent enhancements include the addition of primary and secondary node information for active volumes and average throughput, IOPS, and average latency for the last 30 minutes on the primary volumes on a node.

You can now access the SolidFire Active IQ documentation from the Element software documentation. [Learn more](#).

NetApp Bugs Online contains resolved and known issues

Resolved and known issues are listed in the NetApp Bugs Online tool. You can browse these issues for Element software and other products at [NetApp Bugs Online](#).

Element 12.5

Element 12.5 introduces improved storage node access, enhanced custom Protection Domains manageability, new and improved cluster faults and events, enhanced Create Cluster UI functionality, and enhanced security.

Improved storage node access

Element 12.5 brings improved remote access to individual nodes using signed SSH certificates. To provide secure remote access to storage nodes, a new, limited-privilege local user account called `sfreadonly` is now created during RTFI of a storage node. The `sfreadonly` account enables access to the storage node backend for basic maintenance or troubleshooting purposes. You can now configure the `supportAdmin` access type for a cluster administrator user to allow NetApp support access to the cluster on an as-needed basis.

Enhanced custom Protection Domains manageability

Element 12.5 features a new user interface that enables you to quickly and easily view existing custom Protection Domains and configure new custom Protection Domains.

New and improved cluster faults, events, and alerts

Element 12.5 enhances your system troubleshooting with the introduction of the new cluster fault codes `BmcSelfTestFailed` and `CpuThermalEventThreshold`. Element 12.5 also contains robustness improvements for existing cluster events and alerts, such as `nodeOffline`, `volumeOffline`, `driveHealthFault`, `networkEvent`, and `cSumEvent`.

Enable Software Encryption at Rest from the Create Cluster UI

With the addition of a new checkbox in the Create Cluster UI, Element 12.5 gives you the option to enable cluster-wide Software Encryption at Rest for SolidFire all-flash storage clusters during cluster creation.

Storage node firmware updates

Element 12.5 includes firmware updates for storage nodes. [Learn more](#).

Enhanced security

Element 12.5 contains the mitigation that closes the Element software exposure to the Apache Log4j vulnerability. NetApp SolidFire storage clusters with the Virtual Volumes (VVols) feature enabled are exposed to the Apache Log4j vulnerability. For information on the workaround for the Apache Log4j vulnerability in NetApp Element software, see the [KB article](#).

If you're running Element 11.x, 12.0, or 12.2 or your storage cluster is already at Element 12.3 or 12.3.1 with the VVols feature enabled, you should upgrade to 12.5.

Element 12.5 also includes more than 120 CVE security vulnerability remediations.

Find more information

- [NetApp Hybrid Cloud Control and Management Services Release Notes](#)
- [NetApp Element Plug-in for vCenter Server](#)
- [SolidFire and Element Software Documentation](#)
- [SolidFire and Element Software Documentation](#)
- [SolidFire and Element Software Documentation Center for previous versions](#)
- [NetApp HCI Resources page](#)
- [Supported storage firmware versions for SolidFire storage nodes](#)

Copyright information

Copyright © 2024 NetApp, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S. No part of this document covered by copyright may be reproduced in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or storage in an electronic retrieval system—without prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Software derived from copyrighted NetApp material is subject to the following license and disclaimer:

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY NETAPP “AS IS” AND WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WHICH ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL NETAPP BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

NetApp reserves the right to change any products described herein at any time, and without notice. NetApp assumes no responsibility or liability arising from the use of products described herein, except as expressly agreed to in writing by NetApp. The use or purchase of this product does not convey a license under any patent rights, trademark rights, or any other intellectual property rights of NetApp.

The product described in this manual may be protected by one or more U.S. patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.

LIMITED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3) of the Rights in Technical Data -Noncommercial Items at DFARS 252.227-7013 (FEB 2014) and FAR 52.227-19 (DEC 2007).

Data contained herein pertains to a commercial product and/or commercial service (as defined in FAR 2.101) and is proprietary to NetApp, Inc. All NetApp technical data and computer software provided under this Agreement is commercial in nature and developed solely at private expense. The U.S. Government has a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, nonsublicensable, worldwide, limited irrevocable license to use the Data only in connection with and in support of the U.S. Government contract under which the Data was delivered. Except as provided herein, the Data may not be used, disclosed, reproduced, modified, performed, or displayed without the prior written approval of NetApp, Inc. United States Government license rights for the Department of Defense are limited to those rights identified in DFARS clause 252.227-7015(b) (FEB 2014).

Trademark information

NETAPP, the NETAPP logo, and the marks listed at <http://www.netapp.com/TM> are trademarks of NetApp, Inc. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.