

Frequently Asked Questions: Dell PowerVault ME52XX Storage

Q: What's new in the PowerVault ME52XX?

A: The new ME5 release offers:

- Up to 800K IOPS for faster performance (100% Sequential Reads, 16K block size, R5, Virtual)
- Improved read/write throughput (14GB/s Read and 11Gb/s Write)
- KMIP support for secure external key management with additional third party KMIP application
- Intelligent drive firmware updates
- New modern bezels and model numbers for easy identification

Q: Will pricing increase?

A: Yes. New pricing will accompany these new models to reflect the added value:

- Significantly improved performance
- Enhanced security with new KMIP support
- Simplified system management with intelligent drive firmware
- A more modern, future-ready system

Q: Are ME50XX drives compatible with the new PowerVault ME52XX hardware?

A: No

Q: What is KMIP and how does it benefit customers?

A: KMIP (Key Management Interoperability Protocol) allows secure communication between ME5 and external key managers—ideal for organizations requiring strict data security and compliance. Supported third party KMIP applications at launch include IBM Security Key Lifecycle Manager (SKLM) and Thales CipherTrust (KeySecure).

Q: What are intelligent drive firmware updates?

A: This feature:

- Detects outdated drive firmware and validates compatibility
- Notifies you automatically
- Applies updates with minimal disruption, reducing maintenance time and avoids human error

Q: What increases will there be with R/W throughput?

A: Sequential Reads will increase by 16% while sequential Writes will increase by 10%

Q: How much faster is the new ME5?

A: Compared to earlier models:

- Up to 800K IOPS - a 25% increase

Q: When will the new ME5 be available?

A: The official launch (RTS) date is July 1, 2025

Q: Can I still buy the current ME5 models?

A: Yes, for a limited time. Contact your Dell partner or sales representative to choose the right fit for your budget and needs.

Q: Are new ME5 models backward compatible with current expansion enclosures?

A: No. The new ME512, ME525 and ME584 expansion are for use with the new ME52XX platforms.

Q: Model number changes?

A: New base model numbers:

| Current Model Numbers | New Model Numbers |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| PowerVault ME5012 | PowerVault ME5212 |
| PowerVault ME5024 | PowerVault ME5224 |
| PowerVault ME5084 | PowerVault ME5284 |

A: New expansion model numbers

| Current Model Numbers | New Model Numbers |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| PowerVault ME412 | PowerVault ME512 |
| PowerVault ME424 | PowerVault ME524 |
| PowerVault ME484 | PowerVault ME584 |

Q: Why have the model numbers changed?

A: Reasons:

- New model numbers distinguish refreshed hardware from legacy ME5

- Reduces confusion for quoting, support, and channel logistics
- Applies to base systems and expansion shelves

Q: Will migration support be available?

A: File/data migration is supported via standard Dell services or customers can opt to migrate their data themselves

Q: What SKUs, guides, and documentation will be updated?

A: Materials

- New SKUs will be made available via the standard 911 communication
- New spec sheets, sales assets, customer collateral, social, technical documentation, etc.
- Updated configurator tools and quoting SKUs at launch

Q: Will training be required?

A: Not mandatory, but new training content will be released via Quarterly Primary Storage training and Heroes events covering new features and positioning.