



# InformaCast Virtual Appliance Basic Paging Release Notes

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InformaCast Virtual Appliance Basic Paging version 8.3.a is a popular IP broadcasting application. These release notes document the compatibility requirements and known issues with the new version.

## Compatibility

InformaCast Basic Paging is compatible with the following versions of Cisco Unified Communications Manager server (including Business Edition 6000): 8.5, 8.6, 9.0, and 9.1

## New Features

The following features have been added to InformaCast v8.3.a to enhance functionality and improve user experience:

- **New Functionality.** InformaCast 8.3.a now comes in two new versions: Basic and Advanced. Basic functionality includes live paging only. Advanced functionality contains the full-featured version of InformaCast: the ability to send a number of different types of broadcasts (e.g. live audio, pre-recorded audio, pre-recorded audio and text, etc.) using your Cisco IP phone's interface and/or InformaCast's web interface, interact with InformaCast's plugins (e.g. conduct conference calls, trigger contact closures, post to Facebook and Twitter, send broadcasts to email addresses, etc.), customize scripts that can be attached to broadcasts, and receive confirmation when broadcasts are sent, among other features. Basic functionality comes automatically installed on the Cisco Unified Communications Manager Business Edition 6000, and you have the option to upgrade to Advanced functionality.
- **New InformaCast Licensing.** Advanced InformaCast can be obtained through a limited, free trial, purchased as a subscription service, or purchased outright with a maintenance contract (which is how InformaCast has traditionally been purchased). The InformaCast trial and subscription licenses allow you to try InformaCast's full functionality without committing to a long-term contract (subscription) or without a contract at all (free, limited-time trial).
- **New Backup Location.** The default backup location setting in previous versions of InformaCast could produce unusable backups. As such, a new backup location was created: `/usr/local/singlewire/InformaCast/backup`. You should examine the InformaCast backup location that you are currently using and consider changing it to the new recommended location.

- **New License Parameter.** The MaxVersion parameter, a new license parameter, must be present in all 8.3.a and later releases of InformaCast and its number must match or be greater than your version of InformaCast in order for you to access any of InformaCast's functionality.
- **Disk Performance Increase.** VMware and storage vendors recommend that virtual machines align on 64Kb boundaries to minimize disk reads, and InformaCast's partitions are now in line with this recommendation. Fewer reads with the same result means better performance, and if you are running VA/EX on SAN disks, you may notice lower IOPS (I/O operations per second) as a result of this change.

## Known Issues

The following issues have been recognized and are set for resolution in the next version:

- **Updated Graphics.** Black and white graphics in the documentation were changed to color on request.
- **Incorrect Error Message.** In Basic Paging, when you exceed the limit of the number of phones to which you can broadcast in a recipient group, the error message you receive is wrong (i.e. "There are more phones associated with your Communications Manager server than your InformaCast license key supports. Broadcast messages will be limited to 50 total phones. The number of phones in the list that will participate in a broadcast depends on how many other phones have been broadcast participants. For example, if 50 other phones have been broadcast participants, then no phones in the list can participate. Otherwise, either all or some of the phones can participate. Please contact Singlewire at [www.singlewire.com](http://www.singlewire.com) for support or to upgrade your key."). In actuality, each recipient group is limited to 50 phones, and you can send to another separate recipient group of 50 phones. This differs from Advanced Notification where if you exceed your license limit of recipients in one recipient group, you will be unable to send to another separate group of additional phones.
- **Unable to Access Webmin with Internet Explorer 9 After Installing Microsoft Security Update KB2661254.** If you've installed Microsoft Security Update KB2661254 and use Internet Explorer 9 to access Webmin (<https://<InformaCast Server IP Address:10000>>), the site will fail. To avoid this issue, use Google Chrome or Firefox to access Webmin or use the solutions described by Microsoft at <http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=2661254>.
- **InformaCast Not Functioning Correctly After Changing its IP Address in Advanced Notification and Switching Back to Basic Paging.** Changing InformaCast's IP address while using Advanced Notification and switching back to Basic Paging can make broadcasts unavailable to phones. There is currently a warning that occurs when executing the script that changes InformaCast's IP address; users can elect to abort or continue.
- **Phone Cache Becomes Unavailable with a License Change.** Whenever you change InformaCast's license or add/update/delete a cluster, "Default configuration Not Connected" appears for the **Communications Manager Versions** field on the Overview page. If either the license or clusters change, the phone cache must be rebuilt to reflect those changes. The phone cache is automatically rebuilt every hour, but if you want it completed sooner than that, you can click the **Update** button on the Edit Recipient Groups page to discover current IP phone info from Communications Manager. Once this is done, the Communications Manager information appears correctly on the Overview page.