Portal 2.4.37

Release Notes

Changes since Portal 2.4.36

Synapse Portal®
Version 2.4.37
November 1, 2012

Revision History

Previous Version	Change	Page(s)
11/01/2012	Initial version of 2.4.37 Release Notes (Linux)	

Introduction

This document describes the changes made to Portal since version 2.4.36.

Portal version 2.4.36 was released to the Synapse Support Forum (http://forums.synapse-wireless.com) on October 10, 2012. Versions 2.4.31-2.4.36 have their own release notes document, to which you may also want to refer.

Portal versions 2.4.31-2.4.36 were software releases for the Microsoft Windows operating system only, there have been no Linux or MAC releases of Portal since version 2.4.17.

Version 2.4.37 is a release for the Linux operating system. (Other platforms are in QA.) These release notes are meant to accompany that release.

NOTE – In addition to these release notes, you should also refer to the latest **Portal Reference Manual**, and to the readme file that accompanies the Portal package file.

Overview

The majority of Portal changes made in a given release can be broken down into five main categories:

- **New Features** – completely new Portal capabilities

- **Enhancements** – improvements to existing features

- **Support for new Platforms** – the SNAP family is growing!

- **Fixes** – corrections to existing features

- **Licensing** – Updates to the licensing of SNAP and Portal

All of these are described in the sections that follow.

Note that since the main point of <u>this</u> release was to support an additional operating system (Linux) most of the sections are relatively empty – the format is being retained for compatibility with previous release note documents.

New Features

1. Portal is now available for 32-bit Linux (Ubuntu 12.04). Look at the readme.txt inside the ZIP file for more details.

Enhancements

1. Portal version 2.4.37 has better support for *user selected colors* in the **Node Views** pane.

2. This is the first version of Linux Portal to support a "debian" style installer (.deb file)

New SNAP Platforms Supported

No new SNAP Platforms were added this release. Refer to the release notes for Portal versions 2.4.32-2.4.36 for the *recently* added platforms.

Fixes

In order to release a Linux version of Portal, we had to correct several issues relating to:

wxPython features that worked under Windows but not under Linux.

wxPython features that worked differently under Linux.

Font size differences, including dialog box "title truncation" issues.

Color and icon size differences.

Differences in how file monitoring worked under Linux (this is the feature by which Portal detects that you have edited a file "outside" of Portal).

Licensing

The actual license for Portal has been changed from a local file (bundled into the installer) to a website URL. This will avoid having to release a new version of Portal in the future should the license need to be updated. (Refer to Portal versions 2.4.35 and 2.4.36.)

Installation and Upgrade Notes

There were changes to the license text presented as you install Portal with the 2.4.37 release. The actual license is now on a website, and you should go view that license before continuing with the installation.

It is required that you uninstall your current version of Portal before installing the latest version. (See the readme.txt file packaged with the installer for details.) Any settings from version 2.0 or later will automatically be saved and migrated to the new version. Also, any Synapse Wireless Network (SWN) files from version 2.0 or later are compatible.

> Minimum System Requirements
>> System Processor: 500 megahertz (MHz) x86 architecture based processor or higher
>> System Memory: 512 megabyte (MB) RAM or higher
>> Free Disk Space: 512 megabyte (MB) or more
>> Operating System: Linux Ubuntu 12.04 (32-bit)
>> (MAC and Windows versions of Portal 2.4.37 have been created and are currently undergoing QA testing. In the meantime, Windows users can continue to run Portal version 2.4.36.)
>> Networking: Remote connection functionality requires a TCP/IP connection

Portal version 2.4 requires that all SNAP nodes are running the included SNAP 2.4 or later firmware version for all features to be supported. SNAP 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 nodes can be managed via Portal 2.4, but newer features such as Trace Route and serial encryption will not work.

NOTE - The 2.4 series of firmware has now been out for more than two years – you are very unlikely to encounter versions 2.1.x through 2.3.x "out in the wild."

Known Problems and Workarounds

Problem: The Channel Help function is not currently supported with nodes using the 900 MHz or 868 MHz bands. (The usual notion of "channel" does not apply to these frequency bands, due to their use of frequency hopping.)

Workaround: Refer to the SNAP Reference Manual's description of channel usage in the description of the getChannel() function to understand frequency distribution based on the channel selected, and use the Channel Analyzer to indicate where the most radio interference in your environment is.

Problem: Portal on non-windows platforms is not enforcing the file suffix (".swn") when you save "config" files. The file gets saved even if you leave off the extension, but then Portal refuses to reload it.

Workaround 1: Be sure to include a ".swn" extension on these files when you save them.

Workaround 2: If you did create a file without the required extension, simply rename the file to have the correct extension (".swn") and Portal should then be able to load it back in.

Problem: Linux Portal only runs under 32-bit Linux, not 64-bit Linux.

Workaround: It is possible to run 32-bit Portal inside of a *virtualized* 32-bit machine running on a *real* 64-bit machine. See for instance VirtualBox (www.virtualbox.org). Other virtualization solutions may also work, but VirtualBox is the one we tested against.

Related Documents

SNAP Firmware 2.4 Release Notes

Portal Reference Manual

Portal 2.4.32-2.4.36 Release Notes

SNAP Connect Python Package Manual

SNAP Reference Manual

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