

Release Notes: IBM Aspera Faspex 5.0

5.0.2 release date: July 27, 2022

5.0.1 release date: May 23, 2022

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IBM Aspera Faspex 5.0 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.

5.0.2

NEW FEATURES

You can now save and persist `nginx.conf` files in an upgrade by modifying the files in `/opt/aspera/faspex/conf/nginx/custom`. Use the files in `/opt/aspera/faspex/conf/nginx/custom/orig` to compare changes after upgrading or to revert to the default. (Aspera/faspex-router#55)

On the send package form, you can now add contacts using the plus (+) button. (Aspera/faspex-ui#1732)

You can now use Let's Encrypt certificates without additional configuration by running **faspexctl install_letsencrypt**. (Aspera/faspex-installer#196)

You can now override the default Connect installation URL in **Configurations > Transfer** options. (Aspera/faspex-ui#1343)

The GET `/packages` endpoint now includes the `ear_enabled` field in the response. (Aspera/faspex-core#3236)

You can now set the `connect_url` field in the `/configuration` endpoint. Setting the `connect_url` field overrides the default location from which Faspex serves the Connect installer (when a user is prompted to download Connect). (Aspera/faspex-core#3248)

You can now cancel an incomplete or in progress relay. (Aspera/faspex-ui#1831)

You can now remove the default status from a SAML configuration using the context menu. (Aspera/faspex-ui#1769)

BREAKING CHANGES

Aspera/faspex-core#3247 - The `min_connect_version_major`, `min_connect_version_minor`, and `min_connect_version_point` fields have been combined into the `min_connect_version` field.

ISSUES FIXED

Aspera/faspex-core#3308 - Remote transfer with symlinks now respect the source shared folder symlink setting.

Aspera/faspex-core#3276 - Metadata profile option lists now have a correct max length of 5,000 characters.

Aspera/faspex-core#3267 - Added missing node errors to explain why a node might be unreachable instead of showing a generic error.

Aspera/faspex-core#3183 - Required global user properties no longer prevent you from deactivating users.

Aspera/faspex-core#3161 - External users can send packages through an invitation or submission link regardless of whether **All IBM Aspera users can send packages to all other IBM Aspera users** is enabled.

Aspera/faspex-core#3157 - Managers can now access health monitoring (`/monitor`) endpoints.

Aspera/faspex-core#3149 - The API reference now correctly instructs API users to provide the invitation slug ID.

Aspera/faspex-core#3137 - Personal invitations now inherit server configuration if there is no set custom expiration policy.

Aspera/faspex-core#3130 - Fixed GET /relays search to return only matching records.

Aspera/faspex-core#3114 - You can now retry relays for deleted packages.

Aspera/faspex-core#3113 - Users can now cancel incomplete or in progress relays.

Aspera/faspex-core#3100 - Packages are no longer stuck in the Checking relays state.

Aspera/faspex-core#2838 - Faspex 5 now respects expiration settings set on a shared inbox.

Aspera/faspex-core#2453 - Login, account creation, and credential reset pages are now properly translated.

Aspera/faspex-core#1153 - The Faspex 5 login pages do not respect internationalization.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1822 - The time-based expiration policy for invitation links no longer accepts zero (0) as a valid number of days.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1810 - Managers can now see the package relays details tab as a member of a shared inbox.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1805 - Forwarding a package with an empty title would result in an error. Now you cannot forward packages with empty titles.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1798 - Anyone sending a package through a personal invitation link is now prompted to enter a password when the link requires a password.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1767 - Users can now send packages when optional metadata fields are left empty.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1771 - Faspex now serves the correct minimum version of Connect from the Connect download URL (hosted by IBM by default, overridable by setting the Connect URL).

Aspera/faspex-ui#1757 - Manager users can now modify workgroup and shared inbox defaults for self-registered users.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1741 - Added the Terms of Service to the package send page when enabled.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1740 - Users can now resend shared inbox invitations.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1733 - When the `allow_users_to_set_custom_link_expiration` server setting is disabled, users no longer see the **Set invitation link expiration policy** toggle when sending a new invitation.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1731 - When downloading encrypted packages sent using Connect, Faspex UI asks for the passphrase to decrypt the package contents before downloading.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1726 - Failing to add a member to a shared inbox or workgroup shows an error only once instead of twice.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1722 - Users should not see the **Delete** button for deleted or expired packages.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1717 - Public links are now tab isolated and do not conflict with existing Faspex sessions.

Aspera/faspex-service#230 - The recipient's email now shows up correctly in all email clients.

Aspera/faspex-installer#230 - The Faspex installer (**faspexctl**) should not prompt users to install Podman.

Aspera/faspex-utility#103 - In the Utility application, the error message shown when updating admin credentials with an unsafe password now specifies the password security requirements.

KNOWN ISSUES

Aspera/faspex-core#3154 - When importing metadata to create a new SAML configuration, you cannot directly provide the metadata by uploading a file or copy and pasting text. **Workaround:** Use the **Import from URL** option to import metadata.

Aspera/faspex-core#3337 - The **Full history** tab on the **Pending** packages page does not show deleted pending packages.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1902 - When downloading encrypted packages sent using HTTP Gateway, Faspex UI should ask for the passphrase to decrypt the package contents before downloading. **Workaround:** Download the encrypted files and use Connect to decrypt the downloaded encrypted files.

Aspera/faspex-ui#1899 - When setting the release date for a pending package, you should not be allowed to choose today's date for the release date. (To release today, click **Release now**. If sending a package, choose **Release now** for the release policy.)

Aspera/faspex-utility#108 - The Utility application crashes if you try to migrate to the latest Faspex service schema while it is already migrating.

5.0.1

ISSUES FIXED

Aspera/faspex-core#3228 - Faspex now correctly generates the download token.

Aspera/faspex-core#3186 - Email templates no longer return malformed HTML in either the plain or HTML bodies.

Aspera/faspex-core#3184 - Faspex 5 gracefully handles user-aborted transfers (inherited from Faspex 4) and returns the "Send email notification for failed uploads jobs" job status to **Processing**.

Aspera/faspex-core#3178 - The "Mark deliveries as expired" job no longer gets backlogged by a race condition.

NEW FEATURES IN Faspex 5

Architecture

Faspex 5 uses a new platform architecture, which is the foundation for consolidating Aspera web applications. Currently, the Faspex 5 platform has two applications:

- The Packages application for sending and downloading packages (Faspex 4).
- The Admin application for configuring server settings and manage users.

In the future, the Faspex 5 platform is expected to include applications to share content in folders (Shares) and to monitor and automate transfers (Console).

As part of the new architecture, Faspex 5 is fully containerized and runs multiple containers. Faspex 5 is fully REST API driven and the Faspex 5 web interface leverages that API. Any external integration developers looking to access server resources will use the same API as the Faspex 5 web interface.

Faspex 5 uses Nginx as a reverse proxy to direct traffic to the different containers. You can modify the `nginx.conf` configuration file to adjust Nginx server settings and to use your own SSL certificates.

Navigation and display

Faspex 5 has a completely new web user interface created with the IBM Carbon Design framework (and dark mode is available). The Faspex 5 web interface is a single-page reactive application, allowing streamlined, new user experiences. One example is the transfer activity panel that allows a user to keep monitoring transfers as the user switches from one application to another. Another example is a user can make multiple HTTP Gateway uploads without blocking navigation.

Shared inboxes (formerly dropboxes)

Dropboxes are now called shared inboxes. When sending a package to shared inboxes, instead of selecting a shared inbox from a drop-down menu, simply include the shared inbox as a package recipient.

Manage shared inboxes in the left sidebar of the Packages application.

Database

Faspex 5 uses MariaDB for the database. Even though Faspex 5 ships with a `faspex_db` container (running a MariaDB database), Aspera best practices recommend using a compatible, external database with Faspex 5, especially for high availability deployments.

The Faspex 5 database schema and backups are now managed using the Faspex Utility web application, accessed at `https://your_faspex_server/aspera/faspex/utility`. Use Faspex Utility to backup, restore, and migrate the Faspex database schema and content.

Authentication and authorization

Faspex 5 adopts OAuth 2 as the authorization mechanism for its APIs. The Faspex V3 API used less secure HTTP basic authorization and the Faspex V4 API did not decouple user authentication from authorization. A Faspex 5 administrator can register an API client to retrieve a bearer token to interact with the endpoints.

Feature name changes

- File storage is now called nodes and storage.
- File storage shares are now called storage locations.
- On the send package form, **Obfuscation** is now called **Mask file names**.
- On the send package form, the **Encryption** option is now called **Password protection**. You now provide the password in the send form instead of in Connect.
- On the send package form, the **Obfuscation** option is now called **Mask file names**.
- On the send package form, the **Show Private Recipients** link is now called **Bcc**.

BREAKING CHANGES IN 5.0.0

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

Server

- Faspex 5 does not support Windows as an operating system. To upgrade to Faspex 5, migrate your Faspex 4.X instance to a Linux server *and test* before performing the upgrade.
- Faspex 5 uses Nginx as its server.
- Faspex 5 does not validate a license file in this version.
- Faspex 5 does not currently support alternate addresses. **Workaround:** Run `faspexctl setup` to change the current FQDN.

Database

- Faspex 5 requires the database run MariaDB 10.7.3 or later. If you are running an older or different database, you must migrate your database before upgrading.

Accounts

- To log in to new Faspex 5 accounts, you must now use the user account email address. If you upgraded from Faspex 4.X, you can still log in to existing user accounts with their Faspex 4.X usernames.
- New Faspex 5 users must change their password on first login. You can no longer disable this requirement in server settings.
- Admins can no longer set another user's password. A user can still change their own password.
- Admins can no longer reset another user's password. A user can still reset their own password.
- Admins can no longer choose to display users using their usernames. Faspex always displays a user's first name and last name.

Account registration

Editing the template user is now called configuring self-registered user defaults.

Directory services

For security reasons, Faspex does not support using direct connections to directory services for user authentication and management. You must instead front your directory service with a SAML Identity Provider (IdP) and use SAML based authentication for your users.

SAML

The SAML metadata and callback URL routes are different from previous versions. Retrieve the new metadata and callback URLs from Faspex and update your SAML Identity Provider (see).

Sending packages

- Instead of using the `(external)` flag to allow a Faspex user to download a package without logging in, enable **Recipients with an account can download without logging in** when sending a package. This feature requires an admin to turn on **Senders can allow IBM Aspera users to download their packages without logging in**.
- The send package page no longer prepends an asterisk (*) to workgroup and shared inbox names.
- The send form page no longer presents the option to choose whether to send with Connect or HTTP Gateway. To send using HTTP Gateway, open the transfer activity monitor and enable **Force to use Aspera HTTP Gateway** (if HTTP Gateway is available).

Metadata profiles

Faspex 5 does not support previewing a metadata profile.

Nodes

- Nodes added using `localhost` and `127.0.0.1` may need to be re-added with their appropriate public IP address or hostnames.
- You must upgrade your existing nodes to HSTS 4.3 and later *before upgrading*. Faspex 5 uses the HSTS 4.3+ activity logging feature to retrieve transfer information. You must enable activity logging on each HSTS node by running:

```
asconfigurator -x "set_server_data;activity_logging,true"
```

If you do not, Faspex cannot work correctly; for example, your users cannot download packages.

You must restart `asperanoded` after running the **asperaconfigurator** command.

HTTP fallback

The **asperahttpd** service in HSTS does not currently report HTTP transfer activity through the `/ops/transfers` endpoint. For this reason, Faspex does not support HTTP fallback until HSTS addresses this use case.

Rake tasks

Faspex 5 no longer supports using rake tasks. Use the API instead for any automation previously performed by rake tasks.

faspex.yml configuration file

Faspex 5 no longer uses the `faspex.yml` configuration file. Configuration options using that file are expected to be supported by a future release of Faspex 5.

Post-processing scripts

Post-processing has been removed and is expected to be replaced by future API enhancements.

Out-of-transfer file validation

Out-of-transfer-validation is not currently available in Faspex 5 and is expected to be supported by future version of Faspex and Validator.

API

The Faspex 5 API is not backwards compatible with prior versions of the Faspex API.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Server requirements

Your server must run CentOS7, RHEL 7, or RHEL 8.

Your server must have Docker installed.

IBM Aspera recommends using a server with at least 16GB of available RAM with at least 4 CPU cores.

Database requirements

MariaDB version 10.7.3 and later.

Node requirements

IBM Aspera High-Speed Transfer Server: 4.3.1 and later with Connect Server license

Client requirements

IBM Aspera Connect 4.1.3 and later (unless defaulting to HTTP Gateway)

Browser requirements:

- Microsoft Edge latest
- Firefox latest
- Safari latest
- Google Chrome latest

(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)

ASPERA ECOSYSTEM COMPATIBILITY

Product	Minimum compatible version
High-Speed Transfer Server (HSTS)	4.3.1 with Connect Server license
Aspera on Cloud	ATS version 4.3.1
Console	3.4.2
Connect	4.1.3
Connect Drive feature	4.2.0
Aspera Mobile	1.0.0
HTTP Gateway	2.3.0
Cargo	Incompatible
CLI	4.7.0
Proxy	1.4.6
Faspex Mobile	Not compatible (replaced by Aspera Mobile)
Orchestrator	Not compatible (scheduled for 4.Next)
OTFV Validator	Not compatible (in consideration for a future release of Faspex 5)
Faspex Java Client SDK	Not compatible (replaced by Transfer SDK and v5 API)

KNOWN LIMITATIONS

Sending a package with content from a shared folder has a max of 10,000 files when using file-name masking.

Faspex 5 does not support using Connect with multi-sessions. Turning on multi-sessions in Connect may cause transfer and reporting errors.

DEPRECATIONS

Aspera/faspex-core#2954 - A future release of Faspex 5 will remove `allow_self_unlock` from /configurations endpoints. Since admins can no longer reset another user's password, locked users should now always be allowed to reset their password.

KNOWN ISSUES

Aspera/faspex-core#3228 - Faspex generates the download token incorrectly. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.1**

Aspera/faspex-core#3186 - Email templates have malformed HTML in both the plain and HTML bodies. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.1**

Aspera/faspex-core#3184 - After upgrade from Faspex 4, the "Send email notification for failed uploads jobs" job is backlogged due to incorrect handling of user-aborted transfers in Faspex 4. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.1**

Aspera/faspex-core#3183 - Admins cannot deactivate a user when global user property is required. **Workaround:** Make all required global user properties not required. Deactivate the user. Make the global user properties required again. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#3181 - Regular user and managers should not have access to GET /nodes.

Aspera/faspex-core#3178 - The "Mark deliveries as expired" job is backlogged because there is a race condition with two jobs that update expiration status. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.1**

Aspera/faspex-core#3166 - Faspex users cannot send packages through an invitation or submission link unless **Security > Users > All IBM Aspera users can send packages to all other IBM Aspera users** is enabled.

Aspera/faspex-core#3163 - When a shared inbox is renamed, the shared inbox's public submission link does not update to reflect the new name.

Aspera/faspex-core#3161 - External users cannot send packages through an invitation or submission link unless **Security > Users > All IBM Aspera users can send packages to all other IBM Aspera users** is enabled. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#3157 - Managers cannot access health monitoring (/monitor) endpoints. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#3154 - You cannot log in as a SAML user that's part of a SAML workgroup with submit-only access to a shared inbox or workgroup, because SAML workgroups can have only standard access.

Aspera/faspex-core#3152 - You cannot give a SAML user limited permissions to a storage location.

Aspera/faspex-core#3151 - Existing SAML users do not inherit the permissions of the SAML group after the SAML group permissions are changed.

Aspera/faspex-core#3149 - When resending public invitations using the API (POST /public_invitations), the API reference incorrectly instructs API users to provide the `recipient_id` instead of the invitation slug ID. **Workaround:** Retrieve the invitation slug by calling GET /account?expand=true and grabbing the slug from the `public_url` field. For example:

```
{
  "public_url": "https://faspex.example.com/aspera/faspex/send/to/user/manager-ibm-com"
}
```

In this case, the slug is: manager-ibm-com. Use this slug in the recipient_id field. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.1**

Aspera/faspex-core#3143 - Invitations created with **Prevent HTTP upload** enabled do not prevent users from uploading using HTTP Gateway.

Aspera/faspex-core#3137 - Personal invitations do not inherit server configuration when there is no set custom expiration policy. **Workaround:** At the server level, go to **Security > Advanced collaboration** and turn on **Always enforce as maximum duration for expiration policy**. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#3135 - When a SAML user without forwarding permissions tries to forward a package, Faspex UI shows a 404 error instead of handling the error or preventing the SAML user from forwarding the package in the first place.

Aspera/faspex-core#3114 - Retrying relays should not be allowed for deleted packages. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera-faspex-core#3113 - Users cannot cancel relays even when they are in an incomplete or failed state. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera-faspex-core#3110 - Some download statistics do not report an accurate list of full downloads.

Aspera-faspex-core#3100 - Many packages are stuck in the Checking relays state. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#3094 - Preventing concurrent login does not prevent users from logging in from the same account.

Aspera/faspex-core#3046 - The job /monitor endpoint shows packages that fail to upload as backlogged when it should show them as failed instead.

Aspera/faspex-core#2978 - Relays to file storage with cloud referencing enabled should create a link file on the cloud storage, but instead the actual file is transferred.

Aspera/faspex-core#2893 - Date files in metadata profile should not accept letters and specials characters.

Aspera/faspex-core#2838 - Faspex 5 does not respect expiration settings set on a shared inbox. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-core#1765 - Deleting a user does not remove that user from distribution lists. If a user sends a package to a distribution list containing a deleted user, Faspex sends the package to the user's email address as a new external user. If the sender is not allowed to send to external users, sending the package fails.

Aspera/faspex-core#1153 - The Faspex 5 login pages do not respect internationalization. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-ui#1757 - Manager users cannot modify workgroup and shared inbox defaults for self-registered users. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-ui#1740 - Users cannot resend shared inbox invitations. **Workaround:** Send a new invitation. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-ui#1731 - When downloading encrypted packages, Faspex UI should ask for the passphrase to decrypt the package contents before downloading. **Workaround:** Download encrypted files and use Connect to decrypt the downloaded encrypted files. **ISSUE FIXED IN 5.0.2**

Aspera/faspex-service#218 - The "Fetch packages pending deletion" job is backlogged because Faspex Service continues to try to delete files on a node even when file deletion is not possible.

Aspera/faspex5#333 - You cannot use emojis in package titles.

PRODUCT SUPPORT

To submit feedback, ask a question or report an issue, please go to the [IBM Feedback Program](#) and create a support ticket there.