April 2, 2019
9036155-00

DATA CENTER AND SERVICE PROVIDER

Extreme SLX OS

Target Path Selection Guide

Extreme SLX OS Target Path releases are recommended code levels for Extreme SLX switching and routing platforms. Use the guidelines in this document when trying to determine the ideal version of Extreme SLX OS software; consider these guidelines with other requirements that may be unique to your particular environment. This document is updated periodically when Extreme has modified or added new Target Path release recommendations.

Legal Notice

Extreme Networks, Inc. reserves the right to make changes in specifications and other information contained in this document and its website without prior notice. The reader should in all cases consult representatives of Extreme Networks to determine whether any such changes have been made.

The hardware, firmware, software or any specifications described or referred to in this document are subject to change without notice.

Trademarks

Extreme Networks and the Extreme Networks logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Extreme Networks, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries.

All other names (including any product names) mentioned in this document are the property of their respective owners and may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies/owners.

For additional information on Extreme Networks trademarks, please see:
www.extremenetworks.com/company/legal/trademarks

Open Source Declarations

Some software files have been licensed under certain open source or third-party licenses. End-user license agreements and open source declarations can be found at:
www.extremenetworks.com/support/policies/software-licensing

Document History

Date Published	Comments
March 21, 2019	Updated with target path use cases reflecting 2018 release deliveries and new hardware availability
February 28, 2018	Added Target Path Release 17s1.02a
August 2, 2017	First version

Contents

Overview

This document provides guidance for selecting an ideal Extreme SLX OS code version for use on Extreme SLX switching and routing platforms and optimum versions of code to use when migrating from one version of Extreme SLX OS to another. These recommended Extreme SLX OS versions are referred to as "Target Path" releases.

Use the Extreme SLX OS Target Path release recommendations in this document with any special requirements of your particular environment. Always refer to the Extreme SLX OS release notes, and carefully review the "Important Notes and Known Defects" information before selecting and installing any version of Extreme SLX OS on a switch or router.

This document is updated on a periodic, as-needed basis to reflect the latest Extreme SLX OS Target Path release recommendations. Always consult the latest version of this document when planning to install a new Extreme SLX OS release on a Extreme SLX switch or router.

Definition of a Target Path Release

A Extreme SLX OS release may be identified as a Target Path release only when it meets the following criteria:

- The release is a Extreme SLX OS version of firmware that was created primarily for stability and reliability and not for the introduction of new features. This version of firmware may contain Reliability, Availability, and Serviceability (RAS) improvements and enhancements, but it typically does not contain new software features or support for new hardware.
- The specified code level (or an earlier patch at the same release level) must be deployed in a sufficient number of end-user production environments for at least two months and must have no known critical or pervasive issues or defects.

After a specific Extreme SLX OS code version is identified as a Target Path release, newer patches (that is, releases that vary only with a different letter appended to the release number) that are released on the same code stream can also be considered safe as the designated Target Path release. In some situations, it may be ideal to select one of the later patch releases to pick up a fix for an issue that is applicable to a particular site or environment. These newer patch releases may also be formally announced as the Target Path release for that code level, and, in some cases, they may be designated as a Target Path release after fewer than the two months of customer exposure. Because patch releases typically contain minimal changes from their predecessors, it is not necessary to wait for this additional field exposure.

Always review the latest version of the Extreme SLX OS release notes for the code level you are loading—and for the code level from which you are migrating—before updating firmware. The Target Path designation does not guarantee that you will not encounter defects or that there are no limitations in upgrading or downgrading firmware levels. However, following the Target Path release recommendations produces the most trouble-free environments for customers using Extreme SLX switching platforms.

Target Path Release Designations

Table 1 and Table 2 specify the recommended releases for each major version or family of Extreme SLX OS releases (switching and routing platforms) that is actively supported in the field. Table 3 contains the release recommendation for the SLX 9030. In general, Extreme recommends running the most recent major code level that is supported by a particular hardware platform, although it is not necessary to upgrade if you do not need the new features or capabilities introduced in the later major release levels.

Table 1. Recommended Releases by Major Extreme SLX Routing OS Level (SLX9850, SLX9540 and 9640)

Major Extreme SLX Level	Target Path Release	Notes
SLX 18r.1	SLX18r.1.00b	*Recommended release for SLX9850 and SLX9540 focused on Layer 2 transport services. All patches released after the listed Target Path on the same code level are also considered Target Path. The recommendation for new upgrades is to always select the highest patch on the Target Path code stream.
SLX 18r.2	SLX18r.2.00	*Recommended release for SLX9850, SLX9540 and SLX9640 for L3 routing services including border routing scale and enablement of the SLX9640. The majority of customers should continue with the 18r.1.00x releases.

*NOTE: As these releases do include new features, they are an exception to the Target Path rules.

Customers who do not have an immediate need for the latest features should follow the provided recommendations, selecting the latest recommended release that provides the required level of functionality.

Table 2. Target Path Releases by Major Extreme SLX Switching OS Level (SLX9140 and SLX9240)

Major Extreme SLX Level	Target Path Release	Notes
SLX 18s.1	SLX18s.1.01a	Recommended release for all Extreme SLX Switching platforms (SLX 9140, SLX9240). All patches released after the listed recommended release on the same code level are also considered Target Path. The recommendation for new upgrades is to always select the highest patch on the Target Path code stream.

Table 3. Target Path Releases by Major Extreme SLX Switching OS Level (SLX9140 and SLX9240)

Major Extreme SLX Level	Target Path Release	Notes
SLX 18x.1	SLX18x.1.00a	Recommended release for the SLX 9030 and SLX9030T platforms. All patches released after the listed Target Path on the same code level are also considered Target Path. The recommendation for new upgrades is to always select the highest patch on the Target Path code stream.

Future Target Path Releases

Because a Target Path release is based on proven reliability and a lack of critical issues, it is impossible to predict future Target Path releases. However, based on the very mature qualification process and planned release schedules for maintenance and patch releases, Extreme can provide some guidance as to the main code stream for the next Target Path release. The future Target Path release level and time frame are subject to change without notice.