



# FortiCentral v7.4.0 GA

## Release Notes



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# Change Log

| Date       | Change Description |
|------------|--------------------|
| 2014-12-02 | Initial release.   |
| 2015-03-05 | V1.1 GA            |
| 2015-07-09 | V1.2 GA            |
| 2016-02-25 | V1.3 GA            |
| 2016-06-10 | V1.4 GA            |
| 2016-08-05 | V1.4.1 GA          |
| 2016-12-22 | V1.5 GA            |
| 2017-04-21 | V1.6 GA            |
| 2018-02-09 | V1.7 GA            |
| 2018-08-08 | V1.7.1 GA          |
| 2019-01-24 | V1.8.0 GA          |
| 2019-05-27 | V1.9.0 GA          |
| 2020-03-11 | V6.0.0 GA          |
| 2020-10-09 | V6.0.1 GA          |
| 2020-12-08 | V6.0.2 GA          |
| 2021-07-23 | V6.4.0 GA          |
| 2021-09-09 | V6.4.1 GA          |
| 2023-03-14 | V7.0.0 GA          |
| 2024-04-19 | V7.2.0 GA          |
| 2026-04-22 | V7.4.0 GA          |

# Introduction

This document provides a summary of enhancements, installation instructions, deployment scenarios and performance guidelines for FortiCentral v7.4.0 release build 0139. Please review this document before installing or upgrading FortiCentral.

For more information, see the FortiCentral User Guide available at <https://docs.fortinet.com/document/forticentral/7.2.0/user-guide>

## Supported models

The following models are supported in FortiCentral v7.4.0:

- FortiRecorder-400F with 1x 4 TB (4 x 8 TB max) hard drive
- FortiRecorder-400D with 2 x 3 TB (4 x 4 TB max) hard drive
- FortiRecorder-200D-Gen02 with 3 TB hard drive
- FortiRecorder-200D
- FortiRecorder-100D
- FortiRecorder-100G
- FortiRecorder-VM (64bit) for:
  - VMware vSphere Hypervisor ESXi 6.0, 6.7, 7.0
  - Microsoft Hyper-V 2016, 2019, and 2022
  - Citrix XenServer 5.6sp2, 6.0 (open source XenServer 7.4)
  - KVM (qemu 2.12.1)
  - AWS (EC2 PAYG)
  - Microsoft Azure (BYOL)
- FortiAPCam-214B
- FortiCam-20A
- FortiCam-CB20
- FortiCam-CB50
- FortiCam-CD51
- FortiCam-CD51-C
- FortiCam-CD55
- FortiCam-CD55-C
- FortiCam-FB50
- FortiCam-FB85-CA
- FortiCam-FD20
- FortiCam-FD20B

- FortiCam-FD40
- FortiCam-FD50
- FortiCam-FD51
- FortiCam-FD55-CA
- FortiCam-FE120
- FortiCam-FE120B
- FortiCam-MB13
- FortiCam-MB40
- FortiCam-MC51
- FortiCam-MC51-C
- FortiCam-MD20
- FortiCam-MD40
- FortiCam-MD50
- FortiCam-MD50B
- FortiCam-OB20
- FortiCam-OB30
- FortiCam-PD50
- FortiCam-SD20
- FortiCam-SD20B
- ONVIF compliant cameras from third-party vendors (for details, see the FortiRecorder Administration Guide)

## Summary of new features

The following is a list of enhancements in FortiCentral v7.4.0:

- Large deployment support and Site concept
- Usability Improvements
- GUI enhancements
- System/FRC Enhancements
- FortiView improvements
- Bugfixes

# FortiRecorder firmware for FortiCentral

FortiCentral is supported as a Windows client for all FortiRecorder models and FortiCameras. It is recommended to use v7.4.0 of FortiCentral with latest v7.2 of FortiRecorder or higher.

## Installation Information

For more information, see the FortiCentral User Guide.

- Enable connections to FortiCentral in the FortiRecorder Network Configuration: 'FRC-Central' access in the port interface (default).
- Connection between FortiRecorder and FortiCentral via TCP 8550 (configurable)
- After initial login admin/blank create a new admin with new password and add recorder connections in Settings.
- The user credentials presented for logging into FortiCentral are used to log into the connected recorders. Therefore, the local user account must be configured at the recorder as well for successful authentication. As an alternative a fixed login can be configured per recorder.
- FortiCentral does not require a plug-in to decode and display video from FortiCameras.
- To view video drag camera from device panel into pane.
- Fortinet recommends setting your monitor to a screen resolution of 1920x1080. This allows for sufficient desktop space so multiple videos can be viewed properly.

**Note:** Video analytics require a 64bit Windows version, so FortiCentral v6.0.x and higher is available in 32bit and 64bit versions.

Each analytics module is available as a separate file which should be placed in the same folder as the main installer.

If the main installer detects analytics packages it will ask whether to install each of them.

Download FortiCentral from <https://www.fortinet.com/support/product-downloads> in the FortiCentral section.

Available AI modules are:

- Facial Recognition
- Object detection
- Video Privacy
- Face mask detection

## Minimum system requirements

For best performance, install FortiCentral on a system with these minimum requirements:

- Windows 10 or 11
- 8GB DDR3 RAM or above
- Intel i7 multi-core CPU 12<sup>th</sup> gen (equivalent) or above
- 500GB HDD (1TB if using Chart manager caching)

FortiCentral does not support GPU decoding, therefore selection of graphics card is not critical. A better graphics adapter supports faster multithreading and transfer into video memory.

The CPU requirement to view multiple video streams in parallel depends strongly on the video resolution and framerate. The application scales well across multiple cores with each core enabling several standard video streams.

For applications requiring a monitor wall view of 16 or more live streams it is strongly recommended to use a lower resolution/framerate viewing stream and enabling auto-switching to high res video when zooming in or full screen mode.

# New Features

The following section highlights new features in the FortiCentral v7.4.0 release.

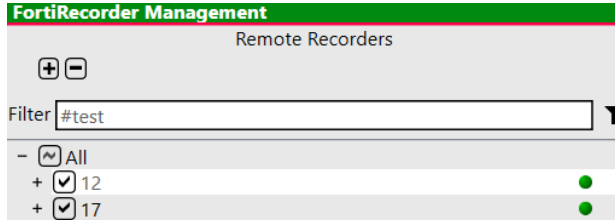
## Large deployment support and Site concept

Large deployments with hundreds or thousands of recorders in one organisation require adequate tools to handle such scale. There are tasks that become challenging like:

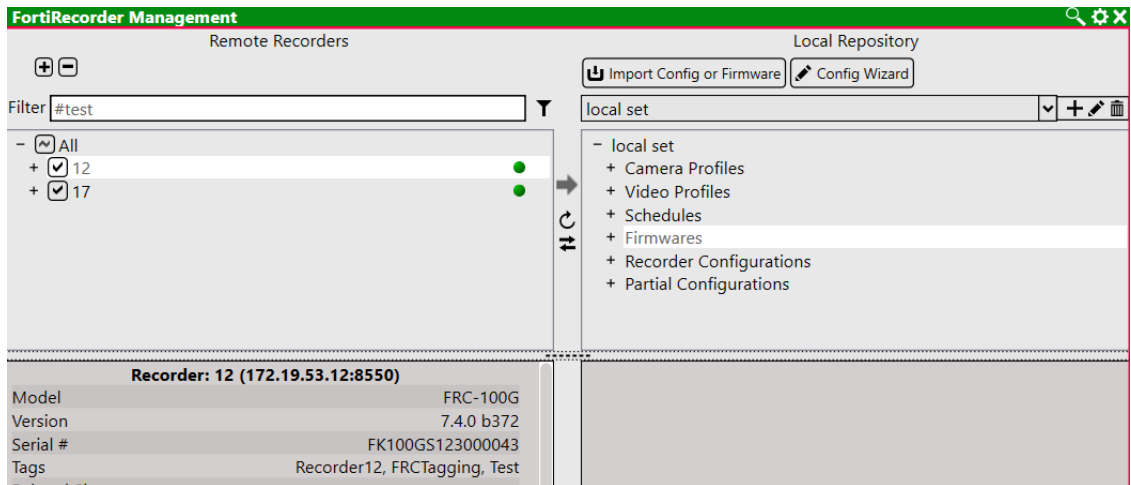
- Navigate to the required camera, recorder
- Keep configuration and access for large number of resources
- Manage bulk actions like applying firmware upgrades to many target systems automatically
- Obtain overview of status and configuration
- Efficiently support template sites that are similar in layout

FortiCentral v7.4.0 has enhanced capabilities to address these points mainly around the FortiRecorder Management console and as a new concept of template Views that allow quickly switching between sites.

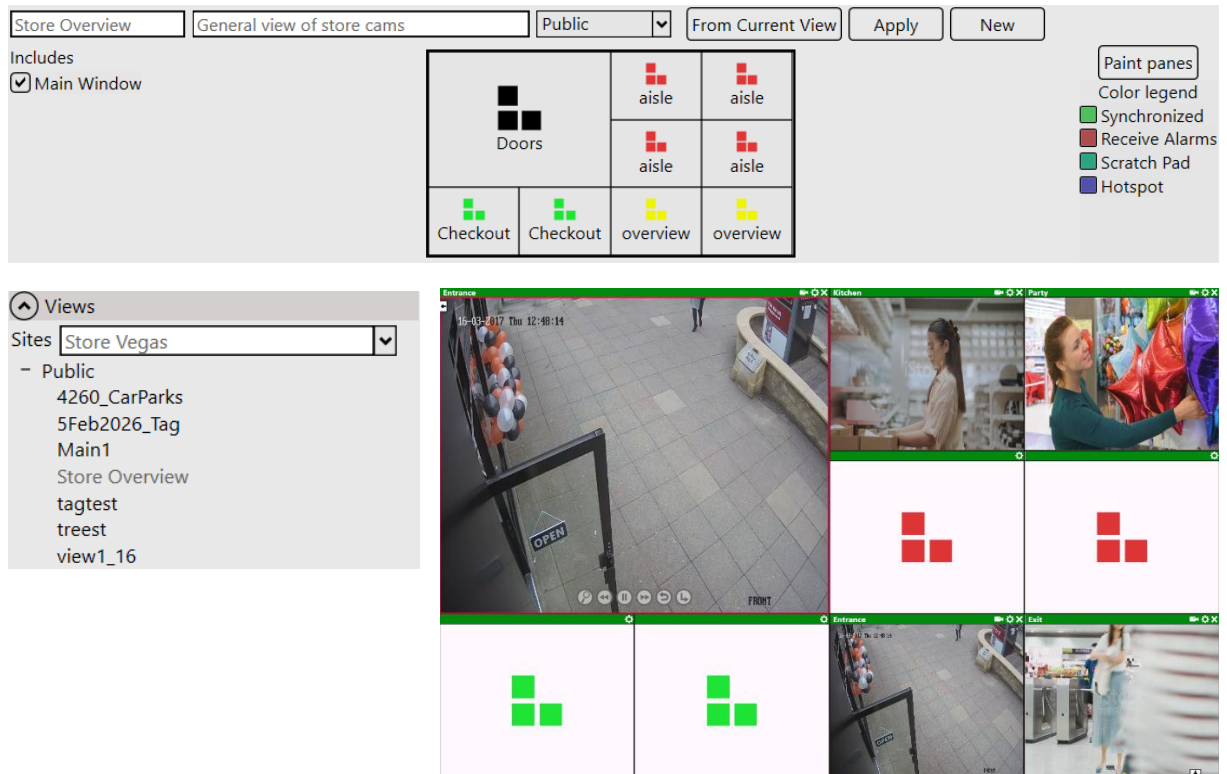
For quick navigation a tag based system is available which allows selecting cameras, recorders and sites based on tags that are assigned to them. It can be used from the filter and search fields on the Recorder Manager, the device tree and the site selector under Views.



Use FortiRecorder Manager to select groups of target recorders for configuration changes in bulk. For example, upload a new camera firmware and apply it to every matching camera in the recorder group with one click.



For deployments like retail businesses where each branch is similar in structure, it is convenient to be able to switch from site to site directly and have for example the cameras looking at checkouts always in the top row, the entrance and exit in the middle and aisle cameras at the bottom. The new site feature and template views support this quick switching without having to select individual cameras.



## Usability Improvements

- Added Site list in Views
- Improved Tag / Site filtering with auto-complete
- Added recorder name to camera reconfig message
- Speed up Recorder manager tree selector to support 1000+ recorders
- Camera firmware list on recorder, retrieve, request camera firmware update.

## GUI enhancements

- Throttling device tree refresh rate if many refresh requests
- Improved Firmware Features and Updating / Tracking / Information
- Tags in dropdown are now sorted alphabetically
- Recorder Tags are now visible in settings & recorder manager

## System/FRC Enhancements

- Reduced workload on recorders to provide timeline event information
- Minimize Recorder is busy message

- Updated to new Certificate
- More detailed logging of log in attempts

## Bugfixes

- Fix Changed recorder manager to not clear checkboxes when filtering
  - Fix Recorder Manager not loading after log out
  - Fix "Apply Firmware to Cameras" stuck on small dialog
  - Fix Recorder Manager selecting recorders that are filtered out or offline when select 'All'
  - Fix Event manager not scrolling to correct time when dropping a playback video
  - Fix Empty name when not saving changes in recorder settings
  - Fix Clear panes removing pane type
  - Fix Volume slider not saving changes to new volume level
  - Fix Installer crash on non-standard installed software versions
- Various enhancements and fixes for chart manager

# Firmware Upgrade/Downgrade Information

## Upgrading from earlier versions

Upgrading FortiCentral to v7.4.0 from v6.4.x is fully supported.

**Note:** For upgrading from older versions first upgrade to v6.4.1.

Fortinet always recommends backing up the configuration before performing an upgrade. The configuration file is located at `c:\ProgramData\Fortinet\FortiRecorderCentral\` and renamed upon upgrade to a new version e.g. `FortiRecorderCentral.exe.SettingsV13.xml`

The complete configuration can be exported from the Settings menu.

## Downgrading to earlier versions

Fortinet does generally not recommend downgrading because there may be a loss of configuration information.

**Note:** Downgrading to an earlier version may revert to the configuration that was left when the upgrade occurred. So all changes to the configuration since then are lost.

# Performance Guidelines

Video playback is very CPU intensive. If you are experiencing choppy video playback and cameras “freezing” during playback, you may have a client performance problem. Use the diagnostic tools available in FortiCentral to narrow down the problem.

In the toolbar area are performance meter symbols that show

- **Network bandwidth of incoming data and frame skip rate**  
If a recorder cannot send out video streams fast enough it will start skipping frames. If this occurs the bar turns yellow and then red. It is an indication that the network bandwidth is too low to support the number of video streams that are currently displayed.
- **Memory usage**  
Shows how much memory the application is using. The total amount of available memory is indicated as well in the tooltip.
- **Rendering performance**  
Indicates how many MPixels are decoded per second. A 1MP image at 30fps requires 30MPixel/s for example. If more video is displayed in FortiCentral the performance limit of the PC will eventually be reached. At this point the video decoder has to drop frames to keep up with the incoming video stream. This drop rate is displayed at the tooltip and if it occurs the bar turns yellow and red in more severe situations. This indicates that the CPU/graphics performance of the PC where FortiCentral is running has reached its limit.

The performance bottleneck in a FortiCamera deployment will likely be the client, which must decode and render the video streams from the NVR. Displaying multiple video streams on the client is very CPU intensive.

## Camera profiles

If you need to display 8 or more camera live views, you may need to configure the camera stream so that viewing is done at a lower frame rate or resolution, depending on how powerful the client PC is.

To optimize client performance, use the video and camera profiles to define and assign a video stream for each camera. To increase the number of live and playback views the client computer can display, or to reduce the CPU requirement for a given number of live views, reduce the resolution, quality and/or frames per second of the related video streams.

10 FPS is a good general setting for live views. 10 FPS provides a reasonable frame rate for the live views, but significantly reduces the load on the client (compared to 30 FPS).

FortiCentral v1.3 and higher can use either of the live or recording streams configured in the recorder for display. Playback always accesses the recording stream.

## Image Checksums

To verify the integrity of the firmware file, use a checksum tool and compute the firmware file's MD5 checksum. Compare it with the checksum indicated by Fortinet. If the checksums match, the file is intact.

MD5 checksums for Fortinet software and firmware releases are available from [Fortinet Customer Service & Support](#). After logging in to the web site, near the bottom of the page, click the *Firmware Checksums* button. (The button appears only if one or more of your devices have a current support contract.) In the *File Name* field, enter the firmware image file name including its extension, then click *Get Checksum Code*.

The screenshot shows the FortiCloud interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FortiCloud logo, 'Services' with a dropdown arrow, and 'Support' with a dropdown arrow. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various options: 'FORTICARE', 'Dashboard', 'Tickets', 'Downloads' (highlighted with a red background and a dropdown arrow), 'Firmware Images', 'VM Images', 'Service Updates', 'HQIP Images', and 'Get Checksum Code' (highlighted with a grey background). The main content area is titled 'Get Checksum Code' and includes the sub-header 'Retrieve firmware images checksums'. Below this, there is a prompt: 'Please enter the firmware image file name to get the checksum code'. A sample file name is provided: 'Sample firmware image file name: FGT\_100D-v5-build0642-FORTINET.out'. There is a text input field with the placeholder text 'Enter the firmware image file name'. At the bottom of the form, there is a red button labeled 'Get Checksum Code'.

