InformaCast Virtual Appliance Basic Paging Release Notes

InformaCast Virtual Appliance Basic Paging version 12.5.1 (InformaCast) is a popular IP broadcasting application for virtualized environments. These release notes document the compatibility requirements, new features, and known/resolved issues in the new version.

Compatibility

InformaCast is compatible with the following versions of Cisco Unified Communications Manager server (including Business Edition 6000): 10.0.1, 10.5.2, 11.0.1, 11.5.1, 12.0.1, and 12.5.1.

New Features

- **New Login Banners.** Login banners allow you to display text to your users before and/or after they log into InformaCast. You could use login banners to welcome users to your alert system, make them aware of acceptable use policies, or let them know the data they enter is owned and governed by your company.

- **New OS and Application Credentials Password Recovery Management.** If you lose your Virtual Appliance's password or accidentally delete admin, your default superuser account, you can contact Cisco TAC. Together, you'll use InformaCast's built-in process to recover your password. You also gain the ability to turn off/on this functionality.

- **New SNMP Monitoring.** Listening on port 1161, InformaCast's embedded SNMP agent can be paired with your own Network Management Software (NMS) in order to monitor certain aspects of InformaCast, e.g. the last time a phone rebuild succeeded, InformaCast's version, etc. Several OIDs, both native and InformaCast-specific are available for your use as well as both native and

InformaCast-specific MIBs. In addition to this new polling functionality, several new commands allow you to display your current configuration, restart the SNMP monitoring service, or remove your SNMP configuration entirely.

- **New Controls for SSL Parameters.** InformaCast now allows you to enable/disable the various SSL and TLS versions it supports as well as limit the protocols available for accessing the InformaCast Virtual Appliance landing page.

- **New Signed Certificates Process.** The process for importing signed certificates into InformaCast has improved to allow for a chain of trust certificates, e.g. a root certificate and any intermediate certificates. InformaCast has also become more rigorous in its validating of trust: whenever it reboots, InformaCast will check that its trust certificates are still valid. This extra validation improves your security against MITM attacks. As a result of these improvements, if you are upgrading from a pre-12.0.1 version of InformaCast, you'll need to enter SSL information in order for InformaCast to generate its self-signed certificate. If you're upgrading from a post-12.0.1 version of InformaCast and you had previously imported a signed certificate, you'll need to import it again.

- **New NTP Controls within the Virtual Appliance.** InformaCast now uses the Network Time Protocol daemon (ntpd) for time synchronization. Several new commands are available to you, allowing for more granular control of your NTP configuration:

  - show-time-configuration lists your currently configured NTP server(s)

  - configure-time allows you to change your NTP server(s)

  - show-time-status displays the current state of the NTP daemon and whether InformaCast is in sync with it

- **Newly Supported vNIC Type.** InformaCast again supports vmxnet3 Ethernet VMware virtual Network Interface Cards (previous versions of InformaCast supported either the pcnet32/vlance or e1000 vNIC type). Depending on your originating version of InformaCast, you will have different vNIC types:

  - When you install InformaCast for the first time, your vNIC will be automatically set to the vmxnet3 type.

  - When you upgrade from an 11.5.x version, you will continue to use the pcnet32/vlance type.

  - When you upgrade from a 12.x version of InformaCast, you will continue to use the e1000 vNIC.

  For both pcnet32/vlance and e1000, there is no immediate need to change vNIC types: both are supported by InformaCast 12.5.1 on vSphere 6.5.

- **New Enable the Support Account Workflow.** The process for enabling the Support account has changed to improve its usability and fall more in line with other server platform changes. **enable-support**, a command for the command-line interface, lets CiscoTAC access your Virtual Appliance to aid in troubleshooting issues.

- **Security Enhancements Necessitate Button Removal.** If you're using the Inbound CAP Message Service (ICMS) to push CAP alerts to InformaCast, you can no longer stop and restart the service from the Inbound CAP plugin's Configuration page. Singlewire is working hard to improve the security of InformaCast. Sometimes, this necessitates the removal of trivial functionality to improve overall security.

- **Change to Webmin's URL.** Singlewire is moving away from custom ports due to the additional firewall configuration and security controls involved with them. As part of this move, Webmin's URL has changed to https://<InformaCast Virtual Appliance IP Address>/webmin. For now, the previous Webmin URL will redirect to the new one.

- **New Upgrade File for pre-12.0.1 Versions of InformaCast.** A new file (CiscoPagingServer_UpgradeFrom115To-12.5.1.iso) has been added to the upgrade process. Depending on the version of InformaCast Virtual Appliance from which you are starting, you will install different files:

  – For 8.3 or 8.4 versions to the current version, you will install three package files and attach one ISO file (CiscoPagingServer_8.5.1.deb, CiscoPagingServer_9.1.1.deb, CiscoPagingServer_11.5.2.deb, and CiscoPagingServer_UpgradeFrom115To-12.5.1.iso)

  – For 8.5.1, 9.0.1, or 9.0.2 to the current version, you will install two package files and attach one ISO file (CiscoPagingServer_9.1.1.deb, CiscoPagingServer_11.5.2.deb, CiscoPagingServer_UpgradeFrom115To-12.5.1.iso)

  – For 9.1.1, 11.0.1, 11.0.2, or 11.0.5 to the current version, you will install one package file and attach one ISO file (CiscoPagingServer_11.5.2.deb and CiscoPagingServer_UpgradeFrom115To-12.5.1.iso)

  – For 11.5.1 or 11.5.2 to the current version, you will attach one ISO file (CiscoPagingServer_UpgradeFrom115To-12.5.1.iso)

InformaCast Virtual Appliance 8.5.1, 9.1.1, and 11.5.1/2 are waypoints in the upgrade process. For 8.3 or 8.4 versions of the Virtual Appliance, you must upgrade to 8.5.1, reboot the Virtual Appliance, upgrade to 9.1.1, reboot the Virtual Appliance, upgrade to 11.5.2, and then continue to upgrade to 12.5.1. For 8.5.1, 9.0.1, or 9.0.2 versions of the Virtual Appliance, you must upgrade to 9.1.1, reboot the Virtual Appliance, upgrade to 11.5.2, and then continue to upgrade to 12.5.1. For 9.1.1, 11.0.1, 11.0.2, and 11.0.5 versions of the Virtual Appliance, you must upgrade to 11.5.2 and then continue to upgrade to 12.5.1. For 11.5.1 and 11.5.2 versions of the Virtual Appliance, you can upgrade directly to 12.5.1.

If you're already using InformaCast 12.0.1 or later, ignore this note; your upgrade process involves fewer steps and files.

Resolved Caveats

You can find the latest resolved caveat information for InformaCast by using Cisco's Bug Search tool (https://tools.cisco.com/bugsearch/) to query defects. To access the Bug Search tool, you must have a valid Cisco.com user ID and password.