

## Understanding Firmware Release Versions

<https://campus.barracuda.com/doc/28475866/>

Read this *entire article* before upgrading your Barracuda Message Archiver firmware.

**See also:** [Firmware Upgrade Policy](#)

Barracuda Message Archiver firmware is available as:

- **General Release (GA)** – The latest generally available firmware from Barracuda Central.
- **Early Releases (EA)** – The newest version of firmware available for early access from Barracuda Central.

### General Release

GA firmware represents the final, fully tested, latest firmware version. Barracuda Networks highly recommends that you download the GA release as soon as it is available to take advantage of important new features and fixes.

Barracuda Networks recommends [backing up your configuration](#) and content on the **ADVANCED > Backups** page before downloading new firmware.

### Early Release

EA firmware is available to early adopters who wish to test the latest features from Barracuda Networks, or who have a specific need for early access to a new feature or fix that would be beneficial to your environment.

Barracuda Networks recommends [backing up your configuration](#) and content on the **ADVANCED > Backups** page before downloading new firmware.

Before downloading the EA firmware release, consider the following:

- This is a one-way upgrade; reverting to an earlier firmware version is *not recommended*;

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- Once you install the EA firmware, you must update each point release up to the final GA release to take advantage of latest fixes.

### **Release Schedule**

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Barracuda Networks typically releases final GA 6-8 weeks after EA.

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