



Software Release Strategy

BayRS Product Line

Executive Summary

This document explains the new BayRS version numbering convention and software release strategy and how to use it to help you make upgrade decisions. This new version numbering scheme is consistent with other Nortel Networks releases.

These changes are effective with the release of BayRS 14.0.1.0 and BayRS 15.0.0.0; all future releases will follow this schema. (BayRS 14.20 and BayRS 14.10 will not use this convention.)

The syntax of the version numbering convention is:

M.f.m.p

Where:

M = Major release
f = Feature release
m = Maintenance release
p = Patch release

Each type of release is described in this document.

The benefits of upgrading your software include:

- Keeping up with new and emerging technology incorporated in the latest software release (major and feature releases)
- Problem resolution
- Improvements in software quality
- Support continuation



RELEASE TYPES

Major Release

A major release is designated by a change in the “M” field, for example, **15.0.0.0**. A major release contains one or more major new features, as well as feature enhancements and/or maintenance/patches since the last major release. A major release generally includes new features and may be driven by any of the following:

- Significant content changes
- Platform and/or architectural changes
- New or changed hardware

Feature Release

A feature release is designated by a change in the “f” field, for example, **15.1.0.0**. A feature release contains new software and/or hardware functionality as well as software fixes, hardware fixes, and design improvements since the last major release. The primary purpose of a feature release is to provide features for a specific market segment or area of functionality.

Maintenance Release

A maintenance release is designated by a change in the “m” field, for example, **15.0.1.0**. A maintenance release contains corrective content only with no new software or hardware features or functionality. The goal of a maintenance release is to provide problem resolution as well as a rollup of patches created since the last maintenance release.

Patch Release

A patch release is designated by a change in the “p” field, for example, **15.0.0.1**. A patch release is designed to allow Nortel Networks to quickly address a business-critical issue for a customer that could not wait to be addressed by the standard maintenance schedule. All patch releases are cumulative; the next maintenance or feature release incorporates all patches.

BAYRS RELEASE FREQUENCY

The following table describes the planned frequency of BayRS releases.

Release Type	Planned Frequency	Comments
Patch	Only as needed, on a case-by-case basis	Available only to specific customers at the sole discretion of Nortel Networks.
Maintenance	Quarterly if no feature release is planned, or as needed	No new maintenance release will be created from a major or feature release after the next major or feature release is available.
Feature	Quarterly	If no new features are available for a given quarter, a maintenance release will be created instead.
Major	As needed	Driven by content only.

BAYRS RELEASE STRATEGY

The new BayRS release strategy will provide predictable BayRS releases with ever-increasing quality each quarter. To assure the success of this new release strategy, each release will be based on the previous release whether it is a maintenance, feature, or major release. This strategy ensures that quality enhancements made to one release are always included in the next release. In addition, each quarterly release will be tested in customer production environments prior to being made generally available.

Support Strategy

Each major or feature release will be available for six months after the next major or feature release becomes available. This strategy will allow a minimum availability window of nine months for one stream and will provide support for up to three releases at one time. BayRS will support the upgrade “skipping” of up to two major releases. For example, if a customer is currently running Version 14.x.x and wants to upgrade, the customer can upgrade to Version 16.x.x when that version becomes available with full BayRS support.

Distribution Plan

Manufacturing

Manufacturing will always ship the latest release available (including maintenance releases). For example, Version 15.0.1 will ship rather than 15.0.0 and Version 15.1.0 will ship instead of 15.0.1. Patch releases will never be shipped by Manufacturing.

Web

Web release availability will include all supported streams of code, including maintenance releases. For example, Version 15.0 will be removed from the Web six months after Version 15.1 is available.

SITE MANAGER STRATEGY

In conjunction with BayRS, Site Manager will adopt both the new version numbering convention and the new release strategy. New releases of Site Manager will be created for major, feature, and maintenance releases. Patch releases will support the corresponding major, feature, or maintenance release of Site Manager. As always, Site Manager will be backward compatible.