



Splunk® Universal Forwarder Forwarder Manual 6.5.0

Upgrade the Windows universal forwarder

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When you upgrade a universal forwarder, the installer installs the new software with no configuration changes. To change any configuration settings on your forwarders, do so after the upgrade. A deployment server can assist in the configuration update process.

You have several upgrade scenarios:

- Upgrade a single forwarder with the GUI installer
- Upgrade a single forwarder with the command line installer
- Perform a remote upgrade of a group of forwarders (good for deployments of any size)

Prerequisites to upgrading a universal forwarder

Read this section before performing an upgrade. Also, see [How to upgrade Splunk Enterprise](#) for up-to-date information and potential issues you might encounter when upgrading Splunk Enterprise.

Confirm that an upgrade is necessary

Before performing an upgrade, consider whether you really need to. In most cases, there is no compelling reason to upgrade a forwarder. Forwarders are always compatible with later versions of indexers, so you do not need to upgrade them just because you have upgraded the indexers that they send data to.

Platform architecture changes must be performed manually

You cannot upgrade a 32-bit version of the universal forwarder with the 64-bit universal forwarder installer. To upgrade from 32-bit to 64-bit, follow these instructions:

1. Back up your configurations, including any apps or add-ons (in `%SPLUNK_HOME%\etc\apps`). Also back up the checkpoint files located in `%SPLUNK_HOME%\var\lib\modinputs`.
2. Uninstall the existing 32-bit forwarder.
3. Install the 64-bit forwarder.
4. Restore your apps, configurations and checkpoints by copying them to the appropriate directories:

`%SPLUNK_HOME%\etc\system\local` for configuration files.
`%SPLUNK_HOME%\etc\apps` for apps and add-ons.
`%SPLUNK_HOME%\var\lib\modinputs` for checkpoint files.

Back your files up

Before you perform an upgrade, back up your configuration files. See "Back up configuration information" in the Splunk Enterprise *Admin* manual.

There is no means of downgrading to a previous version; if you need to revert to an older forwarder release, uninstall the current version and reinstall the older release.

Upgrade using the GUI installer

You can upgrade a single forwarder with the GUI installer:

1. Download the new MSI file from the universal forwarder download page.
2. Double-click the MSI file. The installer displays the "Accept license agreement" panel.
3. Accept the license agreement and click "Install." The installer then upgrades the forwarder and retains the existing configuration.

Note: The installer stops the forwarder before upgrading as part of the upgrade process.

4. The forwarder starts automatically when you complete the installation.

The installer puts a log of upgrade changes in the `%TEMP%` directory. It also reports any errors in the Application Event Log.

Upgrade using the command line

You can upgrade a single forwarder by running the command line installer. To upgrade a group of forwarders, load the command line installer into a deployment tool such as Group Policy or System Center Configuration Manager, as described in "Perform a remote upgrade."

You cannot make configuration changes during an upgrade. The installer ignores any command line flags that you specify except for `AGREETOLICENSE`.

Here are the steps for using the command line installer to upgrade a single forwarder:

1. Download the new MSI file from the Splunk universal forwarder download page.
2. Install the universal forwarder from the command line by invoking `msiexec.exe`.

- For 32-bit platforms, use

```
splunkuniversalforwarder-<...>-x86-release.msi:
```

```
msiexec.exe /i splunkuniversalforwarder-<...>-x86-release.msi  
[AGREETOLICENSE=Yes /quiet]
```

- For 64-bit platforms, use

```
splunkuniversalforwarder-<...>-x64-release.msi:
```

```
msiexec.exe /i splunkuniversalforwarder-<...>-x64-release.msi  
[AGREETOLICENSE=Yes /quiet]
```

The value of `<...>` varies according to the particular release; for example, `splunkuniversalforwarder-6.3.0-aa7d4b1ccb80-x64-release.msi`.

3. Wait for the upgrade to complete. The forwarder starts automatically when you complete the installation.

The installer puts a log of upgrade changes in the `%TEMP%` directory. It also reports any errors in the Application Event Log.

Perform a remote upgrade

To upgrade a group of forwarders in your environment, use a deployment tool such as Group Policy or System Center Configuration Manager to distribute the forwarder software:

1. Load the universal forwarder MSI into your deployment tool. Specify the command like as follows:

```
msiexec.exe /i splunkuniversalforwarder-<...>.msi AGREETOLICENSE=Yes  
/quiet
```

See Upgrade using the command line, for details on the MSI command.

2. Execute deployment with your deployment tool.

3. Use the deployment monitor to verify that the universal forwarders function properly.

You might want to test the upgrade locally on one machine before performing a remote upgrade across all your forwarders.