

Release Notes: IBM Aspera Console 3.4.0

Product Release:

Release Notes Updated: December 18, 2019

This release of IBM Aspera Console 3.4.0 provides the new features, fixes, and other changes listed below. In particular, the Breaking Changes section provides important information about modifications to the product that may require you to adjust your workflow, configuration, or usage. Additional sections cover system requirements and known problems.

NEW FEATURES

Global Proxy

- Console supports transfers to Shares nodes, Aspera Transfer Service nodes, and unmanaged nodes using the global HTTP proxy.
- Admins can configure a global HTTP proxy and a global FASP proxy for Console to use to connect to nodes and to start transfers. (CIM-1240)
- If a global proxy is enabled, node-storage browsing uses the proxy.
- Create custom rules to manage global proxy inclusion and exclusion for a range of IP addresses and host names.

Improved Watch Folders

- Console can now stop, start, and pause a Watch Folder if the node is running High-Speed Transfer Server 3.9.3 and later.
- Console uses the latest Watch Folder APIs to create and manage Watch Folders.
- Admins can create and manage pull Watch Folders in Console. (CIM-1668)

SAML Groups

- SAML now distinguishes between local and SAML groups. Administrators can create SAML groups or convert local groups to SAML Groups.
- When a SAML user logs in, Console determines the SAML groups the user is a member of. For each SAML group:
 - If a SAML group with the same name does not exist in Console's database, Console automatically creates a new SAML group in its database and adds the associated SAML user account to the new SAML group in its database.
 - If a SAML group already exists in Console's database, Console adds the associated SAML user account to that SAML group in its database.
 - If the associated SAML user account is part of a SAML group in Console's database but not in the SAML IdP, Console removes the user account from the SAML group in its database.
 - If a local group with the same name as the SAML group already exists in Console's database, a Console administrator must first delete or convert the local group to a SAML group in Console before the SAML user can log in to Console.

System

- Upgraded Apache OpenSSL to version 1.0.2t (Linux) and 1.1.1c (Windows).
- Upgraded Apache to version 2.4.41.
- Console now supports Windows 2019.
- Renamed the `default_hostname` parameter in `console.rb.yml` to `accepted_hosts_ips`.
- The `aspera_db_space_watcher` process supports running on `systemctl`. (CIM-2375)
- Console no longer requires Flash Player. (CIM-2003)

BREAKING CHANGES

If you are upgrading from a previous release, the following changes in this release may require you to adjust your workflow, configuration, or usage.

- A SAML user cannot log in if:
 - a local user account with the same name exists in Console. A Console administrator must delete the local user before the SAML user can log in.
 - a local group that shares the same name as one of the SAML user's SAML groups exists in Console. A Console administrator must delete the local group or convert it to a SAML group before the SAML user can log in.

DOCUMENTATION UPDATES

Fixed `acm` binary paths to point to the Console-specific `acm4console` binary. (CIM-2867)

Added instructions to stop the Console service on nodes running RHEL / CentOS 7 or later. (CIM-2796)

Revamped Watch Folder documentation section. New procedures for creating push Watch Folders, pull Watch Folders, and for creating Watch Folders with Aspera Transfer Service nodes as the target nodes.

Documented `asctl` command to purge data before a certain date. (CIM-2555)

Documented how to set up ADFS in Console. (CIM-1788)

Added examples on Regex and JSON matching for custom field rules to *Reference: Built-In Fields for Custom Field Rules*. (CIM-1919)

Documentation now covers Console support for IBM Aspera Validator validation statuses.

Replaced link to Ruby-specific regular expression documentation with instructions to refer to the Ruby documentation home page in *Creating a Cookie Parsing Rule*. (CIM-1831)

Fixed errors in documentation for configuring nodes to use with Console. (CIM-1231, CIM-1737) (CIM-1805)

Moved Console system requirements to product release notes.

ISSUES FIXED IN THIS RELEASE

AC-901 - Upgraded Windows Ruby version to 1.8.7 with OpenSSL 1.0.1u.

AC-877 - Console transfer to ATS node fails when using the **Destination initiates transfer** option. (CIM-2793)

AC-868 - When editing a Watch Folder, "Source deletion" settings are not checked even if configured in the WF, and the setting remains incorrectly unchecked even after updating the configuration. (CIM-2766)

AC-845 - Unable to connect to ATS node from Windows Console. (CIM-2536)

AC-836 - White space in Aspera on Cloud usernames is encoded (%20).

AC-835 - Console reports don't contain File Size or Bandwidth usage. (CIM-2632)

AC-833 - You can now start simple and smart transfers a managed cluster to a remote host by authenticating with an access key.

AC-831 - Console reports do not show transfer data transferred to ATS nodes.

AC-823 - Console upgrades do not verify the Common Components version. (CIM-2542)

AC-797 - Console displays the AoC user associated with an AoC-started transfer instead of the Console user associated with the AoC node.

AC-795 - The `asperanoded` service does not gracefully close its TCP socket when TLS is used. (CIM-2279)

AC-786 - Console throws an error when adding multiple destinations to a new Smart Transfer. (CIM-2261)

AC-783 - Removed TLS v1.0, 1.1 from the list of supported SSL protocols.

AC-753 - Added **Use Managed Service Account (MSA)** option in the installer for the Aspera Service User.

AC-749 - The `aspera_db_space_watcher` service generates world-writable PID and log files. (CIM-2081)

AC-704 - Console errors when trying to connect to a node that requires SSL version to be greater than `tlsv1.0`. (CIM-1910)

AC-683 - Editing configuration settings for a node fails with "Unknown user option" errors.

AC-682 - The `aspera_db_space_watcher.service` script does not correctly start the Aspera database space watcher. (CIM-1693)

AC-677 - Console transfer to Shares does not work if multiple files or folders are selected for transfer. (CIM-1616)

AC-676 - In some cases, configuring unmanaged node reset endpoint ports to default values of 33001 or 22. (CIM-1152) (CIM-1633)

AC-661 - When creating a Watch Folder, if a value is entered for the **Password** field, but the target authentication type is SSH key authentication, Console uses the password value instead of using the SSH key. (CIM-1443)

AC-630 - When using an entitlement license, Console no longer requires documentation links (defined in `ami_links.yml`). (CIM-1277)

AC-616 - Shares endpoint creation page presents SSH key authentication as an available option.

AC-613 - Clarified description of the question mark wildcard in Smart Transfer reference. (CIM-1168)

AC-510 - SAML authentication doesn't use the `member_of` attribute to create Console groups or to map SAML users to existing Console groups. (CIM-819)

AC-117 - After restarting Watchfolder services, the details page in Console does not display previously transferred files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

IBM Aspera Common Components 1.2.27

Hardware:

CPU: 4x 2-GHz CPU cores

Memory: 8 GB RAM

Hard Drive: SSD hard drive or high-speed disks (15K RPM)

Disk Space: 10 GB

Components:

Apache Version: 2.4.41

Apache SSL Version: 1.0.2t (Linux); 1.1.1c (Windows)

`asctl`: 2.0.3

Mongrels Version: 1.1.5

MySQL Version: 5.1.54.0

Rails Version: 2.3.5

Ruby Version: 1.8.7

Ruby SSL Version: 1.0.1u

Linux: Red Hat 6-7, CentOS 6-7, SUSE 11-12

Browsers: Firefox 71, Chrome 78, Safari 13, Edge 42

Windows: 2008r2 Server, 2012, 2016, 2019

Browsers: Firefox 71, Chrome 78, Safari 13, Edge 42

Note: Aspera recommends installing Console on 64-bit Windows, which is essential for maximizing MySQL performance.

KNOWN ISSUES

Nodes

- AC-800 - When making transfers with an endpoint, Console uses the node user from associated node instead of the node user from the endpoint. If the two node user's have different docroots, the transfer fails. **Workaround:** Set the same docroot for both node users. (CIM-2347)
- AC-656 - Console times out when browsing a node with 50,000+ files. (CIM-1484)
- AC-618 - When adding an SSH endpoint to a node in a failover group, Console replicates the endpoint to the other nodes in the failover group, but doesn't set the endpoint type to SSH. Transfers using the incompletely replicated endpoint fail. **Workaround:** Edit the incompletely replicated endpoints and set the type to SSH. (CIM-1211)
- AC-494 - Console cannot display account information for Windows managed nodes if the username contains a space, returning the error "undefined method 'downcase' for nil:NilClass". (CIM-589)

Transfers

- AC-770 - Console cannot send reports to email addresses with domain names of 4 or more characters (for example, .media). (CIM-2129)
- AC-653 - Console-initiated ATS transfers run twice. (CIM-1465)
- AC-561 - Console does not support the `--exclude-newer-than=MTIME` and `--exclude-older-than=MTIME` `ascp` options.
- AC-511 - Console fails to create personal login for smart transfer to ATCM cluster with an invalid destination error. (CIM-820)
- AC-509 - Console reports "Unable to save smart Transfer Address is Invalid" when attempting to create smart transfers with addresses that end in `.systems`. (CIM-811)

UI

- AC-785 - Choosing a job from the Sync page (**Activity > Sync**) gives a 500 error. (CIM-2262)
- AC-526 - The Sync Jobs page does not sort by **Status** or by **Remote Node**. (CIM-888)

Watch Folders

- AC-725 - Modifying a Watch Folder through console resets the timeout value to the default. (CIM-2006)
- AC-483 - When creating a Watchfolder on a local node that has only Node API credentials, adding a new folder fails with a timeout error.

Reporting

- AC-903 - Switching daylight savings settings wrongly schedules a report to be run thousands of times. (CIM-2864)
- AC-792 - Console reports a completed transfer as "Inactive". (CIM-2237)
- AC-790 - Console reports error out when working with databases that are 100 GB and larger. (CIM-2251)
- AC-789 - Console generates empty reports for unmanaged nodes using hostnames instead of IP addresses. **Workaround:** Configure unmanaged nodes to use IP addresses. (CIM-2268)
- AC-787 - Console uses the wrong dates and times when running a reporting on "last month". (CIM-2246)
- AC-672 - Console reports don't contain File Size or Bandwidth usage data for ATS transfers. (CIM-1593)
- AC-548 - The source directory is missing from Console monitoring and reporting if the `ascp` version is different between the client and server. (CIM-792)
- AC-468 - When running a Report with Report on set to last week, the query is run for the correct time frame but the Report Period End displayed in the report title is incorrect. (CIM-498)

REST API

- AC-732 - The Console Rest API allows using smart transfers to send an entire source directory, but not specific files or a list of files from the source directory. (CIM-2031)

Security

- AC-938 - [Linux] The MySQL packaged with the Aspera Common Components does not encrypt the MySQL database password. (CIM-2898)
- AC-720 - A number of Console log and CSS files are world-writable. (CIM-1995)

System

- AC-858 - When installing or upgrading Console, it is not possible to bind Apache on an address other than 0.0.0.0. **Workaround:** Perform the installation or upgrade with 0.0.0.0 as the Apache bind address. Then, manually change the bind address in the `ashttpd.conf` file and the `httpd_template_linux.conf` and `httpd_template_windows.conf` template files. You can find those files at:
 - Linux: `/opt/aspera/common/apache/conf`
 - Windows: `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Aspera\Common\apache\conf`

(CIM-2725)

- AC-821 - Console 500 error when attempting to delete node accounts in Console needs to clarify that the SSH user needs to be given write-permissions to `aspera.conf` (CIM-2530)
- AC-782 - In some cases, Console throws a 500 error with a Data too long for column error. (CIM-2204)
- AC-667 - Console can't import files from Aspera on Cloud, though session info is imported. (CIM-1520)
- AC-663 - Console prints in `start_faspex_on_boot` in `/var/log/messages`. (CIM-1424)
- AC-619 - Windows `my.cnf` file does not correctly load the `my-custom.cnf` because the file requires a full path. **Workaround:** Edit the file and change the line to:

```
!include C:/Program Files (x86)/Common Files/Aspera/Common/mysql/my-
custom.cnf
```

(CIM-1212)

- AC-615 - Apache allows public access to the `.htaccess` file from a URL. (CIM-1177)
- AC-611 - [Windows] Installing or upgrading Console does not preserve the custom `my.cnf` file that controls MySQL settings. (CIM-1149)

Documentation

- AC-684 - Console API documentation does not specify that the `SimpleTransferSubmit` API endpoint uses `Node_API` as the default `endpoint_type` parameter. Users unaware of this default and trying to transfer with SSH see transfers fail with `node api unreachable` error. **Workaround:** Set the `endpoint_type` parameter to `SSH`. (CIM-1670)
- AC-624 - Documentation on endpoint needs clarification, especially for ATS endpoints. (CIM-1230)

General

- AC-678 - Console API does not block wrong or incomplete requests, preventing subsequent requests from processing correctly. (CIM-1648)

PRODUCT SUPPORT

For online support, go to the IBM Aspera Support site at <https://www.ibm.com/mysupport/>. To open a support case, log in with your IBMid or set up a new IBMid account.