



DTACS 5.0 Release Notes

Overview

This release note describes the Digital Transport Adapter Control System (DTACS) version 5.0 software release. The DTACS controls subscriber digital television adapter (DTA) devices that perform digital-to-analog conversion for analog TVs in digital networks and DTA high definition (HD) devices. This allows analog and digital TV owners to view a variety of standard and HD channels, including subscribed premium channels wherever offered.

The DTACS is installed on the same network as the EC (Explorer Controller) and provides provisioning of basic and extended services, Entitlement Control Message Generator (ECMG) devices, code downloads, package support, Emergency Alert System (EAS), and Authorization Management Messages (AMMs) for DTA authorization.

Purpose

The purpose of this release note is to inform system administrators of the new features, feature enhancements and software fixes DTACS 5.0.

Scope

This release note provides an executive overview of DTACS 5.0. If you have questions about this release or require more detailed information, contact Cisco Services.

Audience

This release note is for system operators, customer verification labs personnel, and sales and program managers.[]

Document Version

This is the first formal release of this document.

Highlights

New features and product improvements for SR 5.0 are described in this section.

Migrate to Linux-Based Platform

DTACS 5.0 supports the Linux-based platform and removes the dependency on the sole-source third party (Oracle Solaris). Linux supports an annual renewal and brings in support and for using several virtualization options.

Improved Hardware Abstraction and Deployment Automation

The DTACS 5.0 base platform includes standardized Centos support which can be used across different control plane products for better long-term support. It eliminates the dependency of any specific hardware models, until it meets the application VM specification.

The deployment and upgrade times are improved with the use of a modern orchestration tool as puppet and yum minimize the deployment times for a Greenfield installation, a migration or an upgrade; while reducing the chances for human error.

Supports GQI Model QAMs

Provides support to include GQI model QAMs in the network. This enables customers to choose to use GQI QAMs in DTACS for Broadcast Service Group (BSG) provisioning.

SCID Optimization (>500 SCID)

DTACS 5.0 has the ability to assign one Simple Channel ID (SCID) value to multiple services that are authorized by the same set of Authcodes. This feature provides more report options to better provision the Authcode for source mapping and DTA associations.

WUI Custom Naming Ability in the Upper Banner

DTACS 5.0 provides the option to configure the DTACS system label locally from your system. This allows you to easily identify which system the operator is using.

Browser Requirements

The DTACS 5.0 has been tested and verified against the Mozilla Firefox Extended Support Release (ESR) version 52.1 browser and Firefox desktop version 50 or later. Due to unpredictable results with other browsers, we highly recommend that you only use these browsers on your system when you work with DTACS 5.0.

Important:

- To prevent automatic updates to the Firefox ESR browser, you must change your update preferences. See *Turn Off Firefox ESR Automatic Updates* (next in this document) for instructions.
- You must enable Java in the browser to be able to view the Performance Monitoring graph.

Turn Off Firefox ESR Automatic Updates

- 1 Open the Firefox browser.
- 2 Click the **Navigation** icon, , and select **Options**.
- 3 From the left area, click **Advanced** and then click the **Update** tab.
- 4 In the Firefox Updates section, click one of the following options:
 - **Check for updates but let me choose whether to install them**
 - **Never check for updates**
- 5 Click OK.

Known Issues

One Browser Tab or Browser Instance

The current DTACS design has a limitation concerning the Mozilla Firefox browser. Firefox shares data between multiple tabs and instances of the browser, which can result in data inconsistencies and errors. We strongly recommend not using multiple tabs or instances of Firefox to log into the DTACS simultaneously.

Site Requirements

This section provides information to help you prepare for the upgrade to DTACS 5.0. Read the entire section before you upgrade.

For more information, please visit the Bug Toolkit to view a list of pertinent change requests. This list is updated regularly. For more information, see *Bug Search Tool* (on page 9).

Note: The Bug Search Tool website is under password control. If necessary, contact the representative who handles your account for instructions.

If you have questions or would like to order our products, please contact Cisco Services.

Upgrade Logistics

Introduction

This section contains information that can help system operators plan an upgrade to SR 5.0.

Time to Complete

The entire upgrade to DTACS 5.0 must be completed within a single maintenance window that usually starts around midnight. A few pre-upgrade procedures, consisting mainly of system checks, backups, and various operations of the DTACS, can be completed before the maintenance window begins.

Cisco engineers have determined that a typical site can be upgraded within one maintenance window. See *Scheduling Requirements* (on page 7), for additional details.

Supported Upgrade Path

To perform the software upgrade, the DTACS must currently be operating at DTACS 4.1 system release.

Note: Refer to the upgrade section in the *DTACS 5.0 Installation and Migration Guide* (part number TP-00108) for upgrade instructions from System Release 5.0. Refer to the installation and migration sections in this guide to migrate a DTACS 4.1 system to DTACS 5.0. Rollback procedures are also provided in the event the upgrade is unsuccessful.

System Performance Impact

Interactive services will not be available during portions of the maintenance window.

DTACS Server Hardware Platforms

Introduction

This section describes the hardware configurations that are supported by SR 5.0.

DTACS Hardware Configuration

Ensure that your site meets the following DTACS hardware requirements before upgrading to DTACS 5.0. The following table lists the minimum requirements for the DTACS hardware platforms that are supported by DTACS 5.0.

- C240 M3 Tested reference configuration

Configuration	Specification
Server Series	C Series Standalone Server
UCS Release	1.5(3)
Server Model	C240-M3 (SFF)
OS Vendor	VMware
OS	VMware vSphere ESXi 5.5 or later
Component	RAID Adapter
Adapter	LSI 9271-8i /LSI 9271CV- 8i MegaRaid SAS HBA
Adapter Driver	VMware 5.5: 6.602.54.00.1vmw

- C240 M4 Tested reference configuration

Configuration	Specification
Server Series	C Series Standalone Server
UCS Release	2.0(13i)
Server Model	C240-M4 (SFF)
OS Vendor	VMware
OS	VMware vSphere ESXi 5.5 or later
Component	RAID Adapter
Adapter	Cisco 12G SAS Modular Raid Controller
Adapter Driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ VMware 6.0: 6.605.08.00-6vmw.600.0.0.2494585 ■ VMware 5.5 U2: 6.606.06.00.1vmw

Scheduling Requirements

With the live upgrade, your site only needs to be down for 2 to 3 hours during the entire upgrade process. Most of the upgrade procedures have no system impact. The pre-install and pre-upgrade steps can be performed at any time of the day. However, the actual upgrade process normally takes place during a maintenance window beginning at midnight. The following table provides a breakdown of each upgrade process.

Process	Length of Time	Activity	Impact
Pre-install	1-3 hours	Activities are performed by Cisco Services, including checking the overall health of the system.	These activities do not impact the system.
Pre-Upgrade	3-4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Backing up the system ▪ Backup DTACS components ▪ Backup DTACS server files ▪ Complete system checks 	These activities do not impact the system.
Upgrade	6-8 hours total: 2-3 hours require system outage Note: Actual time may vary based on the number of devices being upgraded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade DBDS network: ▪ Backup DTACS database ▪ Install DTACS software ▪ Determine which optional features (licenses or unlicensed) need enabled ▪ Reboot hardware ▪ 	2-3 hours of the upgrade require system outage
Post-Upgrade	3-4 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Backup the system ▪ Backup the database and key files 	These activities do not impact the system.

Software Configuration

View Installed Software Versions

Complete the following steps to view the versions of software installed with SR 5.0.

- 1 Click the **Navigation** menu (). The DTACS main menu opens.
- 2 Click **Utilities > Installed Software Versions**. A table opens that lists all the software packages and their versions installed as part of this release.

Bug Search Tool

The Bug Search Tool is an online tool that allows registered users to search for bugs by release or by a bug number.

To log on to the Bug Search Tool, go to <https://tools.cisco.com/bugsearch> and log on with your user name and password. The Bug Search Tool page opens.

Note: If you have not set up an account on www.cisco.com, click **Register Now** and follow the on-screen instructions to register.

Search for Bugs in This Release

- 1 From a Web browser, go to <https://tools.cisco.com/bugsearch/>.
- 2 On the **Log In** screen, enter your registered cisco.com User Name and Password. Then click **Log In**. The Bug Search Tool window displays.
Note: If you do not have a cisco.com account, click **Register Now** from the Create A New Account area of the window.
- 3 To search for bugs in the current release, execute one of the following options:
 - a From the **Search For** field, enter a specific bug ID and press **Enter**. Information for the bug is displayed.
 - b To search for bugs in the current release, specify the following criteria:
 - i From the **Product** dropdown list box, select Series/Model.
 - ii In the adjacent text box, enter **Cisco DTA Control System (DTACS)**.
 - iii From the **Releases** dropdown list, select an appropriate option and then in the adjacent text box, enter **5.0**.
 - iv From the **Filter** options – Define custom criteria for an advanced search by selecting an appropriate value from the dropdown lists by choosing either one Filter or multiple filters from the available categories. After each selection, the results page will automatically load below the filters pane. If you select multiple filters, it behaves like an AND condition
 - **Modified Date** – Select one of these options to filter bugs: Last Week, Last 30 days, Last 6 months, Last year, or All
 - **Status** – Select Fixed, Open, Other, or Terminated.
 - Select **Fixed** to view fixed bugs. To filter fixed bugs, uncheck the Fixed check box and select the appropriate option (Resolved or Verified) that appears below the Fixed check box.
 - Select **Open** to view all open bugs. To filter the open bugs, uncheck the Open check box and select the appropriate options that appear below the Open check box.
 - Select **Other** to view any bugs that are duplicates of another bug.
 - Select **Terminated** to view terminated bugs. To filter terminated bugs, uncheck the Terminated check box and select the appropriate sub-option (Closed, Junked, or Unreproducible) that appears below the Terminated check box. Select multiple options as required.

Bug Search Tool

- **Severity** – Select the severity level:
 - 1: Catastrophic
 - 2: Severe
 - 3: Moderate
 - 4: Minor
 - 5: Cosmetic
 - 6: Enhancement
 - **Rating** – Select the bug's quality rating: 5 Stars (excellent), 4 or more Stars (good), 3 or more Stars (medium), 2 or more Stars (moderate), 1 or more Stars (poor), or No Stars
 - **Support Cases** – Select whether the bug Has Support Cases or No Support Cases
 - **Bug Type** – Select whether the bug is Employee Visible & Customer Visible or Customer Visible Only.
- c The Bug Search tool displays the list of bugs based on the specified search criteria. Step 6 You can save or email the current search by clicking their respective option.
- 4 If you have any problems using the Bug Search tool, log into the Technical Support website at <http://www.cisco.com/cisco/web/support/index.html> or contact the Cisco Technical Assistance Center (TAC).

For Information

If You Have Questions

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



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