Active System Manager Release 8.3

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 8.3, 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

8.3 build 6744

Release Date

September 2016

Previous Release

ASM 8.2.1 build 6018

Note: To view the build details, click **?**-> **About** on the ASM user interface.

Platform(s) Affected

Supported ASM Software Components

- ASM Virtual Appliance

Supported Virtualization Platforms

- VMware 5.1 (ASM appliance includes update 03 build 2323236)
- VMware 5.5 (ASM appliance includes update 03 build 3248547)
- VMware 6.0 (ASM appliance includes update 02 build 3620759)
- 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

New in this Release

Active System Manager 8.3 is focused on expanding capabilities around workload deployment, adding new capabilities around managing existing environments, and improving the granularity of information shown around the current state of environments under management.

The highlights of Active System Manager release 8.3 include the following:

- Support for Dell Hybrid Cloud for Virtualization that includes a new plug-in for compatibility with vRealize Orchestrator 7.0 and 7.1. You can create workflows to automate the deployment of service templates created in ASM.

This release also includes compatibility support for the following:

- Support for PowerEdge R630, PowerEdge R730, PowerEdge R730XD hybrid and flash configurations. PowerEdge FC430, PowerEdge FC630, and PowwerEdge FX2- All flash configurations. You can leverage ASM capabilities to discover, deploy and manage the VSAN ready nodes on Virtual SAN 6.2.
- Support for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP4 that enables Dell's SAP HANA Cloud Solution to leverage ASM's hardware compatibility list to offer ASM automation capabilities to customers.

ASM release 8.3 build 6744 is an update to ASM release 8.2.1. It also includes the following fixes and enhancements:

- Improved reporting of firmware status, making it easier to understand which catalog the comparison firmware status is being calculated against, and the current firmware status.
- Improved logging to prevent log file location from filling up and causing issues with the ASM appliance.
- Improved identification on the resources page of resources that require firmware updates for easier access.
- Improved user interaction for selecting multiple entries on the resources page and updating inventory.
- Enhanced detection of IP addresses already in use when they overlap with ranges of IP addresses given to ASM to utilize during deployments.
- Resolved issue where after multiple appliance upgrades, files from previous appliance versions could fill all available space on the appliance.
- Resolved an issue where specifying the same name for multiple storage volumes when cloning a sample template caused subsequent deployments from that template to fail.

Important Notes

To support interoperability, ASM 8.3 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 the following previously reported Known Issues:

ASM-2287 — Resolved an issue where some components inside SCVMM were not removed when deleting a deployment.

ASM-4174 — Resolved an issue where deleting a service, deleted the shared resources without a warning message.

ASM-6170 — Resolved an issue where unsupported ports can be selected for Virtual Link Trunking (VLT) configuration on the I/O Aggregator.

ASM-6299 — Resolved an issue where the password field is populated by default when building a template using the **Import from Existing Template** option.

ASM-6319 — Resolved an issue where on the **Network Details** page, released IP addresses are listed as in use by a service that is scaled down.

ASM-6798 —Resolved an issue where selecting a network with no defined gateway as the default gateway was possible.

ASM-6962 — Resolved an issue where retry of a previously failed deployment incorrectly indicated as success if the OS install step in the configuration process was successful.

ASM-7170 — Resolved an issue while creating templates to deploy VMs to a cluster, the **Configure VMware vSAN** option is enabled by default.

Known Issues

This section provides information on open issues and resolutions with this release of Active System Manager 8.3.

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-1894: ASM is unable to distinguish volumes with the same names in different Compellent folders.

> **Description**: ASM cannot distinguish volumes with a same name in different folder in a Compellent inventory

> **Resolution/Workaround**: Ensure that you provide unique names for volumes used by ASM in your Compellent inventory.

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-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 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-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-3639: Time difference between the installed operating system and ASM appliance may cause the operating system post-install configuration on servers and virtual machines to fail while waiting for puppet agent to check in.

Description: ASM includes a puppet agent while installing the Windows or Linux operating systems. The puppet agent communicates with the ASM appliance to retrieve the post-install configuration and both server (ASM) and client-side SSL certificates are checked for validity during this process. The ASM server-side SSL certificate is created when the ASM appliance is first started and is marked valid only after the first boot time of the appliance. Hence, a failure may occur if the initial time set on the appliance is incorrect.

To view this issue, manually run the "puppet agent -t" command on the server or VM that is experiencing a failure. This problem usually results in SSL_connect errors in the output and the following message is displayed: `CRL is not yet valid for /CN=dellasm`.

Resolution/Workaround:

Ensure that the hypervisor host on which you want to install ASM is set to the correct time and NTP is used for the ASM appliance, ASM installed servers, virtual machines to ensure consistency in the time.

Issue: ASM-3862: UEFI boot is not supported in ASM.

Description: The BIOS boot mode does not change to UEFI after the local hard drive is set as the target boot device. This issue occurs because ASM does not support UEFI boot support.

Resolution/Workaround: None

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-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-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-4561: Problem with 7.12 Broadcom firmware.

> **Description**: Broadcom NIC firmware 7.12.xx is not compatible with ASM. 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-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-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.

> **Resolution/Workaround**: Updating Intel X520/l350 cards with versions earlier than 15.5.28 to 16.5.x requires a manual update to 15.5.28, prior to upgrading to 16.5.x with ASM.

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-4915: ESXi install to SD card fails.

> **Description**: While installing ESXi, a problem with the SD card mirroring may result in a failure occasionally and will display the following error:
>
> ```
> BANK5: invalid configuration.
> BANK6: invalid configuration.
> No hypervisor found.
> ```
>
> **Resolution/Workaround**: Delete the server from the ASM service and redeploy it again.

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.

Issue: ASM-5397: Unable to login to the user interface.

> **Description**: The user interface is inaccessible when you login after updating to ASM 8.2.
>
> **Resolution/Workaround**: Ensure that you clear the browser cache after updating ASM and before logging in the user interface.

Issue: ASM-5510: Removing the battery from a controller on a Dell Compellent storage device displays an inaccurate message.

> **Description**: After you remove the controller battery on a Dell Compellent storage device, an incorrect error message is displayed on the **Resource** page.
>
> **Resolution/Workaround**: None.

Issue: ASM-5984: Static IP addresses are requested or reserved for **Server (Hardware Only)** components.

> **Description**: When deploying an ASM template with a **Server (Hardware Only)** configuration, IP addresses are reserved for all static networks included on the network configuration of the component. Because this is a "hardware only" component ASM does not configure the server to use these IPs.
>
> **Resolution/Workaround**: Ensure that you do not assign static networks to the **Server (Hardware Only)** components or ensure that the static networks that are used have enough IP addresses that can be assigned to the component.

Issue: ASM-6219: Backup and restore may reject valid CIFS share credentials.

> **Description**: ASM may reject valid credentials in cases where CIFS shares have anonymous or guest privileges.
>
> **Resolution/Workaround**: Clear the credentials and retry the operation.

Issue: ASM-6498:When adding network resources to a running service, for VMware services that include VDS switches a port group must be entered.

>**Description**: When adding network resources to a running service, for VMware services that include VDS switches a port group must be entered. The user interface will not allow you to proceed until a port group is selected from the drop-down. This port group will not be used, but must be selected.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround**: Select a port group from the drop-down anytime you are adding a network to a running VMware service which include VDS switches.

Issue: ASM-6826: After scaling down a virtual machine component, future deployments with the same virtual machine name is not possible.

>**Description**: After you scale down a virtual machine using the vRO plugin, future deployments using the same virtual name that was used is not possible.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround**: Restart the appliance.

Issue: ASM-7003: Existing template fields for VDS switches do not update after inventory updates.

>**Description**: If you manually create a VMware Virtual Distributed Switch (VDS) after creating a template in ASM, the new VDS switch is not displayed in the available list of switches in the template.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround**: Remove the cluster component from the template, create the VDS switches manually, and add the removed cluster component to the template.

Issue: ASM-7255: Baremetal server deployment with Intel Ethernet Converged network adapter x710 does not work due to a driver issue.

>**Description**: Baremetal server deployment on a server with Intel Intel Ethernet Converged network adapter x710 is not supported on ASM 8.3.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround**: Replace the network adapter with a supported model. For more information on the supported network adapters, see the ASM Compatibility Matrix document available at **dell.com/asmdocs**

Issue: ASM-7408: ESXi host intermittently loses connection to vCenter.

>**Description**: ESXi host loses network connectivity with vCenter during ASM cluster component provisioning. This connectivity loss is observed when the same physical NIC is used for both iSCSI and VSAN traffic.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround**: Ensure that you use separate NICs for VSAN and iSCSI connection to the datastore.

Issue: ASM-7501: Deployments fail if the ASM appliance does not have a default gateway.

>**Description**: If the ASM appliance and ASM-deployed servers or VMs are on a different network, ASM will use the IP address of its default gateway interface for communication between them. If the ASM appliance does not have a default gateway, the deployments will fail because ASM cannot find the IP address to use.
>
>**Resolution/Workaround:** When configuring ASM appliance networking, ensure that a default gateway is specified. For DHCP network configuration, ensure that the DHCP scope has a gateway set. For static network configuration, ensure that at least one network interface is configured with a gateway.

Issue: ASM-7553: Duplicate cluster names in a given vCenter instance cause issues.

> **Description**: If two clusters have the same name in a given vCenter, even if they are in different data centers, ASM is unable to tear down the cluster.

> **Resolution/Workaround:** Manually remove the cluster from vCenter. Ensure that you do no select the cluster during a tear down of an ASM server.

Issue: ASM-7660: An error in the "executionpolicy" command causes the puppet agent to fail during Windows post install.

> **Description**: Running the puppet agent -t command after a windows post install failure during a puppet run, displays an error message stating that the name of the cmdlet is not recognized and non-english characters are visible. This errors occurs when you copy and paste the script execution command from certain documents into the post install module in ASM for the Execute File command.

> **Resolution/Workaround:** Ensure that the text entered in the Execute File command are typed using a keyboard or copied only from documents with no special or hidden characters.

Issue: ASM-7745: Clicking the **Export All** option on the **Resource** page, exports only the first page.

> **Description**: Clicking the **Export All** option exports only the first page irrespective of the number of pages available.

> **Resolution/Workaround:** None.

Issue: ASM-7852: Time zone and Network Time Protocol (NTP) set using the user interface is not applied.

> **Description**: Setting the time zone and NTP using the ASM web interface does not update the time in the appliance.

> **Resolution/Workaround:** Restart the appliance for the setting to take effect.

Issue: ASM-7934: Cluster with storage DRS fails if any of the ESXi hosts fails.

> **Description**: If any of the host systems fail during an ESX cluster deployment using storage DRS, the cluster configuration will also fail.

> **Resolution/Workaround:** Scale down the failed DRS server, scale up another server, and retry the deployment to deploy the cluster successfully.

Limitations

Removed support for vRealize Orchestrator 6.0 and lower versions.

Installation Prerequisites

For installation pre-requisites, see the "*Active System Manager 8.3 Installation Guide*" available at **dell.com/asmdocs**.

Installation Procedure

For complete installation instructions, see the "*Active System Manager 8.3 Installation Guide*" available at **dell.com/asmdocs**.

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 **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