

FlexNet Operations 2021.03 ALM Release Notes

Introduction	3
Resources	3
Revenaera Resources.....	3
FlexNet Operations Videos.....	4
Previous FlexNet Operations Release Notes	4
Features and Enhancements	5
Features and Enhancements in 2021.03.....	5
Entitlement Management.....	5
Features and Enhancements in 2021.02.....	6
SOAP and REST Web Services	6
Features and Enhancements in 2021.01.....	6
Entitlement Management.....	7
Export and Import.....	7
Updates and Insights.....	7
SOAP and REST Web Services	8
Rebranding	8
System Requirements.....	8
Resolved Issues.....	9
Issues Resolved in 2021.03.....	9
Account and User Management.....	10
Email Notification System	10
Entitlement Management.....	10
Export and Import.....	10
Product Management.....	11
Public Services	11
SOAP and REST Web Services	11
Issues Resolved in 2021.02.....	12
Account and User Management.....	12
Device Management.....	12
Entitlement Management.....	13
Licensing	13
Product Management.....	13
SOAP and REST Web Services	14
Issues Resolved in 2021.01.....	14
Account and User Management.....	14
Entitlement Management.....	15
Product Management.....	15
User Experience.....	15
Known Issues	15

Special Notes 16
Legal Information 17

Introduction

This Release Notes document summarizes the features, enhancements, and updates delivered with FlexNet Operations 2021.03 in March 2021. The document includes the following information:

- [Resources](#)
- [Features and Enhancements](#)
- [System Requirements](#)
- [Resolved Issues](#)
- [Known Issues](#)
- [Special Notes](#)

Resources

These resources are available for more information about FlexNet Operations and other Revenera products:

- [Revenera Resources](#)
- [FlexNet Operations Videos](#)
- [Previous FlexNet Operations Release Notes](#)

Revenera Resources

The following resources can help you stay up to date with FlexNet Operations news and product knowledge:

- In addition to providing case management, the [Revenera Community](#) site can help you quickly find answers to your questions by searching content from other customers, product experts, and thought leaders. You can also post questions on discussion forums for experts to answer. For each of Revenera's product solutions, you can access forums, blog posts, and knowledge base articles.
- You can find documentation for FlexNet Operations and all other Revenera products on the [Revenera Product Documentation](#) site.
- The [Revenera Learning Center](#) offers free, self-guided, online videos to help you quickly get the most out of your Revenera products. You can find a complete list of these training videos in the Learning Center.
- Customers who have purchased a maintenance contract for their product(s) can submit a support case or check the status of an existing case by making selections on the **Get Support** menu of the Revenera Community:

<https://community.revenera.com>

FlexNet Operations Videos

These brief, informative videos walk you through the getting-started exercises found in the *FlexNet Operations User Guide* (online help or PDF version). We recommend that you first read the appropriate “Getting Started” section in the *User Guide* to gain an understanding of the concepts it covers, and then click the section title in the table below to view the video.

Guide	Topics
Getting Started with Entitlement Management	Creating an account, a user, a product, and an entitlement.
Getting Started with FlexNet Embedded Licensing	Setting up a publisher, identity, and a licensed product. Creating a device and activating its license. Creating and provisioning FlexNet Embedded license servers.
Getting Started with Electronic Software Delivery	Creating a producer and download packages, associating download packages with a product, creating files, associating files with download packages, and viewing and downloading files from the FlexNet Operations End-User Portal.
Getting Started with Usage Management	Creating a usage-based license model, a feature, a product, and an entitlement. Obtaining the license server URL to which the usage data is sent. Running a usage-capture client. Viewing usage information graphs and gauges.
Getting Started with FlexNet Publisher License File-Based Licensing	Activating and returning a certificate license.
Getting Started with Cloud Licensing Service	Creating a cloud-hosted license server.
Getting Started with FlexNet Customer Growth	Customer growth concepts and configuring notifications for expiring entitlements and expired entitlements.

Previous FlexNet Operations Release Notes

To access the release notes associated with previous FlexNet Operations ALM releases, perform either of the following:

- To view all the release notes for 2021 ALM releases, access this location:
<https://docs.reverera.com/?product=FlexNet%20Operations&version=CURRENT>
- To view the release notes associated with FlexNet Operations versions from previous years, access the site referenced above and select the appropriate year.
<https://docs.reverera.com/?product=FlexNet%20Operations>

Features and Enhancements

The following sections describe the new features and enhancements added to FlexNet Operations in 2021:

- [Features and Enhancements in 2021.03](#)
- [Features and Enhancements in 2021.02](#)
- [Features and Enhancements in 2021.01](#)

Features and Enhancements in 2021.03

Features and enhancements were added to the following areas of FlexNet Operations in the 2021.03 release:

- [Entitlement Management](#)

Entitlement Management

The following enhancement to the entitlement management was added in the 2021.03 release.

Multiple Package Downloads from Entitlement List in End-User Portal

Previously, users were required to perform software downloads for entitlement line items on the **List Entitlements** page one line item at a time. In this release, users can now perform software package downloads for multiple line items selected on the **List Entitlements** page or opt to download selected files within a given download package. (All selected entitlement line items must belong to the same account and have downloads available.)

To initiate the download process, users select the new **View > View Download Packages** option on the **List Entitlements** page. This option opens the **Download Packages** window, enabling users to view a list of the software download packages available for the selected line items and then download selected (or all) packages. Alternatively, users can click a package link from this window to obtain a list of all the files contained in the package, and, from this list, select specific (or all) files to download. Compliance checks are performed before any download starts.

Users must have the existing **Get Downloads** permission to perform these software downloads.

The new **View Download Packages** option is not visible by default, but is enabled by means of a new system configuration setting in the Producer Portal, **System > Configure > End-User Portal Setup > Entitlements Page > Show View Download Packages**.

Similarly, the button to download all files for selected packages directly from the **Download Packages** window is enabled by a separate system configuration setting, **System > Configure > End-User Portal Setup > General Options > Show Download Button**. This setting is applied only if the previously described **Show View Download Packages** option is enabled.

Features and Enhancements in 2021.02

Features and enhancements were added to the following areas of FlexNet Operations in the 2021.02 release:

- [SOAP and REST Web Services](#)

SOAP and REST Web Services

The following enhancement to the Web Services module is available in the 2021.02 release.

New Data Access REST Interface

This release introduces a new set of Data Access REST APIs that enable producers to capture a complete view of FlexNet Operations data for their tenant.

Current data-extraction APIs capture only incremental information from the FlexNet Operations warehouse, which is hosted and maintained by Flexera. To obtain a complete view of the data for reporting purposes, producers must host and maintain an archive of the data warehouse in their own database, regularly extracting data from the FlexNet Operations data warehouse and merging it with the archive to keep the data up to date.

Using the new APIs, however, producers can now extract data for their tenant from any time period *directly* from the FlexNet Operations data warehouse, eliminating the need to maintain an archive. Additionally, these APIs offer an alternative to the existing FlexNet Operations Reporter tool, providing programmatic access to data and a standard interface on which it is possible to build custom reporting tools and integrate the data into any web or mobile application.

These APIs retrieve data related to the following:

- Accounts
- Users
- Entitlements
- Fulfillments
- Devices
- Served devices

For more information about the new Data Access REST APIs, refer to the *FlexNet Operations Web Services Integration Guide*.

Features and Enhancements in 2021.01

Features and enhancements were added to the following areas of FlexNet Operations in the 2021.01 release:

- [Entitlement Management](#)
- [Export and Import](#)
- [Updates and Insights](#)

- [SOAP and REST Web Services](#)
- [Rebranding](#)

Entitlement Management

The following enhancement to the entitlement management was added in the 2021.01 release.

New Parameter to Control Inactivating or Obsoleting Entitlements and Line Items Currently Used by Devices

When an entitlement or line item is made Inactive or Obsolete, the licenses currently activated on a device (license server or standalone device) by that line item or entitlement remain on the device until they expire.

If this behavior is not desired, it is now possible to prevent the line item or entitlement from being made Inactive or Obsolete by setting the System Configuration option **Allow used entitlement/line item state change to Inactive or Obsolete** to **false**. An error message will then be displayed if an attempt is made to make such a line item or entitlement Inactive or Obsolete. (The option is located under **System>Configuration>FlexNet Operations>General Options**.)

Export and Import

The following enhancement to the Data Export and Import functionality was added in the 2021.01 release.

Ability to Export a Single Entitlement into a Template for Import

Previously, to import a single or selected entitlements into a template for data import, users had to export the entire entitlement base. A new import option now makes it possible to export selected entitlements into a template for import.

Updates and Insights

The following enhancement to the Updates and Insight module was added in the 2021.01 release.

Support for Served Devices

Updates and Insights originally supported requests from standalone devices only and then, starting in 2020 R2 SP1, from server devices. With this current release, Updates and Insights will also accept update requests (and the ability to log update status and device events) from served devices. This enhancement enables served devices to carry out in-product updates—and so achieve more frequent updates or patches to their software—as well as provide producers with insights into the status and use of their software on served devices.

SOAP and REST Web Services

The following enhancement to the Web Services module was added in the 2021.01 release.

Ability to Search by “Sold To” Account Name When Using “getEntitlementsQuery”

Previously, the **getEntitlementsQuery** SOAP web service did not allow the ability to filter on the **Sold To** account name. An optional parameter, **isSearchByName**, has been added to the request type so that this filter can be carried out, without changing the way the API operates by default for existing integrations.

Rebranding

In 2020, FlexNet Operations became a product of Revenera, a new division of Flexera Software. The process is currently underway to rebrand the product, user documentation, and related artifacts to display the new Revenera logo (replacing the “Flexera” logo) and to redirect links to the Revenera Community and other Revenera-related sites. The FlexNet Operations product name remains the same.

System Requirements

Detailed system requirements for FlexNet Operations include the following.

Requirement	Description
Web browsers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Microsoft Edge● Mozilla Firefox 75.0● Google Chrome 80.0.3987.163
FlexNet licensing module	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● FlexNet Publisher Toolkit 11.12.0 or later● FlexNet Embedded Toolkit 2015 R2 or later



Note ▪ FlexNet Operations supports these FlexNet Embedded host ID types: Ethernet, FlexID 9, FlexID 10, String, VM_UUID, User, Extended, PUBLISHER_DEFINED, Internet, and Internet6.

Requirement	Description
Vendor certificate generator	<p>The current versions of the VCG kit are 12.11.0 and 16.2.2.0.</p> <p>These VCGs were tested with the following compilers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows—Visual Studio 2010 Professional Edition • Linux—gcc 4.1.2 (RHEL 5.0) • Linux—gcc 4.4.4 (RHEL 6.0) <hr/> <p>Note - The 12.11.0 VCG is built with FlexNet Publisher 11.11.1 and shares the same minimum C compiler requirements on each supported platform. (See the FlexNet Publisher 11.11.1 release notes for C/C++ compiler support.)</p>
High Speed File Upload	<p>If you intend to use the High Speed Upload option to upload files, the following plug-in is required:</p> <p>Aspera Connect 3.10.0 or later</p>

Resolved Issues

The following sections describe the issues that have been resolved in the FlexNet Operations 2021 releases to date:

- [Issues Resolved in 2021.03](#)
- [Issues Resolved in 2021.02](#)
- [Issues Resolved in 2021.01](#)

Issues Resolved in 2021.03

Issues in the following areas were resolved in the FlexNet Operations 2021.03 release:

- [Account and User Management](#)
- [Email Notification System](#)
- [Entitlement Management](#)
- [Export and Import](#)
- [Product Management](#)
- [Public Services](#)
- [SOAP and REST Web Services](#)

Account and User Management

The following issue was resolved for the management of accounts and users in the 2021.03 release.

Creation of Users with Email Address Domains Containing Four Parts Now Allowed

The End-User Portal now allows the creation of users whose email address contains four tokens in its domain part (such as in mary.smith@**a.b.example.com**).

Email Notification System

The following issue was resolved for the Email Notification system in the 2021.03 release.

Issue with Incorrect First Names Used in Emails Resolved

Previously, when an account had multiple users, a notification email sent to any of these users could contain the first name of any of the account's users in the greeting. This issue has been resolved so that the correct first name of a given recipient is used in that recipient's email.

Entitlement Management

The following issue involving entitlement management was resolved in the 2021.03 release.

Attempts to Reduce Entitlement Quantities Now Successful

In some cases previously, producers were not able to reduce the quantity of a line item for a FlexNet Embedded entitlement even though the entitlement had no active fulfillments or still had some line items yet to be fulfilled. (The issue was related to FlexNet Embedded entitlements created before December 3, 2020.) This issue has now been resolved.

Export and Import

The following issue related to the Data Export and Import functionality was resolved in the 2021.03 release.

Downloads Now Available to End Users for Entitlements Created with Data Import Template

Previously, when entitlements were created using a data import template, an Electronic Software Delivery download link would be available in the End-User Portal for only the last line item of each entitlement. This issue has been resolved so that links to all items in the entitlement are available.

Product Management

The following issue related to Product management was resolved in the 2021.03 release.

Product Line Change No Longer Deleting Custom Attributes of Product

Previously, if you changed the product line for a given product, all the custom attributes for the product were deleted. This behavior is now managed by a new attribute, **System > Configure > FlexNet Operations > Preserve Product Custom Attributes when changing a Product Line**. By default, this option is not selected.

Public Services

The following issue involving the Public Services was resolved in the 2021.03 release.

“EntitlementDetails” Public Service No Longer Generating Error for Missing Grace Period

A license model can designate that the value for certain attributes (such as Grace Period, Renewal, Overdraft) be defined at the time an entitlement line is created for any product to which the license model is assigned. Additionally, providing a value for this attribute is optional. When the **EntitlementDetails** public service was run against an entitlement containing entitlement lines that had no value defined for one of these attributes, the service generated an error message similar to this: “The attribute <attribute name> days is not a valid numeric type.”

This issue has been resolved so that, when an attribute that is designated as optional for an entitlement line has no value, the **EntitlementDetails** public service no longer throws an exception.

SOAP and REST Web Services

The following issues with SOAP and REST web services were resolved in the 2021.03 release.

Part Number Associated with Product Now Properly Handled During Product Entitlement

Previously, if the part number for a product that was being entitled was not included during the creation of an entitlement through the **EntitlementOrderService** SOAP web service, the part number associated with the product was still shown in the End-User Portal. This has been fixed. Now, if the part number for a product being entitled is not included in the web service request, the part number associated with the entitled product is no longer assigned by default.

Milliseconds Separator No Longer Included in Returned Usage Data

In the data returned for the Usage data extract REST API, the timestamps for **Transaction Time** and **Received Time** were showing a period (.) as a milliseconds separator even though a milliseconds value was not intended to be included in either timestamp.

2020-08-18T02:09:28.-0700

The unnecessary period could cause parsing issues and has now been removed.

Last Modified Time for Line Items Now Reported Accurately

The **lastModifiedDateTime** attribute for an entitlement line item now gets updated internally with every checkout or return of a license. As a result, this value (in UTC format) is now accurately reported in the **lastModifiedDateTime** field in the response for the **getActivatableItemsQuery** SOAP web service.

Issues Resolved in 2021.02

Issues in the following areas were resolved in the FlexNet Operations in the 2021.02 release:

- Account and User Management
- Device Management
- Entitlement Management
- Licensing
- Product Management
- SOAP and REST Web Services

Account and User Management

The following issue was resolved for the management of accounts and users in the 2021.02 release.

Users Now View Only Those Accounts to Which They Belong

Previously, when the **Apply Manage Users...** system option was in effect, a user (for example, User 1), who belonged to the same account as another user (User 2), would be able to remove User 2 from a different account even if User 1 did not belong to the different account. This issue has now been resolved by providing a user with access to only those accounts to which the user belongs.

The **Apply Manage Users permission to users in shared accounts** option is configured through **System > Configure > FlexNet Operations > General Options** in the Producer Portal.

Device Management

The following issue was resolved for the management of devices in the 2021.02 release.

Now Only Electronic Software Delivery License Required for Availability of Downloads Tab for Devices

The **Downloads** tab is visible on the **Device Details** page for a standalone device in the End User Portal as long as the end user has an Electronic Software Delivery license (and the Administrator has set the appropriate System Configuration options for the End User Portal). Previously, the visibility of this tab was erroneously dependent on an Updates and Insights license as well.

Entitlement Management

The following issues involving entitlement management were resolved in the 2021.02 release.

Issue with Deleting Source Account in an Entitlement Merge Resolved

Previously, after the entitlements for an account belonging to one organization had been merged with the entitlements of another account for a different organization *on the same host*, an attempt to delete the source account for the merge could fail. The deletion of the source account now completes successfully.

Users with Italian Locale Now Able to Perform Entitlement Transfers

Previously, users with the locale value **Italian (it_IT)** were unable to transfer entitlements in the End-User Portal. This issue has been resolved.

Returned FlexNet Publisher Licenses Now Reflected in Line Item Counts

Previously, counts for returned FlexNet Publisher licenses were not being updated to the associated entitlement line items. This issue has been resolved.

Correct “Available Quantity” Values Now Show in Line items in End User Portal

Line items for FlexNet Embedded entitlements on the **List Entitlements** page in the End User Portal now display correct values for **Available Quantity** (for example, when compared with the correct **Qty Remaining** value on the **Entitlement Details** pop-up). This issue was found in those FlexNet Embedded entitlements that were created and fulfilled before December 3, 2020.

Licensing

The following issue involving licensing was resolved in the 2021.02 release.

Unexpected Error During Creation of Local Trial ASRs Resolved

Previous attempts to create a local trial ASR in the Producer Portal could fail with an unexpected error. The error is resolved, and the creation of a local trial ASR now completes successfully.

Product Management

The following issue related to Product management was resolved in the 2021.02 release.

License Model Value for Product Part Number Now Updating Properly

Previously, when a different product was associated with a part number on the **Create a Part Number** window, the License Model selected for the new product was not saved once the user clicked **Save**. This issue is now resolved.

SOAP and REST Web Services

The following issues with SOAP and REST web services were resolved in the 2021.02 release.

“getActivatableItemsQuery” Web Service Results Now Show Correct Number of Copies for Line Items

Previously, in the response for the **getActivatableItemsQuery** SOAP web service, information for given entitlement line items could occasionally show out-of-date values for the number of remaining and fulfilled line-item copies. This issue is now resolved.

Special “publicservices” REST API Now Returning Correct License Counts

The **publicservices** REST API is a special interface used by some producers to return license counts for an activation or entitlement ID.

Previously, this API could return an incorrect “remaining licenses” count for a given activation ID. If the API was called as part of an activation process, the incorrect value in the response could cause the activation to fail. The **publicservices** API is now returning the correct license counts for a given activation ID.

Issues Resolved in 2021.01

Issues in the following areas were resolved in the FlexNet Operations the 2020.01 release:

- [Account and User Management](#)
- [Entitlement Management](#)
- [Product Management](#)
- [User Experience](#)

Account and User Management

The following issues involving the management of accounts and users were resolved in the 2021.01 release.

Attempt to Delete a User Associated with Many Devices Now Completes Successfully

Previously, when a user was associated with a large number of devices, a request to the FlexNet Operations UI or Web Services to delete the user occasionally failed because an internal operation timed out. The internal operation has been optimized so that it no longer times out, enabling the delete process to complete successfully.

Buttons on User Creation Page No Longer Disappearing

The **Link Account** and **Remove Account** buttons no longer erroneously disappear on the **Create a User** page when the pagination button is clicked.

Entitlement Management

The following issue involving entitlement management was resolved in the 2021.01 release.

Changes to Line Items Now Shown on License Server

Previously, in some cases when a line item was updated (for example, to extend an expiration date), the changes to the line item were not displaying on the relevant license server. The situations that caused this issue have now been resolved.

Product Management

The following issue involving product management was resolved in the 2021.01 release.

Successful Product Mapping to a Product Line with a Multi-Line Attribute

Previously, when a product line had an attribute whose type was multi-line, users could not map products to the product line. This issue has been resolved.

User Experience

The following issue involving user experience was resolved in the 2021.01 release.

Text in the FlexNet Operations End-User Portal Now Properly Localized

Certain error and confirmation messages, input field labels, and instructions in the FlexNet Operations End-User Portal were not being properly localized. These localization issues have now been resolved.

Known Issues

The following describes known issues in the current FlexNet Operations release.

New download package option staged in UAT in preparation for future release

A new checkbox labeled **Support Docker Images/Helm Charts** has been added to the **Create Download Package** page in UAT. This is a non-functional checkbox that will support a feature scheduled for release in the near future. Please ignore the checkbox in the UAT environment. It will not be visible in the Production release.

FNO-63827: Downloads sometimes not available to end users when accounts are re-identified

When a new account is set up with an account ID previously used by a different account, and a user who belonged to the original account is assigned to the new account, that user is unable to see Electronic Software Delivery download links in the End-User Portal.

FNO-61266: Translation issues with localization

Per a previous enhancement in 2020 R3 to add more language support for End-User Portal localization, certain strings—such as alerts and validation messages—are not being translated properly when localization is in effect. These issues will be addressed in an upcoming release.

FNO-60845: Size limitation for license models

The JSON definition of a license model and the definition's internal representation are both stored in the FlexNet Operations database. Neither the JSON definition nor its internal representation can exceed 8000 bytes in length.

Special Notes

This section contains special information pertaining to FlexNet Operations.

Plug-in Upgrade Needed for High-Speed File Uploads

If you intend to use the high-speed upload option to upload files, upgrade the Aspera plug-in to Aspera Connect 3.10.0 or later.

Best Practice for Uploading New File Versions for Electronic Software Delivery

The following practice helps to prevent the delivery of “stale” file content to your customers.

When you upload a new version of a file (or package) whose previous version exists in the Electronic Software Delivery system, best practice is to give the new file version a unique name, different from the name of the existing file version. (For example, use a version number in the file name.) Try to avoid simply uploading a file using the same name as the existing file so that the existing file is overwritten.

If you must upload a new file using the same name as the existing file, delete the existing file and wait 10-15 minutes before uploading the new version. This process will reduce the probability of re-caching the old content.

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