Release status and life cycle

This document describes the FileSender software life cycle. What labels do we use to describe the various states a release can be in, from birth (beta) to end-of-life (EOL). FileSender follows the well-known Debian lingo for describing the status of its releases.

Distribution channels and current release status

For all distribution channels (Tarball, Debian and RPM packages) the following channels (repositories) are used:

Status label	Description	
oldstable	previous supported release (security fixes only)	1.5
stable	recommended and supported release	1.6.1
testing	next stable version	1.6.1
unstable	beta version	1.7-beta1
experimental	snapshot builds/experimental	1.7-beta1

Release history

Version	Status	Phase change planned around
1.5	oldstable	1.5 as of 6-01-2016
1.6.1	stable	1.6.1 as of 6-01-2016
1.6.1	testing	1.6.1 as of 30-12-2015
1.7 (beta + rc)	unstable	1.7-beta1 as of 6-1-2016

Release life cycle

All FileSender releases go through the following phases during their life:

Unstable: under development: nightly builds and beta builds

Testing: candidate to become stable. Production quality and well tested, but needs to prove itself in the field. Support, bug and security fixes are provided.

Stable: field tested boring-no-problems production release. Support, bug and security fixes are provided.
Oldstable: the previous stable release. Security fixes only.

Each channel can be occupied by one release. When we release a FileSender version for use in production environments, it moves from ***Unstable*** to **Testing**. This bumps the release living in Testing to Stable and the one living in Stable to Oldstable. The current Oldstable

release dies.

When a release in Testing has run problem-free for at least an 8 week period on at least 2 production sites that see daily real traffic, it ***can*** (but does not need to) be moved to **stable**. A release in "stable" must be what it says on the tin: stable. It should run unattended and feel fine about it. We maken an effort to have a solid release in both Testing and Stable at any given point in time.

When does support end?

When a release moves out of "Oldstable" support is no longer provided and the release is labeled **EOL, End of Life**. New *revisions* of a 'major.minor' will obsolete the previous 'major.minor', so for example '1.0.1' will obsolete '1.0.0'. The unstable/testing/stable/oldstable cycle is used for the major.minor releases. Minor revisions will be put in the distribution channel where the major.minor is.

Version numbering

FileSender version numbering follows the **major.minor.revision** method.

> **major:** incremented when major back-end changes occur that require a lot of attention when upgrading. Examples are significant changes in the API, database schema etc.;
>
> **minor:** when introducing changes too big to be labeled **revision** and too smalto use
>
> **revision**: small changes. This will typically be bug fixes, security fixes and UI polish.

Pre-releases

Beta releases: for major releases we will typically release one or more beta versions. These are tested by the testing team and are assumed to work reasonably well. Beta releases need to be field tested for robustness, bugs and assumption verification.

Release candidates: for both **major releases and minor releases** we will at least **1 Release Candidate** version.

Release: when a Release Candidate has been running on least two FileSender sites without error for a period of at least 1 week under meaningful use, this release candidate is re-branded as a release. There are no code changes, no database changes and no config file changes between a release candidate and a release.

Pre-releases will be labeled with a *-[beta|rc][n]* suffix, for example *1.1-rc2* or *1.5-beta1*

Snapshot releases

Between releases there can and will be intermediate snapshot builds. Snapshot builds are regarded as pre-release builds of a to be released target version. The snapshot version will be added to the target version number with a hyphen. *If there is no target version yet we could add the snapshot version with a + sign to indicate a post-release snapshot?*

Snapshot suffix: *-[builddate|svnrevision]* where *builddate = YYYYMMDDhhmm*

Examples: *1.5-201202041550 1.5.1-r1488*

Package naming and versioning

Packaging principles

Main version of a package should be the "target" version to be officially released. Both alpha/beta/rc's and snapshots are to be considered a pre-release of that target version. When publishing packages the pre-release/snapshot version should be regarded as 'lower' than the final target release but "higher" than the previous target release.

For RPM this is done using the Fedora recommendations by defining/using a Release tag.

For Debian this is (for many reasons) a bit more complicated when using both pre-releases and snapshots for the same target version. The use of a *~label* in the *upstream_version* part appears to be the recommended way.

Tarballs and zipfiles

tarballs and zipfiles will be named following the above mentioned versioning scheme with the name *filesender*

RPM packages

http://fedoraproject.org/wiki/Packaging:NamingGuidelines#Pre-Release_packages

http://directory.fedoraproject.org/wiki/Release_Procedure

In specfile Version=FS-version, Release=package-revision

[package-revison] = [n][.m][.fs-sub-version]

n=0 for pre-releases and dev builds
n=1 for releases
m=for pre-releases only: increasing number which will be incremented when switching from dev-build to pre-release or vice versa

1.5-0.1.r1488 nightly in 1.5 dev cycle
1.5-0.1.r1492 nightly
1.5-0.2.beta1 beta1
1.5-0.3.r1495 nightly
1.5-0.3.r1497 nightly

1.5-0.4.rc1 rc1
1.5-1 final release
1.5.1-0.1.r1500 new nightly in 1.5.1 dev cycle

Debian packages

http://www.debian.org/doc/debian-policy/ch-controlfields.html#s-f-Version
[epoch:]upstream_version[-debian_revision]

https://help.launchpad.net/Packaging/PPA/BuildingASourcePackage

pre-release tags can (must according to policy) be in upstream_version like 1.5~rc1 *but* that would conflict with snapshot/dev builds.

1.5~beta1
1-5~rc1
1.5~201202042315