



Release Notes for StarOS™ Software, Release 2026.01.gh3

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StarOS™ Software, Release 2026.01.gh3

This Release Notes identifies changes and issues that are related to the Control and User Plane Separation (CUPS) software release.

For more information about the StarOS product documentation, see the [Related resources](#) section.

Qualified products and platforms

Table 1. Products and platforms qualified in this release

Component	Qualified?
Products	
CUPS	Yes
MME	No
ePDG	No
P-GW	No
SAEGW	No
SGSN	No
Platforms	
ASR 5500	No
VPC-DI	Yes
VPC-SI	Yes

Release lifecycle milestones

The following table provides EoL milestones for Cisco StarOS software:

Table 2. EoL milestone information for StarOS™ Software, Release 2026.01.gh3

Milestone	Date
First Customer Ship (FCS)	30-Jan-2026
End of Life (EoL)	30-Jan-2026
End of Software Maintenance (EoSM)	31-July-2027
End of Vulnerability and Security Support (EoVSS)	31-July-2027
Last Date of Support (LDoS)	31-July-2028

New software features

This section provides a brief description of the new software features introduced in this release.

Table 3. New software features for StarOS™ Software, Release 2026.01.gh3

Product impact	Feature	Description
Software reliability	3GPP LI and Cisco encoded LI for combo UPF	<p>The 3GPP LI and Cisco encoded LI support on combo UPF is introduced to adhere to the 3GPP standards for lawful interception.</p> <p>Important</p> <p>This feature is fully qualified in this release. Contact your Cisco account representative for more information.</p>

Changes in behavior

There are no behavior changes introduced in this release.

Resolved issues

There are no resolved issues in this specific software release.

Open issues

There are no open issues in this specific software release.

Known issues

This section describes the known issue that may occur during the upgrade of the StarOS image.

Install and Upgrade Notes

This Release Note does not contain general installation and upgrade instructions. Refer to the existing installation documentation for specific installation and upgrade considerations.

Note: Cisco recommends offline upgrade-downgrade for CUPS CP VPC-DI ICSR deployments.

When upgrading the StarOS image from a previous version to the latest version, issues may arise if there is a problem with the Cisco SSH/SSL upgrade. To avoid such issues, ensure that the boot file for Service Function (SF) cards is properly synchronized.

To synchronize the boot file for all the Service Function (SF) VPC-DI non-management cards, use the following CLI command:

```
[local] host_name# system synchronize boot
```

This ensures that the changes in boot file are identically maintained across the SF cards.

Note: Execute the system synchronize boot command before reloading for version upgrade from any version earlier than 21.28.mh14 to version 21.28.mh14 or versions higher than 21.28.mh14.

Upgrade the confd version

This section explains upgrading third-party software. Upgrade the confd software to ensure system compatibility and performance.

Note: During July 2025.03.0 release, confd is upgraded to 8.1.16.2 version.

Prerequisites:

- Ensure you have appropriate permissions to perform this upgrade.
- Back up all necessary data and configurations to avoid permanent loss during file deletion.

Perform these steps to upgrade the confd version on the system.

1. Enter the debug shell using debug shell command.
2. Navigate to the confd directory.
3. Run the command:`cd /mnt/hd-raid/meta/confd/` to access the directory.
4. Remove existing files with the command; `rm -rf *`

All files and subdirectories are deleted, preparing the system for a fresh installation. To preserve data across the Method of Procedure, users with ConfD configured must contact their Cisco representative.

Method of Procedure (MOP): Upgrade/Downgrade Between Non-Hermes and Hermes Builds

CSCwr80301: HD-RAID Not Ready During Upgrade from Non-Hermes to Hermes

Issue: When upgrading from a non-Hermes (202x.0x.gx) to a Hermes (202x.0x.gh2) build on both Virtualized Packet Core–Distributed Instance (VPC-DI) and Virtualized Packet Core–Single Instance (VPC-SI) platforms, the HD-RAID may not come up as expected.

Workaround: To avoid this hd-raid failure, follow the steps below during the upgrade and downgrade (for example, from 2025.03.g0 to 2026.01.gh3):

1. Pre-requisite: Back up all files stored in /hd-raid before upgrading from the .mx to .mxx build.

Note: All data in /hd-raid will be lost during recovery.

2. Before the upgrade: On the .mx build, run the hd raid clear command.
3. Reboot and upgrade: Reboot the node to upgrade to the .mxx build.
4. Perform the CF card migration in case of VPC-DI or Reload the chassis on VPC-SI. Wait for the HD-RAID to recover.

Note: It is recommended to use this Method of Procedure (MOP) for both upgrading and downgrading between Hermes and Non-Hermes StarOS builds.

Compatibility

This section provides compatibility information about the StarOS package version, and the hardware and software requirements for the CUPS software release.

Compatible StarOS package version

Table 4. Release package version information, Release 2026.01.gh3

StarOS packages	Version	Build number
StarOS package	2026.01.gh3	21.28.mh37.100214

Compatible software and hardware components

This table lists only the verified basic software and hardware versions. For more information on the verified software versions for the products qualified in this release contact the Cisco account representative.

Table 5. Compatibility software and hardware information, Release 2026.01.gh3

Product	Version
ADC P2P Plugin	2.74.gh2.2763
RCM	20260120-131924Z Note: Use this link to download the RCM package associated with the software
ESC	6.0.0.55
CVIM	5.0.4
Host OS	Ubuntu 24.04 / RHEL 9.2
RedHat OpenStack	RHOSP 17.1
E810C NIC Version	Driver version: ice 1.12.6 Firmware: 4.20 0x80018f67 0.387.18
CIMC	4.0 (4)
NED Package	ncs-6.1.11.2-nso-mob-fp-3.5.2-ad74d4f-2024-10-18T1052 ncs-6.1.11.2-nso-mob-fp-3.5.2-ad74d4f-2024-10-18T1052.tar.gz
NSO/MFP	nso-mob-fp-3.5.2.2024.04.g0 Note: MFP is qualified only with RHOSP 13

Note: CVIM and ESC versions are qualified as part of 2025.04.0 release.

Supported software packages

This section provides information about the release packages associated with Control, and User Plane Separation (CUPS) software.

Table 6. Software packages for Release 2026.01.gh3

Software package	Description
NSO	

Software package	Description
nso-mob-fp-3.5.2-2024.04.g0.zip	Contains the signed NSO software image, the signature file, a verification script, the x509 certificate, and a README file containing information on how to use the script to validate the certificate.
VPC companion package	
companion-vpc-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains numerous files pertaining to this version of the VPC including SNMP MIBs, RADIUS dictionaries, ORBEM clients. These files pertain to both VPC-DI and VPC-SI, and for trusted and non-trusted build variants.
VPC-DI	
qvpc-di-2026.01.gh3.bin.zip	Contains the VPC-DI binary software image that is used to replace a previously deployed image on the flash disk in existing installations.
qvpc-di_T-2026.01.gh3.bin.zip	Contains the trusted VPC-DI binary software image that is used to replace a previously deployed image on the flash disk in existing installations.
qvpc-di-2026.01.gh3.iso.zip	Contains the VPC-DI ISO used for new deployments; a new virtual machine is manually created and configured to boot from a CD image.
qvpc-di_T-2026.01.gh3.iso.zip	Contains the trusted VPC-DI ISO used for new deployments, a new virtual machine is manually created and configured to boot from a CD image.
qvpc-di-template-vmware-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the VPC-DI binary software image that is used to on-board the software directly into VMware.
qvpc-di-template-vmware_T-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the trusted VPC-DI binary software image that is used to on-board the software directly into VMware.
qvpc-di-template-libvirt-kvm-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the same VPC-DI ISO identified above and additional installation files for using it on KVM.
qvpc-di-template-libvirt-kvm_T-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the same trusted VPC-DI ISO identified above and additional installation files for using it on KVM.
qvpc-di-2026.01.gh3.qcow2.zip	Contains the VPC-DI binary software image in a format that can be loaded directly with KVM using an XML definition file, or with OpenStack.
VPC-SI	
intelligent_onboarding-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the VPC-SI onboarding signature package that is used to replace a previously deployed image on the flash disk in existing installations.
qvpc-si-2026.01.gh3.bin.zip	Contains the VPC-SI binary software image that is used to replace a previously deployed image on the flash disk in existing installations.
qvpc-si-2026.01.gh3.iso.zip	Contains the VPC-SI ISO used for new deployment. A new virtual machine is manually created and configured to boot from a CD image.
qvpc-si-template-vmware-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the VPC-SI binary software image that is used to on-board

Software package	Description
	the software directly into VMware.
qvpc-si-template-libvirt-kvm-2026.01.gh3.zip	Contains the same VPC-SI ISO identified above and additional installation files for using it on KVM.
qvpc-si-2026.01.gh3.qcow2.zip	Contains the VPC-SI binary software image in a format that can be loaded directly with KVM using an XML definition file, or with OpenStack.

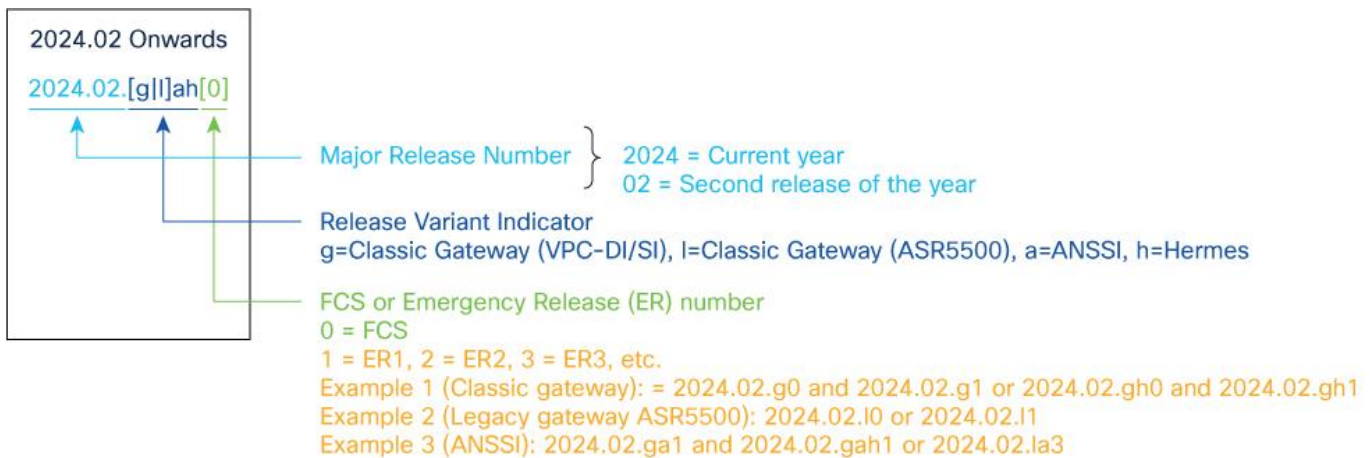
StarOS product version numbering system

The output of the show version command displays detailed information about the version of StarOS currently running on the ASR 5500 or Cisco Virtualized Packet Core platform.

Starting 2024.01.0 release (January 2024), Cisco is transitioning to a new release versioning scheme. The release version is based on the current year and product. Refer to the figure for more details.

Note: During the transition phase, some file names will reflect the new versioning whereas others will refer to the 21.28.x-based naming convention. With the next release, StarOS-related packages will be completely migrated to the new versioning scheme.

Figure 1. Version numbering for FCS, emergency, and maintenance releases



Note: For any clarification, contact your Cisco account representative.

Software integrity verification

To verify the integrity of the software image you have from Cisco, you can validate the SHA512 checksum information against the checksum identified by Cisco for the software. Image checksum information is available through [Cisco.com Software Download](#) details. Click Linux and then choose the Software Image Release Version.

To find the checksum, hover the mouse pointer over the software image you have downloaded. At the bottom you find the SHA512 checksum, if you do not see the whole checksum, you can expand it by pressing the "..." at the end.

To validate the information, calculate a SHA512 checksum using the information in the table and verify that it matches the one provided on the software download page. To calculate a SHA512 checksum on your local desktop see the table.

Table 7. Checksum calculations per operating system

Operating system	SHA512 checksum calculation command examples
Microsoft Windows	Open a command line window and type the following command: <pre>> certutil.exe -hashfile <filename>.<extension> SHA512</pre>
Apple MAC	Open a terminal window and type the following command: <pre>\$ shasum -a 512 filename.extension</pre>
Linux	Open a terminal window and type the following command: <pre>\$ sha512sum filename.extension</pre> <p>OR</p> <pre>\$ shasum -a 512 filename.extension</pre>
Note: filename is the name of the file. extension is the file extension (for example, .zip or .tgz).	

If the SHA512 checksum matches, you can be sure that no one has tampered with the software image or the image has not been corrupted during download.

If the SHA512 checksum does not match, we advise you to not attempt upgrading any systems with the corrupted software image. Download the software again and verify the SHA512 checksum again. If there is a constant mismatch, please open a case with the Cisco Technical Assistance Center.

Certificate validation

In 2024.01 and later releases, software images for StarOS, VPC-DI, and VPC-SI, and the companion software packages for StarOS and VPC are signed via x509 certificates. USP ISO images are signed with a GPG key. For more information and instructions on how to validate the certificates, refer to the README file available with the respective software packages.

Related resources

This table provides key resources and links to the support information and essential documentation for StarOS and CUPS products.

Table 8. Related resources and additional information

Resource	Link
Cisco ASR 5500 documentation	StarOS documentation
Cisco Ultra Packet Core documentation	CUPS documentation
Service request and	Cisco Support

Resource	Link
additional information	

Legal information

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