



Astaro Command Center **V2.1**

Release Notes

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What's new in Astaro Command Center V2.1

Astaro Command Center (ACC) 2.1 evolves the multi-device "throne-room" environment of Version 2.0 with more features to make the administrators life easier, allow partners to offer managed services to customers, and work with near limitless combinations of devices, companies, administrators, and their sub-ordinates.

This version both improves on existing features and adds entire new areas of functionality, all usable in minutes after deploying the Astaro Command Center as a software appliance on your own x86-based hardware, within a virtualized environment like VMware ESX/i or vSphere 4, or via one of Astaro's own hardware appliance models.

Organizational Units Architecture

Encapsulate devices and objects

Now you can create containers which contain resources to be managed. This is especially useful for organizing resources for specific companies, such as "Company X" which has 10 ASG devices, along with various Global Definitions for Networks and Services. If managing multiple, separate companies with a single ACC installation, this feature is particularly handy in staying organized and keeping track of which objects belong to whom, and gives ACC a much improved level of multi-client management.

By taking the time to segregate resources into their proper Organizational Units, you can get both time and complexity savings from this improved overview. It also makes it easier to scale ACC as your client list expands, and eases the handling of different Access Control Lists.

Global Definitions

Centrally manage and roll-out Network and Service Definitions

This feature allows you to build configuration inside Astaro devices using definitions which have been created within ACC and "pushed" out to them. The key point behind this feature is that objects (which in the past you had to define manually within each device) can now be created once, pushed out, and used within many devices.

This not only removes the manual operation of creating the object, but also reduces the workload when changing a device parameter, deleting old or unused objects, and other tasks which would require touching each object from within each WebAdmin.

For example, if you have a central file server which ten installations access, without ACC you would have to define this file server object inside all 10 device WebAdmins'. Also, if you need to change the IP of this object, you need to go back and manually touch each device to do this. Besides the work of doing these steps manually, there is a chance each time that a typing error will be made, which then must be troubleshot.

Using the new abilities of ACC in version 2.1, you can create this object once inside your ACC, select the ten Astaro installations, and push the object out in one step. You can also make changes to deployed objects in moments.

Automatic re-synchronization of deployed definitions

Once an object has been pushed to the selected devices as part of the roll-out, ACC will automatically ensure any updates or changes you make are instantly propagated to the

devices which they are deployed to. With this, you do not have to spend your time doing repetitious tasks when you can instead do things once centrally and have the change(s) happen automatically from that point.

Merge Local Definitions with Central Counterparts

If you already have some objects deployed on various installations, you can choose to migrate certain ones to the new Global Definitions framework. ACC does not “pull” existing definitions from the WebAdmin(s) of connected devices, but rather can convert existing objects to Central ones when you do a deployment.

*Note: This is only possible when all parameters for the objects match perfectly.

For example, if you already have an object called “File Server” at 192.168.0.10, and then deploy a Global Object with the same parameters, you can choose the “substitution” deployment option which will replace the local object with a Global counterpart.

Share Global Definitions across Different Organizations

While the majority of Global Definitions will be Organization specific, it is possible to define something for Organization Unit “all” which will allow it to be used across all OU’s. This is useful for pushing out something which is common to all connected devices, such as the ACC server object itself (would require conversion from Local to Global), or a support portal/site for the company providing managed services to multiple companies.

Device-based Reporting

Instant Reports

Navigate to the new Reporting section in the Gateway Manager of ACC, to get information for areas of connected devices for various time-scales (weekly, monthly etc).

This is useful for browsing data of multiple devices (displayed individually) all from a single page, without needing to login to each location manually.

The currently available reports are:

- Hardware – Shows CPU, RAM, and Disk Usage
- Network – Displays throughput of each configured Interface on a device
- Security – Activity status of the Packet Filter, Intrusion Protection, Web Security and Mail Security engines.

Zoom & Sort

For the Instant Reports, you can click on any displayed graph to open it in a zoomed, dedicated view. From the drill down, you will also see navigation arrows along the edges which can be used to move to the next report in detail without having to close the drilldown only to reopen it.

Filters are available to limit the reports based on factors of your choosing, such as displaying only those devices which are consuming more than 80% of their memory for example.

To help you arrange the data more easily, any of the reporting outputs can be sorted ascending or descending by clicking their name at the top of the column. The default sort mechanism is by the device name.

Aggregated Reporting

Generate Custom Reports

Using the all-new Aggregated Reporting engine in ACC 2.1 gives access to many of the same reports which must be viewed and handled individually in the WebAdmin of Astaro Devices. In addition to accessing this data inside ACC, it is now possible to take the reports from any number of selected installations and combine them into a single one. This can let you know the most-accessed site in a company or the total amount of bandwidth transferred by three locations. More than 20 reports are currently available, and we have plans to extend the reports and associated features in future versions.

To get started with this feature, navigate to Reporting→Aggregated inside the Gateway Manager and choose a section you want to see reports for (Accounting, Network Security, Web Security, or Mail Security), and then use the yellow folder to select the desired device(s). Now you can choose the time frame, type of report, and output type using the selection boxes and then click "Generate" to create the report.

Time Frames

All of the aggregated reports can be generated using pre-defined time periods (such as daily or weekly) or for a custom period, selectable by choosing "custom" from the drop down box and then populating the start and finish dates using the calendars by clicking the icon at the top of their respective data boxes.

Details

All of the reports in the Aggregator can be printed either from the Overview or Details output simply by clicking the print icon. All report outputs can be drilled into, sorted ascending/descending by any column, and compared against other outputs. In the top right of this new Aggregated Reporting section, you can select an Organization Unit to limit the displayed devices to a certain company, allowing for easy creation of reports per OU.

Enhanced Worldmap

Better Visuals & Data

The popular Worldmap has received some adjustments which gives it a better look, cleaner operation, and the ability to better handle devices in close geographical proximity to each other. ACC's Worldmap is enjoyed by admins who like having a visual representation of their Astaro devices, and it makes a great monitoring tool, especially when permanently output to an office monitor or wall screen. Note the buttons for zooming all the way out to globe-view, and the button to make the display full-screen.

To access the Worldmap, go to the Monitoring→Dashboard section of the Gateway Manager, then select the 'Worldmap' Tab. Just like many online global map programs, you can navigate around, zoom in and out, and view it by map, satellite image, or a hybrid combination. The map now has improved markers for devices, making them easier to locate and displaying an overall situation level for them (Green, Yellow, or Red). This can also be used to filter for only the devices operating at the selected level.

Also new for the Worldmap is better support for devices at the same location, which when clicked will now open a box which displays them accordingly. By drilling down with this single-click, ACC can display all devices which overlap in a clear manner. Also note the addition of a

name search entry box which can locate a device for you, and is especially handy when ACC is managing a large amount of installations and you have a busy Worldmap as a result.

Miscellaneous

Availability Improvements

ACC V2.1 has a more detailed availability display which lets you know key information about how long a device has been online or offline. This is displayed by hovering over the connection link icon from the Cardview, or over the Level Indicator when using a Listview.

When a device has been disconnected from the Command Center, this output will tell you the last date/time that ACC was able to make contact to it. When connected, the output will change to display the date and time since the connection was established.

Licensing

Software & Virtual Appliance:

ACC V2.1 Software and ACC V2.1 Virtual Appliances are exempt from charges, and for the appliance version there is only a small cost to cover the hardware platform expense. The software itself, including all configuration, Organizational Unit, and reporting features is free of charge.

New for ACC 2.1 is a framework which supports a personalized ACC licensing key. The old key which was mass-used by all installations will expire (and this model retired) at the end of 2009.

IMPORTANT: To register and receive your new personalized key for the Astaro Command Center, please visit <http://www.astaro.com/download/acc>. You can also access this page via the ACC WebAdmin by going to Management→Licensing and clicking the updated link at the bottom of the page in the section 'How to retrieve your free license'. We will retire the old mass-use key located at the www.astaro.com/lists very shortly, and place redirections to the new portal as a reminder.

Hardware Appliances

As with all other Astaro products, special base fee for each model are required to cover support and warranty for these dedicated Astaro platforms. For more information on the official ACC platforms, please check our web site at http://www.astaro.com/our_products/management_tools/astaro_command_center/hardware_appliances.

System Requirements

Hardware requirements

The ACC software needs to be installed on one of three supported platforms; a dedicated Intel compatible PC, within a Virtualized Environment such as VMware, or on an official appliance from Astaro.

For proven hardware components please check our Hardware Compatibility List (HCL) at: <http://www.astaro.com/lists/HCL-ACC-V2.txt>

Recommended hardware for ACC installations

The requirements for Astaro Command Center V2.1 depend on the number of managed devices in use, as well as the number of administrators who access the ACC simultaneously. There are numbers for CPU, RAM, Hard Disk and Bandwidth (devices) / Bandwidth for clients respectively in addition.

Note: These figures are general-use estimates and may be different for you based on activity and load of the connected devices.

Gateways	10	25	50	100	300
CPU:	Intel 1.6 GHz	Intel 2.8 GHz	Dual 1.8 GHz	Dual 3 GHz	8 x 2.4 GHz
RAM:	1 GB	1 GB	1 GB	2 GB	8 GB
HDD:	40 GB	40 GB	80 GB	120 GB	250 GB
Internet Link:	512 Kbit	512 Kbit	1 Mbit	2 Mbit	6 Mbit

(*): Required bandwidth from ACC to managed Gateways, excluding Up2Date Cache service.
 Note: An ADSL line is suitable for monitoring purposes as the downstream to the ACC is considerably higher than the upstream to the managed Gateways.

Please note: the above bandwidth estimations do not cover the usage of the Astaro Up2Date Cache. As a rule of thumb, a Firmware Up2Date of 50 MB size will saturate a 6 Mbit xDSL line for roughly two hours when 100 devices pull the Up2Date package via the same dedicated ACC. In such cases, you should consider implementing a traffic shaping strategy for Monitoring and Up2Date traffic, respectively or have the devices retrieve the Up2Date directly from the Astaro Content Distribution Network via the Internet.

Virtual Appliance installation

ACC V2.1 can be installed as a virtual appliance.

The following VMware virtualization platforms are supported:

- VMware Player
- VMware Server
- VMware Workstation
- VMware ESX Server 3.5/4

Supported Web Browsers

Astaro Command Center V2.1 WebAdmin and Gateway Manager will support the following browser/platform combinations:

MS Windows 2000/XP/Vista

- Internet Explorer 7 or higher
- Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher
- Safari 3.0 or higher

Linux:

- Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher

Mac OSX:

- Safari 3.0 or higher
- Mozilla Firefox 3.0 or higher

Note: the iPhone Safari browser has certain limitations – hence it is not officially supported. Other browsers could also work, but might be subject to rendering or JavaScript issues. They are unsupported. Java or Flash support is not needed.

Because much of the AJAX GUI processing is done by the management workstation instead of the ACC, we recommend using **Firefox 3** on a management workstation with at least 1024MB RAM and a CPU with 3 GHz. More system performance will increase GUI processing speed significantly; hence a Dual-Core CPU and 2 GB of RAM will be beneficial.

Installation and Upgrade Information

General Information

Due to major system architecture changes in the new Astaro Command Center V2.1 and the focus on future extensibility and scalability, only Versions 7.501 and higher will be supported.

You can continue using older products with the previous ACC V1.4 which offers backward compatibility, but you cannot benefit from the new features and enhanced capabilities until you update both your Astaro Security Gateway and your ACC installations to our latest offered versions.

Known Issues

The actual ACC V2 Known Issues List (KIL) can be found at http://www.astaro.com/lists/Known_Issues-ACC-V2.txt