

ASA and ASDM Upgrade

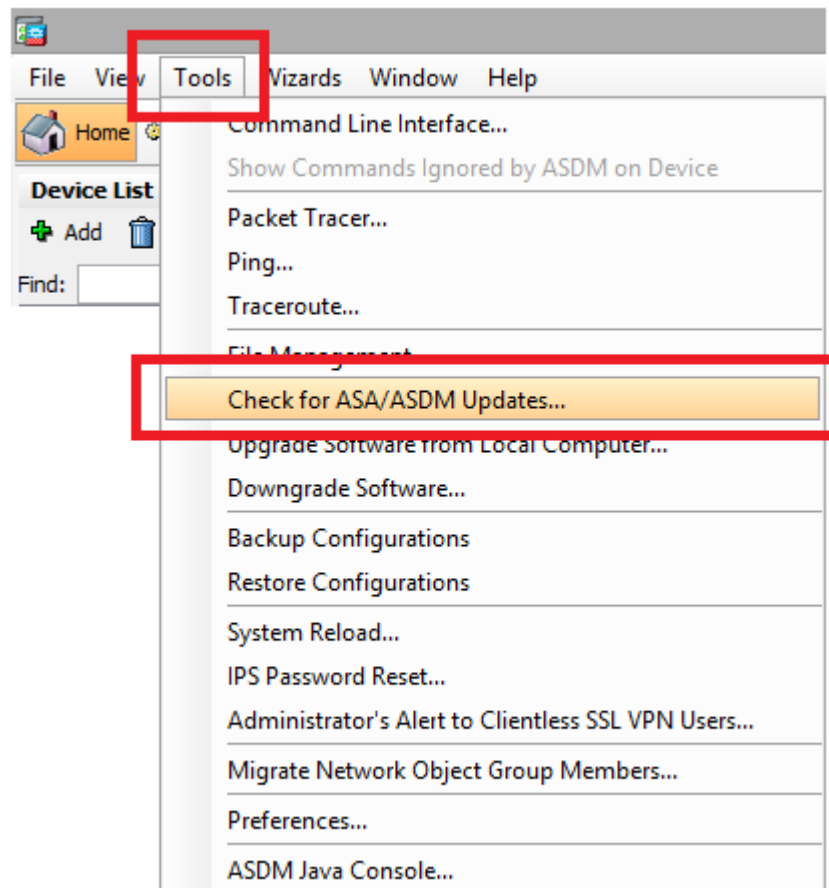
Cisco has provided a much easier way to upgrade the ASA Units through the ASDM Software. However, this upgrade method has one caveat when upgrading ASAs that are configured in an HA configuration.

To successfully perform the upgrade through the ASDM on an HA pair the admin must manually copy the ASA and ASDM software to the secondary unit prior to rebooting the first. And to ensure that both units will be running the exact same version of the software use the downloaded copy of the ASA and ASDM software from the first unit.

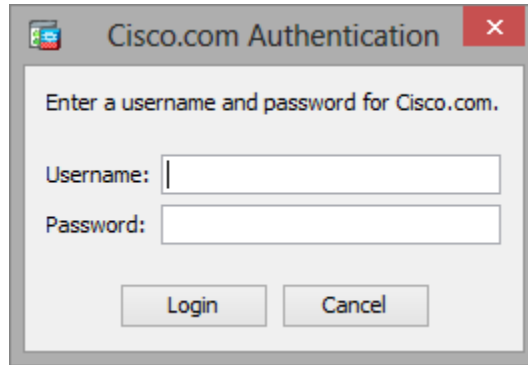
Note: Uploading the ASA and ASDM software will only be possible if the secondary unit is correctly configured for the current version of the ASDM software installed.

Before beginning the upgrade process, connect to the secondary unit using the failover IP of the device to run the currently installed ASDM software and leave the software running.

To begin the upgrade process on the primary unit, connect to the primary (Active) unit, next perform a **“Check for ASA/ASDM Updates”** from the **“Tools”** menu.



Enter your Cisco Site Credentials and click on **“Login”**



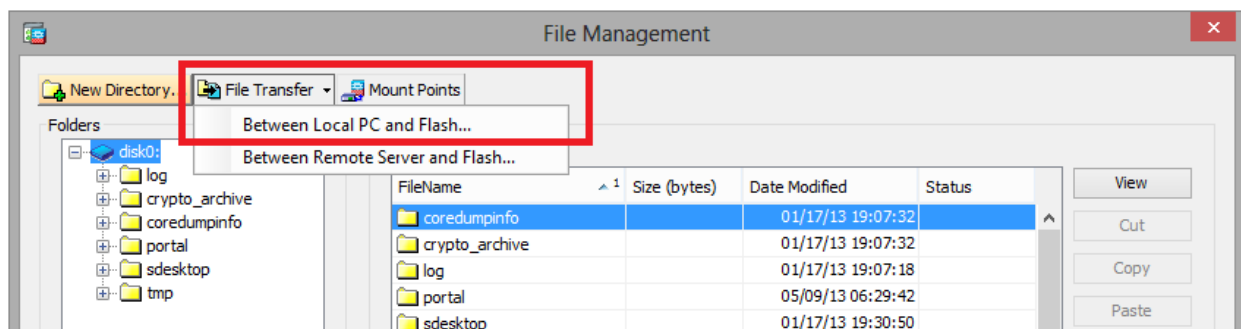
The system will check for updates to the ASA software and provide a dropdown of the versions available for both the ASA and ASDM software. When upgrading always select the matching versions for the ASA and ASDM software. For example, the latest ASA software is 9.1(2) the matching version of ASDM is 7.1(3), although earlier versions of the ASDM will work, it is best to select the two latest versions of the ASA and ASDM software to download and install together.

Once the versions are selected the upgrade wizard will download, install, and modify the running configuration of the Active/Standby ASA Units. The wizard will also prompt to save the configuration and reboot the primary unit. During this step, unselect the checkbox to save and reload. This is a necessary step in order to copy the exact version of the software downloaded and upload it to the secondary ASA unit.

Note: The admin could download the software from the Cisco site manually, but using this method ensures that a mistake is not made in selecting the correct version.

To download and copy the new ASA and ASDM versions to the secondary unit perform the following steps:

Open the **"File Management"** tool from the **"Tools"** menu, and click on the **"File Transfer → Between Local PC and Flash..."** option:



In the **"Files"** section of the tool, locate the ASA and ASDM software downloaded by the upgrade wizard and transfer those two files to a location on the local PC. The **"Desktop"** is a good location as it is easy to find the files later.

After the files have been downloaded from the primary unit to the local PC you may close the File Management window, but do not reload the primary firewall yet. Next, switch to the secondary unit ASDM software which should already be open.

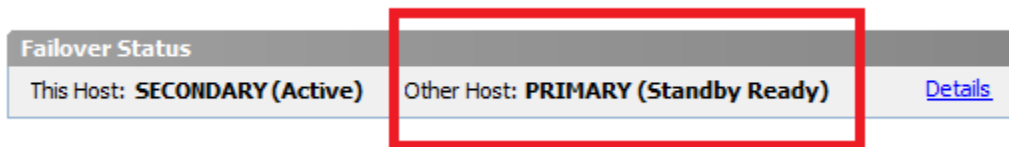
Open the “File Management” tool from the “Tools” menu, and click on the “File Transfer → Between Local PC and Flash...” option. This time browse to the location where the ASA and ASDM software has been saved (*Desktop*) and upload the two files to the secondary ASA Flash.

Because the upgrade wizard already updated the current ASA and ASDM boot and software parameters on both units no other changes will need to be made. Close the file management window on the secondary unit and close the ASDM software.

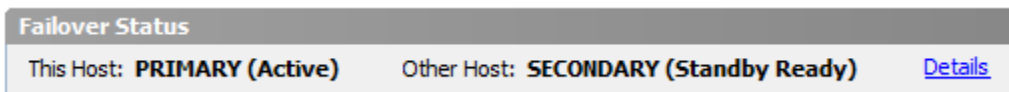
Save the config and reboot the primary ASA unit by performing the necessary save and System Reload functions, then close the primary units ASDM software. Wait about two minutes, this will allow enough time for the secondary unit to become the active firewall. Connect to the HA Pair using the Active units IP address, because the ASDM software was copied to the secondary unit, this will allow the admin to connect and run the ASDM software.

At this point only the primary unit has been reloaded, meaning that unit will be running the latest ASA software. In the ASDM while connected to the secondary unit you will notice that while it states the latest ASDM is running, the previous version of the ASA software will be reflected, that is because the secondary unit has not been reloaded yet.

Verify the Failover status in the ASDM, if the status reflects the same as below, where the primary unit is now the standby and has reloaded, re-synced, and is ready; the admin may reload the secondary unit to invoke the new ASA software and allow the unit to reload as the standby again.



The final outcome of the upgrade should end in the failover status reflecting the following:



In addition, both units will be running the latest version of the ASA and ASDM software. To verify that both units are running the same version, open the ASDM on both units and check the following location (remember to use the failover IP for the secondary unit to check the status and version):

