



Release notes

Element Software

NetApp
June 11, 2021

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/element-software/concepts/concept_rn_whats_new_element.html on June 11, 2021. 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 1
 - Find more information 1
 - What's new 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 12.3 Release Notes](#) *NEW!*
- [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 11.8.1 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 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 2.76 Release Notes \(latest\)](#)
- [Storage Firmware Bundle 2.27 Release Notes](#)
- [H610S BMC 3.84.07 Release Notes](#)

Find more information

- [SolidFire and Element Resources page](#)
- [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

NetApp periodically updates SolidFire and Element software to bring you new features, enhancements, and bug fixes. Element 12.3 introduces software encryption at rest enhancements, security enhancements, storage firmware updates, enhanced snapshot functionality, and improved behavior for failing drives.

NetApp Bugs Online contains known and resolved issues

Beginning with Element 12.3, known and resolved issues are now listed in the NetApp Bugs Online tool. You can browse these issues for Element and other products at [NetApp Bugs Online](#).

FIFO snapshot queue support

Element 12.3 enables you to create a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) queue for volume snapshots. Using the Element API, you can specify the minimum and maximum number of FIFO snapshot slots that should be reserved when you create a volume. When the FIFO snapshot queue for a volume is full, the next snapshot you create for that volume removes the oldest snapshot of that volume from the system. FIFO and non-FIFO snapshots both use the same pool of available snapshot slots on a volume.

The following Element API methods are related to FIFO snapshots (see the [Element API documentation](#) for details about each API method):

- CreateGroupSnapshot
- CreateSchedule
- CreateSnapshot
- CreateVolume
- ModifyGroupSnapshot
- ModifySchedule
- ModifySnapshot
- ModifyVolume
- ModifyVolumes

Snapshot serialization support

Element 12.3 supports serialized snapshot creation. When creating a new snapshot using the Element API, you can specify that the snapshot should not be created if a previous snapshot replication is still in progress.

The following Element API methods are related to snapshot serialization (see the [Element API documentation](#) for details about each API method):

- CreateGroupSnapshot
- CreateSchedule
- CreateSnapshot

- `ModifySchedule`

Snapshot retention support

Element 12.3 enables you to specify a retention time for snapshots. If you don't specify a retention time or an expiration time for a snapshot, it is retained forever.

The following Element API methods are related to snapshot retention (see the [Element API documentation](#) for details about each API method):

- `CreateGroupSnapshot`
- `CreateSchedule`
- `CreateSnapshot`
- `ModifyGroupSnapshot`
- `ModifySchedule`
- `ModifySnapshot`

Software encryption at rest enhancements

For the software encryption at rest feature, Element 12.3 introduces External Key Management (EKM) and the ability to rekey the software encryption master key. You can enable software encryption at rest when you create a storage cluster. When you create a SolidFire Enterprise SDS storage cluster, software encryption at rest is enabled by default. This feature encrypts all data stored on the SSDs in the storage nodes and causes only a very small (~2%) performance impact on client IO.

The following Element API methods are related to software encryption at rest (see the [Element API documentation](#) for details about each API method):

- `CreateCluster`
- `DisableEncryptionAtRest`
- `EnableEncryptionAtRest`
- `GetSoftwareEncryptionAtRestInfo`
- `RekeySoftwareEncryptionAtRestMasterKey`

Storage node firmware updates

Element 12.3 includes firmware updates for storage nodes. [Learn more](#).

Security enhancements

Element 12.3 resolves security vulnerabilities for storage nodes and the management node. [Learn more](#) about these security enhancements.

Improved behavior for failing drives

Element 12.3 performs periodic health checks on SolidFire appliance drives using SMART health data from the drives. A drive that fails the SMART health check might be close to failure. If a drive fails the SMART health check, the drive is transitioned to the **Failed** state, and a critical severity cluster fault appears: `Drive with serial: <serial number> in slot: <node slot><drive slot> has failed the SMART`

overall health check. To resolve this fault, replace the drive.

What's new in SolidFire Enterprise SDS

Here is what's new in SolidFire eSDS:

New server support

SolidFire eSDS is now available on Dell R640 servers. See the [NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool \(IMT\)](#) for more information about the supported configuration.

New documentation

The following new documentation is available for SolidFire eSDS:

- [Replace drives for Dell R640](#): Provides steps for replacing the drives in Dell R640 servers.
- [Knowledge Base articles \(login required\)](#): Provides information about troubleshooting issues with your SolidFire eSDS system.

New location for known issues

You can now search for known issues on the [Bugs Online tool \(login required\)](#).

Find more information

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

Copyright Information

Copyright © 2021 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.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at DFARS 252.277-7103 (October 1988) and FAR 52-227-19 (June 1987).

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.