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About the Release Notes

These release notes contain important information available at the time of the release of Alive™ 7.3, including new features, system requirements, and known limitations. Read this document before starting to use Alive 7.3.
**Release Description**

Alive 7.3 contains the enhancements and improvements listed below.

**New Features and Enhancements**

**Installation and Deployment**

**Installation**

Adapters that enable exchange of information between Alive and data collection landscape now have an independent installer which is responsible for installation and upgrade of adapter. These adapters are not shipped with Alive.

Added support for connecting to SQL Server database using windows authentication.

Option to enable synchronization between primary Alive server and replication server available in installer.

Default directory for Alive installation is changed to `<System Drive Root>/Alive`.

**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**

An administrative alert is generated when none of the Analytics processors is communicating with Alive server.

Date Control added to the *mashup* tab of Alert Details page.

Performance improvements made to the alerts overview page results in faster rendering of the page.

Resource Tag Filtering added to the Alerts Overview page.

An alert is suspended or suppressed control state can now be moved to open state by using *release ownership* functionality.

Help icon is added to *Alert Summary* and *Alert Details* page.

**Capacity Analysis**
Alive’s capacity analysis uses the performance history of a metric you select to predict its future growth, and when it is likely to reach a limit you set. You can use this to help plan when to perform infrastructure upgrades, such as adding disk storage to a server or increasing your network capacity.

**Cross-Silo Analysis**

Health tree visualization was added to the page.

**Environment Overview**

Information present in Collection State column was separated in two columns Collection State (whether Alive is supposed to be collecting values for the resource) and Collection Status (whether Alive is actually receiving values for the resource) for better representation.

**LDAP Integration**

Support for SSL is added for secure communication with LDAP Server.

Auto synchronization allows synchronization of users between LDAP and Alive Server at pre-defined interval.

**Logs**

Logging can now be turned on for widgets.

Improved logging for adapters, a separate log file is generated for each adapter instance.

**Resource**

Option to generate Smart Alerts and calculate Dynamic Thresholds is added to the default configuration for a resource kind.

Improvements done to the resource detail page presents user with a much better context of the resource like relation to parent and children and root cause for the current state.

New icons added to the Resource Kind Library. Resource kind icons can also be deployed and associated with resource kinds as part of adapter installation.

**Support**

The Status tab is now Alive application detail page.

Info tab added in this release presents information to the user previously found in Status tab and in addition contains Replication Info pane providing information on replication status of Alive to backup server.

Adapter Info pane in Info tab contains information on adapter version of each installed adapter.

**Tags**
In this release Health Ranges and Adapter Instances are added to the list of Automatic Tags defined in Alive, enhancing the filtering capability.

User Preferences

All new user accounts created in Alive with have a Time Preference of Browser.

Widget – Heat Map

Show Sparkline hyperlink added to the hover over text tip renders a small sparkline of the metric being tracked by the heat map color.

Widget – Health Status

Health state of unknown (blue) is now saved and is represented in the graph of how health has changed over time.

Widget – Health Tree

Alerts for a resource are shown as badges on top of resource kind icon. By selecting a resource and clicking Show Alerts icon in toolbar lists all active alerts for the resource.

Tag Filter pane added to configuration page which lets you filter the parent and child resources that appear in the widget.

Widget – Health Workload Scoreboard

Any metric for the resource can be used as workload metric.

This widget can now accept input from other widgets which can be configured using widget Interactions.

Added icons to the library used for representing Health and Workload.

Widget – Mashup Charts

In health chart for the selected resource, user can double-click alert icon to open Alert Summary page for it. This enhancement is also applicable to Mashup tab of Alert details page.

Widget – Metric Graph

Metric graph image can be saved as full page file.

Metric Graph for the Alive generated metric Self – Total Anomalies displays calculated noise line for the selected resource.

Widget - Root Cause Ranking

Change Mode icon added to toolbar to switch between Resource and Symptom mode.

Added a timestamp on top of symptoms bar which provides information on when the
symptoms occurred relative to each other. This enhancement applies to all places in the application showing root cause.

**Application Programming Interface (API)**

Adapter Framework was redesigned to consolidate three different API’s into a single API as part of the Alive platform with two different interfaces. Better error handling and notification indicates clearly to end user about point of failure in data collection.

The HTTP Post API supports web authentication. When this feature is enabled only Alive users with *Administrative Access right* will be able to post data to Alive.

**High Availability and Scalability**

Alive Platform was created to separate User Interface from the backend engine for analytical processing of data.

**Analytics**

Mathematical model for Aggregate Anomaly detection is added to improve accuracy in generating alarms for dynamic threshold violations.

We improved the performance of dynamic threshold calculations in all analytics plug-in’s.

*Multinomial* and *Binomial* Analytics plug-in were replaced with *MultinomialDT* plug-in.

Improvements made to the health calculation algorithm. A health score of “0” represents resource down state.

**Tools/Utilities**

Reporting Repository tool that automatically populates a database with subset of data from the Alive FSDB based on a schedule is now shipped with Alive.

**Removed Features**

- Option to install *Alive Anomaly detector* is removed from the installer.
- Adapters required to collect metrics are not shipped with Alive. Every adapter has its own installer.

**Deployment Instructions**

To deploy Alive 7.3, 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 7.3 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 7.3 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 1 million metrics.
- **Database application:** Oracle 10g R2 or 11g R2, Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Service Pack 2 or higher, or Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (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 or 8.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 7.3

**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 State and 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.

For Installation of Alive on Linux using non-root user account please contact Alive Support or Professional Services.

After Installation of Alive on Linux, server should be restarted for proper installation of adapters using GUI mode.

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.

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**

**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 in to 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.

**Security**

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

**Widget – Alerts**

When the widget is configured to filter by Time Range, the filter icon in the toolbar of the widget incorrectly displays the message “There is no selected filter criteria”.

**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 – 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.