March 2004

Operations Alert Bulletin

System Release Obsolescence

Introduction

Cisco has made significant improvements with the performance of each successive system release. For example, System Release (SR) 1.5.1 improved overall system performance and System Release 2.2.0/3.2.0 incorporated Cisco's CableCARD™ functionality and added new EAS (Emergency Alert System) codes. Taking these improvements into account, Cisco has decided to discontinue several older system releases.

Purpose

This alert bulletin serves as notification to system operators that several system releases will be discontinued. In addition, the benefits of upgrading to a current system release and the future disposition of the supporting publications for these discontinued system releases are discussed.

Audience

This alert bulletin is intended for all Cisco customers who have System Release 1.2.x, 1.4.x, 1.5.0, 2.1.0, 2.1.1, 3.0.0, and 3.0.1 software installed and running at their sites.

System Releases to be Discontinued

As of April 30, 2004, Cisco will no longer provide service packs or patches for any of the following system releases:

- SR 1.2.x
- SR 1.4.x
- SR 1.5.0
- SR 2.1.0
- SR 2.1.1
- SR 3.0.0
- SR 3.0.1

System Release Upgrade Benefits

SR 1.5.1, SR 2.2.0, SR 3.1.0, and SR 3.2.0 will continue to be supported, as well as releases beyond SR 2.2.0/3.2.0. Upgrading to one of these releases provides considerable system benefits. Service packs and patches are available for these supported releases. Please call Cisco Services for current information.

Upgrading to SR 1.5.1 includes the following benefits:

- Improved DHCT sign-on rate (57.6k per hour)
- VOD session setup/teardown rates improved (10 unencrypted sessions per second)
- VOD peak sessions improved (15,000 simultaneous sessions)
- VOD QAM channels increased (1500 QAM channels or 37 MQAMs)
- Out-of-band QPSK channel support provided (125 QPSK modem sets)
- DNCS memory leak fix
- Session issue fix associated with the BFS BIG and BFS QAM modulator

Note: Customers upgrading from SR 1.2.x will gain MQAM support, EMM Deleter, and BFS rate increase from 11 Mbps to 24 Mbps.

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Upgrading to SR 2.2.0/3.2.0 includes the following benefits:

- Improved DHCT sign-on rate (154.8 per hour)
- VOD session setup/teardown rates improved (41 unencrypted/26 encrypted sessions per second)
- VOD peak sessions improved (minimum of 30,000 simultaneous sessions)
- VOD QAM channels increased (3060 QAM channels or 750 simulated MQAMs, 35 QAMs, and 2 MQAMs)
- Out-of-band channel support provided (250 QPSK modem sets)
- Cable CARD 1.0 support incorporated
- New EAS codes added (i.e., Amber Alert)
- Network Management Interface (NMI) support incorporated

Software and Publications Support Plan

All information supporting these discontinued system releases will be removed from the web sites on May 1, 2004. The software and supporting information will no longer be orderable.

Recommendation

With the significant improvements made to successive system releases, Cisco recommends that sites contact their North American Marketing representative to schedule an upgrade to one of the supported releases. Remaining at an obsolete system release may limit a site's capability to deploy new products such as HD and DVR set-tops and future SARA software releases.

Continuing Improvements

Cisco will continue to evaluate and streamline software releases on a regular basis. Please watch for additional software obsolescence bulletins in the future.

For More Information

If you have technical questions, call Cisco Services for assistance. Follow the menu options to speak with a service engineer.

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