Managing Firmware Upgrades

Overview

Firmware upgrades allow network administrators to utilize the latest features and security enhancements on their Meraki devices. The Cisco Meraki Dashboard allows admins to easily schedule and reschedule firmware upgrades on their networks, opt-in to beta firmware releases, view firmware changelog notes, and to set maintenance windows. This article outlines the functions of the firmware upgrades tool in Dashboard, as well as additional considerations for using and managing firmware.

Managing Firmware as an Organization Admin

The Firmware Upgrades tool in Dashboard allows organization admins to quickly and easily manage firmware versions on a per-network and per-device type basis. Additionally, the Firmware Upgrades tool can be used to schedule, reschedule, and cancel bulk upgrades of networks, view firmware changelog notes, view firmware version numbers, and to rollback the firmware on a recently upgraded network.

Scheduling Firmware Upgrades

Keeping up-to-date on firmware allows administrators to utilize the latest features and ensures that the latest security enhancements are running on their hardware. Admins can upgrade to the latest stable or latest beta firmware. Follow the steps below to schedule a firmware upgrade.

1. Navigate to Organization > Monitor > Firmware upgrades.
2. Click the All networks tab in the upper-left.
3. Select the devices or networks to be upgraded by clicking the checkboxes beside the network names. Admins can specify upgrades on a per-network or per-device type basis by using the Device type, Current version, and/or Firmware status dropdown selectors.
4. Click the Schedule upgrades button.
5. Select the firmware version that should be upgraded to using the Target firmware version selector.
6. Select either Perform the upgrade now or Schedule the upgrade for, specifying a specific date and time for the upgrade.
7. Review the Change Summary and select Schedule change for network.

Note: When downgrading from a beta firmware to a stable firmware, a feedback request page will be presented. Please select any options that reflect the downgrade reason before selecting Schedule change for network.
Rescheduling or Canceling a Firmware Upgrade

Rescheduling or canceling a firmware upgrade can be performed after a firmware upgrade has been scheduled. Follow the steps below to reschedule or cancel a firmware upgrade.

1. Navigate to Organization > Monitor > Firmware upgrades.
2. From the Overview tab, view the Scheduled changes section, and find the applicable scheduled upgrade.
3. Scheduled upgrades will be grouped by their respective products and scheduled upgrade time.
4. For any given scheduled product upgrade, Click either the Reschedule or Cancel button. If selecting Reschedule, choose either Perform the upgrade now or Schedule upgrade for, specifying a date and time for the upgrade to take place.
5. By selecting Cancel for a given scheduled upgrade, the upgrade will be canceled for all networks listed for that upgrade.

**Note:** Firmware upgrades can be scheduled up to one month in advance and as such, can only be deferred/rescheduled for one month at a time. Cancelling scheduled firmware upgrades does not exclude a given network from future scheduled upgrades.

Rolling Back a Recent Firmware Upgrade

Firmware upgrades can be rolled back to their previous version up to 14 days after an upgrade takes place. Follow the steps below to roll back a firmware upgrade.

1. Navigate to Organization > Monitor > Firmware upgrades.
2. From the Overview tab, view the Most recent upgrades section, and find the applicable upgrade entry.
3. Click on the applicable upgrade entry where it lists the number of networks and devices that were upgraded.
4. Click the Rollback button.
5. Select a reason for the rollback and enter a brief description.
6. Select Perform the upgrade now or Schedule the upgrade for, specifying a date and time for the rollback.
7. Click Submit to schedule the rollback.

Viewing Firmware Changelog Notes

Changelog notes are maintained on a per-firmware version basis and include information about new features, bug fixes, and known issues that are associated with a particular firmware version. Follow the steps below to view the firmware changelog notes.

1. Navigate to Organization > Monitor > Firmware upgrades.
2. From the Overview tab, refer to where it lists Current stable firmware versions.
3. Select Release notes. This will display the current stable firmware changelog notes.
4. To view older or newer changelog notes, select Previous version or Next version from the changelog notes window.
Managing Firmware as a Network Admin

Firmware upgrades can be scheduled on a per-device type basis for each Dashboard network. Follow the steps below to schedule a firmware upgrade.

1. Navigate to Network-wide > Monitor > General.
2. Scroll down to where it lists Firmware upgrades.
3. If there is a new firmware available, select either Reschedule the firmware upgrade, Perform the upgrade now, or Upgrade as scheduled.
4. Navigate to the bottom of the page and select Save.

To elect to run beta firmware, select Try beta firmware and select Yes.

Viewing Firmware Changelog Notes as a Network Admin

Changelog notes are maintained on a per-firmware version basis and include information about new features, bug fixes, and known issues that are associated with a particular firmware version. Follow the steps below to view the firmware changelog notes.

1. Navigate to Network-wide > Configure > General.
2. Scroll down to where it lists Firmware upgrades.
3. If there is a new firmware available, select the What's new button beside the corresponding firmware. This page lists the firmware changelog notes.

Note: The firmware changelog can also be view from the All networks tab, and clicking on the firmware version links listed in the "Current firmware version" column.