

Updating flexVDI software

The instructions in this page are intended to upgrade the third digit of the flexVDI software, for instance, upgrading flexvdi-manager from 3.1.1 to 3.1.2.

If you intend to upgrade from 3.0, please refer to the specific page [Upgrading from flexVDI 3.0](#)

Upgrading flexVDI Manager

flexVDI Manager is a guest that runs on the *flexVDI* infrastructure. It is not updated/installed with yum as the other components of the *flexVDI* infrastructure. Instead, when a new version of *flexVDI Manager* is released, you can update your installation with the *flexVDI* Config tool. The upgrade process preserves all logical objects created on the platform (guests, policies, storage, etc ...), while repeating the installation process would delete the database leaving the platform as new. However, it is advisable to make a [backup of the Manager](#) before proceeding with the upgrade process.

In order to update the *flexVDI Manager* version, log in **the host that is currently running your Manager instance**.

1. Execute `flexvdi-config`.
2. Select the menu entry called "Manager".
3. You should make a backup of the Manager before upgrading. To do so, select the menu entry "Backup".
4. Once the backup has been done, use the menu entry "Upgrade" .
5. It will ask for the *flexVDI Manager* password. Type it and press enter.
6. Select "Portal" to download the new *Manager* image from flexVDI Customer Portal (or local, if you have already downloaded it and copied it to the host).
7. Then select the release you want to upgrade to (usually the latest one). It will automatically download the new version. This may take some minutes.
8. Finally, the program will ask for confirmation. Note that flexvdi-config is able to discern if you want to *upgrade* or *downgrade*, depending on whether you choose a later or earlier version than the one that is already installed.
9. Then it will automatically stop the manager, replace it with the new version, and start it again. This usually takes about 5 minutes.

During the upgrade process the *flexVDI Manager* instance is stopped, so:

- guest machines will keep running, and connected users can continue their work normally.
- users can't start new connections to their desktops.
- *flexVDI Dashboard* will be disconnected. When *flexVDI Manager* starts again, it will take 2 or 3 minutes until it receives all the information from the platform and the Dashboard will show some elements in "unknown state". Don't worry, this is normal.

After the upgrade, you can open *flexVDI Dashboard*, and click on *flexVDI Manager*. In the right side of the window, you will see the currently installed version, to check that the new version is installed and running.

Updating flexVDI host packages

In general, updating the flexVDI packages when a new version is published is as easy as running `yum update` on your hosts. However, **updating some packages can cause the guest virtual machines to be stopped**. Read on for more details.

Updating ocfs2-tools

Although they seldom change, updating ocfs2-tools-* packages will restart the ocfs2/o2cb service. This, in turn, will remount your shared storage volumes, killing any virtual machine that was using a virtual disk image in any of these volumes. So, better cleanly stop your virtual machines, or migrate them to another host before updating these packages. Then you can run:

```
# yum update ocfs2-tools ocfs2-tools-o2cb
```

Updating the host kernel

One of the components of flexVDI suite is a kernel module called `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi`. In Red Hat based Linux distributions where flexVDI software is installed, the kernel package is special because several versions can be installed at the same time on the same machine. Almost every other package can only have one single version installed at a given time, and `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi` is no exception. But kernel modules, like `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi`, are developed for specific kernel version. To be able to have several `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi` packages installed at the same time for different kernels, we publish `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k514.x86_64`, `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k693.x86_64`, `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862.x86_64`, and so on, as different packages, instead of being different versions of the same package.

This is an example of how you would update the kernel and `kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi` packages. First you can see the version of the currently running kernel with:

```
# uname -r
3.10.0-693.17.1.el7.x86_64
```

In the example, the current kernel in use is 3.10.0-693. Now you can check if there is a new kernel available:

```
#yum --showduplicates list kernel

...

Installed Packages
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-514.el7 @anaconda
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-693.17.1.el7 @updates
Available Packages
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.el7 base
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.2.3.el7 updates
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.3.2.el7 updates
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.3.3.el7 updates
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.6.3.el7 updates
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.9.1.el7 updates
kernel.x86_64 3.10.0-862.11.6.el7 updates
```

So a new version 3.10.0-862 is available, and you may decide that you want to install it. Now you can get a list of the available kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi packages:

```
# yum search kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi

Loaded plugins: fastestmirror

...

===== N/S matched: kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi =====
kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k514.x86_64 : OCFS2 driver module
kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k693.x86_64 : OCFS2 driver module
kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862.x86_64 : OCFS2 driver module
```

kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862.x86_64 is the name of the kmod package that matches the kernel 3.10.0-862 that you want to install. kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862 package depends on 3.10.0-862.xxx kernel, so you can install **both** of them at the same time with the command:

```
# yum install kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862
...
=====
Package Arch Version Repository Size
=====
Installing:
kernel x86_64 3.10.0-862.11.6.el7 updates 46 M
kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi-k862 x86_64 1.5.0-1.el7 flexvdi 508 k
Is this ok [y/d/N]:

...
```

Now that the new kernel is installed, you have to reboot the machine so that it starts using it.



If you update your kernel, **you have to manually install the appropriate kmod-ocfs2-flexvdi package** as explained above, because it is not automatically updated. Failing to do so may leave guest disk images inaccessible to the host.

Updating all packages except kernel and ocfs2-tools

As updating kernel or ocfs2-tools will always cause the host to temporarily stop servicing guest machines, you may be interested in updating the rest of the packages. You can do this with:

```
# yum update --exclude=kernel*,ocfs2-tools-*
```