nShield Security World Release Information

nShield Security World Software Release Policy

21 October 2024

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1. Version

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	2024-10-21	First published version of nShield Security World Software Release Policy

2. Introduction

All Entrust nShield Software releases follow a software lifecycle starting from initial release to end-of-life (EOL) when the release is no longer supported. All releases have a defined support and update process depending on the release type. Knowing the release type and key dates in this lifecycle helps customers to make informed decisions about when to upgrade and what software release to move to.

Entrust has introduced a new software release lifecycle and release type definition for nShield Security World releases. This document details the policy and transition to its use. Timeframes mentioned in this document are approximate.

3. Security World

Security World software releases consist of several software components:

- Security World client-side software - software installed on the client PC to support use of the HSM
- Firmware for HSMs - firmware that runs on nShield HSMs
- Image for network Connect HSMs - image that runs on nShield Connect
- CodeSafe Developer - option pack installed with client-side software to support development of CodeSafe applications
- Remote Admin Client - standalone remote admin client application

This policy applies to the above software components for all Security World releases. All other option packs and standalone software do not form part of nShield Security World releases and are not detailed in this release policy.

4. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the software lifecycle and expected support for nShield software releases. nShield has defined two different types of software releases:

- Long Term Support (LTS) release
- Standard Term Support (STS) release. STS is associated with Short Term Support.

The quality of all releases is the same, but the sections below define the differences between these release types. Every future software release will clearly show in the release notes what type of release it is.

5. Long Term Support (LTS) Releases

nShield LTS software releases are full GA releases of Security World Software releasing an update for all supported HSM products (Connect image and firmware) and the client-side software. This release will then be maintained and updated over an extended period of time to help establish product stability and provide an extended period of customer support. By default, we recommend that customers use LTS releases to ensure long-term stability.

5.1. nShield LTS Features

The nShield LTS releases will have the following benefits:

5.1.1. Regular Updates

After the initial release of the LTS release, subsequent updates to that release will be made available approximately once every three (3) months providing fixes and improvements to the release. No large functional changes will be made between these updates allowing customers to upgrade without losing any functionality or having to re-create any Security World or migrate keys.

Note: Not all parts of the Security World Release will be updated with every update release, for example, the HSM firmware will have a less frequent update schedule.

5.1.2. Regular Open-Source Software Updates

The regular updates to the LTS release will include updates to the Open-Source Software (OSS) used within Security World ensuring any appropriate security updates are incorporated into the release. Active monitoring of all OSS used in the LTS releases will be performed and any patches/updates will be made.

5.1.3. Hotfixes and updates including hotfixes

Hotfixes will be available on LTS releases allowing for more frequent updates to be provided on issues identified by customers.

The LTS regular updates will include any hotfixes made during this time ensuring customers don't need to re-patch their release with the hotfix.

5.1.4. Full Option Pack Support

nShield Security World LTS releases will have support for all in-support nShield Option Packs and any updates required for option packs will be released providing support for any active nShield LTS releases.

nShield Option Packs will primarily target their support around LTS releases.

5.1.5. Aligned with Certifications

nShield LTS releases will, where possible, be aligned with certifications on the HSM firmware ensuring a consistent version for both certified firmware with all other parts of the software.

5.1.6. Support for all supported certification HSM firmware

LTS releases will also support all supported certified firmware from previous releases allowing the Connect image and Client-side software from LTS releases to be used with any supported active certified firmware ensuring the latest updates and fixes are still received.

Please also see LTS-C firmware only releases.

5.1.7. Long Term Support and Updates

The support and regular updates mentioned above are provided for up to three (3) years from the start of the LTS support phase. This makes the LTS releases the best choice for stability and long term support with updates.

When creating the LTS release, planning will be done to ensure that compatibility with the future (i.e. operating system support) is built into the release support.

5.1.8. Extended Support

Following the end of the update cycle, the regular update cycle will end but extended support will still be available for a maximum period of one (1) year, offering hotfix support and security updates.

5.1.9. Support overlap with future LTS releases

Entrust will ensure a period of overlap between the current and next LTS release giving

customers time to evaluate and upgrade to the later LTS release whilst still getting update support on the current release.

Note: This overlap does not include extended support time, the overlap is over the main support period.

5.2. LTS Release Cadence

A new LTS release of Security World will be published approximately every eighteen (18) months, allowing customers to plan their roadmaps. This also provides the one (1) year overlap with the previous LTS release. The LTS support phase will be extended on the current LTS release if the new LTS release is delayed to ensure the overlap period remains at one (1) year. It is usual that there would only be a maximum of two (2) active LTS releases at any one time (to allow for the overlap between LTS releases).

We encourage all customers to adopt a LTS release where possible and is recommended to upgrade to the latest version of that LTS release. Later STS or LTS releases always contain the functionality made available in previous releases (unless specifically stated otherwise).

5.2.1. LTS Update Cadence

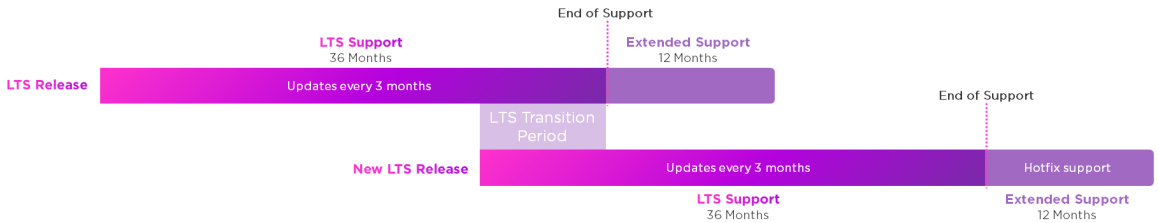
LTS releases themselves will have the following update cadence:

- Client-side updates will be released approximately every three (3) months.
- Firmware and Connect updates will be released at least once per year.
- Certified firmware updates will be released according to certification roadmap.

Updates are cumulative and release as patches, each update is built to include all of the preceding updates. Customers are recommended to install the latest update available. Updates may include Latest OSS, hotfixes and critical fixes.

5.3. LTS Release Phases

nShield LTS release lifecycle is detailed below.



5.3.1. Long-Term (LTS) Support

This is the main phase of the LTS release where the release is in full support and regular updates are made as defined in nShield LTS Features.

5.3.2. Extended Support

During this phase the regular updates of the LTS release stop. It is expected that most customers will have already moved onto the next LTS release. However extended support is provided which allows for hotfix support and fixes for Critical CVEs on OSS.

5.3.3. End of Life (EOL)

End of life refers to the date when the release reaches the end of lifecycle and stops receiving fixes and updates. End of life may also be referred to as 'end of support' (EOS).

As the end-of-life approaches for a Security World release, we recommend that customers move to a newer Security World version. LTS releases will always overlap support phases with a newer LTS release to ensure continued support is available during the transition. After support ends, we recommend that customers adopt a supported version of Security World.

6. Long Term Support Certified Firmware (LTS-C) Releases

There may be a situation that the HSM firmware from an STS release may need to be certified (to, for example, provide early certification on new products or features). In this case, although most of the release is under the STS support, the firmware would be certified and therefore under LTS support. This is referred to as LTS-C (LTS-Certified) firmware release.

This provides a long term stable certified release with future updates that would be re-certified if possible. Patching will be released in severe cases to address critical OSS CVEs, major VUL issues or essential support requirements. Release support and patches are provided for the duration of the certification length or for the time specified at release of the firmware.

Connect and Client-side support for LTS-C releases is provided by all active LTS release.

7. Standard Term Support (STS) Release

nShield STS software releases are releases that introduce new features/products on a stable LTS baseline. Unlike LTS releases, STS releases will not have a regular update schedule. Any updates will be provided by a future STS release or rolled into a LTS release. Only support and patches are provided for approximately nine (9) months after STS support begins.

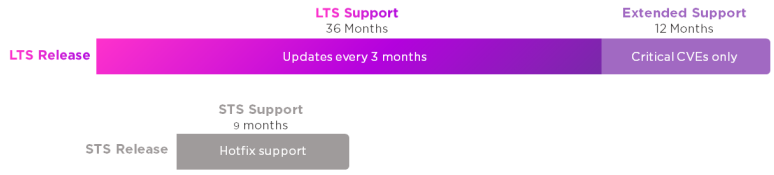
These releases provide customers access to specific features or functionality that will be rolled into a future LTS release where it will then receive the long-term support.

7.1. STS Release Cadence

STS releases are released as and when required to introduce new functionality and features. STS releases will be released alongside a supported LTS release and customers are only recommended to use the STS release in favor of the active LTS release if they require the new functionality and features. A future LTS release will be made that contains the STS release functionality in the future.

7.2. STS Release Phases

nShield STS releases go through different stages in their lifecycle as detailed below.



7.3. Standard-Term (STS) Support

This is the main phase of the STS release where the release is in full support. Customers are provided with release support and hotfixes to fix any issues found.

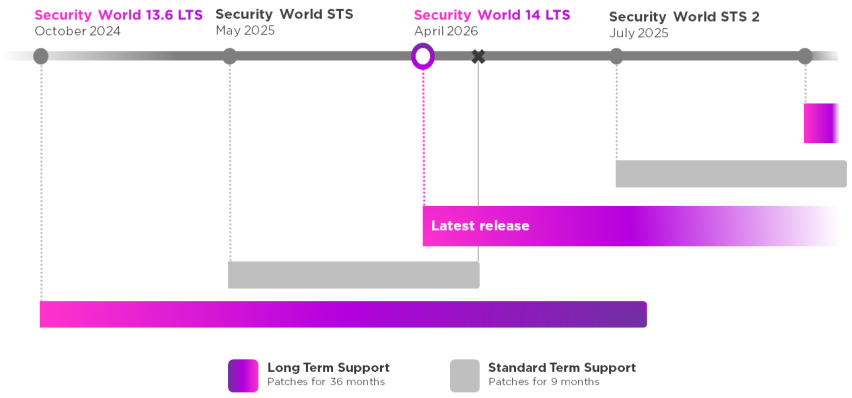
7.4. End of Life (EOL)

End of life refers to the date when the release reaches the end of lifecycle and stops receiving fixes, updates. End of life may also be referred to as 'end of support' (EOS).

As the end-of-life approaches for a Security World release, we recommend that you move to a newer Security World version. STS releases will always overlap support phases with a newer LTS release to ensure continued support is available during the transition. After support ends, we recommend that customers adopt a supported version of Security World.

8. Release Example

The diagram below shows an example of LTS and STS Security World releases.



9. Upgrade Support Paths

9.1. Upgrading from LTS releases to future LTS releases

Upgrading between LTS releases should be performed in order of release. Skipping of intermediate LTS releases are not supported.

9.2. Upgrading from STS to LTS releases

All STS releases can upgrade to the next LTS release without upgrading to any intermediate STS releases.

Customers can upgrade from their current STS to the later LTS release and then to any later future STS release if they choose to do so.

9.3. Downgrade Support Paths

It is possible to downgrade between LTS releases, although as with upgrade, downgrading must not skip intermediate LTS releases.

Where two LTS releases are in active support, customers can upgrade and downgrade back down if issues are found.

Note: Downgrading is only possible on nShield HSMs if upgrade VSN is equal or lower than the minimum VSN. It is not possible to downgrade if upgrading to a release with a higher VSN.

10. Transition to new release policy

This release and support policy will start with the recent release of Security World v13.6. The Security World v13.6 release, with v13.5 HSM firmware, will be the first nShield LTS release.

All currently certified firmware for supported HSMs will also be promoted to be LTS-C releases, making the firmware supported under LTS-C policy. All will be supported by the v13.6 Security World Software LTS release.

All other releases will remain under their old support policy and will not gain any of the LTS benefits of regular updates and support. It is therefore recommended that all customers upgrade to the recent LTS release and transition to the new support and update policy.