

Release Notes: IBM Aspera Faspex 4.4.1

Product Release: March 26, 2020

Release Notes Updated: June 4, 2020

This release of IBM Aspera Faspex 4.4.1 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

CentOS 8 Support

- You can now install Faspex on a CentOS 8 machine. Installing Faspex on CentOS 8 requires Aspera Common Components 1.1.34.

API

- Added new API endpoints to view and browse accessible shares.
- API endpoints that fetch package information now report the package UUID.
- Added a new API endpoint to change the credentials Faspex uses to connect to the SMTP server Faspex uses to send email notifications. (CIM-2834)
- Added a new API endpoint to change the Node API credentials Faspex uses to connect to a node. (CIM-2831)
- You can now use the API to create and upload a package from a remote source. (CIM-2076)
- API calls made over HTTP now include the Stats Collector name and version in the User-Agent HTTP header.

Configuration Options

- Users can now choose to only see completed packages on the **Received** page. Go to your user preferences and select **Show only completed packages** on **Received** page.

Security Options

- In global settings, you can now choose the AES cipher used to encrypt Faspex transfers using FASP. Go to **Server > Configuration > Security** and select a cipher from the **FASP Cipher** drop-down menu.

HTTP Gateway Transfer Progress Reporting

- Improved the upload progress bar for HTTP Gateway transfers to show the transfer status, the current file being transferred, the current file size, the current HTTP transfer rate, and the total package size.

System

- Upgraded jQuery to version 3.4.1. (CIM-3101)
- [Windows] Upgraded Ruby version to 1.9.3-p551.

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.

- Faspex now limits the max length of tags set in ascp tags and requires explicit designation of fields added to the sender and recipient fields in the ascp tags. Two new fields in the `faspex.yml` configuration file control these settings:
 - The `MaxTagsLength` field limits the total length (after base64 encoding) of Faspex-generated tags (by default: 1500 bytes).
 - The `UserFieldsInTags` determines what fields Faspex includes in the `ascp` tags for the sender and for each recipient (by default: `email, first_name, last_name, name`).

Leaving the defaults can affect Console reporting. Possible impacts include but are not limited to:

- Console cannot report the full list of a transfer's recipients.
- Console reports and rules based on Faspex custom fields and SAML group fields in the tags no longer work. You must explicitly include those fields in the `UserFieldsInTags`.

(CIM-2327, CIM-2934)

DOCUMENTATION UPDATES

Fixed error in Configuring File Storage. (CIM-3184)

Fixed node configuration procedures to add the contents of `aspera_tokenauth_id_rsa.pub` (used to be instead of `aspera_id_rsa.pub`) to the `authorized_keys` file. (CIM-3190)

Updated Faspex HA upgrade documentation to use `systemctl` commands to disable services. (CIM-3105)

Update custom CSS instructions to use a custom CSS to change colors. (CIM-3104)

The HTTP Gateway documentation can now be found here: [IBM Knowledge Center: IBM Aspera HTTP Gateway](#). (CIM-3004)

Faspex and Console cannot be installed on the same server. (CIM-3036)

Added missing step to run `asctl faspex:upgrade` on the passive node. (CIM-2985)

Used a full path for the example HTTP Gateway URL. (CIM-2972)

Clarified steps to remove the HTTP Gateway [BETA].

ISSUES FIXED IN THIS RELEASE

FASPX-1730 - Creating a user using the `/api/users/` endpoint does not work.

FASPX-1720 - Setting the `share_id_order` field in a transfer spec generates an error in the transfer spec.

FASPX-1703 - Email templates are not preserved after upgrade. (CIM-3080)

FASPX-1701 - External users cannot use HTTP Gateway to download a package from a link. (CIM-3079)

FASPX-1689 - Stats Collector negatively impacts Faspex performance due to slow inserts in MySQL.

FASPX-1687 - Users cannot download packages using HTTP Gateway if Connect is not installed on their system.

FASPX-1686 - The link to download an entire package is missing.

FASPX-1675 - If the default inbox has multiple file storages, the web UI does not indicate which file storage is the default file storage.

FASPX-1671 - IBM Aspera Common Components upgrade script does not stop upgrade when Apache and MySQL are running.

FASPX-1663 - In some cases, `inbox.atom` generates wrong package link. (CIM-3037)

FASPX-1661 - Installing Faspex does not install the `aspera_db_space_watcher` service.

FASPX-1660 - The `asctl mysql:start` and `stop` commands cannot start and stop the `aspera_db_space_watcher` service.

FASPX-1652 - Bad link generated by `inbox.atom` breaks pagination. (CIM-2996)

FASPX-1650 - The `aspera_db_space_watcher` service does not work due to misplaced folder. (CIM-2924)

FASPX-1649 - The hover label for the **New Package** tab is wrong. (CIM-2991)

FASPX-1636 - Added the `num_recipients` field to `ascp` tags. The new field reports the number of recipients in the transfer. If there are fewer entries in the recipients field than the number reported in `num_recipients`, use the v4 API to retrieve the full list of recipients (see breaking changes).

- FASPX-1631 - Translation error incorrectly appears on the New User Account page.
- FASPX-1630 - Faspex reports an incorrect package size for a transferring from a node that supports symlinks.
- FASPX-1629 - Faspex returns Internal Server Error when listing packages that include symlinks to directories. (CIM-2965)
- FASPX-1628 - Faspex should return the IP address of the user who downloaded the package instead the IP address of the storage node.
- FASPX-1620 - Updated IBM Aspera Proxy Gateway SDK.
- FASPX-1589 - Faspex API call shows unnecessary user information.
- FASPX-1561 - Some Faspex API errors disclose unnecessary database information. (CIM-2918)
- FASPX-1559 - Users cannot upload packages to a dropbox using the Aspera CLI although they have access to the dropbox. (CIM-2903)
- FASPX-1419 - In some cases, Faspex deletes the template user for user self-registration, causing user self-registration to fail. (CIM-2762)
- FASPX-1301 - [Windows] If a user account reaches its send quota limit mid-transfer, the package is not deleted and the transfer can be retried.
- FASPX-1216 - Transfers of folders with a space at the end of the folder name fail with "No such file or directory" error. (CIM-2559)
- FASPX-1189 - When a SAML user logs into Faspex and the user's attributes have changed, Faspex does not update the `cached_slug`, `notify_on_download_names`, and `notify_on_upload_names` in the Faspex database. (CIM-2521)
- FASPX-1139 - Locked users do not receive packages. (CIM-2433)
- FASPX-1121 - When retrying relays, Faspex does not skip transferring already transferred files.
- FASPX-1117 - The `/packages/{delivery_id}` v4 API endpoint does not show packages in a held state.
- FASPX-1078 - External users converted to SAML users do not inherit SAML group settings. (CIM-2263)
- FASPX-1055 - Using the API to create a package with `ear_enabled` does not set the `content_protection` field in transfer specs. (CIM-2241)
- FASPX-1040 - Using the API to change package archived status changes the package expiration date and the release date.
- FASPX-1039 - Faspex package expiration date is not correctly calculated.
- FASPX-1033 - The `/dropboxes` endpoint does not include dropboxes for which you have submit-only permissions.
- FASPX-1032 - The `/packages/{delivery_id}` v4 API endpoint cannot update packages in a held state.
- FASPX-1031 - When you are not the sender of a package, the response for the `/users/me/packages` endpoint does not include the full list of recipients.
- FASPX-1029 - When using the API, users cannot create a package with "..." in the title.
- FASPX-1022 - Faspex user accounts are locked due to inactivity, even though the user account is used for Faspex v4 API calls. (CIM-2113)
- FASPX-1009 - Forwarding a package sets the package expiration date based on package-forward time instead of original, package-creation time.
- FASPX-1008 - Using the API to forward a package does not include the original note in the package.
- FASPX-987 - Deleting a package with a failed relay does not remove the failed relay entry from the Relays page. (CIM-2111)

FASPX-964 - Faspex Mobile cannot parse the metadata in a package sent with the Aspera CLI. (CIM-1963, CIM-2084)

FASPX-942 - When user account information changes for an AD user, Faspex creates a new account instead of updating the existing user account. (CIM-2050)

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

IBM Aspera High-Speed Transfer Server: 3.7.0-3.9.6 with Connect Server license

IBM Aspera Common Components: 1.1.33 (1.1.34 for CentOS 8)

IBM Aspera Connect: 3.9.0-3.9.8

Note: To use the file obfuscation feature with Connect, users must be using Connect 3.9.8 and later. (Obfuscation works also with remote sources and HTTP Gateway)

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

Embedded Components:

Apache Version: 2.4.39

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

asctl Version: 2.1

Connect SDK Version: 3.9.7.175481

Mongrels Version: 1.2.0.pre2

MySQL Version: 5.7.27 with `@global.sql_mode` and `@session.sql_mode` set to

`STRICT_TRANS_TABLES,NO_ZERO_IN_DATE,NO_ZERO_DATE,ERROR_FOR_DIVISION_BY_ZERO,NO_AUTO_CREATE`

Rails Version: 2.3.18

Ruby Version: 1.9.3

Ruby SSL Version: 1.0.2t

64-bit Windows: 2012, 2016, 2019

64-bit Linux: RedHat 6-7, CentOS 6-7, CentOS 8 (with Common 1.1.34), SLES 11.4, 12.3, 15

Browsers: Microsoft Edge 18, Firefox 71, Safari 13, Google Chrome 78, Internet Explorer 13 (not supported by HTTP Gateway)

(Faspex users can successfully access Faspex from any of these browsers on any OS, as long as the browser and OS are also supported by Connect and HTTP Gateway)

KNOWN ISSUES

Transfers

- FASPX-1614 - Upload fails when user changes the upload method after already selecting files.
- FASPX-1225 - If a Faspex transfer user has the `symbolic_links` options set to `follow` instead of `create`, Faspex creates an empty package marks the transfer as completed instead of giving an error. (CIM-2581)
- FASPX-831 - Faspex errors are not clear when Faspex fails to start transfer because HTTP fallback is not enabled on the node. (CIM-1780)
- FASPX-352 - Faspex transfers cannot be resumed if the Connect Plug-In is closed and relaunched, even after restarting the web page and the Connect Plug-In. (CIM-632)

Email Notifications

- FASPX-1739 - The Faspex welcome email still has links to `www.asperasoft.com`. (CIM-3128)
- FASPX-983 - In specific cases, handling Stats Collector exceptions prevents Faspex from updating transfers in tables and from sending email notifications about those transfers. **Workaround:** See *Troubleshooting Faspex: Resetting Stats Collector Database*. (CIM-2075)

Relays

- FASPX-1728 - Package relay status does not update after package relay completes.
- FASPX-940 - Faspex does not support setting multiple shares per user defined in `RecipientShareIDs` metadata. (CIM-2035)
- FASPX-893 - In some cases, if multiple tabs are open, a user is able to manually retry a failed relay from the Relays page, even though Faspex has already restarted the failed relay, because the Faspex UI is not updated. (CIM-1925)

Web UI

- FASPX-1766 - Faspex gives 500 error when trying to toggle user profile columns on the Users page if the user does not have a value set for that column.
- FASPX-1690 - When downloading a package using HTTP Gateway, Faspex shows the HTTP Gateway IP address as the client IP address instead of the client IP address.
- FASPX-1615 - A user can no longer select files after clearing the list of selected files on the New Package page. **Workaround:** Refresh the page to select files again.
- FASPX-832 - The Received Packages page UI cannot handle very long titles. (CIM-1779)

Mobile

- FASPX-1038 - Faspex directs users using a mobile web browser to open the Faspex Mobile app. (CIM-2172)

System

- FASPX-981 - Faspex should ignore records that do not match the requirements of the Faspex database and continue to poll a node for records. (CIM-2022)
- FASPX-375 - SUSE 11 UI installation for Faspex and Common fails when using the UI to install. **Workaround:** Install using the command line and the `rpm -Uvh` command.

Docs

- FASPX-1523 - The documentation at <https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/moving-your-faspex-server-new-machine> is inaccurate. (CIM-2878)

API

- FASPX-1388 - When sending a package from a remote source where the source and the destination are the same host, Faspex occasionally reports an upload failure on a completed transfer and does not allow users to download the package. (CIM-2756)
- FASPX-1005 - Archiving a package using the v4 API archives the package for the sender instead of for the recipients (CIM-2145, CIM-2146)

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.