

Dell PowerStore T and Q

Software Upgrade Guide

Version 4.4

Notes, cautions, and warnings

 **NOTE:** A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your product.

 **CAUTION:** A CAUTION indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

 **WARNING:** A WARNING indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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As part of an improvement effort, revisions of the software and hardware are periodically released. Some functions that are described in this document are not supported by all versions of the software or hardware currently in use. The product release notes provide the most up-to-date information about product features. Contact your service provider if a product does not function properly or does not function as described in this document.

Where to get help

Support, product, and licensing information can be obtained as follows:

- **Product information**—For product and feature documentation or release notes, go to the [PowerStore Info Hub](#).
- **Troubleshooting**—For information about products, software updates, licensing, and service go to [Dell Support](#) and locate the appropriate product support page.
- **Technical support**—For technical support and service requests, go to [Dell Support](#) and locate the **Service Requests** page. To open a service request, you must have a valid support agreement. Contact your Sales Representative for details about obtaining a valid support agreement or to answer any questions about your account.

Customer feedback

A feedback button is located at the right side of the PowerStore Manager. Selecting **Feedback** opens a browser window where you can fill and submit a feedback survey.

PowerStore non-disruptive software upgrades

Upgrade the software, drive firmware, Health Check package, or Language pack on your PowerStore cluster.

This document describes the process for upgrading PowerStore T model and PowerStore Q model clusters. For instructions on upgrading PowerStore X model clusters, see the *PowerStore X Model Software Upgrade Guide* in the *PowerStore 3.2.x Documentation Set* .zip file.

General upgrade considerations

Before preparing for an upgrade, review the following considerations:

NOTE: Not all PowerStoreOS versions support a direct upgrade to the latest release. For example, a PowerStore cluster with STIG enabled cannot be directly upgraded to PowerStoreOS 4.4 from PowerStoreOS 4.2 or earlier. A STIG-enabled cluster must be upgraded to PowerStoreOS 4.3 before it can be upgraded to PowerStoreOS 4.4.

For the latest information about supported upgrade paths, see *KB article 000175213 PowerStore: PowerStoreOS Matrix*.

- Performing a non-disruptive upgrade (NDU) on a PowerStore cluster does not stop I/O. The I/O requirements of the PowerStore cluster are met by a single node on each appliance in the cluster. The NDU process ensures that only one node of the cluster is taken offline at any given time. Taking a node offline does not cause host I/O disruptions when the hosts have redundant data access paths present, and the best practices are configured for the host operating system.
- Configuration changes and management operations cannot be performed on a PowerStore cluster during an NDU.
- Some internal system operations, such as snapshot and replication schedules, may be paused during an NDU and resume when the NDU is complete.
- When the PowerStoreOS is upgraded and the PowerStore VASA provider is offline, the I/O and availability of the vVol-based VMs served from the PowerStore cluster are not impacted. However, management operations such as creating VMs, rebooting VMs, migrating VMs to other ESXi hosts, and taking VM snapshots cannot be performed on vVol-based VMs while the VASA provider is offline.
- Review the host connectivity recommendations in the [E-Lab Host Connectivity Guides](#).
- Check the *PowerStore Simple Support Matrix* to ensure your host HBA driver and firmware are supported.
- Ensure that your host HBA driver, HBA firmware, and third-party applications or drivers are supported by the PowerStoreOS. For more information, see the PowerStore Simple Support Matrix on the [PowerStore Info Hub](#).
- When the PowerStoreOS upgrade is complete, wait five to ten minutes for the status of the PowerStore VASA provider to change to Online in vCenter Server before creating storage containers or performing management operations on vVol-based VMs.

NOTE: Within this document, PowerStore software refers to the software upgrade package for a PowerStore system and PowerStoreOS is the operating system that runs on the nodes of a PowerStore cluster.

Topics:

- [Types of update packages](#)
- [Upgrade preparation overview](#)
- [Download settings](#)
- [Health Check packages](#)

Types of update packages

PowerStore has several types of update packages that you can install on the system. Each package serves a different function. It is recommended to always upgrade to the latest PowerStoreOS, drive firmware, and Health Check packages for optimal system health and successful upgrades.


Table 1. Update Package Types

Package type	Display Name	Description
PowerStoreOS	Software Release	PowerStoreOS software upgrade package.
Drive firmware	Disk firmware	Drive firmware bundle to be applied to all the system drives.
Health Check package	Health Check	A package of supplemental health checks that identify system issues that could prevent successful non-disruptive upgrades (NDUs) or other maintenance operations.
Language packs	Language Pack	A package of localized content that allows users to change the display language of the PowerStore Manager interface.
Hotfix packages	Hotfix	A package of out-of-cycle critical fixes that typically comes directly from Support Engineering.

Upgrade preparation overview

Preparing for a software upgrade requires the following steps:


- Get the latest PowerStoreOS.
 - For systems on which Support Connectivity and automatic download are enabled, the latest packages are automatically downloaded to your system and ready for installation.
 - For systems on which Support Connectivity is enabled, but automatic download is disabled, proactively check for updates by going to **Settings > Upgrades** and selecting **More Actions > Check for updates** in the **Software Packages** section. If a new package is displayed after the check, select the package and click **Download**.
- Review the release notes.
- Run the Pre-Upgrade Health Check and other necessary system health check tools.
- Ensure that any issues detected by the health checks on the Monitoring > Health Checks tab have been resolved.
- Ensure that host connectivity is redundant for both nodes.
- Complete configuration changes or management operations ahead of the upgrade as these operations are not available while the upgrade is in-progress.

 **NOTE:** These management operations include tasks such as creating VMs, rebooting VMs, migrating VMs to other ESXi hosts, and taking VM snapshots.

Download settings

Customize automatic download preferences for update packages on the **Download Settings** slide-out panel, which can be accessed from the **Settings > Upgrades** page. Support Connectivity must be configured to enable automatic download.

Automatic download

- Automatic download enables update packages to be automatically downloaded to your system through the Support Connectivity secure tunnel.
 - Automatic download applies to PowerStoreOS packages, drive firmware packages, Health Check packages, and Language packs.
 - When a new compatible package becomes available for each update package type, the latest package overwrites any older packages pending installation under **Software Packages** on the **Upgrades** page. An alert is generated in PowerStore Manager whenever a new update package is available on your system for installation.
-  **NOTE:** Automatic download does not install any update packages on your system—it downloads them from Dell Support to your system to be installed manually. You must select a specific downloaded package, and then click **Upgrade** to install it.

Software Release package preference

Select whether you want the automatic download feature to always download the **Recommended** PowerStoreOS package, or the **Latest** PowerStoreOS package.

- **Recommended**—A PowerStoreOS package that meets specific customer usage metric criteria. This criteria includes a minimum number of run-time hours, installs, and upgrades.
- **Latest**—The most recent PowerStoreOS package that is available from Dell Support.

Health Check packages

Health Check packages are standalone update bundles, separate from the PowerStoreOS, and are released directly to Dell Support. These packages include the latest set of Pre-Upgrade Health Checks (PUHCs), which may contain newer checks not present in the current PowerStoreOS. These checks help proactively identify system issues that may affect the success of PowerStoreOS upgrades.

As a best practice, always install the latest Health Check package before upgrading the PowerStoreOS. When the latest Health Check package is installed, run the updated Health Checks using the **Health Check** button on the **Upgrades** page.

NOTE: When you upgrade the PowerStoreOS, the Pre-Upgrade Health Checks in that PowerStoreOS package replace the health checks from the previously installed Health Check package.

Check for newer Health Check packages on Dell Support

As a best practice, always install the latest available Health Check packages for your current PowerStoreOS version before starting a software upgrade.

Prerequisites

If Support Connectivity is enabled, a system alert notifies you when a new and compatible Health Check package becomes available on Dell Support. If automatic download is also enabled, any new and compatible Health Check packages are automatically downloaded to your system for installation.

If Support Connectivity is not enabled, proactively check Dell Support for new Health Check packages.

NOTE: For systems running PowerStoreOS 3.5 or later, the version of the installed Health Check package can be determined using the PowerStore CLI or REST API. For more information, see *KB article 000192601 PowerStore: How to Check the Health of the Cluster Before Software Upgrade*.

Perform the following steps to check for newer Health Check pages:

Steps

1. Open a browser and go to [Dell Support](#).
2. Sign in to a support account that is associated with the PowerStore cluster.
3. Go to the product page for your system, and then go to **Drivers & Downloads**.
4. Review the list of downloads for any Health Check packages that have been recently released.
Each Health Check package bundle on Dell Support includes a description that provides information about the compatible PowerStore models and PowerStoreOS versions.
5. Click **Download** to download the Health Check package.
6. Upload the Health Check package to the PowerStore cluster and install it on the cluster.

Next steps

After upgrading the PowerStoreOS, check Dell Support for newer Health Check packages that may be available for the new PowerStoreOS version and install those Health Check packages.

PowerStore T and PowerStore Q software upgrades

Topics:

- [Enable a maintenance window before performing a software upgrade](#)
- [PowerStore T and PowerStore Q upgrade overview](#)
- [Upgrade the software on a PowerStore T or PowerStore Q cluster](#)

Enable a maintenance window before performing a software upgrade

For upgrades from PowerStoreOS 3.0.x or 3.2.0.x, the system does not automatically enable a maintenance window during the upgrade. Before performing an upgrade from PowerStoreOS 3.0.x or 3.2.0.x, manually enable a maintenance window on each appliance in the cluster.

About this task

Enabling a maintenance window disables support notifications and prevents call home alerts from being sent to Dell Support during an upgrade.

Steps


1. On the **Settings** page, select **Maintenance Window** in the **Support** section.
2. Select the appliance for which you want to enable a maintenance window and click **Enable/Modify**.
3. In the **Maintenance Window** slide-out panel, specify the number of days and hours to disable support notifications in the **Maintenance Window Duration** fields.
Specify a maintenance window of at least two hours when upgrading a PowerStore cluster. Support notifications are automatically reenabled after the maintenance window ends.
4. Click **Apply**.
The **End Time (Cluster Time)** column displays the date and time that the maintenance window ends.
5. Repeat this process for any other appliances in the cluster.

PowerStore T and PowerStore Q upgrade overview

For the latest PowerStore features and improvements, upgrade the software on the cluster to the latest available version.

About this task

When upgrading a cluster, use only Dell-qualified upgrade packages that are downloaded from Dell Support. The upgrade package contains the node firmware upgrades and PowerStoreOS upgrade for the cluster.

 **NOTE:** Not all upgrade paths are supported. For the latest information about supported software upgrade paths, see *KB article 000175213 PowerStore: PowerStoreOS Matrix*.

Steps

1. Download the latest upgrade package from Dell Support.
For instructions on downloading upgrade packages from Dell Support, see [Download the PowerStore upgrade packages](#).
2. Upload the software upgrade package to PowerStore Manager:

- a. In PowerStore Manager, go to **Settings > Upgrades**.
- b. In the **Software Packages** section, select **Upload Package** or select **More Actions > Upload Package**.
- c. In the file explorer, select the package to upload and select **Open**.

NOTE: Do not close or refresh the browser while the software upgrade package is uploaded to PowerStore Manager.

When the software upgrade package finishes uploading, it is displayed in the **Software Packages** table.

3. Carefully review and perform the steps in *KB article 000183630 PowerStore: How to prepare for a PowerStore Non-Disruptive Upgrade (NDU)* before upgrading a cluster.

NOTE: Perform the steps that are outlined in *KB article 000183630* at least one week before the planned upgrade date. Allow enough time to correct any system issues that must be addressed before the upgrade.

4. Perform the steps in [Upgrade the software on a PowerStore T or PowerStore Q cluster](#). The software upgrade takes approximately one hour to one and a half hours to complete per appliance.
5. Following a successful PowerStoreOS software upgrade, upgrade the drive firmware if a new firmware bundle is available. See [Drive Firmware upgrades](#) for more details on upgrading the drive firmware.

Results

If the software upgrade process fails, check for and resolve all critical alerts on the cluster and retry the upgrade.

Upgrade the software on a PowerStore T or PowerStore Q cluster

Use PowerStore Manager to upgrade the PowerStoreOS and node firmware on the cluster.

Prerequisites

Ensure that a Pre-Upgrade Health Check has been performed at least seven days before upgrading the PowerStoreOS.

Steps

1. In PowerStore Manager, go to **Settings > Upgrades**.
2. If the software upgrade package has not yet been uploaded to PowerStore Manager, follow the upload instructions in [PowerStore T and PowerStore Q upgrade overview](#).
3. Select the software upgrade package in the **Software Packages** table, and select **Upgrade**. The software upgrade takes approximately one hour to one and a half hours to complete per appliance. During the software upgrade process, the primary node of the primary appliance fails over to the secondary node of the appliance and you are disconnected from PowerStore Manager. You can log back in to PowerStore Manager after the failover process is complete.

NOTE: The cluster temporarily stops recording performance metrics when the primary node of the primary appliance reboots during the software upgrade.

4. If the **Software Upgrade Complete** dialog box is displayed when the upgrade is complete, click **Reload** to refresh the PowerStore Manager interface.

Otherwise, close the browser session and open a new session or reload the page in the browser to refresh the PowerStore Manager interface.

NOTE: If you do not refresh the PowerStore Manager interface, the UI for the previous PowerStoreOS version is displayed. New features are not available, and unexpected behavior may occur until you refresh the PowerStore Manager interface.

Results

Changes to the column layout settings in PowerStore Manager do not persist when the PowerStoreOS is upgraded. When a new version of the PowerStoreOS is installed, the column layout settings in PowerStore Manager tables reset to their default layout.

NOTE: Beginning with PowerStoreOS 4.0, if the software upgrade fails and successfully rolls back to the previous operating system version, the system automatically recovers. You can retry the upgrade by selecting the software upgrade

package and then clicking **Upgrade** again. Contact your service provider for further assistance with software upgrade failures.

Drive Firmware upgrades

Periodically, new drive firmware becomes available for your PowerStore cluster. As a best practice, upgrade the drive firmware to the latest version following a successful software upgrade, and periodically between software upgrades.

This chapter covers the procedure for upgrading the drive firmware on a PowerStore cluster.

If Support Connectivity and automatic download are enabled, your system automatically downloads any new and applicable drive firmware. It is highly recommended to install this new drive firmware as it becomes available on the **Upgrades** page in PowerStore Manager.

Topics:

- [Update the drive firmware on the PowerStore cluster](#)

Update the drive firmware on the PowerStore cluster

Use PowerStore Manager to update the drive firmware on a PowerStore cluster.

Prerequisites

As a best practice, always update the drive firmware to the latest available version following a software upgrade. Drive firmware updates do not require a node reboot.

NOTE: Most drive firmware bundles are backwards-compatible with multiple PowerStoreOS versions. See the detailed description of the drive firmware bundle on Dell Support for more compatibility information. If you attempt to install an incompatible drive firmware bundle, a warning message appears and the installation does not proceed.

Steps

1. Download the latest drive firmware update package from Dell Support.
The drive firmware update package contains firmware updates for the drives in the PowerStore cluster. For instructions on downloading PowerStore upgrade packages, see [Download the PowerStore upgrade packages](#).
2. In PowerStore Manager, go to **Settings > Upgrades**.
3. In the **Software Packages** section, select **Upload Package** or **More Actions > Upload Package**.
NOTE: For systems on which Support Connectivity and automatic download are enabled, new applicable drive firmware packages are automatically downloaded to your system and appear in the **Software Upgrades** table.
4. Select the drive firmware update package, and select **Open**.
The drive firmware update package is uploaded and displayed in the **Software Packages** table.
NOTE: Do not close or refresh the browser while the drive firmware update package is uploaded to PowerStore Manager.
5. Select the drive firmware update package, and select **Upgrade**.

Results

- To verify the drive firmware version for individual drives in a PowerStore cluster, go to the **Hardware > Appliances > appliance > Components > Drives** page in PowerStore Manager.
- To verify the drive firmware version for all the drives in a PowerStore cluster, run the service command `svc_diag list --show_drives`. For more information, see the *PowerStore Service Scripts Guide*.

Language Packs

Language packs modify the display language of the PowerStore Manager interface to that of your preferred language, including event, alert, and error messages. Language packs are downloaded and installed the same way as software upgrade packages. PowerStore 3.x and later supports the following languages:

- French
- German
- Latin American Spanish
- Brazilian Portuguese
- Japanese
- Korean
- Simplified Chinese

When you upgrade the PowerStoreOS, your Language Pack settings are preserved, including the selected language and preferred time format. These settings will persist until the next Language Pack is installed on your system.

Topics:

- [Installing language packs](#)

Installing language packs

Prerequisites

Language packs are separate localized software bundles that can be downloaded from Dell Support and uploaded to your PowerStore cluster.

About this task

The default language for the language pack is set based on the default language preferences in your user preferences. Also, the time and date format and the time zone format for the language pack are set based on your **User Preferences**. The initial **User Preferences** are set based on your browser preferences for the browser that you are using to access PowerStore Manager. These preferences can be changed at any time.

Steps

1. Download the latest language pack from Dell Support.
If automatic download is enabled and a language pack is installed on the system, the latest language pack is automatically downloaded to your system.
2. In PowerStore Manager, go to **Settings > Upgrades**.
3. In the **Software Packages** section, select **Upload Package** or **More Actions > Upload Package** to upload the language pack to PowerStore Manager.
4. When the upload is complete, select the language pack software package from the list and click **Upgrade**.
5. Select your preferred language from the drop-down list.
6. Optionally, enable the language to be automatically detected based on the browser settings.
7. Select the preferred date and time format.

Adding an Appliance to a Cluster

Syncing the PowerStoreOS

When adding an appliance to a cluster, the cluster and appliance must be on the same PowerStoreOS version.

Clusters on PowerStoreOS 3.0.x and later automatically detect if there is a mismatch between PowerStoreOS versions and provide the option to synchronize during the **Add Appliance** wizard.

- For clusters and appliances on PowerStoreOS 3.0.x or later, the unconfigured appliance PowerStoreOS version is automatically updated to match the PowerStoreOS version of the cluster during the reinitialization step when the appliance is added to the cluster.
- For clusters on PowerStoreOS 2.x and earlier where the appliance is running a later version of the PowerStoreOS than the cluster, upgrade the cluster before adding the new appliance.
- For clusters on PowerStoreOS 2.x and earlier where the cluster is running a later version of the PowerStoreOS than the appliance, the appliance should be installed in the same rack and use the same switches as the existing cluster, and configured into its own separate cluster. Then, upgrade the PowerStoreOS of the separate cluster. For more information, see *KB article 000133192 PowerStore: PowerStore Manager prevents "Add an appliance to an existing cluster" operation from succeeding.*

Syncing other package types

Some packages must be manually reinstalled on the cluster after adding an appliance, depending on the PowerStoreOS version of the cluster. Upload and install thin packages that may not be correctly installed on the new appliance. For more information, see *KB article 000226460 PowerStore: Alerts: Thin packages missing following Add Appliance.*

For more information about adding appliances, see the *PowerStore Manager Online Help* and the *PowerStore Installation and Service Guide* for your PowerStore model.

Download the PowerStore upgrade packages

The PowerStore upgrade packages, including PowerStoreOS, drive firmware, Health Check packages, and Language packs are available for download from Dell Support. However, the upgrade packages can only be accessed when you are logged into Dell Support using an account that is associated with the PowerStore cluster.

About this task

The following steps only apply to clusters on which automatic download is not enabled. If Support Connectivity and automatic download are enabled, applicable upgrade packages are automatically downloaded to your system. For more information, see [Download settings](#).

Steps

1. Open a browser and go to [Dell Support](#).
2. Sign in using a support account that is associated with the PowerStore cluster.
3. Go to the product page for your system, and then go to **Drivers & Downloads**.
4. Identify the PowerStore upgrade package to download.
5. Click **Download** to download the PowerStore upgrade package.