



**INTEGRIEN™**

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# Release Notes

*Alive 7.2 - Build 2534*

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## About the Release Notes

These release notes contain important information available at the time of the release of Alive™ 7.2, including new features, system requirements, and known limitations. Read this document before starting to use Alive 7.2.

## Release Description

Alive 7.2 contains the enhancements and improvements listed below.

### New Features and Enhancements

#### Installation and Deployment

##### Installation

Alive is installed with a configuration designed to make minimum demands on server resources, with fingerprint generation and some dynamic thresholding algorithms disabled. After installation, contact Alive support or professional services for assistance in adjusting the Alive configuration to meet your needs.

The installer now includes a Test button to validate the email configuration used to send messages if an Alive service fails or experiences a problem. Also, you can now specify multiple email recipients for these notification messages.

The Alive installation folder structure has changed to improve application support. The only files that an Alive administrator may need to work with or modify are contained in the folders under `\user`.

To allow you to distribute the processing load, you can now install a separate processing component on one or more remote hosts to handle the dynamic threshold computation. This is called the DT Processor.

#### User Interface

In this release, a special emphasis was put towards improving the user experience throughout the product. The User Interface was made more intuitive and more interactions among the widgets were added. We also improved performance when rendering information. The major enhancements to the User Interface are listed below.

##### Alerts

Users can now select multiple alerts in the grid and apply the *Suspend*, *Suppress*, *Take Ownership* or *Release Ownership* action. This is true in both the *Alert* widget and the *Alert Overview* page.

Smart Early Warning alerts can be generated for any resource in Alive.

##### Attribute Package

You can set a default attribute package and super metric package for each resource kind. These packages are then used when you add a new resource of that kind, either

manually or through resource discovery. If you want to use a different package for a particular resource, you can override the default and select the desired package.

### **Resource Discovery**

The *Discovery Results* page supports searching and sorting.

### **New Widget - Scoreboard Health Widget**

The *Scoreboard Health* widget shows the health or workload score of selected resources.

### **Outbound Alert**

The screen to configure outbound alerts now includes a *Test* button to check the configuration parameters.

### **Security**

Alive supports LDAP integration. You can import users from an LDAP database into Alive. These users are then validated against the LDAP database for authentication.

Web Authentication can be turned on for adapters which use the HTTP Post API.

### **Support**

The *Status* tab, which displays performance information related to Alive's operation, contains additional information presented in *Describe Info*, *Collectors Info*, *Adapter Info*, *DT Calculation Info*, and *Slowest DT Objects* panes.

The *Adapter Info* pane of the *Status* tab includes a button to trigger updates to the existing adapter and installation of new adapters.

The *Admin Log* folder on the *Logs* tab now displays many more actions taken by an Alive user for auditing purpose.

### **Tags**

The *Tag Selection* pane now includes an *Invert Result* icon in applicable places, such as the *Environment Overview* page. When you select this icon, the result list will include resources which do not match the selected tag values.

### **Widget - Alerts**

To make it easier to manage alerts from the widget, the toolbar now has buttons to *Cancel*, *Take Ownership*, and *Release Ownership* of alerts.

### Widget - Heat Map

The widget supports multiple configurations. You can save as many configurations as desired and switch between them easily.

We made multiple changes to the widget for better representation of resources and metric instance groupings.

### Widget - Metric Selector

The new *Show Metrics Collecting* icon on the toolbar lets you display only metrics which are currently being collected for the resource.

You can now search for a metric by metric group, metric instance, or name.

### Widget - Root Cause Ranking

Symptoms contributing to the root cause are now shown in groups, ranked by percentage of possible resources in the group exhibiting symptoms. This applies to the *Root Cause Ranking* widget and everywhere in the product that root cause is shown.

If the *Health Status* widget is providing the resources for the *Root Cause Ranking* widget, and you click at a point in the past on the health graph, the widget will show root causes as of the time you clicked.

## Application Programming Interface (API)

The HTTP Post API was changed to handle authentication.

## High Availability and Scalability

By default, Alive keeps all of the data it collects in its file system database (FSDB) indefinitely. You now have the option to have the analytics engine remove old, unneeded data from the FSDB periodically.

## Analytics

Mathematical models were refactored to reduce memory consumption.

We improved the performance of dynamic threshold calculations.

## Tools/Utilities

The new *Configuration File Editor* provides a graphical interface to configure the outbound email filter plug-in.

## Deployment Instructions

To deploy Alive 7.2, please run the electronically-obtained installation files.

For new installations, you must refer to the *Alive Installation and Administration Guide*, which is included in this release.

## Materials Released

The Alive 7.2 release includes the following documents:

- *Alive Installation and Administration Guide*
- *Alive User Guide*
- *Alive/EMC Smarts Integration Guide*
- *Release Notes* (this document)

Your Integrien professional services representative may provide additional documentation.

## System Requirements

The recommended requirements for the installation of Alive 7.2 are following:

- **Operating System for Windows:** Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 2 or higher (x64 bit), Windows Server 2008 (x64 bit).
- **Operating System for Linux:** Red Hat Enterprise Linux release 5 (x64 bit)

The following prerequisites are required for the Linux version of Alive 7.2:

- Linux user account for installing Alive should have root-level privileges.
- X Windows System release 11 (X11) needs to be on the server where Alive is to be installed.
- GUI mode installation also requires a Standard Terminal Emulator for X Windows System.
- **Disk Performance:** 150 MB/s Sustained READ/WRITE performance for each 1 million metrics collected at 5 minute collection interval with Total IOPS of 800.
- **Disk Usage:** 800 GB of usage per 250,000 metrics per year for storage based on 5 minute collection interval.
- **CPU:** At least 4x64 bit Multi-Core Processors (2 GHz or faster) for collecting up to 250,000 metrics. 8x64 bit Multi-Core Processors (2 GHz or faster) for collecting up to 1 million metrics.

- **RAM:** At least 8 GB for 250,000 metrics collection (24 GB for metric collection of 1 million or more, 64 GB for metric collection of 4 million or more).

The recommended requirements for the Alive database installation are the following:

- **RAM:** At least 2 GB, 8 GB for systems collecting more than 1 million metrics.
- **CPU:** At least 2 CPU 32 bit (P4 2 GHz or faster), 2 CPU 64 bit for systems collecting more than 1million metrics.
- **Database application:** Oracle 10g R2, Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Service Pack 2 or higher, Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (Microsoft SQL Server not supported if the Alive server runs Linux).

**Note:** The database must be configured and accessible to the Alive server and ping time between the servers should be less than one millisecond. We suggest the database server hosts only the Alive database due to the resource requirements of the application.

The following are required client system requirements:

- **RAM:** At least 2 GB
- **CPU:** At least Pentium 4 2 GHz or faster
- **Browser:** Internet Explorer version 7.x; Mozilla Firefox 3.x; JavaScript enabled and pop-up blockers removed or disabled
- **PDF viewer:** A viewer, such as Adobe Reader, for viewing reports in PDF format

**Note:** Alive is fully capable of running in a virtual environment (meaning, running in one or several VMs). In order to configure the necessary hardware environment, please refer to the [Contacting Alive Support](#) section of the *Alive Installation and Administration Guide*.

## Known Limitations/Issues

The following is a list of known issues and/or limitations that must be noted when deploying Alive 7.2

### Limitations

#### Alert Overview

Search capability does not take into account information in the *Root Cause* and *Info* columns.

No note is added to the alert notes when alert ownership is released.

### Alert Watch List

You cannot remove the *Time Range* constraint in the *Manage Alert Watch List* window by clicking the check box next to it. To remove the constraint, bring up the *Pick a Time Range* popup window and remove the date and time from the text boxes.

### Configuration Wizard

If you run the configuration wizard in console mode under Red Hat Enterprise Linux release 5 to change properties on a server where Alive is already installed, you must restart the services manually. You can do this using the run level script *alive.sh*.

### Environment Overview

The *Environment Overview* page search functionality does not take into account the *Collection Status* column.

### HTTPS Access

Alive can be set up to be accessed via HTTPS protocol only on the standard port 443.

### Installer

When running the installer in console mode under Red Hat Enterprise Linux release 5 no instructions are given on how to end the installation. You must use *Ctrl+C* to terminate the wizard.

### Maintenance Schedule

A maintenance schedule that spans two days needs to be separated into two different maintenance schedules.

### NAS

Alive does not support Network Area Storage (NAS) for storing FSDB files.

### Reports

Custom heading text is not applicable when generating CSV-format reports.

### Replication

Alive does not currently provide progress status when replicating FSDB files between primary and backup servers.

### Resolution Notes

Tier and application resolution notes have a limit of 2500 characters.

### Security

Role-based security is implemented on the server side, which means access rights are checked when an action is taken. This means that some actions will not give a message

of insufficient access rights until after the user has completed entering information for the action. For example, when cloning a dashboard, the insufficient rights message will not appear until after the user enters the name of the new dashboard.

### **Widget - Attribute Graph**

You can display metric values collected, along with timestamps, only if the time period for viewing is less than 24 hours.

## **Issues**

### **Adapter**

When synchronizing any adapter with a work folder, the collector does not create and synchronize the work folder and the files within this folder automatically. The files must be manually copied and synchronized.

### **Application**

Deleting an application which comprises a large number of resources might take a very long time, and Alive may become unresponsive. We recommend you delete the individual tiers in the application before deleting the application itself.

### **Fingerprint Library**

Depending on the screen resolution and number of intervals chosen, creating a manual fingerprint may result in overlapping time range in preview modes.

### **Installer**

The command to uninstall the Alive Collector does not work from console mode on 32-bit Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

During Alive installation, if you choose "HTTPS" as the protocol for communication with the Web site, the detected Host IP is replaced with *localhost*. Please replace *localhost* with the detected IP address before continuing.

### **Internet Explorer**

If you have the Skype Plug-in for Internet Explorer installed and enabled, the browser renders a blank white page after you sign into Alive. You should either disable or remove the plug-in or press F5 after signing in to reload the Alive page and correct the problem.

### **Outbound Alert**

The *Test* button on Outbound Alert Setup Screen does not work for SMARTS SAM Notification.

### Reports

The CSV-format Anomaly Correlation report displays the incorrect title of *Behavior Correlation Report*

### Security

Alive allows one more login attempt than is specified in the *Allowed Login Attempts* field of the *Account Lockout Policy* pane.

### Widget - Metric Selector

Icons for metrics in the widget will indicate an abnormality if there is a prediction alarm on the metric and it is not abnormal.

### Widget - Resources

When the widget is configured to filter by adapter kind, the filter icon in the toolbar of the widget incorrectly displays the message "There is no selected filter criteria".

### Widget - Root Cause Ranking

When the widget is configured to group symptoms by resource, it does not provide symptom details after you select a resource and click the *Show Bar Details* button.

### Widget - Tag Selector

The *Tag Selector* widget state is not saved. If you leave the dashboard and return, tags selected for interaction with other widgets will not be marked.

## Changes Since the 7.2 GA Release

This section lists all the bug fixes and enhancements included in the various builds of Alive since the General Availability release of Alive 7.2. They are grouped by the build in which they became available, with the most recent build, 2534, listed first.

### Build 2534

Updates Alive to correct an issue which could keep the Analytics service from starting successfully.

Corrects the LDAP synchronization process so it does not remove any user name from an Alive group it has been added to manually.

Optimizes performance with processing of time series data.

Adds logic to upgrade program for handling the case where the configured filter for a widget included selected tags that no longer existed after the upgrade.

Adds the {{FilterRuleName}} tag to the email filter plug-in for alert notification. The tag inserts the name of the filter rule which generated the notification message.

Fixes the configuration of security access rights for the *Scoreboard Health* widget.

Fixes the default memory configuration for a 32 bit collector.

Fixes the feature of periodic auto synchronization of user accounts with LDAP server.

### **Build 2510**

Adds support for Alive to communicate with LDAP server via SSL.

Adds support for periodic auto-synchronization of user accounts with LDAP server.

Improves the FSDB replication process: decreased the time to replicate and added better logging information about the replication process.

When using Alive with Oracle 11g release 1, a metric instance with an underscore (\_) in its name prevented any group containing that metric instance from expanding in the *Metric Picker* widget. This was due to a bug in Oracle, and is corrected by changes to the SQL query.

Fixes the *Mashup Charts* widget and the Mashup tab of the *Alert Detail* page so they display correctly if the user is configured to use host time and the user machine is set to a different time zone than the host machine.

Changes the default time preference for new user accounts to Browser.

Improves performance when rendering alert and anomaly information.

### **Build 2489**

Greatly improves performance when rendering data in the user interface by improving resource cache management, thereby reducing connections to the database server.

Corrects handling the stop state of an OpenAPI-based resource.

Adds a procedure to restart the collector before reloading adapters to avoid improper garbage collection which had resulted in increased memory consumption.

Increases the value of the MaxPermSize option of the JVM from 64 MB to 128 MB to handle memory requirements for the new VMWare SDK.

Optimizes dynamic threshold calculation and resolves a problem which caused Alive to use the wrong dynamic threshold algorithm in certain scenarios.

Improves the logic for calculating health scores.

Changes health score calculation so a resource will have a score of 0 only when it is unavailable. In all other circumstances the score will be at least 1.

**Build 2481**

Fixed an issue which could stop collection for existing metrics in certain very specific conditions if new metrics were added or changes were applied to existing metrics. This affected any resource created in Alive based on the OpenAPI, such as those using HTTP Post, any RMI-based adapter, or the push interface adapter.