



## Release Notes

# Astaro Gateway Software **V8.0**

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## Introduction

Version 8 of Astaro Security Gateway is the next major version of our flagship product. Using a tuned-in approach, we have developed many areas of Version 8 in direct response to the needs of our customers, partners, and market. Our focus is on usable technology, with features that make sense and are useful in solving problems that you face at your business.

This release builds upon the entirely new architectural platform which was introduced in ASG Version 7, and has been evolved to extend ASG with new features, enhancements, and visuals. Many areas of this new release were gathered or validated by our uniquely open approach to feature requests as a company. Our public forum for everyone to participate in located at <http://feature.astaro.com> has been well received. Not common in most companies, this open look into what the market is asking for provides great insight for both us, and you. Please visit the feature portal for a better look into what is being talked about and considered for future versions of Astaro, and make your opinion heard!

## New & Evolved Features

### Base System

ASG Version 8 is based on an updated kernel (version 2.6.32) which provides new benefits for security, performance, and compatibility. Readily apparent to the administrator is the 64-bit environment which is selected automatically by the installer whenever possible, (including for most recent models of ASG appliances). If your device does not support a 64-bit system (usually due to older hardware) or experiences errors using the default kernel, the choice is available during installation of the software to use a 32-bit mode instead. While this should not be required, it may be useful for troubleshooting or compatibility with older components. The 64-bit Kernel offers advantages like giving the system the ability to support more than 4GB of memory and increased performance in various areas.

The ASG hardware compatibility list also grows as a result of this feature, adding support for thousands of new devices and components. We have issued a new Hardware Compatibility List in the form of a searchable database, which you can [access here](#).

### Packaging Size Improvements

ASG's new environment yields a reduction of RPM sizes, thus ISO sizes were reduced by over 30% in comparison with Version 7.500. Up2Date sizes depend too heavily on their actual content to give any general numbers, but are also considerably smaller in size on average.

### New Installer

The ASG installation process has been revamped, with the most noticeable changes for the software (non-ASG appliance) users. The GUI now has new progress indicators and navigation options for returning to previous screens without needing to restart the process. When things don't work as planned, the support and troubleshooting behaviour has been significantly redesigned, with options for transferring installation logs to USB sticks for debugging, clearer error messages, and improved command line abilities during installation when the situation requires them.

## **New WebAdmin Visuals**

We've done some testing and research, and have updated the WebAdmin with a new theme and associated visuals for you. You will see new, more readable fonts and fresher color. There are new icons, new colors, a bit more eye-candy, and lots of new visual goodies to see. While some minor restructuring has taken place for the sake of better navigation and reduction of clutter, the V7 WebAdmin experience has been largely preserved so you do not need to learn a whole new menu system.

## **IPv6 Support**

Support for the next-Iteration of IP addressing is here. After enabling IPv6, you will see options for its use throughout the ASG for interfaces, definitions, DHCP, and other places. You can now create host definitions with IPv6 addresses and use them in most places where you can use IPv4 addresses.

You must enable IPv6 support globally under "*Interfaces & Routing* → *IPv6*" before you can use any of the IPv6 functions. This way we avoid cluttering the interface for users that do not use IPv6 (which probably will be the vast majority for quite a while).

In this tab you can also set up tunnels to get IPv6 connectivity if you don't get it natively from your ISP. Not all services will support IPv6; check the ASG V8 Manual for more information on how to make use of IPv6, and how IPv4 can be translated via Tunnel Broker options.

## **Country Blocking**

Using a new section in *Network Security* → *Packet Filter* → *Country Blocking* you have the possibility to block ALL traffic to and from IP addresses located in specified countries/regions. This blocking happens before all other processing decisions and is absolute, so use it with care.

This feature is a rather blunt instrument. While usually quite accurate, it could produce the occasional false positive since associating IP addresses with a physical location is always a technical challenge and not an exact science. This feature is however great for preventing traffic interactions with a certain region or country, perhaps for reasons of spam, constant attacks, probing, or simply to due company policy. Future evolutions of this feature will likely add support for only blocking Mail Messages, traffic flow by direction, or other granularity options like exceptions.

## **Web Application Security (HTTP/S Reverse Proxy)**

A major new offering is a Reverse HTTP/S proxy delivered as a separate subscription which provides Web Application Security through various features. Attacks using modern methods can be difficult to foresee and prevent. Techniques like SQL Injection or Cross-Site Scripting (XSS) take advantage of obscure (often unknown) holes in your architecture, leaving you vulnerable. These advanced methods can quietly give attackers on-demand doorways into your critical resources without triggering traditional scanners like Intrusion Protection. Our Web Application Security Subscription provides layered protection from attacks for your resources to stop data loss, identity theft, down time, and exploitation.

Using Web Application Security you map incoming addresses or interfaces as "Virtual Servers" to Internal "Real Servers" and apply security policies for prevention and detection of attacks.

Traffic which is handled by this feature does not require DNAT or Packet Filtering rules, and is instead handled and permitted entirely by the Reverse Proxy and the security policies applied to the flow. You will find auto load balancing, SSL offloading (clients connect to ASG with HTTPS, but ASG connects to the real server with HTTP) and an Application Firewall that will scan the HTTP traffic for viruses and attacks.

Protections are offered in the form of a new URL Hardening feature, AV scanning using our dual engines, attack patterns, and some other methods. *Firewall Profiles* has an option called *Cookie Signing*. For each cookie set by the server this will add a signature stored in another cookie so that the WAF can check the signature upon return from the client. This prevents tampering with the cookie on the client side.

Astaro's *URL Hardening* architecture is a powerful new feature which significantly counters many attacks on your resources through a unique approach to security. In simple terms, URL hardening enforces what requests a client is allowed to make of a web server. It makes certain what requests come next by the user is expected by the web server. This whitelist-style approach means if you have left a directory open, misconfigured a script/application, or otherwise left your site open to exploitation, this feature can act as a defensive shield. Understanding this requires a quick understanding of how the majority of attacks are conducted against Web Servers, but does not require your extensive education in this area of security.

Most attacks of this type involve a user doing something unpredictable. Think of a game of chess - software which powers those programs knows that at the beginning you can make one of 20 opening "moves" (8 pawns one or two spots, and the knights to two spots each). Two programming approaches are possible; if you check the validity of each move, you could easily write a "rule" that says the queen is not allowed to immediately jump to the king spot and kill it, thus ending the game. But if you didn't have a specific rule to stop a more creative user, say someone who decides to move 2 pieces at the same time, then that move might succeed, or crash the game as the program tries to process it. Instead, the chess software lays a sort of template down that will ONLY accept a move from a player which is on the next valid "moves list". Our URL Hardening uses essentially the same approach.

As a user visits the site, URL hardening will analyse the response to the requests they make from the server, and in real-time create a valid "moves list" of links and objects they are allowed to request "next". As such, this is a sort of dynamic, reactive white list built in real-time per user. Anything not specifically matching a user's list will be disallowed.

All you have to do is define your "ingress" points where a user is allowed to "land" (such as [www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com) or [www.astaro.com/products](http://www.astaro.com/products)) depending on the size of the site and the amount of deep-linking you allow, this could be just a few links, or dozens+. From there, the Astaro auto-whitelists the users next available "moves" by examining the valid links and navigable points the Web Server issues them in return to their "click". There are some limitations to this approach, such as URL's embedded in flash objects, however even standing alone this feature provides a high degree of security for your site(s).

Lastly, the Web Application Security section has a new "*Server Discovery*" feature which will scan attached networks for web servers listening on TCP port 80 or 443. Servers found will have a "Real Server" object created to quicken the process of deploying Web Application Security.

## Custom WebAdmin/UserPortal Certificate Support

In *Management* → *WebAdmin Settings* → *HTTPS Certificate* you can now select which certificate is used by WebAdmin and User Portal for SSL encryption. As well, if you have an existing CA that you would like to use to sign the certificate currently used by WebAdmin you can do so. This feature can allow for installations that have their own certificates or CA to take advantage of a WebAdmin/UserPortal login which does not trigger a security warning in the browser when navigating to the login page(s).

## WebAdmin Rights & Roles

WebAdmin now has an improved ability to provide certain access levels to administrators. This is especially useful for responsibility splitting. For instance if you wish to delegate access to only the mail manager (quarantine) to a co-worker or provide an outside party with full "read-only" access to the entire configuration for purpose of auditing and review. The rights and roles system includes pre-configured roles for the most commonly requested use cases as defined by you. This feature also allows you to choose to allow only viewing (auditing) or changing (manager). In addition to our pre-defined roles, you can combine various rights into your own, custom roles.

A keyboard shortcut is defined for setting focus to the search box (**CTRL+Y**) and can be changed as usual at *Management* → *WebAdmin Settings* → *User Preferences*.

## New Online Help

The WebAdmin online help has been overhauled with an updated design. You will find a rich new interface, faster searching/performance, and new usability features to make it a better reference tool. Throughout the help contents, wiki-style reference-terms have been added, and there is a new *Glossary* section as well. The search function of the help has been extended to include ordered results rankings, and a navigation bar at the top allows you to move back and forward through your session, save a search to your personal favourites, and easily print any section of the system. A *Favourites* section displays *Topics and Searches* which you have previously marked using the new *Favourites* button.

## Flash-Based Reporting

Most reporting charts are now displayed with Flash graphics to offer greater interactivity and visual style. They should be readily apparent in most reports, and you will notice a new icon on many reports near the PDF and CSV export buttons which can also render the data in a Flash-Chart when desired.

If you don't want to use this feature, you can disable it via *Management* → *WebAdmin Settings* → *User Preferences*.

## Specific WebAdmin Error Reporting

When using WebAdmin sometimes input errors are made (such as entering 192.168.0.1.10 for an IP address, which is invalid). In the past, in most cases we have alerted the admin via a flashing red box where some configuration needs to be changed. Now, rather than just indicating in red flashing alerts where the error was made, we have updated these events to include giving more precise information why settings cannot be saved to a certain field when an error is encountered. Now, if an administrator enters an invalid IP address or something

which doesn't make sense to WebAdmin, in most areas this will generate a specific error message which can easily be understood and corrected.

### **WebAdmin Menu Searching**

By adding new features the menu has grown considerably over the years. If you search a specific sub menu point you now can use the search box at the top of the WebAdmin menu to limit the menu to matching entries. The search does not only match the exact names of menu items, but also defined aliases and keywords.

### **Configuration Change Tracking**

On the *Management* overview page you can now see a list of past WebAdmin sessions with a link to a detailed change log for each session. The information presented is based on detailed, low level activity and might not always be readily represented as easily readable; especially when dealing with low-level object interactions. In most cases you should be able to follow what was changed. Mapping this information to direct WebAdmin representation is something that might follow at a later time.

Also the info button within the object lists now show when the object was last changed and by whom. Again this contains a link to detailed change log of that precise session.

### **VPN Remote Access Reporting**

There is now a reporting facility for VPN Remote Access connections. See *Reporting* → *Remote Access* for the reports. (Accounting is also available but disabled by default for performance assurance. It can be enabled under *Reporting* → *Settings* → *Remote Access Accounting* if you wish to track and report on bandwidth details.)

Remote Access Reporting will show you the state of the connection usage for configured VPN users and methods. This information can be used to show the connects and disconnects of the various Remote Access engines, along with a sessions report which displays when users connected, how long their session lasted, and the bandwidth transferred during the session, along with other information.

### **Web Content Filter Override**

You now can allow certain users and groups to override the blocking of sites by the HTTP proxy URL filter. This is configured at *Web Security* → *HTTP/S* → *URL Filtering*, field *User/Groups allowed to bypass blocking*. These users will be able to override blocks on the error page presented by the HTTP/S proxy. While traditional use of such a feature is to allow superiors in an environment the ability to handle bypass requests on a temporary basis (such as Teachers overriding the filter for a Student to do some research during a class), it has a broader approach as well.

For example, by allowing all users in a workplace to override the filter, you can apply a stricter filtering policy and not incur the additional IT load of having to respond to many override requests individually or having to adjust filtering parameters on a more permanent basis. For obvious reasons, the override cannot be done for malicious or harmful content, such as blocked viruses or malware.

*Reporting → Web Security → Blocked Usage* contains new reports which allow you to expressly monitor the usage of this feature, reviewing who performed an override and for what reason(s).

### **Astaro Smart Installer Backup File Handling**

The [Astaro Smart Installer](#) (ASI) is a special USB Drive which emulates and appears as a USB CD-ROM to the host machine/appliance. These drives have both a CD-ROM Partition (where the ASG installation occurs from) and a writeable partition (where typically documentation or other files can be stored). We have enhanced this tool with Version 8 to provide a one-step install & backup file restore.

Newly introduced is the ability to take an ASG backup file, name it as "restore.abf" and then copy it to the writeable partition of an ASI where it will be automatically applied during the first boot of a new installation. This feature is only for the Astaro Smart Installer, and does not apply to normal off-the-shelf USB sticks. If you are interested in more details about the [ASI](#), your Astaro partner or sales representative can assist you.

### **Printable Configuration**

The entire contents of the system configuration can be generated and viewed in various formats. This is useful where a permanent record of the configuration is required, such as for compliance and auditing reasons. Many businesses need to keep a written record of the entire configuration, and simply storing a backup file does not meet their needs. Using this ability which is located in "*Support → Printable Configuration*" the information can be viewed and easily summarized in a single page in a couple of formats. From there, the resulting .XML file can be printed by your browser, sent to a PDF printer, or you can save it and export it to your XML viewer of choice or work with it in any way you like.

## Other Features and Changes

### Authentication

We have added improved support for legacy authentication protocols against Windows Server 2008R2 domain controllers.

### User-Defined Sender Blacklists

Users can define sender blacklists in EUP similar to the existing sender whitelists. Mails that match the sender blacklist are automatically quarantined.

### Availability Groups

The Availability Group Network Definition form now has a check box to disable the behaviour that an Availability Group must always resolve to one host, whether it is down or not. If this box is unchecked and all hosts are down, the Availability Group object will then be set to unresolved.

### Reverse DNS

When creating static DNS mappings you can now choose to create a reverse mapping which will then create a PTR record to map from the IP address to the name.

### Reduced Backend Rule Generation

Packet Filtering rules that use service groups will now result in an order-of-magnitude level of reduction in the number of actual rules which are created in the backend. With fewer packet filter rules on the kernel level in comparison to an identical configuration in ASG V7, a good amount of memory can be saved. Further, enterprise-sized customers using extensive Network Groups in their rules configuration which reach the limits of scalability will be able to increase the rule count limits of their appliances. Astaro Support can enable further rule reductions on a per-case basis when Packet Filter memory is exceeding acceptable tolerances (rare cases).

### Intrusion Prevention Rule Up2Date Improved

Due to a newly redesigned takeover mechanism, connectivity should not be interrupted during IPS pattern updates.

### Rule Search Retains Numbering

When you perform a search against an ordered list, such as the Packet Filter or NAT rules, the results will now retain the original rule number, rather than relabeling them in the results as they are displayed. Hence rules 1,2 and 6 which match a search will no longer be shown as 1,2,3. This makes it easier to locate a rule from a search on the full list and more easily work with ordering adjustments by administrators.

### HTTP/S & IPS Improved Exceptions

The exceptions for Web Security and Intrusion Prevention are now more flexible by the addition of support for the operators "and" and "or". If you add more than one match criteria you can choose whether the exception should be applied if any of the criteria match (current behaviour) or if all of the criteria match. This allows you to define more precise exceptions. Note that the same operator applies to all criteria. You can't create exceptions like (*criteria1 and criteria2*) *OR* *criteria3*. You can usually emulate this easily by creating more than one exception, however.

## Site-Site PSK VPN

You may now set up multiple IPsec Site-to-Site connections using "respond-only" with different PSKs. This is also known as PSK Probing.

## Support for multiple remote syslog servers

Definition of more than one resource which should be the target of the syslog data streams has been added. This could be useful for backup/redundancy purposes, reporting efforts, or other needs.

## Misc. Changes

- SSL VPN can now be "bound" to a specific IP address on an interface, rather than listening on all of them.
- Strict SIP Mode: In *strict* mode only connections from the configured SIP servers are allowed. In V7 connections are always allowed from everywhere since some providers have too many servers to configure manually.
- HTTP proxy will now load the virus pattern library dynamically at runtime (with dlopen) instead of linking against it at build time. This allows us to reload the library without HTTP proxy restarts.
- HTTP proxy profiles can now use single time events (in V7 they are silently ignored).
- New SMTP RBL's have been added for mail filtering, replacing spamhaus which were previously included by default. Spamhaus may still be added manually to the Extra RBL Zones list if users wish to continue using it. Any spamhaus lists, which were manually added to the Extra RBL zones list will be unaffected by this change.
- When creating static DNS mappings you can now choose to create a reverse mapping as well which will allow the mapping from the IP address to the name.  
\*Note: while it is possible in DNS for several names to map to the same IP, one IP can only ever map to one name.
- The Availability Group Network Definition form has now a check box to disable the behaviour that Availability Groups always resolve to one host.  
If this box is unchecked and all hosts are down, the Availability Group object will be set to unresolved.
- The End User Portal can now be bound to a specific interface IP address rather than listening on all interfaces by default.
- VOIP has been properly re-located to the Network Security section of WebAdmin
- IM/P2P has been properly re-located to the Web Security section of WebAdmin. (It is licensed as part of the Web Security Subscription)
- You cannot enable "fully transparent proxy" without first being in bridging mode, as this would cause erroneous configuration.
- The previous WebAdmin menu section titled "*Network*" has been renamed "*Interfaces & Routing*"

## Sunset Features

### non-UTM (AxG) Variants

There are no longer specific, stand-alone AWG/AMG products. Instead the ASG licensing model was changed to make it possible to only pay for the functionality (i.e. subscriptions) you want to use. You can however retain the same functionality you currently have by importing AWG/AMG V7 backups into ASG V8.

### Support for old licensing model

Only licenses of the new licensing model (as introduced in February 2010) can be used with ASG V8. Users upgrading from older V7 installations will need to upgrade their licenses as well via the <https://my.astaro.com> portal. More information can be found in the Upgrade section of this document.

### V6 Backup Import

Only ASG/AWG/AMG V7 Backups can be imported, V6 installations will have to either fully migrate to V7 and then through to V8 (not recommended), or rebuild their legacy V6 configuration using a fresh V8 install.

## System Requirements

### Hardware Requirements

Astaro official **minimum** hardware requirements for V8.0 are:

- Intel™ Pentium 4 @1.5 GHz, 1 GB RAM, 20 GB hard disk drive and above.
- Best performance results are experienced when using hardware specifications at or beyond: Intel Dual/Quad-Core CPUs at 2GHz+, 2GB+ RAM, and 80GB+ HDD.

For proven hardware components please check our New V8 Hardware Compatibility List (HCL) at: <https://support.astaro.com/support/index.php/Hardware:CompatibilityList>

ASG V8.0 can also be installed within virtual environments, such as VMWare Server 1 & 2, VMWare ESX Server, VMWare Workstation or VMWare Player, by using a pre-configured/pre-installed ASG ISO called VMWare Virtual Appliance. This ISO provides the same functionality as the standard AXG. Other Virtualization platforms may work flawlessly with ASG, and are not inhibited by Astaro. However as they are not officially supported, compatibility issues may arise in various areas of use, such as networking.

### Supported Browsers

Astaro Security Gateway V8.0 WebAdmin officially supports the following browser/platform combinations which have been tested, however just because a browser is not listed here does not mean it does not work, only that it will not be officially supported in all areas of WebAdmin for the purposes of production and support:

MS Windows 7 (and 2000/XP/Vista)

- Internet Explorer 7 & 8
- Mozilla Firefox 3.x
- Safari 5.x

Linux:

- Mozilla Firefox 3.5+

Mac OSX:

- Safari 5.x
- Mozilla Firefox 3.x

Note:

\*The Apple iOS Safari browser has certain limitations – hence it is not officially supported. Other browsers and versions also commonly work without issues, but are untested and may have rendering, Drag `n Drop, or JavaScript issues. They are thus officially not support. Java Runtime or Flash support is not required for WebAdmin.

\*\*\*With the V8 GUI, much of the GUI processing has been moved from the appliance to the management workstation. Astaro officially recommends using [Firefox](#) 3.6+ or Internet Explorer 8 on a workstation with at least 1024 MB RAM and a CPU with 1.5 GHz. More workstation system performance will increase GUI processing speed significantly, especially in bigger installations.

## Installation and Upgrade Information

### Upgrading ASG V7 hardware appliances to V8.00

ASG V8.0 will run on all current Astaro Gateway (ASG) appliance model revisions. Older model revisions which are end-of-sale and not currently shipping will work, and while you are not prevented from upgrading to Version 8, note that this may yield an unworkable installation which is over worked, sluggish, or underperforming, especially if enabling many new features when the unit was already close to capacity. If you would like information about a possible upgrade to a newer model, or have questions about running Version 8 on your older appliance, please contact your Astaro Partner or Sales Representative so we can assist you in making an educated decision on your options.

For upgrading ASG V7 appliances to ASG V8 Astaro will offer the following three alternatives.

- 1) Install with new configuration (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - Ask your certified Astaro partner to install ASG V8.0 firmware on your appliance.
  - **\*Required\*** Upgrade your V7 License Key to the new Version 8 "on-demand" format via <https://my.astaro.com>. Old-style keys ARE NOT compatible with ASG Version 8.0, so they must be upgraded before they can be entered into the system.
  - Use the Setup Wizard (recommended) to create your configuration for ASG V8.0
  - Import your newly upgraded Version 8 compatible license.

- 2) Install with import of V7 configuration (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - Ask your certified Astaro partner to install a fresh ASG V8.0 image on your appliance and convert the existing V7 configuration into the new version.
- 3) Automatic V7 to V8 upgrade (targeted for August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - On your ASG V7.x Appliance, upgrade the firmware to Version 7.507\* (***\*estimated, please see <http://up2date.astaro.com> for the specific release when it becomes available***).
  - You can then select the "Upgrade to Version 8" button in the Up2Date Section. This process may take a long time to download, install, and complete.

### Upgrading ASG V7 software installations to V8.0

For upgrading existing ASG V7 software installations to ASG V8.0 Astaro offers the following two alternatives:

- 1) Install with new configuration (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - Download and install new ASG V8.0 ISO image on gateway.
  - **\*Required\*** Upgrade your V7 License Key to the new Version 8 "on-demand" format via <https://my.astaro.com>. Old-style keys ARE NOT compatible with ASG Version 8.0, so they must be upgraded before they can be entered into the system.
  - Use the Setup Wizard (recommended) to create your configuration for ASG V8.0
  - Import your newly upgraded Version 8 compatible license.
- 2) Install with import of V7 configuration (June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010)
  - Store the V7.505+ system configuration into a backup file.
  - **\*Required\*** Upgrade your V7 License Key to the new Version 8 "on-demand" format via <https://my.astaro.com>. Old-style keys ARE NOT compatible with ASG Version 8.0!
  - Download and install new ASG V8.0 ISO image on gateway.
  - Click on "Restore existing backup File" on the Setup Wizard screen.

**\* Note \*:** All log files and reports of your V7 installation will be reset during migration. The V7 license subscriptions and options are valid for use with the V8.0 framework, but you are REQUIRED to upgrade them to the new licensing model as Version 8 only supports keys in this format. You can upgrade to V8-style licenses via the MyAstaro Portal at (<https://my.astaro.com>). Please ask your Astaro partner or sales contact if you have any questions about our new licensing format which was introduced early in 2010.

### Backup Converter Limitations

All configurations will be restored from a Version 7 backup file into Version 8. Note that as normal, since log files and reporting data are not part of the backup file, these will reset anew as part of the re-installation process. If log files are important to you, and you are doing a fresh install of Version 8, you should first download all your logs via the WebAdmin logging section for archiving purposes.



[www.astaro.com](http://www.astaro.com)

## **Software Download**

The new version, past releases, Up2Dates, and other software is available on our official download servers directly:

<ftp://ftp.astaro.com/pub/>

<ftp://ftp.astaro.de/pub/>

<http://download.astaro.com>

## **Supporting Applications**

### **Astaro Command Center Support**

Astaro Gateway V8.0 is only supported by Astaro Command Center (ACC) V2.2+.

### **Astaro Report Manager Support**

Astaro Gateway V8.0 retains most support of Astaro Report Manager (ARM) V4.6, development is proceeding with extending the reporting offerings available to customers.

## **Known Issues**

The actual ASG V8 Known Issues List (KIL) can be found at

[http://www.astaro.com/lists/Known\\_Issues-ASG-V8.txt](http://www.astaro.com/lists/Known_Issues-ASG-V8.txt)