

Bay Networks® Router Software Release Policy

With the release of BayRS Version 12.10, Bay Networks is introducing a new methodology for releasing Bay Networks routing software.

The goals of the new BayRS Release Policy are to:

- Enable you to maintain a stable and mature network while having access to new software capabilities at your discretion.
- Deliver new versions of BayRS on a consistent and predictable schedule.
- Improve access to BayRS to enable more effective planning for major network software upgrades.
- Make it easy for you to determine which software releases contain new functionality and which consolidate software fixes.

The BayRS development process is now channeled into two separate, but parallel, development streams after a new Major Release:

- One development path will ensure that stability is maintained with the then current Major Release.
- A separate development path will provide new functionality beyond that found in the then current Major Release.

Figure 1 provides a conceptual view of these two development paths:

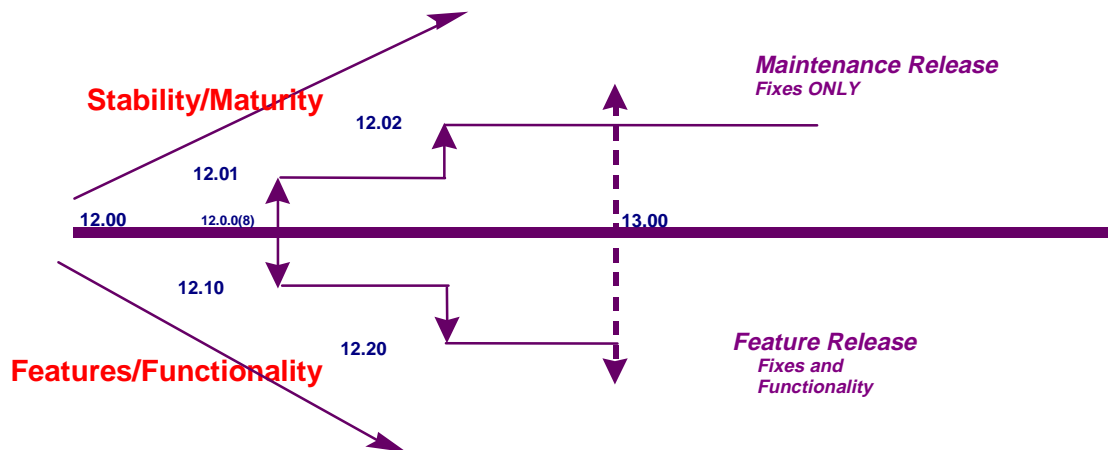


Figure 1
BayRS Parallel Development Process

There are now four distinct types of BayRS releases:

- *A Major Release* (12.00, 13.00, etc.)
Designated by a change in the number to the left of the decimal point. Provides a roll-up of all new features, functionality, and fixes or significant software architecture changes and enhancements introduced through the combination of Maintenance, Feature, and Revision Releases made since the most recent Major Release. No new features or functionality are introduced.
- *A Maintenance Release* (12.01, 12.02, etc.)
Designated by a change in the second number to the right of the decimal point. Provides a collection of software bug fixes for the then current Major Release. No new software or hardware features or functionality for either software or hardware is introduced beyond that already contained in the then current Major Release.
- *A Feature Release* (12.10, 12.20, etc.)
Designated by a change in the first number to the right of the decimal point. Provides new features and functions for software and/or hardware, and software bug fixes from corresponding Maintenance Releases.
- *A Revision Release* (12.01 (Rev.4), etc.)
Designated by a second decimal point followed by a number. A software bug fix or collection of software bug fixes integrated with any then currently supported Major Release, Feature Release, or Maintenance Release.

Major Releases

A Major Release of BayRS will occur approximately every 12 months and provide a stable and mature suite of features and functionality introduced since the prior Major Release, which you can integrate into your existing network with little or no disruption to your network operations.

A Major Release brings the two separate development streams into a single software baseline. It integrates the features and functionality found in the prior Major Release and the Feature Releases introduced since the then current Major Release, as well as any software bug fixes made by Maintenance and Revision Releases subsequent to the introduction of the then current Major Release. Therefore, a new Major Release will be equivalent, with respect to features, functions, and bug fixes, to the most recent Feature and Maintenance Releases.

To provide for a continuous and predictable stream of new software features and functionality, a new Feature Release will occur approximately at the time of a new Major Release. This Feature Release will introduce incremental features and functionality beyond that included in its then corresponding Major Release.

Under this new BayRS Release Policy, each Major Release will remain on the Bay Networks Price List for two years. Whenever a new Major Release occurs, the older of the two Major Releases then on the Bay Networks Price List will be removed.

Whenever a Major Release is removed from the Price List, Bay Networks will continue to support the removed Major Release for an additional 1-year period by providing Revision Releases. Telephone support will be available for an 18-month period after the Major Release is removed from the Price List.

Maintenance Releases

A Maintenance Release will occur approximately each 3 to 4 months after a Major Release occurs. A Maintenance Release replaces the then current Major Release (or the prior Maintenance Release) on the Price List and will become the current shipping version of BayRS. Each Maintenance Release will be a consolidation of the prior bug fixes made through Revision Releases, and will roll up all such software bug fixes provided by the recent Revision Releases.

Feature Releases

A Feature Release is a new type of software release that gives you quicker access to new hardware and software features and functionality.

A Feature Release will occur approximately every 4 months. This release schedule enables you to more easily schedule migrations to new releases.

You should be deliberate in your decision to implement a Feature Release. The decision to migrate to a new Feature Release should be driven by whether or not you need the features or functionality introduced in that release. Major Releases will give you access to new products and features on a matured software base.

Revision Releases

A Revision Release will occur as soon as is practical to resolve a particular reported customer problem.

All Revision Releases will be available only through the Bay Networks web site. This is meant to improve your access to specific software bug fixes and to provide a quicker and more efficient means of informing you of, and allowing you access to, software bug fixes that have been made for a specific Major Release.

Router Element Management Release Policy

With each release of BayRS (i.e., Major, Maintenance, Feature, and Revision), device management will be included that supports the newly introduced features and functionality. Beginning with BayRS Feature Release 12.20, new device-specific management functionality will be provided using either the Bay Command Console (BCC™) or Site Manager.

Through calendar year 1999, both Site Manager and BCC support will be provided for all BayRS Releases. Once a base level of BCC functionality has been established, then only the BCC will be used for management of new Feature Release features and functionality. During this transition period, Site Manager may also be used to configure features and functionality carried forward from a Major Release.

BayRS Problem Escalation and Resolution

The problem escalation guidelines for all BayRS software releases will not change from the process currently followed. You will continue to contact Customer Support to obtain support for all BayRS software releases. The only significant difference will be in how you will obtain a software fix made for a Feature Release.

Under this BayRS Release Policy, Bay Networks Sustaining Engineering will be responsible for addressing any problems reported in Major Releases and Maintenance Releases. This provides you with the same response that you currently experience with BayRS releases.

Because Feature Releases focus on maintaining a consistent and reasonably predictable release schedule, software fixes for Feature Releases will be provided at Bay Networks discretion. Any software fix generated for a Major Release or Maintenance Release will also be provided for the then current and future associated Feature Releases. However, if a software fix is required for a new feature found only in a Feature Release, Bay Networks reserves the right to instead direct you to the next Feature Release or Major Release. Additionally, if you request a software fix for a prior Feature Release, you will instead be directed to upgrade to the then current Feature Release or Major Release.

To ensure consistency in software bug fix integration among Major, Maintenance, and Feature Releases:

- All Revision Releases generated for a Major Release will be integrated into the next Feature Release.
- All software bug fixes generated for a Feature Release will be integrated into the next Major Release.
- Priority will be given to fixing reported problems for Major and Maintenance Releases over those reported for a Feature Release.

Once the next Major Release occurs, you need to upgrade to it to ensure timely response from Bay Networks for support of your mission-critical production network.

BayRS Documentation

Major Releases (12.00, 13.00, etc.) - A documentation CD and hard-copy release notes will be produced for all Major Releases. The documentation, including release notes, will also be available on the Bay Networks web site. You may print the documentation from the web site or the documentation CD, or you may order manuals through the Bay Networks Price List.

Feature Releases (12.10, 12.20, etc.) - Documentation for new features and functionality will be provided on the Bay Networks web site and on a documentation CD for a Feature Release. You may obtain printed manuals from the Bay Networks Price List only.

Maintenance Releases (12.01, 12.02, etc.) - The then current documentation CD (12.00, for example) and hard-copy release notes documenting the software bug fixes provided in the Maintenance Release will be produced and shipped. Customers can also obtain the release notes for a Maintenance Release from the Bay Networks web site.

Software Distribution

BayRS licenses are available for purchase from the Bay Networks Price List. Customers who have a software maintenance agreement in place with Bay Networks are provided with new Major, Maintenance, and Feature Releases of BayRS through software CD and related documentation.

Under this BayRS Release Policy, Major, Feature, and Maintenance Releases will be available for purchase through the Price List for users without a software maintenance agreement, and through the Bay Networks web site for customers under a current software maintenance agreement.

This software distribution strategy will:

- Provide a better mechanism for Bay Networks customers and channel partners to obtain new Releases of BayRS.
- Provide timely access to Revision Releases prior to installation of a new Major Release.

If you want continued and immediate access to all available Major, Maintenance, and Feature Releases, you need to have a Bay Networks software maintenance agreement to gain controlled access to the BayRS location on the Bay Networks Customer Service web site.