



Avere OS 5.3.3.1 Release Notes

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New in Avere OS 5.3.3.1

This software release supports the general availability (GA) release for the Microsoft [Azure HPC Cache](#) service. It also includes bug fixes that affect other caching products, including Avere vFXT for Azure and Azure FXT Edge Filer.

Cache policy change

A default setting has been changed in the built-in cache policy Full Caching. The maximum writeback delay in this policy now defaults to one hour. Previously, the maximum writeback delay was set to 10 minutes by default. The value can be customized by using the **Core Filer > Manage Cache Policies** settings page for an FXT or Avere vFTX for Azure cluster.

This change only affects clusters created with Avere OS 5.3.3.1 or later software. Clusters upgraded to 5.3.3.1 keep the original 10 minute default writeback delay.

Resolved issues

Filesystem

5105615	Fixed a problem that could interfere with cluster node removal. Before this change, a long-running internal operation could cause the removal to fail to complete.
5156906	Fixed a race condition in statistics-gathering code that could cause a file system process restart.
5227453	Updated code to fix a problem revoking tokens when a node is removed from a cluster.
5279880	Fixed a defect that caused a filesystem restart when removing a cluster node.
5283106	Updated hash table code to proactively flush operations when a large number of metadata operations accumulate in the hash table. Hash tables are used to maintain directory operations that will be flushed to the back-end core filer, but if a hash table chain becomes too long, it can increase lock contention.
5289152	Updated code to ensure that directory operation cache entries are maintained using least-recently-used (LRU) algorithms.
5304368	Corrected a race condition that impacted the token manager during startup.
5321702	Updated object version handling to fix a bug.
5369616	Fixed an issue related to cloud response handling.
5409769	Updated code to ensure that a memory reservation is released after data is flushed to back-end storage. In a certain situation this bug caused excessive memory use.
5410203	Fixed a logic problem that could cause issues at the end of a local directory manager rebalance operation.
5439093	Improved a diagnostic tool used to diagnose potential problems with cached directory operations.

5459515	Updated the default metadata write back time to 10 minutes.
5460843	Corrected an issue in available space detection during a data flush.
5481433	Corrected a race condition in token processing.
5534498	Fixed a race condition in name cache.
5581410	Changed the Full Caching cache policy's default writeback time (described above).
26959	Corrected handling of metadata from the back end to avoid panics under stress.
27445	Corrected a problem handling an error related to the cloud module's version database.

NFS

5160193 This release adds a per-junction language setting. Possible values are utf-8 and undefined.

This language setting is enforced by NFS operations that create or remove directory entries (dirents).

- Operations that create new directory entries: CREATE, MKDIR, SYMLINK, MKNOD, LINK, RENAME
- Operations that remove existing directory entries: REMOVE, RMDIR, RENAME

These operations return a status of INVALID when the language setting is UTF-8 and the dirent is not valid UTF-8.

Before this change, the system behaved as if all junctions had a language setting of undefined.

Upgrading to a release containing this change does not affect existing junctions.

Additional information about this setting:

- The XMLRPC method `vserver.addJunction()` gives a default language setting of utf-8.
- The XMLRPC method `vserver.modifyJunction()` preserves the language setting unless specified.
- For cloud core filers, the best practice is to specify the UTF-8 language setting.
- For NAS core filers, the language should match the core filer language. Only set the language to undefined if the core filer's cache policy does not have Local Directories enabled.

Platform

- 5265161 Power saving settings were updated for clusters running in Azure to give better performance.
- 5462020 Fixed a bug in a custom setting that controls LACP mode.
- 5475751 Updated drivers for FXT 6000-series hardware to correct MAC address filtering when running in LACP mode.

XML-RPC

- 5352452 Updated the XML-RPC help for `node.allowToJoin()`.

New in Avere OS 5.3.2.3

The 5.3.2.3 release includes improvements for the Microsoft [Azure HPC Cache](#) service, which is in public preview. No additional fixes for GA products are included in this release.

New in Avere OS 5.3.2.2

The 5.3.2.2 release includes improvements that affect the Microsoft [Azure HPC Cache](#) service, which is in public preview. No customer-visible updates for GA products are included.

New in Avere OS 5.3.2.1

This release includes bug fixes and updates to support the new Microsoft [Azure HPC Cache](#) service, which is in public preview.

Resolved issues

Filesystem

- 27448 Removed an automatic debugging data collection routine from the nightly collection list to prevent a possible system restart on nodes with very large caches.
- 26768 Fixed a missing lock to prevent a possible database corruption and restart.
- 26359 Prevent blocked operations and possible system restarts by allowing more operations to abort when the associated core filer is being removed or suspended.

NFS

- 27057 Added the ability to restrict which NFS exports should be probed by the cluster. This change protects the cluster from attempting to investigate overwhelming numbers of core filer exports, and also gives administrators the ability to protect restricted exports which should not be mounted by the Avere cluster.

The new setting is controlled by the new XML-RPC methods `corefiler.getExportFilters()` and `corefiler.setExportFilters()`. Refer to their help files for details.

General

- 27399 Fixed a software error that could cause the system to loop while reassigning IP addresses to cluster nodes.
- 27373 Updated descriptions in the Avere Control Panel to clarify that the “use 1Gb management network” setting makes those ports unavailable for client-facing data.

New in Avere OS 5.3.1.2

This release introduces support for the new Azure FXT Edge Filer hardware platform. Read more at <https://azure.microsoft.com/services/fxt-edge-filer/>.

Resolved issues

Cloud object store

- 26155 Avere OS now prevents users from creating two core filers that point to the same cloud storage container. Each active core filer must control a different set of data. The system now checks unique IDs to detect whether the new core filer is a cloned version of an existing core filer on the cluster and gives a failure message if it is.
- 26267 Updated locking code for multithread-safe data structures. Before this change, it was possible that running a debugging command which accessed certain internal data structures could cause a crash because the service utility did not obtain the proper locks.
- 26390 Fixed a problem in cloud core filer shutdown that could cause a filesystem restart because a timer was not correctly cleaned up.
- 26647 Fixed a problem that could cause a core loop after a cross-directory rename. The issue was caused by a failed sanity check when the directory contents on the cloud storage did not match the expected contents.
- 26941 Fixed a bug so that files can flush to the core filer even in the rare situation when a file handle hash collides with the hash of a reserved file handle.
- 27264 Fixed an issue that could cause TCP connection requests to the cloud back end to get stuck during SSL negotiation, requiring a filesystem restart.

Filesystem

- 23176 Eliminated a false report of a long-running operation.

- 24341 Improved core filer invalidation code to fix a race condition that could cause a panic if the cluster restarted during invalidation.
- 25315 Removed a problem with an internal data structure that could sometimes cause a file system restart when truncating a very large file.
- 25853 Enhanced data migration to use all nodes in the cluster.
- 25929 Removed a conflict between the system that decides to when to write data to the back end and the system that reserves space for future writes.
- 25930 Updated code for failover to avoid unnecessarily marking cache content as stale. This change ensures that non-idempotent file operations are executed exactly once, even when cluster nodes crash.
- 26059 Fixed code related to the transaction log to prevent a data inconsistency problem that could occur if cluster nodes are not shut down cleanly. This defect was found in vFXT clusters after nodes were shut down from the Azure portal instead of using the cluster control panel; it is safer to always shut down the cluster before suspending or powering off individual nodes.
- 26061 Installed proper locking to prevent future file system crashes while examining internal log entries. Diagnostic debugging tools were also added to help diagnose any future crashes in related systems.
- 26068 Fixed an internal state issue that could cause an out of memory error when flushing data and using cloud file system buffers directly.
- 26321 Corrected a resource limit configuration that could cause an unexpected filesystem service restart in a vFXT node running on a VM with more than 144G of memory.
- 26374 Corrected a code error that caused a lock to be held too long, potentially causing a deadlock and system restart.
- 26455 Fixed a rare race condition that could leave internal logs in an unexpected state after a restart.
- 26532 Changed FlashMirror™ code to ensure that all files marked out-of-sync on both the primary node and the mirror node are copied if there is a failover event.
- 26576 Corrected code that resets pointers to metadata files during failover.
- 26608 Changed a default so that the system gives alerts and disables directories in a specific invalid state instead of crashing.
- 26622 Fixed an issue in always-forward mode so that a readdirplus operation now provides all attributes and file handles.
- 26679 Fixed an issue that could cause errors when purging metadata files if filenames in the log included non-UTF-8 characters.
- 26682 Fixed a timing-related memory corruption that could be triggered when the file count was extremely high. Before this change, this problem could cause a restart and core file when using HA features.
- 26706 Fixed an issue to prevent using freed pointer values.

- 26768 Fixed a missing lock to prevent a possible database corruption and restart.
- 26786 Fixed an issue where a lock used while scanning a large data structure could cause causing which can cause other threads in armada to watchdog.
- 26796 Sped up the file scan time to improve performance during file validation after restarting the cluster.
- 26802 Fixed a file system restart that was caused by the improper state of an out-of-sync item during a migration.
- 26817 Improved token manager operations to boost per-operation performance by reducing disk writes.
- 26829 Fixed an issue that could causing a cache manager crash when reporting long running operations in log messages or to the Avere Control Panel.
- 26859 Improved buffer management controls to avoid deadlocks while flushing data to cloud storage.
- 26879 Improved flush log free space estimation to prevent errors or dropped requests when space ran out.
- 26880 Fixed an issue where an aborted rename could be logged incorrectly. Before this fix, the incorrect state could permanently block operations on some files or directories.
- 26914 Changed an algorithm in the name cache to prevent the number of allocated entries from exceeding the maximum.
- 26923 Fixed a crash related to an invalid file handle during a rename operation in a system with always-forward mode enabled.
- 26926 Fixed a problem where processing a truncation and running out of log space could cause a crash.
- 26967 Fixed an issue where improper locking could cause a restart after a migration.
- 27074 Fixed a problem that could cause the cluster to deny access to a cloud core filer when SMB access was enabled.
- 27087 Fixed an issue to prevent a crash in read-only mode when the target of an object pointer would be removed, causing a null pointer.
- 27099 Improved locking to prevent a filesystem core if identical rename operations happened simultaneously.
- 27113 Added code to automatically clear a dangling reference. In some rare circumstances the reference problem could prevent file access indefinitely.
- 27134 Fixed an out-of-memory problem that could cause the cache flush component to crash.
- 27184 Fixed an issue that interfered with running the ping command directly on cluster nodes. The ping command no longer runs within a secure sandbox.
- 27187 Fixed a race condition when reading the core filer directories to populate the cache.
- 27196 Fixed a problem that could cause a deadlock when opening metadata files.

- 27215 Updated code to ensure that inactive flush requests are cleared from the request log.
- 27234 Fixed a small leak in the code to detect long-running operations.
- 27244 Fixed a memory issue that could occur during heavy reading from a core filer.
- 27278 Fixed a problem that could cause a node to fail during migration to or from a cloud core filer.
- 27279 Added locking and proper initialization code to fix a bug that could cause a crash when deleting cache flush records.

General

- 26056 Added validation to prevent an empty entry for the KMIP server hostname.
- 26723 Fixed a problem where bootloader messages and prompts were not being shown on the serial-over-LAN (SOL) console for some 2000-, 3000-and 4000-series FXT models.
- 26756 Increased the frequency of checks for upcoming cloud credential expirations.
- 26887 Increased a ulimit setting to prevent certain internal processes from unnecessarily restarting.
- 26952 The Data Management tab no longer appears in the control panel dashboard on Azure vFXT systems.
- 27014 Cluster proxy server connection tests now tolerate failures with short timeouts. This change allows the proxy configuration to be honored even if the proxy service is not always reliable.
- 27031 Fixed a software defect that could cause the management layer to fail and restart when the number of assigned client IP addresses in the cluster was reduced. This failure affected each cluster node in turn as management control switched to healthy nodes.

If you need to reduce the number of virtual interfaces (client- or cluster-facing) before updating, contact Microsoft Customer Service and Support for advice.
- 27055 A divide-by-zero error in a network driver could cause the system to unexpectedly restart. The issue has been corrected.
- 27060 Enhanced logging to improve the supportability of token management, especially during cache invalidation.
- 27120 Improved memory usage, fixing an issue where the system requested a larger buffer for packets than required, and consumed extra memory unnecessarily.
- 27146 Fixed a problem where a web page error could prevent cluster creation.
- 27174 Updated the Core Filer Details settings page to clarify the “filer class” control and update the list of options. The control is now labeled SMB filer class, and the help text has been revised.
- 27217 Corrected a problem that caused the private preview software for the Azure FXT Edge Filer (v5.2.1.1) to return an error when trying to configure a syslog server.

NFS

- 26285 Fixed a defect in the network lock manager so that an internal server lock recovers correctly. Before this change, lock operations could receive “lockgrace” errors after the end of the grace period.
- 26979 Addressed a defect where specific errors (like ROFS) during junction add or modify operations returned generic "system is busy" errors instead of appropriate descriptions.
- 27135 Updated code to avoid a file system service restart (with associated core file) if an NFS client attempted to access a junction that did not have an NFS export policy.

SMB/CIFS

- 26634 Added a CIFS admin field in the Core Filer Details configuration page. If provided, this user’s credentials are supplied when reading SMB ACLs from the core filer.
- 26815 Fixed an issue where junctions in a migration from a cloud source to a NAS target with the “force default ACL” option set could cause a filesystem service restart.
- 27095 Changed code to correctly handle non-terminal errors that could cause a core file from SMB processes.

Contact Microsoft Customer Service and Support

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By web: Use the links under Support Information on <https://www.microsoft.com/avere/contact-us>

By phone: 1-888-88-AVERE, Option 2 (Toll-Free)
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