

Brocade® Software

Software Release Support and Posting Matrices

Reference Manual
Version 2.9

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Legends

Chapter 3: Definitions.....

Chapter 4: FOS Release Support and Posting Status Matrices

Chapter 5: SANnav Release Support and Posting Status Matrices

Appendix A: Target Path

Revision History.....

4

5

6

8

11

12

13

Chapter 1: Introduction

The contents of this document specify the support status, posting state, FICON qualification status, and Target Path recommendations for all releases of the Brocade® Fabric OS® (FOS) and SANnav™ software products. This document is updated whenever there is a change in support, qualification, Target Path designation, or posting status for a release or when new releases are available. Updates are also made when Broadcom has posted notification of or transitioned to End-of-Availability (EOA) for a software release.

Chapter 2: Legends

The heading row for each table in this document has a background color that indicates the current support status for the releases listed in the table. The color coding is defined as follows.

Latest, Established, or Minimum Major Version Level All releases in this table are SUPPORTED.
Established or Minimum Major Version Level All releases in this table are currently SUPPORTED but are transitioning to UNSUPPORTED at the EOA date.
Legacy Major Version Level Releases listed in this table are UNSUPPORTED with the exception of releases designated for support of select platforms or capabilities only.
Various Version Levels and Releases All releases or version levels listed in this table are UNSUPPORTED.

Within the tables in this document, the color used for a cell denotes the support status and/or special designations or qualifications for the release as follows.

Target Path version.
FICON qualified version.
Supported and posted but not Target Path or FICON qualified.
Supported but not posted; migrating to newer or alternative posted release is recommended.
Supported only on noted platforms or for specific feature support.
Currently supported but in the EOA transition period and within 6 months of being unsupported.
Unsupported.

Chapter 3: Definitions

Supported Software – Supported software is defined as any version of Brocade software that *has not* reached End-of-Availability (EOA) or End-of-Support (EOS) status. For these versions of software, Broadcom provides full assistance to find the root cause of reported issues up to and including providing any patches to said software.

Unsupported Software – Unsupported software is defined as any version of Brocade software that *has* reached End-of-Availability (EOA) or End-of-Support (EOS) status. For these versions of software, as long as the user has valid entitlement, Broadcom will take a support call and provide limited assistance in determining the root cause; Broadcom will not provide engineering assistance or patches, and the user will be asked to upgrade to a supported version of software.

End-of-Availability (EOA) – The date that the specified software release or version level is no longer available from Broadcom and is typically no longer supported. A release that has reached EOA status may in some cases still be supported for certain platforms or scenarios only if noted explicitly by Broadcom. Releases that are currently supported but are transitioning to unsupported are highlighted in this document ahead of the EOA date to provide time to schedule upgrades as necessary.

General Availability (GA) – The date that a software release was first posted and made available with support to entitled Broadcom customers.

Major Release – The second integer of the three-digit software version release number that typically advances when major new software functional changes are included for new features and/or platform support. For example, the “2” in FOS v7.2.5b represents the Major Release version.

Latest Major Version – The newest Major Release version level of firmware or software, also referred to as the “Current Release Level.”

Established Major Version – The previous Major Release version level of firmware or software, sometimes referred to as “One Release Level Back.”

Minimum Major Version – The oldest Major Release version level of FOS firmware that is classified as “Supported Software,” sometimes referred to as “Two Release Levels Back.” SANnav software does not have a designated Minimum Major Version.

Legacy Supported Release – An older Major Release version of FOS firmware that continues to be classified as “Supported Software” in order to support older hardware platforms that are not supported for upgrade to the Minimum Major Version or later. Legacy Supported Releases are supported only for select designated platforms.

FICON Qualified – A firmware or software release that has been specifically tested and certified for use in FICON environments. A release that was once designated as FICON Qualified but has newer versions that are FICON Qualified on the same code stream is referred to as “Retired FICON Qualified.”

Target Path – A recommended version of software that is intended for general use in Brocade Fibre Channel storage area networks. A specified release of software is identified as Target Path only after it meets well-defined criteria for quality. A version of software that was once designated as Target Path but has since been replaced by newer versions of Target Path on the same code stream is referred to as “Retired Target Path.” For additional information on Target Path software, refer to Appendix A.

Posting Status – The state of availability of a software release on the Broadcom sites. “Posted” means that the software is available from Broadcom or Broadcom partners for users with valid entitlement. “Not Posted” indicates that the software is no longer available from Broadcom or Broadcom partners. Not Posted status does not necessarily indicate that the software release is no longer supported. If the Posting Status includes “(LW),” then the release is also posted separately for Lifetime Warranty platforms for those users who cannot access the standard FOS release for the LW product platform. Not all posted releases are available for Lifetime Warranty.

Platform Specific Download (PSD) – FOS PSD releases are versions of a full FOS release image that can be loaded only on a single hardware platform, consisting of a single switch model or group of switch models. Unlike traditional FOS release images that can be installed on any supported Brocade switch and director, FOS PSD images must be downloaded separately for each platform that the FOS release will be used on. The full list of unique FOS PSD images available for a release and the models that each PSD image supports are noted in the FOS release notes. Any FOS release listed in this document as “Posted” is available only in PSD image form.

Chapter 4: FOS Release Support and Posting Status Matrices

Note: For recommended upgrade or migration paths between FOS releases, refer to Knowledge Base (KB) article ID 14365 for Open Systems environments and KB article ID 14366 for FICON environments.

Latest Major Version (Supported): FOS v9.1.X					
Version	GA Date	Target Path	FICON Qualified	Posting Status	Notes
FOS v9.1.1	July 6, 2022			Posted	
FOS v9.1.0b	March 16, 2022		Yes	Posted ¹	
FOS v9.1.0a	N/A			Not Posted	Internal qual release only.
FOS v9.1.0	December 15, 2021			Not Posted ²	Supported but not available for download.

Established Major Version (Supported): FOS v9.0.X					
Version	GA Date	Target Path	FICON Qualified	Posting Status	Notes
FOS v9.0.1d	March 16, 2022	Yes	Yes	Posted ¹	
FOS v9.0.1c	September 24, 2021	Yes		Posted ¹ (LW)	
FOS 9.0.1b4	September 30, 2021	Yes	Yes - See note	Posted ¹	FOS v9.0.1b4 is considered to be FICON qualified as it contains minimal specific changes on the FICON qualified release.
FOS v9.0.1b	April 30, 2021	Yes – See note	Yes	Not Posted	FOS v9.0.1b is considered Target Path with the caveat of Defect FOS-831875/TSB-2021-279-A and Defect FOS-832100/TSB-2021-280-A. Both issues are resolved in v9.0.1b4 and later releases.
FOS v9.0.1a2	July 26, 2021		Retired	Posted ¹	FOS v9.0.1a2 is considered to be FICON qualified as it contains minimal specific changes on the FICON qualified release.
FOS v9.0.1a	March 10, 2021		Retired	Not Posted	
FOS v9.0.1	N/A			Not Posted	For internal and partner qual use only.
FOS v9.0.0b	September 2, 2020		Retired	Not Posted	
FOS v9.0.0a	June 24, 2020			Not Posted	
FOS v9.0.0	April 30, 2020			Not Posted	

Minimum Major Version (Supported): FOS v8.2.X					
Version	GA Date	Target Path	FICON Qualified	Posting Status	Notes
FOS v8.2.3b	December 14, 2021	Yes		Posted ¹	
FOS v8.2.3a1	July 23, 2021	Yes	Yes - See note	Posted ¹	FOS v8.2.3a1 is considered to be FICON qualified as it contains minimal specific changes on the FICON qualified release.
FOS v8.2.3a	June 26, 2021	Yes - See note	Yes	Not Posted	FOS v8.2.3a is considered Target Path with the caveat of Defect FOS-831875/TSB-2021-279-A (SNMP applications lose connection during MIB walk).
FOS v8.2.3_03	February 25, 2021		Retired	Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.2d4	September 29, 2020	Retired		Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.2c6	June 26, 2020	Retired	Retired	Not Posted	Minimum recommended version for IP Extension.
FOS v8.2.2b	February 27, 2020			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.2a	December 30, 2019		Retired	Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.2	September 12, 2019			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.1e	June 30, 2020	Retired		Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.1d	January 10, 2020	See Notes*		Not Posted	*Target Path for director-class switches only.
FOS v8.2.1c	July 2, 2019	Retired		Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.1b	February 13, 2019			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.1a	November 17, 2018			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.1	August 28, 2018			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.0b	April 10, 2018			Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.0a	March 6, 2018		Retired	Not Posted	
FOS v8.2.0	November 30, 2017			Not Posted	

Legacy Supported Release (Supported Only as Specified): FOS v7.4.X

Version	GA Date	EOA Date	Target Path	FICON Qualified	Posting Status	Notes
FOS v7.4.2h	July 13, 2021	N/A	Yes		Posted ¹	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2g	August 10, 2020	N/A	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2f	February 3, 2020	N/A	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2e	September 19, 2019	N/A	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2d	October 11, 2018	N/A	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2c	February 2, 2018	N/A	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2a	Jun 30, 2017	November 14, 2019	Retired		Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.2	April 4, 2017	March 30, 2019			Not Posted	Supported on Gen 4 (8G) 300 and 7800 platforms only.
FOS v7.4.1d	July 15, 2016	N/A		Retired	Not Posted	Supported on the 7800 FICON platform only, until 10/31/24.

¹ Denotes that the posted version has been rebuilt with obsolete and immaterial third-party components removed. No qualification is needed as this is not a new software release and the rebuilt version will not change the functioning of the OS or the switch. Please contact Broadcom with any questions.

² Denotes a version that is supported but no longer posted or recommended for use due to the availability of a newer version. Please contact Broadcom with any questions.

Unsupported Versions

Version	GA Date	EOA Date	Posting Status	Notes
FOS v8.1.X	N/A	March 15, 2022	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v8.0.X	N/A	July 30, 2020	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.4.2x	N/A	November 14, 2019	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy unless listed in Legacy Supported Releases table.
FOS v7.4.1x	N/A	March 30, 2019	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.4.0x	N/A	March 30, 2019	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.4.2b	December 7, 2017	February 2, 2018	Not Posted	Unsupported and should not be installed.
FOS v7.3.X	N/A	March 14, 2017	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.2.X	N/A	March 16, 2016	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.1.X	N/A	October 15, 2015	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v7.0.X	N/A	September 27, 2014	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
FOS v6.4.X	N/A	July 23, 2014	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
All Older Versions	N/A	N/A	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.

Chapter 5: SANnav Release Support and Posting Status Matrices

Latest Major Version (Supported): SANnav v2.2.X				
Version	GA Date	Target Path	Posting Status	Notes
SANnav v2.2.1	June 22, 2022		Posted	
SANnav v2.2.0.2 ¹	April 25, 2022		Posted	Security updates including Log4j CVE mitigation. Broadcom recommends that any environment using SANnav v2.2.0 apply the 2.2.0.2 CSI patch (or later, if available).
SANnav v2.2.0	December 15, 2021		Posted	

Established Major Version (Supported): SANnav v2.1.X				
Version	GA Date	Target Path	Posting Status	Notes
SANnav MP v2.1.1.8 ¹ & GV v2.1.1.3 ¹	May 9, 2022	Yes	Posted	Security and Target Path updates. Includes Log4j CVE mitigation.
SANnav v2.1.1	December 18, 2020	Yes	Posted	Used during FICON qualification of FOS v9.0.1a. Recommended to apply the 2.1.1.8 CSI patch (or later, if available) for Target Path.
SANnav v2.1.0a	August 28, 2020		Not Posted	Used during FICON qualification of FOS v9.0.0b.
SANnav v2.1.0	April 30, 2020		Not Posted	

¹ Denotes a Critical Specific Issue (CSI) patch. These patches are not complete releases of SANnav and must be applied on top of the installed base version of SANnav MP or GV. Unless otherwise noted, CSI patches are cumulative, with any fixes contained in previous patches also included in the latest patch. Only the latest CSI patch on a maintenance release is listed and available for download.

Unsupported and Pending Unsupported Versions				
Version	GA Date	EOA Date	Posting Status	Notes
SANnav v2.0.0a	October 15, 2019	March 15, 2022	Not Posted	Restricted availability patch for AMP support only.
SANnav v2.0.0	September 26, 2019	March 15, 2022	Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.
All Older Versions			Not Posted	All patches and releases are unsupported per policy.

Appendix A: Target Path

Target Path is defined as a Broadcom-recommended firmware or software release that is intended for general use in Brocade Fibre Channel storage area networks. A specified release of firmware or software is identified as Target Path only after it meets the following criteria:

- The selected release was created primarily for stability and reliability and not for the introduction of new features. This release may contain Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability (RAS) improvements and enhancements, but it will not introduce major new features or hardware support.
- The selected release has been qualified and is supported by multiple OEMs. This broad qualification makes it an ideal option for environments in which customers procure products from more than one vendor.
- The selected release has been deployed in a number of end-user production environments for a period of time sufficient to evaluate the release as being high quality. The release must have no reported known pervasive or impacting issues, no critical defects, and no issues identified as critical or service-impacting by a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB).
- Check with your OEM for their recommended Target Path version.

The Target Path guidelines are used to establish a release that meets a standard level of quality, which then can be used to identify a general recommendation for customers. Always refer to the product release notes and carefully review the “Important Notes and Known Defects” information, and listen to any guidance from your service provider before selecting and installing any version of firmware or software since every environment might have unique requirements.

The Target Path release designation in no way implies or guarantees that a release will be free of defects or will not contain behavioral issues that could cause an impact in a production environment. However, following the Target Path release recommendations produces the most trouble-free environments for data-center storage area networks (SANs) that use Brocade switching platforms.

Once a specific Brocade firmware or software version is identified as a Target Path release, all released patches (that is, releases that are identified with a different letter appended to the release number) that are released on the same code stream can also be considered recommended Target Path releases. Fixes and code changes released via patches are carefully managed to maintain the Target Path designation. Whenever more significant code changes are required, the version number will be increased to indicate that the Target Path designation could not be maintained.

When selecting a Target Path version, it is recommended to always select the latest patch on the Target Path release stream. These newer patch releases may be considered Target Path releases after a very short exposure time because patch releases typically contain minimal changes from their predecessors. Since the stability of the major code level release has already been verified, it is unnecessary to wait for additional field exposure. These newer patches will contain the latest fixes and updates to maintain and provide the highest quality firmware or software version available.

Versions of FOS that are identified as Target Path can also be “retired” over time. As new Target Path patches on the same code stream are released, FOS versions identified as Target Path that are over 18 months old may be identified as *Retired* Target Path releases if there are two or more newer Target Path releases available on the same code stream with at least one that has been available for a minimum of one year. Customers who are planning upgrades should select from the latest patches on the Target Path code stream; the Target Path designation will be noted as “Retired” for these older code versions to help guide users to the latest and highest quality patches available.

Revision History

Version 2.9; Brocade-SW-Support-RM111; July 6, 2022

- Added new FOS and SANnav releases.
- Removed obsolete FICON Qualified info for SANnav.
- Made minor miscellaneous posting stats and other updates.

Version 2.8; Brocade-SW-Support-RM110; March 18, 2022

- Added new FOS and SANnav releases.
- Updated information on Retired Target Path.
- Moved several FOS Target Path releases to Retired status.
- Removed BNA information following the transition to EOS.
- Transitioned FOS v8.1.X and SANnav v2.0.X to unsupported status.
- Added information on FOS Posting Status for Lifetime Warranty (LW) platforms.

Version 2.7; Brocade-SW-Support-RM109; December 20, 2021

- Added new FOS v9.1.0 and SANnav v2.2.0 releases.
- Updated Pending Unsupported information for FOS and SANnav.
- Made Target Path and FICON Qualified updates for FOS releases.
- Clarified FOS CCE release information and caveats.

Version 2.6; Brocade-SW-Support-RM108; September 29, 2021

- Added new FOS v9.0.1c and v9.0.1b4 releases.

Version 2.5; Brocade-SW-Support-RM107; September 8, 2021

- Updated for FOS Target Path.

Version 2.4; Brocade-SW-Support-RM106; July 26, 2021

- Updated with new posted FOS and SANnav releases.
- Updated with the FOS Target Path designation for the G620 and G630.

Version 2.3; Brocade-SW-Support-RM105; July 2, 2021

- Updated with new posted FOS versions.
- Consolidated "Not Posted" status.

Version 2.2; Brocade-SW-Support-RM104; June 26, 2021

- Added SANnav Target Path information.
- Updated posting status for FOS releases.
- Added FOS v8.2.3a and SANnav 2.1.1.3.
- Added information on FOS Platform Specific Downloads (PSDs) and releases available as FOS PSD images.
- Added new release posting status color coding (orange) for posted code.

Version 2.1; Brocade-SW-Support-RM103; April 23, 2021

- Added information on “Retired Target Path” (RTP) and designated RTP releases.
- Added new FOS releases and a new SANnav release.

Version 2.0; Brocade-SW-Support-RM102; October 20, 2020

- Added the “Definitions” section.
- Incorporated Target Path information.
- Added FOS v9.0.0b and v8.2.2d.
- Transitioned FOS v8.0.X to unsupported status.
- Updated for SANnav 2.1.0a.

Version 1.4; Brocade-SW-Support-RM101; July 24, 2020

- Updated for FOS v9.0.0a, v8.2.2c, v8.2.1e, and v8.1.2k.
- Added FICON qualified status for SANnav 2.1.0.
- Updated language on providing unsupported releases for migration.
- Noted removal date for posted releases nearing EOA.

Version 1.3; Brocade-SW-Support-RM100; May 11, 2020

- Updated for FOS v9.0.0 and SANnav 2.1.0.
- Updated the FOS v8.2.1d and v8.1.2j Target Path status.
- Updated the FOS v8.0.2b and v7.4.1d status.
- Updated the document layout and format.

Version 1.2; March 20, 2020

- Updated for FOS v8.2.2b.
- Designated BNA 14.4.5 as a Target Path; transitioned the 14.4.x releases to Not Posted.

Version 1.1; January 31, 2020

- EOA notification and transition period for FOS v8.0.x and SANnav 1.1.x.
- Updated FOS v7.4.x legacy releases for corrections and change in support status.
- Added new releases (FOS v8.2.1d, FOS v7.4.2f, BNA 14.4.5).
- Other miscellaneous minor updates.

Version 1.0; December 20, 2019

- Initial document release.

