

Active System Manager Release 8.1.1

Release Notes

Release Type and Definition

Active System Manager

Active System Manager (ASM) is Dell's unified management product that provides a comprehensive infrastructure and workload automation solution for IT administrators and teams.

The release notes contains important information available at the time of release of Active System Manager (ASM) release 8.1.1, including information about the ASM release lineup and dependencies, ASM documentation lineup, known issues, and the methods to contact Dell technical support.

This document contains updated information for ASM and any other technical documentation included with ASM.

Release

8.1.1 build 5079

Release Date

November 2015

Previous Release

8.1.1 build 5055

Platform(s) Affected

Supported ASM Software Components

- ASM Virtual Appliance

Supported Virtualization Platforms

- VMware ESXi 5.1
- VMware ESXi 5.5
- VMware ESXi 6.0
- Microsoft Windows Hyper-V 2012
- Microsoft Windows Hyper-V 2012 R2
- System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2012
- System Center Virtual Machine Manager 2012 R2

What is Supported

Supported Web Browsers

- Microsoft Internet Explorer, version 9 and later
- Mozilla Firefox, version 26 and later
- Google Chrome, version 32 and later
- Safari, version 6 and later

What's New in this Release

Active System Manager release 8.1.1 consists primarily of additions to the compatibility matrix in support of Dell Blueprints and Reference Architectures, as well as a new plugin for VMware vRealize Orchestrator that uses the Applications Programming Interface (API) introduced earlier with ASM release 8.1.

The highlights of Active System Manager release 8.1.1 include the following:

- A new Active System Manager plugin to VMware vRealize Orchestrator (vRO), which enables ASM template deployment, scaling, and deprovisioning to be called from vRO orchestration workflows, or published to the vRealize Automation (vRA) service catalog.
- Performance improvements to most of ASM web application pages.
- Compatibility matrix additions, including those detailed below, to support the Dell Blueprint Reference Architectures, including select reference architectures for the Virtualization, Cloud, and Unified Communications and Collaboration Blueprints.

ASM release 8.1.1 build 5079 is an update to ASM release 8.1.1. It contains fixes and enhancements that include:

- Improvement to the Discovery wizard flow and Resource page on the ASM web interface.
- Added log file size management.
- Improvement for greater deployment consistency.
- Configuration of ESXi High Availability (HA) after firmware updates.
- Filtering of servers based on the server pool and resource state.

This release also includes compatibility support for the following:

- Dell PowerEdge T630, PowerEdge T620, and PowerEdge C6320 servers
- Dell Compellent iSCSI on non-converged fabrics
- Cisco Nexus B22 Blade Fabric Extender

Important Notes

To support interoperability, ASM 8.1.1 requires:

- The following resource locales are set to English:
 - Microsoft System Center Virtual Machine Manager (SCVMM)
 - VMware vCenter
 - Dell EqualLogic
 - Dell Compellent
 - Dell Chassis Management Controller (CMC)
 - Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller (iDRAC)
 - NetApp
- All Physical server OS installations must be in English to support unattended installation process.
- The credentials used for all the external systems that ASM interfaces to must be in English. For example, Virtual Machine Manager Credentials for systems such as SCVMM and VMware vCenter must be in English so that ASM can provision to these environments.
- DNS names must be in English.

Fixes

This release includes improvements and bug fixes, including previously reported Known Issues that are now resolved, as follows:

- **ASM-4807** — Resolves an issue where an AD User import fails with the user.name@asm.dell.works.com email format.
- **ASM-4485** — Resolves an issue where the deployment failed if FC or FCoE deployments PXE are not manually enabled on the first NIC.
- **ASM-4629** — Resolves an issue where the ImportSystemConfiguration job failed with the following error message: Server has pending or committed system configuration.
- **ASM-4678** — Resolves an issue where an ASM cluster failed if the EVC mode is enabled on the cluster.

Known Issues

This section provides information on open issues and resolutions with this release of Active System Manager 8.1.1.

- **Issue: ASM-1469:** The puppet agent fails to install on Cent OS v6.4. The Cent OS v6.4 cannot mount the appliance's CIFS share in order to download the rpm.
 - **Description:** The samba-client needs to be installed on the linux VM for the mount to work, but it is not installed. In RHEL 6.5, samba-client is installed by default but not on Cent OS v6.4.
Resolution/Workaround: The problem occurs when you use the minimal ISO. It does not contain the samba-client. You should make sure that the full ISOs are used.
- **Issue: ASM-1674:** Invalid password error when trying to create a User, Credential, or Service Template Component.
 - **Description:** Known issue when using FireFox **Remember Password** feature. If FireFox detects that you type in a value that matches the Remembered password it passes a blank value rather than the typed-in value. So the second time you try to type the same password value for the same type of entity in ASM, if the password you enter matches the previously used value for that type of entity then the system will be passed a blank value for the password.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Add an exception to FireFox to not save passwords for ASM URL. Perform the following steps:
 1. Start Firefox.
 2. Go to **Tools** -> **Options**.
 3. Click on the **Security** tab.
 4. If you already have saved passwords for your ASM appliance, click the **Save Passwords** button, select your ASM Appliance URL and click **Remove**, then click **Close**.
 5. Exit out of FireFox options.
 6. The next time you log into ASM and enter a password for one of these fields, when prompted to Remember passwords for the site click the drop-down arrow and choose '**Never Remember Passwords** for This Site'.

NOTE: This is a browser/system specific setting, so if multiple users are using your ASM appliance all users will need to make sure to disable **Remember Password** for ASM Appliance URL.

- **Issue: ASM-2144:** Server with bare hard drive fails to get HddSeq set properly
 - **Description:** If you choose SD boot and the server has a bare hard drive (not connected through a RAID controller) the HddSeq may fail to get set properly, Leaving the bare hard drive at the top of the list. The server may boot off the bare hard drive instead of the SD card where the operating system was installed.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** None
- **Issue: ASM-2287:** The server teardown operation does not remove the Active Directory and DNS entries of the servers.
 - **Description:** If you tear down servers in a service, Active Directory and DNS entries of the server are not removed if the associated cluster is not selected for tear down. In addition, in some cases, if ASM is unable to communicate with the Active Directory or DNS server, these entries may also not be removed.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** To remove the Active Directory and DNS entries of the server, make sure to select the associated cluster. If the issues persist, confirm that the Active Directory and DNS entries have been removed from the server manually.
- **Issue: ASM-2381:** In Mozilla Firefox, IQN/IPs are displayed as mandatory for Hyper-V template.
 - **Description:** If you open ASM in Mozilla Firefox and update Hyper-V template, ASM prompts you to enter IQN/IPs, which are not valid.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** Use Google Chrome to update Hyper-V template.
- **Issue: ASM-2382:** During volume scale up, duplicate volume lists existing volumes.
 - **Description:** During volume scale up, if you select the Duplicate option, the existing volumes are displayed.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** If we select a volume that does not match the duplicated resource, then there will be no duplicating.
- **Issue: ASM-2411:** Multiple app components of the same type connected to the same VM or server do not run both.
 - **Description:** If multiple app components of the same type, for example "Windows Post Install" are connected to the same VM or server component, only one of the app components will run.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** For Windows or Linux post install script components, ensure that you include all functionality in a single target script. For SQL and Citrix applications, only a single instance can be selected.
- **Issue: ASM-2599:** Issue with Configure Resources when IOM Firmware is out-of-date with minimum firmware requirements.
 - **Description:** The following error message is displayed while configuring resources when a firmware running on the I/O module does not meet the minimum requirements. If the IOM firmware is not within the Compatibility Matrix minimum firmware, The following error is displayed when it attempts to show the discovered resources.
An Unexpected error has occurred on the system Please try again later.
 - Resolution/Workaround:** You must update the I/O module firmware and retry initial discovery and configuration of the chassis.
- **Issue: ASM-2951:** Error message is displayed during firmware update on C series.
 - **Description:** While performing firmware update on C series servers, the health status of the C series switch changes to <gray> and the following error message is displayed.

Unknown error querying ipmi on host 172.31.32.142: Could not retrieve IPMI status: ipmi_sensor_read: internal IPMI error.

- **Resolution/Workaround:** This is an expected behavior because connection is not established with the BMC for a few seconds when you initiate firmware update operation, and the firmware update continues after the connectivity is established with BMC.
- **Issue: ASM-3133:** ASM performs the discovery operation on the FX2 chassis after you update the CMC firmware.
 - **Description:** The Chassis firmware update will trigger the Chassis inventory which will trigger the Chassis discovery in order to detect any newly inserted blades or IOMs.
Resolution/Workaround: This is an expected behavior. When you update the CMC firmware on FX2 chassis, the chassis firmware update operation initiates the Chassis inventory operation, which in turn initiates the chassis discovery operation to collect the information about the blades or IOMs that are newly inserted.
- **Issue: ASM-3157:** For SCVMM cluster provisioning, Active Directory must not contain any hosts with the same name.
 - **Description:** When you provision a SCVMM cluster using a Hyper-V cluster creation template, if the template has the AD entries for the Cluster that are persistent and match the name you are trying to provision, the SCVMM cluster deployment will fail.
Resolution/Workaround: Active Directory and DNS conflicts must be resolved prior to a deployment if you intend to use names that may already exist within your AD/DNS. ASM requires the names to be removed from AD/DNS and these will be re-provisioned during the template execution.
- **Issue: ASM-3328:** Import from R430 reference server sets server type undefined in networking section
 - **Description:** For all servers prior to ASM discovery, ensure the RAID controller is enabled if it is available, and that any unsupported 1Gb NICs are disabled. After updating these devices setting, you should reboot the server to ensure that Lifecycle Controller system inventory is updated.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** None
- **Issue: ASM-3463:** Compellent deployment fails if you type apostrophes (') or other special characters in some fields.
 - **Description:** When you try to enter apostrophes or any other special characters in a field the compellent deployment fails. You should not enter apostrophes or special characters.
Resolution/Workaround: None
- **Issue: ASM 3490:** Host and sub host groups cannot be used in separate deployments for Hyper-V deployments.
 - **Description:** Hyper-V deployments uses one logical network and all hosts are assigned the same logical network. In case of two deployments, if the first deployment uses the parent host group and the second deployment uses a user defined host group, then the second deployment with the user defined host group fails.
Resolution/Workaround: None
- **Issue: ASM-3520:** Deployments fail if SD and HDD are enabled and operating system is installed on SD.
 - **Description:** ESXi Operating System installation was done on the SD card with HDD and SD card enabled on the server. The configuration sequence was first

HDD and then SD. After the operating system was installed the server was not able to boot from the HDD.

Resolution/Workaround: Check for ESXi management IP Address access.

- **Issue: ASM-3545:** C-series cannot be taken as a reference server though it is displayed in the import list.

- **Description:** This is an expected behavior. C-series servers cannot be referenced as reference servers as they do not have iDRAC supported.

Resolution/Workaround: None

- **Issue: ASM-3813:** When adding a Firmware Repository from a local drive, user is able to upload arbitrary files. While this functionality parses this file to verify whether it is either an XML or CAB file, parsing occurs after the file has already been written to the /tmp directory.

- **Description:** The client(browser) on large file uploads continues to stream data after the maximum size exception has been thrown and the client therefore never receives the error response or error messaging that the file is too large to upload. The following error message is displayed.

Invalid file format: "The upload file format is invalid. Please verify the format and try again."

Resolution/Workaround: None

- **Issue: ASM-3892:** Firmware update for 12th generation blades with intel cards and Broadcom card fails in some cases when Intel NICs are installed.

- **Description:** Updating Intel X520 cards with versions earlier than 15.5.0 to 16.5.x requires a manual update to 15.5.0, prior to upgrading to 16.5.x with ASM.

Resolution/Workaround: None

- **Issue: ASM-4123:** Service reports "Error" state though all other components are successful.

- **Description:** In some cases when deleting a failed resource, for example, a VM Component, from a successful servers puts the service in error state despite all remaining components in successfully "Deployed" state.

Resolution/Workaround: Retry the service should move the service state back to successful.

- **Issue: ASM-4174:** ASM backend not to tear down the shared resources.

- **Description:** When deleting a service the user has the option to delete clusters and storage. If these are shared with other services, ASM will not warn the user and will proceed to remove the shared resources.

Resolution/Workaround: Prior to deleting a service, verify which clusters and storage volumes are shared with other services. Only select delete for resources which will not impact other services.

- **Issue: ASM-4205:** ESXi 6.0 with Compellent will fail if the array has firmware version later than v6.6.

- **Description:** vCenter 6.0 support is added with Storage Center 6.6. While creating a deployment with ESXi 6.0, select Compellent for which storage center is upgraded to version 6.6

Resolution/Workaround: In case the storage center is running on version less than 6.6, then for Compellent Storage Component, select Operating System as "ESXi 5.5" or "ESXi 5.1"

- **Issue: ASM-4216:** In some cases Boot Order, Target Boot Device and RAID Configuration are not set.

- **Description:** Template settings for Target Boot Device and RAID Configuration are not set even though the deployment is complete and successful. This only appears to be an issue with iDRAC version 2.10.10.

Resolution/Workaround: Upgrade iDRAC firmware to 2.15 or later. For servers which are on 2.10.10, validate Target Boot Device and RAID Configuration are configured prior to deployment.

- **Issue: ASM-4273:** Volumes deleted from a HyperV service in ASM are not removed completely from the HyperV host.
 - **Description:** If you delete a storage volume from a HyperV service, the volume will be deleted on the storage array and removed from ASM service, but there may be stale references left on HyperV hosts.
Resolution/Workaround: Manually remove references to non-existent volumes in HyperV using disk manager.
- **Issue: ASM-4282:** For HyperV services if only the last server is selected for teardown without also including the cluster, the host will not be removed from the cluster.
 - **Description:** SCVMM prevents removing the last host from a cluster, therefore if only the last host in a cluster is selected for teardown, ASM will not be able to remove that host.
Resolution/Workaround: Whenever removing the last host from an SCVMM cluster, also select the cluster for teardown.
- **Issue: ASM-4294:** In ASM 8.1.1, user cannot apply the license using Microsoft Internet Explorer v.10
 - **Description:** In ASM 8.1.1, When user applies the license using Internet Explorer 10, the dialog box displaying the file name remains blank and the license capacity is not displayed.
Resolution/Workaround: Use Google Chrome or Mozilla FireFox.
- **Issue: ASM-4328:** After restore, operating system and firmware need to be able to be rebuilt.
 - **Description:** After a restore, operating system and firmware repositories are placeholders. The user must now remove the repositories and add new ones. However, any existing templates or services that rely on the repositories will prevent the existing repositories from being deleted in order to be re-added. Hence, the user has to change the repositories for all templates, and any existing services will have to be deleted in order to point to the correct repository.
Resolution/Workaround: For any repositories, they cannot be used for new templates or as an option for adding resources to a service, and provide a method to rebuild the existing repository without requiring deletion.
- **Issue: ASM-4399:** A message is displayed as "testing123" when the user upgrades from version 8.1 to the latest version 8.1.1.
 - **Description:** When a user upgrades from ASM version 8.1 to version 8.1.1, a pop-up message "testing123" is displayed. The message is displayed even after the user restarts the VM guest appliance, refreshes the Web browser or restarts the browser.
Resolution/Workaround: After the appliance update from 8.1 to 8.1.1, user must clear the cache to address this issue.
- **Issue: ASM-4448:** When a user logs into ASM and clicks on **Template** or **Service** page, a blank page is displayed. sometimes the process of getting displayed occurs for a long time and when the user performs a refresh, the user is logged out of the User Interface.
 - **Description:** Log into ASM 8.1.1 and navigate to the service or template page, reload the application, a blank page is displayed.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** To view the **Service / Template** page, clear the cache and log into ASM.

- **Issue: ASM-4453:** When you add a server using "Add Resource" to a service the UI is missing the option to select "Management IP Source".
 - **Description:** In ASM 8.1.1, when you add a server, ASM user interface does not have the option to choose the "**Management IP Source**".
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** None.
- **Issue: ASM-4561:** Problems with 7.12 Broadcom Firmware.
 - **Description:** Broadcom NIC firmware 7.12.xx is not compatible with ASM 8.1.1. It can cause intermittent connectivity issues which will result in hypervisor and bare metal OS deployment failures.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Apply the firmware available in the latest ASM catalog. Alternatively, manually downgrade your Broadcom NIC firmware to 7.10.xx. Also, note that v7.12.17 will not work and later versions resolves this issue, but 7.10.xx is the qualified version.
- **Issue: ASM-4562:** When removing resources from ASM HyperV/SCVMM service, resources not completely cleaned up in SCVMM.
 - **Description:** While deleting resources from a service, or removing a service including HyperV clusters in SCVMM, there may be cases where ASM service is removed but some of the resources cannot be cleaned in SCVMM. This can happen when SCVMM server and database cannot keep up with ASM teardown requests.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Check SCVMM for any running jobs that appear to no longer be making progress, and remove. Manually, remove any clusters and hosts that could not be removed from SCVMM. See, SCVMM documentation on how to ensure SCVMM resources are sufficient for your environment.
- **Issue: ASM-4582:** ASM Template not configuring FCoE VLANs correctly with M420 connected to Slot 2B on M1000e chassis.
 - **Description:** M420 servers on slot B/D have different connectivity with IOMs. For these servers NIC Port1 is connected to IOM2 and NIC Port2 is connected to IOM1.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Considering the connectivity, for FCoE deployments on M420 servers connected on Slot B/D, deployment template needs to define the network configuration as:
 - FCoE VLAN on Port1 which will be configured on IOM2
 - FCoE VLAN on Port2 will be configured on IOM1
 - For example
 - FCoE VLAN on IOM1 is 255 and FCoE VLAN on IOM2 is 256.
 - In the network configuration for the servers, need to specify
 - FCoE VLAN 256 on Port1
 - FCoE VLAN 255 on Port 2
- **Issue: ASM-4590:** Intel NIC cards need to be at version 15.5.0 or later for firmware updates to work.
 - **Description:** Firmware update for 12th generation blades with intel cards and Broadcom card fails in some cases when Intel NICs are installed if it is not of version 15.5.0.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Updating Intel X520 cards with versions earlier than 15.5.0 to 16.5.x requires a manual update to 15.5.0, prior to upgrading to 16.5.x with ASM.

- **Issue: ASM-4593:** Dell PowerEdge FC830 and PowerEdge R930 servers fail on vm during hyper-v deployment.
 - **Description:** Server reboots automatically when creating VM on HyperV server. This happens on Dell Server when Node Interleave is enabled in the server BIOS.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Disable Node-Interleave in the server BIOS.
- **Issue: ASM-4632:** Not able to create a deployment with FX2 servers having Quad Port Card in Integrated Slot and FC Card in Chassis Slot 8.
 - **Description:** In the template specify Quad Port 10GB in fabric A and FC in Fabric B. While deploying the template a Network configuration mis-match error is displayed.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** If users use PCIe cards, you need to follow the mapping provided below to expect the template to define the fabrics:
 - Fabric B Fabric C
 - Server slot 1 – PCIe slot 7 PCIe slot 8
 - Server slot 2 – PCIe slot 3 PCIe slot 4
 - Server slot 3 – PCIe slot 5 PCIe slot 6
 - Server slot 4 – PCIe slot 1 PCIe slot 2
- **Issue: ASM-4688:** In NIC firmware, the X520/I350 rNDC firmware version 15.0.28 to version 16.5.20 firmware fails to update in the firmware update logs.
 - **Description:** This is due to a specific firmware update issue with the X520/I350 rNDC firmware version 16.5.20. The X520/I350 rNDC firmware may require a step-up to an intermediate version of the firmware in order to upgrade from 15.0.28 to 16.5.20.
The problem might be due to the catalog problem where ASM is trying to apply the wrong firmware.
Resolution/Workaround: None
- **Issue: ASM-4697:** Logs messages need to be updated for firmware retry logic.
 - **Description:** Firmware updates retries up to three attempts displaying an error message for each failed attempt. The message displayed must be updated to indicate a failed attempt occurred and a retry will follow. In some cases a success message is logged followed by an error message.
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** None
- **Issue: ASM-4775:** Broadcom NIC will fail firmware update if current firmware is older than 7.8.53.
 - **Description:** Broadcom firmware in the ASM catalog, 7.10.18, will require a minimum of 7.8.53 for the firmware update to succeed.
Resolution/Workaround: None
- **Issue: ASM-4908:** Domain name lookup from the ASM interface continues to fail even after configuring DNS on the appliance.
 - **Description:** If the DNS is not configured during initial setup, the domain name lookup fails and this negative lookup is cached in the system. Subsequent domain name lookup attempts continue to fail even after configuring DNS on the appliance.
Resolution/Workaround: It is recommended to configure DNS during initial setup. If DNS is configured after the domain lookup fails, restart the appliance to resolve the issue.

- **Issue: ASM-5132:** On PowerEdge C6320 systems with ESXi version 5.1 or ESXi version 5.2 (update 2), the keyboard is unresponsive if USB 3.0 is set to enabled in the server BIOS.
 - **Description:** This issue occurs because USB 3.0 is not supported by ESXi version 5.1 and ESXi version 5.2 (update 2).
 - **Resolution/Workaround:** Try any of the following options to resolve the issue:
 - Disable USB 3.0 from the server BIOS.
 - For servers that require USB 3.0, upgrade ESXi to version 5.5 (update 3) or version 6.0.

Limitations

None

Installation Prerequisites

For installation Pre-requisites, see the "Active System Manager 8.1.1 Installation Guide" available at dell.com/support/manuals.

Installation Procedure

For complete installation instructions, see the "Active System Manager 8.1.1 Installation Guide" available at dell.com/support/manuals.

Installation and Configuration Notes

None

Documentation Errata

None

Contacting Dell Technical Support

- Make sure that the Active System Manager Service Tag is available.
- Go to the tech direct portal <https://techdirect.dell.com>
- Login using your existing account or create an account if you do not have an account.
- Create a new case for your incident.
- Add your Active system Manager service tag.
- Select **Active System Manager** as the Incident type
- Type relevant information in the Problem Details, and add attachments or screenshots if necessary.
- Fill in contact information and submit the request

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