

IDOL Answer Server

Software Version 12.9.0

Release Notes



Document Release Date: June 2021
Software Release Date: June 2021

Legal notices

Copyright notice

© Copyright 2021 Micro Focus or one of its affiliates.

The only warranties for products and services of Micro Focus and its affiliates and licensors (“Micro Focus”) are as may be set forth in the express warranty statements accompanying such products and services. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting an additional warranty. Micro Focus shall not be liable for technical or editorial errors or omissions contained herein. The information contained herein is subject to change without notice.

Documentation updates

The title page of this document contains the following identifying information:

- Software Version number, which indicates the software version.
- Document Release Date, which changes each time the document is updated.
- Software Release Date, which indicates the release date of this version of the software.

To check for updated documentation, visit <https://www.microfocus.com/support-and-services/documentation/>.

Support

Visit the [MySupport portal](#) to access contact information and details about the products, services, and support that Micro Focus offers.

This portal also provides customer self-solve capabilities. It gives you a fast and efficient way to access interactive technical support tools needed to manage your business. As a valued support customer, you can benefit by using the MySupport portal to:

- Search for knowledge documents of interest
- Access product documentation
- View software vulnerability alerts
- Enter into discussions with other software customers
- Download software patches
- Manage software licenses, downloads, and support contracts
- Submit and track service requests
- Contact customer support
- View information about all services that Support offers

Many areas of the portal require you to sign in. If you need an account, you can create one when prompted to sign in. To learn about the different access levels the portal uses, see the [Access Levels descriptions](#).

Contents

New in this Release	4
Resolved Issues	5
Notes	6
Documentation	7

New in this Release

The following new features were released in Answer Server version 12.9.0.

- The implementation of AES that IDOL uses to encrypt security info strings has been updated. This update is not backwards compatible with earlier versions. If you use AES to encrypt security info strings, you must upgrade all IDOL components that process security info (Community, Content, DAH, and Answer Server) to version 12.9, to ensure that components can successfully exchange security info.

This change includes built-in authentication, so additional HMAC validation (by using the `HMACValidation` parameter) is no longer required or supported. The `HMACValidation` is now deprecated, and might be deleted in future.

- ACI servers can now communicate with a License Server instance that requires a GSSAPI authenticated connection (that is, where the License Server configuration has `RequireGSSAuth` set to `True`). To allow this communication, you must set `GSSServiceName` in the `[License]` section of the configuration file to the GSSAPI service name of the License Server. For example:

```
[License]  
GSSServiceName=LICENSESERVER
```

- The third-party OpenSSL library has been updated to 1.1.1.j.
- The `Admin`, `Help`, `LoadDoc`, and `LoadImage` actions now set the HTTP response header `Content-Security-Policy`, to improve security against cross-site scripting. If the `Content-Type` header is set, these actions also set the header `X-Content-Type-Options: nosniff`.

Resolved Issues

There were no resolved issues in Answer Server version 12.9.0.

Notes

These notes provide extra information about installing and using Answer Server.

- The `autpassword` command-line tool has been updated to provide hardened AES encryption for passwords. Micro Focus strongly recommends that you reencrypt all passwords in configuration files by using the updated tool.

The older AES encryption format and basic encryption methods are now deprecated. Passwords that you have encrypted with older versions continue to work, but the server logs a warning. Support for these older encryption methods will be removed in future.

Deprecated Features

The following features are deprecated and might be removed in a future release.

Category	Deprecated Feature	Deprecated Since
Configuration	The <code>HMACValidation</code> configuration parameter. In version 12.9.0, the AES implementation for encrypting security info strings was updated to include built-in authentication, so additional HMAC validation is no longer required or supported.	12.9.0

Documentation

The following documentation was updated for Answer Server version 12.9.0.

- *Answer Server Reference*
- *Answer Server Administration Guide*