



ArcaOS 5.0

Updater Supplementary Guide

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Introducing Update

Beginning with the 5.0.4 release, ArcaOS now comes with the ability to update an existing ArcaOS 5.0 installation to the latest released code, from the convenience of the same utility used for fresh installations.

This supplement provides a walk-through of the update process to assist in maintaining ArcaOS installations.

Update features and restrictions

General design and intent

The Update Facility is built on the premise that the updated system should resemble a clean install of the version on the installation medium as closely as possible. In some cases, this may be a "downgrade" of some components, which cannot be helped. (It is not feasible to regression test against all existing software, and impossible to do so against software which does not yet exist). Thus, an update may be available next month for a driver which requires a newer kernel or ACPI revision, either or both of which may have other requirements. What is known at the time of release is what works together *then* as a tested suite of components, and that is what we ship on the installation medium (and expect after the update process).

Intelligent detection of candidate installations

The Update Facility runs automatically whenever the installation ISO, DVD, or USB stick is started in default mode (to install or maintain ArcaOS). When the installer initializes, the facility scans the available local volumes for existing ArcaOS installations which are at the same major and minor version (5.0) and at or below the release of the booted installation medium. If one or more update candidates are detected, page 3 of the installer will allow selection of the Update installation type.

Some desktop reorganization is to be expected

As previously discussed, one of the guiding principles of the Update Facility is that after updating, the updated system should look and feel like a fresh install of ArcaOS at that code level, plus whatever was installed and running on the system prior to the update. As a result, some desktop objects may have been relocated in the later release of ArcaOS, and may not be where they were when the original installation was completed. In general, however, the Update Facility does not seek to overhaul an existing desktop or to reset it in any way. The desktop background wallpaper is not replaced, even if a later release provides additional wallpaper images, and the desktop theme is not replaced by the default ArcaOS Blue theme. Where possible, the user's desktop customizations should be preserved.

Update is not upgrade or migration

It is important to note that the Update Facility is just that: a facility to update an existing ArcaOS installation of the same major and minor version (e.g., 5.0) as that of the (new) medium to the latest code for that version. *The Update Facility cannot be manipulated to migrate a different OS/2 distribution to ArcaOS.*

Update is not Selective Install

Any previously installed components which have been updated in the latest ArcaOS release of the same major and minor version (e.g., 5.0) should be updated on the target system. It is not possible to select additional components for first time installation, nor is it possible to select components to remove. There are limited exceptions to this rule, for example, early releases of ArcaOS did not have the ability to mount ISO files as virtual disks (ISOFS + ISODrive). This feature was added in release 5.0.2. Updating a 5.0 ArcaOS installation to 5.0.4 will result in ISOFS + ISODrive being installed.

Components which have been replaced in a later release of ArcaOS will be removed and replaced with the component currently shipped with the update release. It may be possible to install the original component from the original ArcaOS installation medium, *however, once a component has been retired, Arca Noae no longer provides support for it* (unless installed in a non-updated release of ArcaOS).

Update is not a repair facility

The Update Facility assumes that the update target is a working ArcaOS installation. While the installer is intelligent enough to determine a valid update candidate, it does not attempt to diagnose the overall health of the system (other than whether the filesystem is in need of a consistency check or that it meets the minimum size requirements for a standard ArcaOS installation). If the target ArcaOS system to be updated was failing to boot before the update, chances are that it will continue to fail during and after the update (unless the cause of the failure was a defect addressed in the latest release, of course).

Update may not handle all third-party software packages

We have no control over third party software or its requirements, and have no insight as to what other developers or software publishers may be planning for release at a future date. The Update Facility will configure the system to a (generally) known, working state. The user may need to reinstall or reconfigure various third party software following the update procedure.

Preparing the system for updating

Empty trash, clean up, back up

Disk space and filesystem integrity are primary concerns during an update procedure, as the target volume(s) is/are not formatted. Some additional space will be required on each volume in the target system, but the precise amount varies from installation to installation and from release to release. To minimize the risk of running short of disk space, it is a good idea to empty the desktop trashcan object (if ArcaOS Desktop is in use), remove any extraneous temporary files in the filesystem, and be sure to have two good system backups in case of emergency. We also recommend selecting the Desktop Properties Archiving option to archive the desktop at the next Desktop startup, and rebooting to the installed system once before booting from the installation medium. This will ensure that a current archive of the existing desktop content is captured for safekeeping.

Verify the integrity of any backups made, and again, ensure that they are recent.

Disconnect any non-essential devices

Because the second through the fourth (last) phase of the update procedure boots from the live system and not from the installation medium, it is wise to disconnect or power down non-essential external drives and other peripherals to help ensure a consistent view of the hardware. Do this before beginning the update procedure.

If the system is portable and physically docked, consider undocking and performing the update with the system off of the dock to minimize interaction with hardware in or attached to the dock.

The update procedure

Four phases

In contrast with a fresh install which is accomplished in three phases, the Update Facility is divided into four. The need for an additional restart is to allow for proper updating of all of the Unix compatibility subsystem to complete. At the end of each phase, the system will count down to the reboot, or you may visit the System Management console before the restart.

Boot, agree, select update option, select target

Begin by booting from the latest ArcaOS installation medium. It is important to note that even if the system was originally installed from DVD, it is possible to boot the latest ArcaOS installation USB stick and perform the update procedure. Conversely, if the system was originally installed from USB stick, it is possible to boot from DVD to perform the update.

In general, it should be possible to boot from the installation medium straight to the installer GUI. Of course, if you had special selections to make in the preboot menus during the original installation, you may make those same changes now.

Once booted to the installer GUI, make any necessary selections on the first page and proceed to the **License** page. Read through the license agreement and indicate your agreement by checking the box. Once you have read and agreed to the terms of the license, you may proceed to the **Installation Type** selection page.

If one or more update candidates have been detected, **Update previous ArcaOS installation** will be available for selection on the **Installation Type** page. Click this, and proceed to the **Target Volume** page.

Note that it is only necessary to select the system volume for the installation update target. If the original installation was a multi-volume type, the updater will detect that and will update content originally installed to the other volumes automatically. Select the **Target Volume** from the list of update candidate volumes. The update candidate must be of sufficient size, filesystem (JFS or HPFS, as the original installation would have required), and not be in need of a consistency check. If the target is shown to be in need of checking or is missing from the list, click the **Check Volumes...** button and follow the prompts to ensure that it is clean before attempting to proceed. Click **Next** to begin the update.

Keep the installation medium inserted throughout all phases of the procedure.

Post-update tasks

Eject (unmount) the installation medium

Once the update is complete, properly eject or unmount the installation medium and store it in a safe place. Feel free to rearrange your desktop as you see fit, in case anything was relocated as part of the update procedure. Ensure that the system shuts down and reboots as expected, and that all data files which were present on the system prior to updating have remained intact.

You may wish to review the update log files in `\var\log` for any errors which may have been encountered during the procedure.

Congratulations! You've just brought your ArcaOS installation up to date.