

Technical Bulletin CS-20-06

Importance of Updating to Latest Software Releases

This document describes the importance of keeping Versity devices operating on the latest software releases.

System Affected

Spectralink Versity

Introduction

Spectralink strongly advises customers to keep Versity devices on the latest available software release version (i.e. version “n”), or previous-to-latest release (i.e. version “n-1”).

This policy ensures devices are running software with updated security patches, bug-fixes, and enhancements. The real-world benefits are reduced attack vectors, improved user and administration experience as new features are released or improved, and reduced likelihood of compatibility issues between Spectralink apps and prior platform and OS software releases.

Spectralink App Backward Compatibility

Spectralink performs regression testing of its latest app versions with the latest Versity software release and previous-to-latest software release, to help minimize incompatibilities and unexpected bugs. Spectralink does not assure app backward compatibility prior to those two releases.

When Spectralink makes available a new Versity software release on the Support site (i.e. software bundle containing platform software, OS, and apps), Spectralink also updates the Play Store with the latest individual Spectralink app versions.

Automatic App Update Risks

If a new version of an installed app becomes available on the Google Play Store, the Google Play Store in conjunction with Google services running on the Android device will automatically update the installed app. This mechanism allows users to experience the latest app versions with minimal user effort. In practice this app update process may take hours to a few days to apply across a fleet of devices.

If a customer has not updated their devices to the latest (“n”) or previous-to-latest version (“n-1”) of the Versity software releases, but remains on a prior version (e.g. “n-2”), then there is a risk of an Spectralink app backward compatibility issue, potentially the app not working properly, after the newest Spectralink apps updated to the Play Store are automatically downloaded to those devices.

For example, When the newest Spectralink release 1.7.0 is made Generally Available (GA). The corresponding Spectralink apps released as part of 1.7.0 are published to the Play Store. These apps shall be tested with releases 1.7.0, and 1.6.0. The automatic app update mechanism means these apps will be pushed to all deployed devices. Devices running software version, “n-2”, i.e. 1.5.0 and earlier, may experience app backward compatibility issues. To prevent such risks, as explained above, customers need to stay on the latest (“n”) or previous-to-latest (“n-1”) release.

Note: EMMs may allow an administrator to control if apps are automatically updated in this fashion, or not, but by default the app is automatically updated.

Software Releases and Nomenclature

Spectralink Versity software releases bundle the operating system, platform software, and Spectralink apps. These releases are made available to launch new features, deliver bug-fixes, and security patches. A system administrator needs to obtain the latest release file from Spectralink [Support website](#) and deploy to the Versity devices via SAM or EMM, and a web-server.

Software Release Numbering:

These software releases have a nomenclature:

Versity Software Release Nomenclature		
W.X.Y.ZZZZZ e.g. 1.7.0.1232		
“W”	Major Number	Android OS 8: W = “1” Android OS 10: W = “2”
“X”	Minor Number	Increment each time we do a feature release, e.g. 1,2,3

“Y”	Patch Number	Increment if a patch release is required. These are based off an existing feature release.
“ZZZZZ”	Build Number	This is the build of the release. Generally of no concern to customers.

The major number differs across OS versions. Android OS 8 (Oreo) and OS 10 have major numbers 1 and 2 respectively. As OS upgrades are infrequent, each planned release typically increments the Minor number, e.g. 1.6.0.1212, 1.7.0.1232.

In the “n”, “n-1”, and “n-2” nomenclature used to describe the release versions, “n” can be thought of as the combination of major and minor number (e.g 1.7, 1.6 and 1.5).

An emergency “patch” release would not increment the major or minor number but increment the patch digit, e.g. 1.7.1.xxxxx.

Age	Release Number	Android OS Version	Description
Earlier	1.4.0	Oreo (8)	Oreo (8) based feature releases
	1.5.0		
	1.6.0		
	1.7.0		
	1.8.0		
Later	2.1.0	10	Android OS 10 feature release

App Releases and Nomenclature

Spectralink apps have their own version numbering. The nomenclature is:

App Version Nomenclature		
A.B.CCCCC e.g. 9.3.19408		
“A”	Major Number	Incremented for each Versity software release.
“B”	Minor Number	Incremented for app feature releases outside of Spectralink releases.
“CCCCC”	Build Number	This is the build of the release. Generally not of concern to customers.

Apps are released as part of the Versity software release bundle (described above) as well as published separately on the Google Play Store.

Publishing apps to the Play Store offers two benefits:

1. Apps can be updated and made available between Versity software releases
2. When using an EMM to configure app parameters of an published app, the EMM offers a more user-friendly interface to the EMM administrator, as the EMM can uses Play Store APIs to better understand the available app parameters and valid data value ranges.

Conclusion

Spectralink advises customers keep Versity devices on the latest software release version (aka version “n”), or previous to latest release (aka version “n-1”). This policy ensures devices are running software with updated security patches, bug-fixes, and enhancements. It also reduces the likelihood of Spectralink apps experiencing compatibility issues with prior platform and OS software releases.

Document Status Sheet

Document Control Number: CS-20-06

Document Title: Spectralink Versity App Backward Compatibility with underlying Software Releases

Revision History: I01 – Released
I02 – Released
I03 – Released

Date: *April 2, 2020*

Status: Draft Issued Closed

Distribution Status: Author Only Internal Partner Public

Copyright Notice

© 2020 Spectralink Corporation All rights reserved. Spectralink™, the Spectralink logo and the names and marks associated with Spectralink's products are trademarks and/or service marks of Spectralink Corporation and are common law marks in the United States and various other countries. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. No portion hereof may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, for any purpose other than the recipient's personal use, without the express written permission of Spectralink.

All rights reserved under the International and pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this manual, or the software described herein, may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, or translated into another language or format, in whole or in part, without the express written permission of Spectralink Corporation.

Do not remove (or allow any third party to remove) any product identification, copyright or other notices.

Notice

Spectralink Corporation has prepared this document for use by Spectralink personnel and customers. The drawings and specifications contained herein are the property of Spectralink and shall be neither reproduced in whole or in part without the prior written approval of Spectralink, nor be implied to grant any license to make, use, or sell equipment manufactured in accordance herewith.

Spectralink reserves the right to make changes in specifications and other information contained in this document without prior notice, and the reader should in all cases consult Spectralink to determine whether any such changes have been made.

NO REPRESENTATION OR OTHER AFFIRMATION OF FACT CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO STATEMENTS REGARDING CAPACITY, RESPONSE-TIME PERFORMANCE, SUITABILITY FOR USE, OR PERFORMANCE OF PRODUCTS DESCRIBED HEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A WARRANTY BY SPECTRALINK FOR ANY PURPOSE, OR GIVE RISE TO ANY LIABILITY OF SPECTRALINK WHATSOEVER.

Warranty

The *Product Warranty and Software License and Warranty* and other support documents are available at <http://support.spectralink.com>.

Contact Information

US Location

+1 800-775-5330

Spectralink Corporation
2560 55th Street
Boulder, CO 80301
USA

info@spectralink.com

Denmark Location

+45 7560 2850

Spectralink Europe ApS
Bygholm Soepark 21 E Stuen
8700 Horsens
Denmark

infoemea@spectralink.com

UK Location

+44 (0) 20 3284 1536

Spectralink Europe UK
329 Bracknell, Doncastle Road
Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 8PE
United Kingdom

infoemea@spectralink.com