



Brocade[®] Fabric OS[®] Software Upgrade User Guide, 8.2.x

User Guide
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Introduction

About This Document

This document provides step-by-step procedures to prepare for, perform, and verify the upgrade or downgrade of Fabric OS® firmware. It is assumed that the reader of this document is familiar with establishing console access and entering commands using the Fabric OS CLI. Although many different software and hardware configurations are tested and supported by Brocade for Fabric OS 8.2.x firmware, documenting all possible configurations and scenarios is beyond the scope of this document.

Supported Hardware and Software

The following hardware platforms are supported by Brocade Fabric OS 8.2.x.

Brocade Gen 5 (16Gb/s) Fixed-Port Switches

- Brocade 6505 Switch
- Brocade 6510 Switch
- Brocade 6520 Switch
- Brocade M6505 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6542 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6543 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6545 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6546 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6547 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6548 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6558 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 7840 Extension Switch

Brocade Gen 5 (16Gb/s) Directors

For ease of reference, Brocade chassis-based storage systems are standardizing on the term *director*. The legacy term *backbone* can be used interchangeably with the term *director*.

- Brocade DCX 8510-4 Director
- Brocade DCX 8510-8 Director

Brocade Gen 6 (32Gb/s) Fixed-Port Switches

- Brocade G610 Switch
- Brocade G620 Switch
- Brocade G630 Switch
- Brocade 7810 Extension Switch

Brocade Gen 6 (32Gb/s) Directors

- Brocade X6-4 Director
- Brocade X6-8 Director

Blades Supported in Gen 5 Directors

The following table lists the blades supported in Brocade DCX 8510 Directors that run Fabric OS 8.2.x.

Table 1: Blades Supported by Fabric OS 8.2.x in Brocade DCX 8510 Directors

Blade Type	Description	Supported Blades
Extension blades	These blades contain extra processors and both FC and IP ports for FCIP.	Brocade FX8-24 Extension blade.
CP blades	These blades have a control processor (CP) used to control an entire Brocade DCX 8510 Director.	Brocade CP8 Control Processor blade. This blade goes into the following slots only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Either slot 4 or slot 5 in a Brocade DCX 8510-4. • Either slot 6 or slot 7 in a Brocade DCX 8510-8.
CR blades	These core routing (CR) blades provide switching functionality among supported blades using backplane and inter-chassis link (ICL) functionality. This enables connections between two Brocade DCX 8510 Directors or between a Brocade DCX 8510 Director and a Brocade X6 Director.	CR16-4 and CR16-8 Core Routing blades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CR16-4 blade goes into only slot 3 or slot 6 in a Brocade DCX 8510-4 Director. • A CR16-8 blade goes into only slot 5 or slot 8 in a Brocade DCX 8510-8 Director.
FC port blades	These blades contain only Fibre Channel ports.	FC16-32 port blade FC16-48 port blade FC16-64 port blade

Blades Supported in Gen 6 Directors

The following table lists the blades supported in Brocade X6 Directors that run Fabric OS 8.2.x.

Table 2: Blades Supported by Fabric OS 8.2.x in Brocade X6 Directors

Blade Type	Description	Supported Blades
Extension blades	These blades contain extra processors and both FC and IP ports for FCIP.	Brocade SX6 Extension blade.
CP blades	These blades have a control processor (CP) used to control an entire Brocade X6 Director.	Brocade CPX6 Control Processor blade. This blade can be inserted into slot 1 or slot 2 only.
CR blades	These core routing (CR) blades provide switching functionality among supported blades using backplane and inter-chassis link (ICL) functionality. This enables connections between two Brocade X6 Directors or from a Brocade X6 Director to a Brocade DCX 8510 Director.	Brocade CR32-4 and CR32-8 Core Routing blades. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A CR32-4 blade goes into only slot 5 or slot 6 in a Brocade X6-4. • A CR32-8 blade goes into only slot 7 or slot 8 in a Brocade X6-8.
FC port blades	These blades contain Fibre Channel ports. The Brocade FC32-64 FC blade supports FCoE as well.	Brocade FC32-48 FC blade. Brocade FC32-64 FC blade.

Contacting Technical Support for Your Brocade® Product

For product support information and the latest information on contacting the Technical Assistance Center, go to <https://www.broadcom.com/support/fibre-channel-networking/>. If you have purchased Brocade® product support directly from Broadcom, use one of the following methods to contact the Technical Assistance Center 24x7.

Online	Telephone
<p>For nonurgent issues, the preferred method is to log in to myBroadcom at https://www.broadcom.com/mybroadcom. (You must initially register to gain access to the Customer Support Portal.) Once there, select Customer Support Portal > Support Portal. You will now be able to navigate to the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Search: Clicking the top-right magnifying glass brings up a search bar. • Case Management: The legacy MyBrocade case management tool (MyCases) has been replaced with the Fibre Channel Networking case management tool. • DocSafe: You can download software and documentation. • Other Resources: Licensing Portal (top), SAN Health (top and bottom), Communities (top), Education (top). 	<p>Required for Severity 1 (critical) issues: Please call Fibre Channel Networking Global Support at one of the numbers listed at https://www.broadcom.com/support/fibre-channel-networking/.</p>

If you purchased Brocade product support from a Broadcom OEM/solution provider, contact your OEM/solution provider for all your product support needs.

- OEM/solution providers are trained and certified by Broadcom to support Brocade products.
- Broadcom provides backline support for issues that cannot be resolved by the OEM/solution provider.
- Brocade Supplemental Support augments your existing OEM support contract, providing direct access to Brocade expertise. For more information on this option, contact Broadcom or your OEM.
- For questions regarding service levels and response times, contact your OEM/solution provider.

Document Feedback

Quality is our first concern. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this document. However, if you find an error or an omission or if you think that a topic needs further development, we want to hear from you. Send your feedback to documentation.pdl@broadcom.com. Provide the publication title, publication number, topic heading, page number, and as much detail as possible.

Obtaining Firmware

The Fabric OS firmware upgrade process consists of the following major procedures:

1. Download the Fabric OS firmware files to a fixed-port switch or director. For more information, see the following sections:
 - [Downloading Firmware](#) for downloading the Fabric OS firmware files from the Broadcom website.
 - [Downloading Firmware from a USB Device](#) for downloading the firmware from a USB stick that is attached to the switch.
2. Upgrade or downgrade to the newer version of Fabric OS firmware. For more information, see the following sections:
 - [Upgrading Firmware on Fixed-Port Switches](#) to upgrade the firmware on a fixed-port switch.
 - [Upgrading Firmware on Directors \(Including Blades\)](#) to upgrade the firmware on a director.

Fabric OS firmware is delivered in RPM Package Manager packages that contain tested and supported .rpm files, along with other needed files. These packages are made available periodically to add features or to remedy defects. Contact your switch support provider to obtain information about available firmware versions.

NOTE

Broadcom does not supply individual .rpm files, only packaged installation file sets (distributions).

NOTE

Starting simultaneous firmware downloads on adjacent fixed-port switches may result in traffic disruption.

It is recommended to not to power cycle the switch/chassis during the firmware download. For more information on troubleshooting a firmware download, refer to the *Brocade Fabric OS Troubleshooting and Diagnostics Guide*.

ATTENTION

Complete the firmware download process on the current switch before issuing the `firmwaredownload` command on the next switch. This process ensures that traffic between switches in your fabric is not disrupted. To verify that the firmware download process is complete, enter the `firmwaredownloadstatus` command on the switch, verify that the process is complete, and then proceed to the next switch.

Download Prerequisites

Before downloading firmware, perform the following tasks. The following preparatory tasks enable you to provide your switch support provider with the information required to troubleshoot the firmware download in case of a failure or timeout.

NOTE

Firmware downloading using Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) is not supported on the multispeed management port if it is set to 10Mb/s.

1. Read the release notes of the new firmware to find out if there are any updates related to the firmware download process.

NOTE

The Fabric OS software does not support nondisruptive upgrades from any release more than one major release earlier than the one being installed. This means that nondisruptive upgrading to Fabric OS 8.2.1 is supported from Fabric OS 8.2.0 and Fabric OS 8.1.0 only. If you are trying to upgrade from any earlier version of Fabric OS software, perform a disruptive upgrade.

2. Log the Telnet session to record the information shown during this process, because you can use this information to validate the correctness of the installation. Connect to the switch, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
For additional support:
 - a) Connect the switch directly to a computer using a serial console cable.
 - b) Ensure that all serial console sessions (for both CPs on directors) and any open network connection sessions such as Telnet sessions are being logged.
3. Enter `firmwareshow` to verify the current version of Fabric OS software.
4. Enter `firmwaredownloadstatus` to confirm that there is no firmware download already in progress. If there is a download in progress, wait until that process is complete.
5. Ensure that all switches in the fabric are running a version of Fabric OS software that is compatible with the version of Fabric OS software that you are planning to install.
 - a) Validate the existing fabric by running the commands `nsshow`, `nsallshow`, and `fabricshow`. This provides a record of the existing fabric, which you can use to validate that the installation was correct and complete.

NOTE
All connected servers, storage devices, and switches should be present in the output of the commands in this step. If there is a discrepancy, it is possible that a device or switch cannot connect to the fabric and further troubleshooting is required.

 - b) Enter `switchshow` to verify that no ports are running as G_Ports.
6. Back up the configuration file and retrieve all current core files before downloading the new firmware to the device.
 - a) Enter `configupload` to save the configuration file to your FTP or SSH server or to a USB memory device.
 - b) Enter `supportsave` to retrieve all current core files.

This information is useful to troubleshoot the firmware download process if a problem occurs.
7. Optional: Enter `errclear` to erase all existing messages including internal messages.
8. Enter `supportsave -R` (uppercase *R*).
This action clears all core and trace files.
9. Continue with the firmware download.

Finding the Switch Firmware Version

1. Connect to the switch and log on using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter `version`.

The following information is displayed:

- **Kernel:** Displays the version of the switch kernel operating system.
- **Fabric OS:** Displays the Fabric OS software version of the switch.
- **Made on:** Displays the build date of the firmware running on the switch.
- **Flash:** Displays the install date of firmware stored in nonvolatile memory.
- **BootProm:** Displays the version of the firmware stored in the boot PROM.

The following example shows the output of the `version` command:

```
Switch:admin> version
Kernel: 2.6.14.2
Fabric OS: v8.2.1
Made on: Tue Oct 2 22:41:07 2018
Flash: Wed Oct 3 23:43:28 2020
```

BootProm: 1.0.11

Downloading Firmware

Firmware upgrades are available for customers with support service contracts and partners on the website at <https://www.broadcom.com/mybroadcom>.

Perform the following procedure to download the firmware and documentation files from the website and download the firmware to a switch or a director.

1. From the website <https://www.broadcom.com/mybroadcom>, click **LOGIN**, and enter your username and password. If you do not have an account, click **REGISTER** to set up your account.
2. Select **Customer Support Portal > Documents and Software**.
3. Do one of the following:
 - a) Enter the product name or the firmware version number in the **Search** box. For example, the following search is for firmware and documentation files for firmware version 8.2.1.
 - b) Click the **Product Search** box, select **FIBRE CHANNEL NETWORKING**, and select a product from the product lists.

The list of firmware and documents available for the product appears. Click the **Download** button to download the required firmware.

4. Uncompress the firmware file using the UNIX `tar` command for `.tar` files, the `gunzip` command for `.gz` files, or a Windows unzip program for `.zip` files.

NOTE

For each switch in your fabric, complete all firmware download changes on the current switch before issuing the `firmwaredownload` command on the next switch. This process ensures that traffic between switches in your fabric is not disrupted.

5. Use the `firmwaredownload` command to download the firmware to the switch by using FTP, SFTP, or SCP to connect to an FTP or SSH server or use a Brocade-branded USB device to which the firmware is downloaded. If you are using FTP, SFTP, or SCP, verify that the FTP or SSH server is running on the host server and you have a valid user ID, password, and permissions for that server. If you are planning to use the Challenge Response Authentication (CRA) protocol with either SFTP or SCP, you must first enable this protocol on the host server side.
6. If you are using a USB memory device, verify that it is connected and running.
 1. Visually confirm that the device is connected.
 2. Enter `usbstorage -e` to mount the USB device.
 3. Enter `usbstorage -l` to verify that it is running.
7. The `firmwaredownload` command supports both non-interactive and interactive modes. If this command is issued without any operands or if there is any syntax error in the parameters, the command enters an interactive mode to prompt you for input.
8. Unpack the downloaded firmware, and it expands into a directory that is named according to the version of Fabric OS software that it contains. For example, when you download and unzip the file named `8.2.1.zip`, it expands into a directory that is named `8.2.1`.
9. Specify the complete path up to and including the `8.2.1` directory name using the interactive commands for the `firmwaredownload` command to work properly. When you issue the `firmwaredownload` command, there is an automatic search for the correct package file type associated with the switch.

<Firmware Server Name or IP Address>, <User_Account>, <File Name>, <Your_Password>

The following example displays the complete path for the `firmwaredownload` command:

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload -s
```

```
Server Name or IP Address: 10.1.2.3
User Name: admin
File Name: /pub/sre/SQA/fos/v8.2.1/v8.2.1
```

NOTE

If DNS is enabled and a server name instead of a server IP address is specified in the command line, `firmwaredownload` automatically determines whether IPv4 or IPv6 should be used. To mention an FTP server by name, you must configure at least one DNS server using the `dnsconfig` command.

10. The following example illustrates the initial portion of an interactive firmware download. After this portion is complete, a scrolling list of the firmware elements being installed is displayed.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload
Server Name or IP Address: 10.1.2.3
User Name: admin
File Name: /home/SAN/fos/8.2.1/8.2.1
Network Protocol(1-auto-select, 2-FTP, 3-SCP, 4-SFTP) [1]: 4
Verifying if the public key authentication is available.Please wait ... The public key authentication is
not available.
Password: <hidden>
Server IP: 10.0.0.0, Protocol IPv4
Checking system settings for firmwaredownload...
```

NOTE

Do not use Linux utilities to expand files that are destined for a Windows server.

Staging Firmware

Firmware that is downloaded to the secondary partition using the `firmwaredownload` command with either the remote (`-r`) or local (`-lr`) source option can be activated later using the `firmwareactivate` command. After the firmware is downloaded, the update is incomplete until the new firmware is activated.

Perform any desired configuration changes before activating the new firmware. If the switch is rebooted or power-cycled, the downloaded firmware is not affected because it is stored in the secondary partition. Any `firmwarerestore` or `firmwarecommit` processes do not start until the firmware is activated. You can use the `firmwareactivate` command in both single-CP and dual-CP environments.

To stage the firmware:

1. Download the firmware using one of the previously mentioned options.
2. Enter the `firmwaredownload` command to find the status of the download.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload
Appl      Primary/Secondary Versions
-----
FOS       v8.2.1
          v8.2.1a
```

3. Enter the `firmwareactivate` command to activate the firmware.

```
switch:admin>firmwareactivate
This command will activate the firmware on the secondary partition but will require that existing telnet,
secure telnet or SSH sessions to be restarted.
Do you want to continue (Y/N) [Y]:
```

Validating the Firmware Download

No matter which download process you use, the firmware install process automatically validates that the downloaded file sets are complete and correct. You can run `firmwaredownloadstatus` to monitor the status of the firmware download.

Downloading Firmware without a Password

To download the firmware without a password:

1. Enter the `sshutil` command for public key authentication when SSH is selected.
2. Configure the switch to install the private key and export the public key to the remote host.
3. Configure the SSH protocol to permit password-less logins for outgoing authentication before running the `firmwaredownload` command. For more information, refer to the "Configuring Outgoing SSH Authentication" section of the *Brocade Fabric OS Administration Guide*.

Activating Firmware

After downloading the firmware to a platform, the upgrade is incomplete until the firmware is activated.

Perform the following steps to activate the firmware:

1. Download the firmware to the secondary partition of the platform using `firmwaredownload -r` or `firmwaredownload -lr`.
2. Enter `firmwareshow` to view the current firmware version on each partition.

```
switch:admin> firmwareshow
Appl      Primary/Secondary Versions
-----
Fabric OS   v8.2.1
            v8.2.1
```

3. Enter `firmwareactivate` to activate the firmware.

```
switch:admin> firmwareactivate
This command will activate the firmware on the secondary partition
but will require that existing telnet, secure telnet or SSH sessions be restarted.

Do you want to continue (Y/N) [Y]:
```

Downloading Firmware from a USB Device

The following Brocade devices support downloading the firmware from a Brocade-branded USB stick or thumb drive that is attached to the switch or active command processor. Suitably preformatted USB sticks are available from Broadcom technical support.

- Brocade 6505 Switch
- Brocade 6510 Switch
- Brocade 6520 Switch
- Brocade M6505 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6542 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6543 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6545 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6546 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6547 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6548 Blade Server SAN I/O Module
- Brocade 6558 Blade Server SAN I/O Module

Perform the following steps to download the firmware from a USB device depends on the operating system (OS) you use:

- Open a file browser and navigate to the directory on the USB device if you are using Windows. Drag the unzipped firmware image files from where you downloaded them to this directory. You can store multiple images under this directory.
- Enable and mount the USB device as a file system if you are using Linux. After completing this, copy the unzipped firmware images to be downloaded to `/usb/usbstorage/Brocade/firmware`. Alternatively, you can use the absolute path in the USB file system to the same directory.
- Enter `firmwaredownload` with the `-U` (uppercase U) option for the `firmwaredownload` command to download the specified firmware image from the USB device. When specifying a path to a firmware image in the USB device, you can specify either the relative path to `/firmware` or the absolute path.

NOTE

To ensure file integrity, use the `usbstorage -d` command to unmount the USB device before physically unplugging it from the switch or director. If you are updating a USB device on an external server, ensure that the device is properly ejected from the server before physically unplugging it.

Enabling the USB Device

1. Log in to the switch using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter the `usbstorage -e` command.
This enables the USB device. You can now use it to install the firmware.

Viewing the USB File System

1. Connect to the device and log in using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter the `usbstorage -l` command.

```
switch:admin> usbstorage -l
v8.2.1\          1126MB    2020 January 30 15:33
Available space on USB storage 96%
```

Downloading from the USB Device Using a Relative Path

NOTE

Downloading from a USB device using a relative path is the preferred method.

1. Connect to the device, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter `firmwaredownload -U` (uppercase U) followed by the name of the firmware directory. In the following example, the directory is 8.2.1.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload -U 8.2.1
```

Downloading from the USB Device Using an Absolute Path

1. Connect to the device and log in using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter `firmwaredownload -U` followed by the full path of the firmware directory.

In the following example, the path is `/usb/usbstorage/Brocade/firmware/8.2.1`.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload -U /usb/usbstorage/Brocade/firmware/8.2.1
```

Upgrading and Downgrading Firmware

In this document, *upgrading* means installing a newer version of firmware than the one that is currently running; alternatively, *downgrading* means installing an older firmware version. The procedures in this document assume that you are upgrading firmware, but they also work for downgrading if the old and new firmware versions are compatible.

You can consider the following two methods before upgrading or downgrading a switch to the newer or different firmware version:

- Perform the upgrade or downgrade process directly to the desired firmware version. For more information, see [Upgrading and Downgrading Firmware](#) or [Upgrading Firmware on Directors \(Including Blades\)](#).
- Evaluate a newer or different version before the actual deployment. This allows you to assess the features and capabilities, potential risks and helps to determine the upgrade or downgrade to a newer or different firmware version. For more information, see [Testing Firmware](#).

All Brocade systems maintain two partitions (a primary and a secondary) of nonvolatile storage to store firmware. The firmware download process first copies the replacement files (which may contain an updated kernel) into the secondary partition, and then the process swaps the partitions so that the secondary partition becomes the primary. It then performs a nondisruptive HA reboot of the system. For directors, the standby is rebooted; this does not affect system traffic. For fixed-port platforms, the system attempts to restore the previous machine state after the reboot is completed, also called a *warm reboot*. When the system boots, it boots using the revised Fabric OS firmware in the primary partition. The firmware download process then copies the updated files from the primary partition to the secondary partition.

NOTE

Most firmware upgrades and downgrades are not disruptive to device operations; however, always refer to the latest Fabric OS release notes for updates on upgrading and downgrading.

The following table lists the currently supported Fabric OS versions and platforms:

Table 3: Currently Supported Fabric OS Versions and Platforms

Platforms	Fabric OS 8.1.x	Fabric OS 8.2.0	Fabric OS 8.2.1
Brocade Gen 5 Switches and Directors	Supported	Supported	Supported
Brocade G610 Switch	Supported	Supported	Supported
Brocade G620 Switch	Supported	Supported	Supported
Brocade G630 Switch	Not Supported	Supported	Supported
Brocade X6 Directors	Supported	Supported	Supported
Brocade 7810 Extension Switch	Not Supported	Not Supported	Supported

The following table lists the upgrade and downgrade considerations for various features and the guides to refer to for more information:

Table 4: Upgrade and Downgrade Considerations for Various Features

Feature	Guides for Reference
Flow Vision	The Brocade Flow Vision feature has specific firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations. For firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations that apply to Flow Vision and this version of Fabric OS software, refer to the upgrade and downgrade sections of the <i>Brocade Flow Vision Configuration Guide</i> .
Monitoring and Alerting Policy Suite (MAPS)	The Brocade Monitoring and Alerting Policy Suite (MAPS) feature have specific firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations. For firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations that apply to MAPS and this version of Fabric OS software, refer to the upgrade and downgrade sections of the <i>Brocade Fabric OS MAPS User Guide</i> .
Application Server	<p>The Application Server module was introduced in Fabric OS 8.1.x for Gen 6 platforms. The Application Server maintains the virtual machine (VM) device database, which facilitates Flow Vision monitoring at the VM level. As a result, if any locally registered Application Server entries are found with Gen 6 platforms, the firmware downgrade is blocked, and the following message is displayed:</p> <pre>Non-disruptive firmware downgrade is not supported due to registered Application Server entries, see "appserver --show -domain <local domain ID>". Either disable registered devices or issue "firmwaredownload" with single mode option enabled.</pre> <p>To downgrade Brocade Gen 6 platforms (Brocade G610, Brocade G620, Brocade G630, Brocade 7810 Extension Switch, and Brocade X6 Directors) nondisruptively, you must first either disable all devices that have registered entities (also known as VMs) from the Application Server or deregister the VMs using the host bus adapter (HBA). If you do not, you must do a disruptive (single- mode) downgrade for releases prior to Fabric OS 8.1.x using the <code>firmwaredownload -s</code> command.</p>
IP Extension	Brocade IP Extension configuration has specific firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations. For firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations that apply to IP Extension configuration and this version of Fabric OS software, refer to the upgrade and downgrade sections of the <i>Brocade Fabric OS Extension User Guide</i> .
FCoE	The Brocade FCoE feature has specific firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations. For firmware upgrade and downgrade considerations that apply to FCoE and this version of Fabric OS software, refer to the upgrade and downgrade sections of the <i>Brocade Fabric OS FCoE User Guide</i> .

Supported Upgrade Paths

The following table provides details on supported upgrade paths and steps for upgrading through multiple versions of Fabric OS builds. For specific Fabric OS versions, refer to the Fabric OS release notes of the corresponding version of Fabric OS software. To upgrade to other versions of Fabric OS software, refer to the *Brocade Fabric OS Software Upgrade User Guide* for the corresponding version of Fabric OS software to which you want to upgrade.

Table 5: Supported Upgrade Paths to Fabric OS 8.2.x

Upgrading from	Upgrade Procedure
Fabric OS 7.2.x	You must upgrade first to Fabric OS 7.3.x (nondisruptive) or Fabric OS 7.4.x (disruptive), then to Fabric OS 8.0.x (disruptive from 7.3.x/nondisruptive from 7.4.x) or Fabric OS 8.1.x (disruptive from 7.4.x) before upgrading (disruptive from 8.0.x/nondisruptive from 8.1.x) to Fabric OS 8.2.x.
Fabric OS 7.3.x	You must upgrade first to Fabric OS 7.4.x (nondisruptive), then to Fabric OS 8.0.x (nondisruptive) or Fabric OS 8.1.x (disruptive) before upgrading (disruptive from 8.0.x/nondisruptive from 8.1.x) to Fabric OS 8.2.x.
Fabric OS 7.4.x	You must upgrade first to Fabric OS 8.0.x (nondisruptive) or Fabric OS 8.1.x (disruptive) before upgrading (disruptive from 8.0.x/nondisruptive from 8.1.x) to Fabric OS 8.2.x.
Fabric OS 8.0.x	A nondisruptive direct upgrade is not possible. A disruptive direct upgrade is possible by using the <code>firmwaredownload -s</code> command.
Fabric OS 8.1.x	A nondisruptive direct upgrade is possible.

Upgrading from	Upgrade Procedure
Fabric OS 8.2.x	A nondisruptive direct upgrade is possible.

Upgrade or Downgrade Prerequisites

Before you upgrade the firmware on your switch or director, ensure that the following steps are verified to ensure compatibility with the new Fabric OS version and any older Fabric OS version.

Connected Switches

Before you upgrade the firmware on your switch or director, review the connected switches in your fabric to ensure compatibility with the new Fabric OS version and that any older Fabric OS versions are supported. Refer to the "Fabric OS Compatibility" section of the Fabric OS release notes for the recommended firmware version.

NOTE

Starting simultaneous firmware downloads on adjacent fixed-port switches may result in traffic disruption.

To determine if you need to upgrade switches that are connected to the switch that you are upgrading, use the `version` command on each connected switch to display the firmware information and build dates.

Chassis-wide Zone Size Restrictions

The collective zone configuration database size must not exceed 1 MB for the fixed-port switch logical partitions and 2 MB for director logical partitions for a successful firmware migration to Fabric OS 8.1.x or later. If the zone database size exceeds the limit, upgrading to Fabric OS 8.1.x or later is blocked until the configured zone databases are reduced to meet the zone size limits.

Removing Unsupported Blades

Fabric OS 8.2.x does not support the following blades in Brocade DCX 8510 directors:

- FS8-18
- FCOE10-24
- FC8-32E
- FC8-48E
- FC8-64

These blades must be physically removed from any Brocade DCX 8510 chassis before upgrading it to Fabric OS 8.2.x. The firmware upgrade process will be blocked if any one of these blades is present. If any of these blades is installed after upgrading to Fabric OS 8.2.x, the slot that the blade is in will fault and the blade will not be available; all other blades will function normally.

NOTE

The commands related to slot power, such as `slotpoweroff`, `slotpoweron`, and `slotshow`, are not sufficient for the effective removal of blades from any Brocade DCX 8510 chassis.

General Upgrade Considerations

Consider the following information before upgrading a device to Fabric OS 8.2.x:

- You cannot upgrade to the Fabric OS 8.2.x release if more than four custom Monitoring and Alerting Policy Suite (MAPS) policies are configured. For more information, refer to the *Brocade Fabric OS MAPS User Guide*.
- When upgrading to the Fabric OS 8.2.x release with encryption-enabled ports on a Brocade FC32-48 port blade, the trunking configuration will be disabled on those ports.
- Upgrading to the Fabric OS 8.2.x release allows you to extend the length of the chassis name up to 31 characters.
- During the firmware upgrade, a configuration file uploaded from the Fabric OS 7.4.x and later releases can be used to configure a similar device running Fabric OS 8.2.x. Configuration files for Fabric OS 7.3.x and earlier releases are not supported for Fabric OS 8.2.x releases.
- If the root password on a device is set to the default value when you upgrade, the root account will retain its previous status. That is, if the root account was disabled in the previous version of the operating system, it will remain disabled; but if it is enabled in the previous version, it will remain enabled after the upgrade. Be aware that the root account is disabled by default on all devices shipped directly from the factory or if you use the `firmwarecleaninstall` command to update the device, assuming that the earlier release is supported on the platform.

NOTE

Not all systems ship with a root account. If your device does not ship with a root account, this account cannot be enabled.

- When upgrading to the Fabric OS 8.2.x release, if the switch is already configured with an IP address, you must change the IP address to permit registered organization name (RON) configuration.
- An X6 nondisruptive upgrade is supported, and the Layer 2 functionality (LACP and LLDP) is available for use. The LACP and LLDP protocols in the Fabric OS 8.2.x release are managed by the protocol code based on Fabric OS FCoE-based Layer 2 functionality.

General Downgrade Considerations

Consider the following general items before attempting to downgrade a device from Fabric OS 8.2.x to an earlier version of Fabric OS software:

- You cannot downgrade a switch to a Fabric OS version earlier than when it is introduced.
- Before downgrading the Fabric OS version on a Brocade G620 Switch, issue a `switchshow` CLI command to identify the switchtype of the switch. If the output shows a switchtype of 162.5, then the switch must run Fabric OS 8.2.x or later versions. You cannot downgrade the Fabric OS version to an earlier version.
- The nondisruptive migration is not supported on downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to prior versions of Brocade 7840 Switch and Brocade SX6 Extension blades. Once the firmware downgrade is completed, you must perform the `slotpoweroff` or `slotpoweron` command on the Brocade SX6 Extension blade and switch the power cycle of the Brocade 7840 Switch.
- Logical switches with an LS instance greater than 7 are not supported in Fabric OS 8.0.x or earlier versions. Please delete the logical switch with the LS instance greater than 7 before downgrading. The LS instance can be verified using the `lscfg --show -instance` command.
- Fabric OS 8.x versions automatically detect mismatches between the active control processor (CP) firmware and the application processor (AP) blade firmware, and they trigger the autoleveling process. This process automatically

updates the AP blade firmware to match the active CP firmware. At the end of the autoleveling process, the active CP and the AP blade will be running the same firmware version.

- Root access level settings (if available) will not block a downgrade, no matter what configuration exists for root access (console only, none, or all). Root-level access is allowed on all interfaces after a downgrade. Also, the root account setting (enabled or disabled) persists after a downgrade.
- You cannot downgrade a Brocade X6 Director with an FC32-64 port blade to any Fabric OS version earlier than Fabric OS 8.2.x.
- The `firmwaredownload` command is not supported if a Layer 2 configuration is present on the system. The FCoE related configurations must be removed before downgrading.
- The firmware downgrade is not supported if the current configuration has dynamic LAG support on the Brocade 7840 and Brocade SX6 Extension blade. Dynamic LAG support must be removed before downgrading to firmware versions prior to Fabric OS 8.2.x.
- A firmware downgrade is not supported if the current configuration has LLDP configurations enabled on the Brocade 7840 and Brocade SX6 Extension blade.
- A firmware downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to any earlier version is not supported if first three SNMP user(s)/community(s) with the group name `rw` are configured with the group name `ro`.
- If you downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to any earlier version, the fabric restrictions will not be supported on the impaired port.
- A firmware downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to any earlier version will be blocked if the rate limiting feature is not disabled. The rate limiting feature must be turned off using the `configure` command.
- Downgrading from Fabric OS 8.2.x to any earlier version will be blocked if both trunking and encryption are enabled on the Brocade FC32-48 port blade.
- If you downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to any earlier version, only the first 15 characters of the 31-character chassis name will be visible. The remaining 16 characters will be unavailable.
- A firmware downgrade is not supported if ISL R_RDY mode is configured on any ports in a base switch.
- If you downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to a Fabric OS version, the Fabric Impaired state will not persist, and fabric daemon ports will not enforce any impaired conditions.
- A firmware downgrade from Fabric OS 8.2.x to an earlier version is not supported on the Brocade G610 Switch and Brocade 6505 Switch.

Peer Zone Considerations

Fabric OS 8.1.x and later versions allow you to create peer zones using alias names as principal and nonprincipal members. Because aliases are not supported in previous versions, firmware downgrades will be blocked if a peer zone using an alias is present in the zone database, and a message similar to the following will be displayed.

Firmware downgrade to Fabric OS 8.0.x or later is not allowed because Alias Peer Zones are configured. Before downgrading, remove all alias members from all peer zones.

If peer zoning exists in the zone configuration, downgrading from Fabric OS 8.0.x or later to versions before Fabric OS 7.3.x displays the following warning message.

WARNING: You are downgrading to a version of Fabric OS that does not support Peer Zoning. The peer zone(s) or target driven peer zone(s) enabled in the effective configuration will be treated as regular zones after downgrade.

Enhanced Zone Object Name Considerations

Fabric OS 8.1.x and later versions allow you to create configuration and zone alias names that start with a number or that contain special characters such as “-”, “\$”, or “^”. Because these naming options are not supported in previous versions, if the zone database contains a zone object name that uses any of these options, the firmware downgrade will be blocked and the following message will be displayed:

Firmware downgrade to Fabric OS 8.0.x or later is not allowed because Enhanced Zone Object Names are configured. Before downgrading, remove any zone objects containing enhanced names or modify zone object names such that they are not numeric-starting and do not contain special characters ("-", "\$", "^").

Upgrading Firmware on Fixed-Port Switches

Before you begin, see [Connected Switches](#) and confirm that all connected switches in the fabric are running a supported Fabric OS version before starting any upgrade. If they are not, you should upgrade the deficient switches before proceeding. You can use the `firmwareshow` command to determine the current firmware version on each switch.

1. Connect to the switch that you want to upgrade, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
2. Enter `firmwaredownload` and respond to the prompts.

NOTE

If DNS is enabled and a server name instead of a server IP address is specified in the command line, `firmwaredownload` automatically determines whether IPv4 or IPv6 should be used. To mention an FTP server by name, you must configure at least one DNS server using the `firmwaredownload` command.

3. Enter **y** at the `Do you want to continue [y/n]` prompt.
4. After the high availability (HA) reboot, reconnect to the switch and log in again using an account with admin permissions.

NOTE

During the brief period of (HA) reboot on fixed-port switches, exchanges involving Fibre Channel Generic Services may experience a delay. Devices may need to retry the operation(s) in these cases.

5. Enter `firmwaredownloadstatus` to determine if the firmware download process has completed.
6. After the firmware commit is completed, which takes several minutes, enter the `firmwareshow` command to verify that the firmware level of both partitions is the same.

```
switch:admin> firmwareshow
Slot Name      Appl      Primary/Secondary Versions      Status
-----
 4  CP0        FOS       v8.2.1
                               v8.2.1                          ACTIVE *
```

* Local CP

FPGA Firmware Upgrade Utility

The FPGA firmware upgrade utility allows you to upgrade the field-programmable gate array (FPGA) firmware on Brocade platforms, and it verifies that the updated image is correctly installed.

NOTE

FPGA images are specific to an individual platform and are packaged in the Fabric OS firmware download. Appropriate FPGA firmware images are copied to the system when you run `firmwaredownload`.

The firmware download does not automatically update the FPGA firmware into the system's FPGA flash memory. If an updated FPGA version is included in a Fabric OS firmware update, after the firmware download is completed, you must enter `fpgaupgrade` to update the FPGA firmware. Once the FPGA upgrade is successful, you must power-cycle the entire device (not just an HA failover or a reboot) for the new FPGA firmware to be active. If the FPGA upgrade is not successful, an error message will be displayed. In this case, you should not power-cycle the device until you have resolved the error condition.

If your device is already running the latest FPGA image, entering `fpgaupgrade` displays a message that the image is up to date, and the utility will not update the FPGA flash memory. The following example illustrates a switch that is running the latest FPGA version:

```
switch:admin> fpgaupgrade
The switch is already running the latest FPGA version
```

If your device is not running the latest FPGA image, running `fpgaupgrade` updates the FPGA flash memory with the new image and then verifies that the updated image is correctly installed. The following example illustrates a switch that needs the latest FPGA version upgrade:

```
switch:admin> fpgaupgrade
This is a disruptive operation and will require a power-cycle after the completion of the operation.
Do you want to continue (y/n) ?
Y
Programming new FPGA, this may take a few minutes ...
Device #1 IDCODE is 0310A0DD
full-chip erasing Max 10 FPGA device(s) ...
programming Max 10 FPGA CFM0 block at sector 5 ...
programming Max 10 FPGA CFM1 block at sector 3 ...
programming Max 10 FPGA CFM1 block at sector 4 ...
programming Max 10 FPGA UFM block at sector 2 ...
verifying Max 10 FPGA CFM0 block at sector 5 ...
verifying Max 10 FPGA CFM1 block at sector 3 ...
verifying Max 10 FPGA CFM1 block at sector 4 ...
verifying Max 10 FPGA UFM block at sector 2 ...
programming Max 10 FPGA DSM block ...
DONE
Test time elapsed = 162.764267 sec
Exit code = 0... Success
Programmed new FPGA successfully. Please power-cycle for it to take effect.
```

You can use `fpgaupgrade --latest` to verify if the running FPGA image is the latest or not. The following example shows a down-level FPGA.

```
switch:admin> fpgaupgrade --latest
Current      Latest
-----
0x05.05      0x06.06
```

Depending on the error, you may be requested not to power-cycle the system until the corrective action is taken. The following is an example of such an FPGA update failure:

```
switch:admin> fpgaupgrade
This is a disruptive operation and will require a power-cycle after the completion of the operation.
Do you want to continue (y/n) ?
Y
Programming new FPGA, this may take a few minutes ...
Exit code = 6.. Device verify failure
FPGA update failed. Avoid doing power cycle
Failed to program new FPGA (-1)
```



CAUTION

Do not power-cycle the affected blade or switch before contacting your switch supplier if there is an error. A failed FPGA update can result in an outage for the affected blade or the entire switch (in the case of a nonbladed chassis).

Upgrading Firmware on Directors (Including Blades)

You can obtain the firmware file for the version of Fabric OS software that you want to load onto the director from <https://www.broadcom.com/mybroadcom>. See [Downloading Firmware](#) for details on this process of downloading the firmware files from the website and download the firmware to a switch or a director.

NOTE

If the director being upgraded does not support HA (either due to a synchronization issue or because the director has been disabled), you can still upgrade the CPs one at a time. However, this process may disrupt traffic if the sync feature is not available. To upgrade the CPs, follow the directions for fixed-port switch upgrades.

Before you begin, see [Connected Switches](#) and confirm that all connected switches in the fabric are running a supported version of Fabric OS software before starting any upgrades. If they are not, you should upgrade the deficient switches before proceeding. Use the `firmwareshow` command to determine the current firmware version on each switch.

1. Verify that the Ethernet interfaces located on CP0 and CP1 are plugged into your network.
2. Verify that the FTP, SFTP, or SSH server is running on the host server and that you have full access (a valid user ID, a password, and permissions) on that server.
3. Unpack the compressed files, preserving the directory structures.

See [Downloading Firmware](#) for details on this process for your environment. If you plan to use a USB device for `firmwaredownload`, you should copy the uncompressed release folder to the device at this time.

4. Connect to the chassis IP management interface or active control processor (CP), and log in using an account with admin permissions.

NOTE

A Brocade director has only one chassis management IP address.

NOTE

Synchronization is not firmware that is synced, only the CPs. They can differ in firmware versions and still be in sync. See the `firmwaresync` command to trigger a sync of actual firmware from the active to the standby CP.

5. Enter the `hashow` command to confirm that the two CP blades are synchronized.

In the following example, the active CP blade is CP0, and the standby CP blade is CP1:

```
switch:admin> hashow
Local CP (Slot 5, CP0): Active, Warm Recovered
Remote CP (Slot 6, CP1): Standby, Healthy
HA enabled, Heartbeat Up, HA State synchronized
```

Ensure that both the CP blades are synchronized and running Fabric OS 8.2.1 to provide a nondisruptive download. If the CP blades are not synchronized, enter the `hasyncstart` command to synchronize them. If the CPs remain unsynchronized, contact your switch service provider.

For further troubleshooting, refer to the *Brocade Fabric OS Troubleshooting and Diagnostics Guide*.

6. Enter the `firmwaredownload` command, and respond to the interactive prompts.

7. Enter **y** at the `Do you want to continue [Y]` prompt.

The firmware is downloaded to one CP blade at a time, beginning with the standby CP blade. During the process, the active CP blade fails over. After the firmware is downloaded, a firmware commit starts on both CP blades. The entire firmware download and commit process takes approximately 17 minutes.

On the Brocade DCX 8510 Director if an FX8-24 blade is present: Upon failover, an autoleveling process is activated. Autoleveling is triggered when the active CP detects a blade that contains a different firmware version,

regardless of which version is older. Autoleveling downloads firmware to the blade's internal BP processor, swaps partitions, reboots the blade and copies the new firmware from the primary partition to the secondary partition. If you have multiple FX8-24 blades, they will be updated simultaneously; however, the downloads may occur at different rates.

Autoleveling occurs in parallel with the firmware download being performed on the CPs, but it does not impact performance. Fibre Channel traffic is not disrupted during autoleveling, but Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) traffic on AP blades may be affected. If there is an active FCIP tunnel on the FX8-24 blade, the FCIP tunnel traffic will be impacted for at least 2 minutes.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload
Server Name or IP Address: 10.1.2.3
User Name: user
File Name: /home/user/8.2.1
Network Protocol (1-auto-select, 2-FTP, 3-SCP, 4-SFTP) [1]:
Password: <hidden>
Checking version compatibility...
Version compatibility check passed.
The following AP blades are installed in the system.
Slot Name      Versions              Traffic Disrupted
-----
8   FX8-24      8.0.2                GigE
```

This command will upgrade the firmware on both CPs and all AP blade(s) above.
 If you want to upgrade firmware on a single CP only, please use `-s` option.
 You may run `firmwaredownloadstatus` to get the status of this command.
 This command will cause a warm/non-disruptive boot on the active CP,
 but will require that existing telnet, secure telnet or SSH sessions be restarted.
 Do you want to continue [Y]: y
 . . .
 The firmware is being downloaded to the Standby CP. It may take up to 10 minutes.

8. After the failover, connect to the switch, and log in again using an admin account.
9. Using a separate session to connect to the switch, enter `firmwaredownloadstatus` to monitor the firmware download status.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownloadstatus
[1]: Mon Oct 24 04:27:21 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, active): Firmware is being downloaded to the switch. This step may take up to 30 minutes.
[2]: Mon Oct 24 04:34:58 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, active): Relocating an internal firmware image on the CP blade.
[3]: Mon Oct 24 04:35:29 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, active): The internal firmware image is relocated successfully.
[4]: Mon Oct 24 04:35:30 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, active): Firmware has been downloaded to the secondary partition of the switch.
[5]: Mon Oct 24 04:37:24 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, standby): The firmware commit operation has started. This may take up to 10 minutes.
[6]: Mon Oct 24 04:41:59 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, standby): The commit operation has completed successfully.
[7]: Mon Oct 24 04:41:59 2018
Slot 7 (CP1, standby): Firmwaredownload command has completed successfully. Use firmwaredownloadstatus to verify the
firmware versions.
```

10. Enter `firmwaredownload` to display the installed firmware version. The output enables you to confirm that the firmware has been correctly installed.

```
switch:admin> firmwaredownload
Slot Name      Appl      Primary/Secondary Versions      Status
-----
 4  CP0        FOS       v8.2.1                          ACTIVE *
                               v8.2.1
```

* Local CP

Validating the Firmware Version

You can validate the firmware version and the change to a fixed-port switch or chassis-based platform by running the `firmwaredownload` and `firmwaredownloadstatus` commands.

NOTE

There is no way to perform a checksum validation on a direct firmware installation; the files are directly transferred and installed from the Brocade file servers.

Table 6: Commands Used for Validating Firmware Downloads and Version

Command	Description
<code>firmwaredownload</code>	Displays the current firmware level on the switch, including any states in transition during the firmware download process. For Brocade chassis-based devices, this command displays the firmware loaded on both partitions (primary and secondary) for all control processor (CP) and application processor (AP) blades. Maintain the same firmware level on both partitions of each CP within the device.
<code>firmwaredownloadstatus</code>	Displays an event log that records the progress and status of events during Fabric OS firmware downloads. An event log is created by the current <code>firmwaredownload</code> command and is kept until another <code>firmwaredownload</code> command is issued. A timestamp is associated with each event. When downloading to devices with two control processors, you can run this command only on the active CP. When downloading Fabric OS firmware, the event logs in the two CPs are synchronized. This command can be run from either CP.

Verifying the Device and Fabric Connections

Use the `nsshow`, `nsallshow`, and `fabricshow` commands to ensure that the fabric and connections to the attached devices are restored correctly. Use the `switchshow` command to verify that no ports are coming up as G_Ports.

NOTE

All connected servers, storage devices, and switches should be present in the output of these commands. If there is a discrepancy, it is possible that a device or switch cannot connect to the fabric, and further troubleshooting is necessary.

Table 7: Commands Used for Validating Firmware and Fabric Functionality

Command	Description
nsshow	Displays all devices directly connected to the switch that have logged in to the name server. This command displays <code>Connected through AG: Yes</code> if devices are connected to the fabric through an Access Gateway, and it displays <code>Real device behind AG: Yes</code> if a real device is connected behind the Access Gateway device. After the firmware download, make sure that the number of attached devices is the same as the number of attached devices before the firmware download.
nsallshow	Displays the port IDs for all devices connected to the fabric. After the firmware download, make sure that the number of attached devices is the same as the number of attached devices before the firmware download.
fabricshow	Displays all devices in a fabric. After the firmware download, make sure that the number of devices in the fabric is the same as the number of attached devices before the firmware download.

Testing Firmware

Testing and Restoring Firmware on Switches

Typically you restore (downgrade) a switch to the original firmware version after evaluating a newer or different version. Testing firmware in this manner allows you to easily restore a switch to the existing firmware version because the evaluation version occupies only one partition on the switch.

**CAUTION**

When you evaluate new firmware, be sure to disable all features supported by the newer firmware before restoring the original firmware.

Testing a Different Firmware Version on a Switch

1. Enter `firmwaredownload -s` to download the firmware to a single partition. See [Downloading Firmware](#) for details on this process for your environment.
2. Connect to the switch, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
3. Enter `firmwareshow` to view the current firmware.
4. If the firmware level change is only one level up or down, the system will attempt a nondisruptive high availability (HA) reboot. If the firmware level change is greater than one level up or down, the reboot will be disruptive, and traffic on that switch and possibly on its fabric may be affected. This is by design. The switch performs a complete reboot and comes up with the new firmware to be tested. Your current switch session is automatically disconnected as part of the reboot.
5. Reconnect to the switch, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
6. Enter `firmwaredownloadstatus` to view the status of the firmware download.

Once you have downloaded and installed the new firmware version, you can evaluate it. Once you have completed your evaluation, you can either commit the firmware (install it fully) or revert to the previously installed version.

Committing Evaluation Firmware

If you want to commit (fully install) the firmware that you have been evaluating, complete the following steps.

1. Enter `firmwareshow` to confirm that the primary partition of the switch contains the new firmware.
2. Enter `firmwarecommit` to update the secondary partition with the new firmware.
It takes several minutes to complete the commit operation.
3. Enter `firmwaredownloadstatus` to view the status of the firmware download.
4. Enter `firmwareshow` to confirm that both partitions on the switch contain the new firmware.

When you have completed this step, you have committed the firmware to the switch and have completed the firmware download procedure.

Reverting Evaluation Firmware

If you want to remove the firmware that you have been evaluating and revert to the previously installed firmware, complete the following steps.

1. Enter `firmwarerestore` to reboot the switch and restore the original firmware.

This automatically begins to copy the original firmware from the primary partition to the secondary partition. At the end of the process, both partitions will have the original firmware. It takes several minutes to restore the firmware.

2. Wait at least 5 minutes after running `firmwarerestore` to ensure that all processes have completed and that the switch is fully up and operational.
3. Reconnect to the switch, and log in using an account with admin permissions.
4. Enter `firmwareshow` and verify that both partitions on the switch have the original firmware.

Testing and Restoring Firmware on Directors

The procedures described in [Testing a Different Firmware Version on a Director](#) and [Test-Driving a New Firmware Version on a Director](#) enable you to perform a firmware download on each control processor (CP) and to verify that the procedure was successful before committing to the new firmware. The previous firmware is saved in the secondary partition of each CP until you enter the `firmwarecommit` command. If you decide to back out of the installation before the firmware commit, you can enter `firmwarerestore` to restore the former Fabric OS firmware image.

ATTENTION

The `firmwarerestore` command can run only if the autocommit functionality was disabled during the firmware download.

NOTE

Under normal operating conditions, maintain the same firmware version on both CPs and both partitions of each CP. This enables you to evaluate firmware before you commit. As a standard practice, do not run mixed firmware levels on CPs.

Testing a Different Firmware Version on a Director

NOTE

The `firmwarerestore` command is local to the control processor (CP). If you run this command on the standby CP, it reboots the standby as expected, swaps partitions, and then runs `firmwarecommit` to complete the effective removal of the previous firmware. If, however, you run `firmwarerestore` on the active CP, it performs the same actions as for the standby, but then it automatically triggers a failover to the standby CP, because effectively you have rebooted the active CP with the `firmwarerestore` command.

1. Connect to the IP address for the director.
2. Enter `ipaddrshow` and note the addresses for CP0 and CP1.
3. Enter `hashow` and note which CP is the active and which CP is the standby.
4. Confirm that both CPs are in sync. This is indicated by the text *HA State synchronized* in the `hashow` output, as shown below.

```
switch:admin> hashow
Local CP (Slot 5, CP0): Active, Warm Recovered
Remote CP (Slot 6, CP1): Standby, Healthy
HA enabled, Heartbeat Up, HA State synchronized
```

If the CPs are not in sync, see [Downloading Firmware](#) for instructions on synchronizing them.

5. Enter `firmwaredownload` and confirm that the current firmware on both partitions on both CPs is listed as expected.
6. Exit the session.
7. Update the firmware on the standby CP.
 - a) Connect to the director, and log in as admin to the standby CP.
 - b) Enter `firmwaredownload -sfn` and respond to the prompts.
At this point, the firmware downloads to the standby CP only. When the download to the standby CP has completed, reboot the CP. The current session is disconnected.
8. Fail over to the standby CP.
 - a) Connect to the active CP.
 - b) Enter `hashow` and verify that high availability (HA) synchronization is complete. It typically takes a minute or two for the standby CP to reboot and synchronize with the active CP.
 - c) Enter `firmwaredownload` and confirm that the primary partition of the standby CP contains the new firmware.
 - d) Enter `hafailover`. The active CP reboots, and the current session is disconnected.
If an FX8-24 blade is installed: At the point of failover, an autoleveling process is activated to match the firmware on the blade with the firmware on the CP. Both blade partitions must always contain the same firmware version. The firmware is stored on the blade's compact flash card and is always synchronized with the active CP's firmware. This is why the blade firmware is automatically downloaded (autoleveled) to become consistent with the CP firmware.
9. Verify that the failover succeeded.
 - a) Connect to the active CP (the former standby CP).
 - b) Enter `hashow` and verify that the HA synchronization is complete. It takes a minute or two for the standby CP, which is the old active CP, to reboot and synchronize with the active CP.

NOTE
If the CPs fail to synchronize, you can still proceed because the version being tested is already present on the active CP, and subsequent steps ensure that the standby CP is updated to the same version as the active CP.
 - c) Enter `firmwaredownload` to confirm that the evaluation firmware version is now running on the active CP.
10. Update the firmware on the standby CP. This allows you to test and validate HA failover using the new firmware.
 - a) Connect to the standby CP (the former active CP).
 - b) Enter `firmwaredownload -sbn`. This ensures that the following steps are successful.
The firmware is downloaded to the standby CP only, and that CP is rebooted. This causes the current login session to be disconnected.
 - c) Wait 1 minute for the standby CP to reboot, and then connect to the director and log in as admin.
 - d) Enter `firmwaredownload` and confirm that both primary partitions have the test-drive firmware.
You are now ready to evaluate the new firmware version.

ATTENTION
Stop! If you want to *restore* the firmware, stop here and skip to Step 13. Otherwise, continue to Step 11 to commit the firmware on both CPs; doing so completes the firmware download.
11. Enter `firmwarecommit` to update the secondary partition on the standby CP with the new firmware.

**CAUTION**

Do not do anything on the director while this operation is in process. It takes several minutes to complete the commit operation.

12. Perform a commit on the active CP.

- a) Enter `firmwaredisplay` in the current session on the active CP, and confirm that only the active CP secondary partition contains the old firmware.
- b) Enter `firmwarecommit` to update the secondary partition with the new firmware. It takes several minutes to complete the commit operation.



CAUTION

Do not do anything on the director while this operation is in process.

- c) When the `firmwarecommit` command completes, enter `firmwaredisplay` and confirm that both partitions on both CPs contain the new firmware.
- d) Enter `show` and confirm that the HA state is in sync.

ATTENTION

Stop! If you have completed both Steps 11 and 12, the firmware has been committed to both CPs, and the firmware download procedure is complete.

13. Enter `firmwarerestore` in the current session on the standby CP to restore the firmware on that CP.

The standby CP reboots, and the current session ends. After several minutes, both partitions should have the same Fabric OS version.

14. Run HA failover on the active CP.

- a) Enter `show` in the current session on the active CP, and verify that HA synchronization is complete. It typically takes a minute or two for the standby CP to reboot and synchronize with the active CP.
- b) Enter `hafailover` .
The active CP reboots, and the current session ends. The director is now running the original firmware on the original active CP.

15. Restore the firmware on the *new* standby CP.

- a) Wait 1 minute, and then connect to the director on the new standby CP, which is the former active CP.
- b) Enter `firmwarerestore` .
The standby CP reboots, and the current session ends. After several minutes, both partitions should have the same Fabric OS version.
- c) Wait 5 minutes, and then log back in to the director.
- d) Enter `firmwaredisplay` and verify that all partitions have the original firmware.

Your system is now restored to the original partitions on both CPs. You should confirm that all servers using the fabric can access their storage devices. See [Validating the Firmware Version](#) for information on this task.

If an FX8-24 blade is installed: Both blade partitions must always contain the same firmware version. The firmware is stored on the blade's compact flash card and is always synchronized with the active CP's firmware. Thus, if you restore the active CP firmware, the blade firmware is automatically downloaded (autoleveled) to become consistent with the new CP firmware (the blade firmware is restored).

If you want to upgrade a director that has only one CP installed, follow the procedures in [Testing and Restoring Firmware on Directors](#). Be aware that upgrading a director with only one CP is disruptive to switch traffic.

Test-Driving a New Firmware Version on a Director

The procedure presented below shows how you might install a firmware version to *test-drive* it without either overwriting the version that you are currently using or rebooting your active control processor (CP).

NOTE

The information in this procedure is written at a moderately high level of abstraction, so you may need to look at the more detailed steps in [Testing a Different Firmware Version on a Director](#) if you have questions.

1. Enter `firmwaredownload -sn` to download the firmware to the standby CP without committing it.
2. Reboot the standby CP.
3. Enter `hafailover` on the active CP to cause the standby CP to come up as the active CP with the “test-drive” firmware active.
4. Run tests as desired on the new firmware on the active CP.
5. Once you have completed your testing, you have two options; neither will disrupt the traffic on the director.
 - Option 1: *I want to restore the firmware I had before.*
 - a. Enter `hafailover` on the active CP to get back to the original CP (running the original firmware).
 - b. Enter `firmwarerestore` on the standby CP.
This will reboot the standby, swap the partitions, and then run `firmwarecommit` on the standby CP.
 - Option 2: *I want to fully install the new firmware.*
 - a. Enter `firmwaredownload -sb` on the current standby CP (running the original firmware).
This loads new firmware, reboots the director, and then commits the firmware on the standby.
 - b. Enter `firmwarecommit` on the current active CP (running the new firmware).
You are now done. Both CPs have the latest firmware committed and active.

Revision History

FOS-821-SW-Upgrade-UG104; March 15, 2021

All references to the Fabric OS 8.2.x version were standardized.

FOS-821-SW-Upgrade-UG103; February 13, 2019

- The chapters and topics were realigned to improve the clarity of the upgrade and downgrade processes.
- The document was updated for the document for stylistic changes.

FOS-821-SW-Upgrade-UG102; October 17, 2018

- Downgrade considerations for a Brocade G620 Switch were added.

FOS-821-SW-Upgrade-UG101; September 28, 2018

- Revised the publication number.
- Added “Revision History” to the document.
- Updated the document template.

FOS-821-SW-Upgrade-UG100; August 28, 2018

- Added the Brocade 7810 Extension Switch to the list of supported hardware.
- Revised the general upgrade and downgrade considerations.
- Revised the supported upgrade paths.
- Updated the Currently Supported Fabric OS Versions and Platforms table.
- Added trunking support for encryption on the Brocade FC32-48 port blade on pages 9 and 11.
- Added support for extension of the chassis name up to 31 characters on pages 9 and 11.
- Added ISL R_RDY support in a base switch on page 11.
- Added impaired port support in the fabric daemon on page 12.

