Qualys Cloud Agent MacOS Apple-Silicon 4.40

May 2023

We're excited to tell you about new features, improvements, platform coverage changes, and fixes in this Cloud Agent release. These updates are specific to the agent binary. Platform updates for new features and fixes of management, syncing, tagging, and reporting capabilities of Cloud Agents are documented in the Cloud Platform and Cloud Suite release notes.

Enhancements

The following enhancements are made for the Patch Management application with the new agent version:

- **Enhanced security for password collection flow**: With this enhancement, the script for collecting credentials for OS patch deployment is stored inside the binary code. This improves the security of the password collection process. Earlier, the script was stored in the Qualys application directory
- **Added support for deferring the patch deployment**: On an asset, once the missing patches are identified and downloaded, you can defer the patch deployment on the Mac assets.
  You can configure the notification to be displayed and deferment options while creating a patch job for Mac assets in the Patch Management application in the **Deployment messages section** > **Pre-deployment option**.
  You can configure the following settings:
  - notification header and text message
  - number of times the patch installation can be deferred
  - time after which the system sends a reminder to defer or install the patch
- Added support to display notifications for the patch deployment job in the following scenarios:
  - MacOS patching countdown: This notification is displayed after the defined number of deferments is over or when you select to deploy the patch. You can configure the following settings for this notification:
    - notification header and text message
    - countdown that displays the time before patch deployment starts. You can configure the number of minutes for the countdown.
  - Deployment in progress: You can configure the notification header and text message to be displayed during patch deployment.
  - Deployment completion: You can configure the notification header and text message to be displayed when the deployment is complete.
- **Retry patch download**: Added support for two attempts to download the patch if the patch download fails. When the patch download fails, the first attempt to retry the download is initiated after 5 minutes. If the first retry attempt fails, the second attempt is initiated after 10 minutes.
  If the patch download fails after the retry attempts, the patch job is marked as **Failed** in the Patch Management application, and the reason is displayed in the **Failure Details** dialog box.

Behavior Changes

On the Apple macOS Ventura 13.x system, the Allow in Background option is available in the Login Options, with which you can control the background processes.

Platform Coverage Support (Operating Systems)

There are no new platform coverages in this release.

Fixed Defects

There are no fixed defects included in this release.

Known Limitations and Workarounds

- During the final countdown before patching, if the Patch process is killed abruptly, the countdown notification remains on the screen until the timer is completed, while the rest of the process exits gracefully. This does not have an impact on any functionality.

- Post Patching completion, you might still see a patch notification from the tray icon. If you click on the tray icon, it displays no action required. The notification will disappear if you click anywhere on the screen. This does not have an impact on any functionality.