ERS 8600: Code Level Considerations Required for Updated 8692SF CPU cards

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Background:

All active code streams all currently provide support for a new re-spin version of the 8692SF/CPU. As documented in the release notes documents for the 4.1.8.2 and 5.0.1.0 releases, this re-spin need was created by the need to change parts associated with the PCMCIA controller slot. This affects PEC DS1404065-E5 and DS1404066-E5. The new re-spin version module can be identified by the PCMCIA card slot now having front panel artwork that shows "PC Card" while older versions of the module show "PCMCIA".
Additionally, the new version of the hardware can be identified via the Hardware Revision 52.

The new version requires 5.0.1.0 code or higher, or 4.1.8.2 code or higher in the 4.1.x stream. All future code releases will also have support for this version of the module. Should you run this version of the module with lower numbered code releases, the module will boot and come up, but the PCMCIA/PC card slot will not function, and such a usage is not supported.

While this code dependency was previously documented in the release notes, it should be noted that the updated is anticipated to begin shipping for new orders in the near future. Card replacement through logistics (RMA) is not currently anticipated to begin shipping the new 8692SF card revision until January, 2011.

Analysis:

While the re-spun 8692SF card revision will begin shipping in the near future for new orders, an interaction has recently been identified with certain PCMCIA cards which will lead to high CPU utilization conditions during read access to the PCMCIA card. This interaction has been isolated to an inefficient handling of a read timeout in accessing a status register within the driver for the new PCMCIA controller.

A solution for this issue is now available in the 5.1.3.1 code and will be propagated as an incremental fix to all currently supported code streams. In addition, the fix for this issue will be propagated to the 4.1.8.x code stream regardless of it's current End of Life support status.

Recommendations:

Due to the impact of the interaction identified, it is recommended that any networks receiving the new 8692SF version upgrade to one of the code versions listed below (or higher) prior to or in conjunction with deploying the new hardware. Running the new card revision on earlier code levels with a PCMCIA card installed may lead to system instability.

4.1.8.5 : Available as of Sept 30th, 2010

5.0.5.1 : Anticipated availability by Oct. 22nd, 2010
5.1.3.1 : Available as of Sept 20th, 2010.
7.0.0.2 : Anticipated availability by Oct. 15th, 2010.

Required Actions:

Software level of the ERS8600 should be upgraded to one of the code versions which address this issue prior to (or in conjunction with) installing an updated 8692SF card.

Attachments:

There are no attachments for this bulletin

Products and Releases:

The information in this bulletin is intended to be used with the following products and associated releases:

PRODUCT	RELEASE
Ethernet Rtng Switch-Ethrnt Rtng Swt 8600-Ethernet Rtng Switch 8600	

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REFERENCE:	wi00564790
PRE-REQUIRED PATCH:	
PATCH ID:	
FIXED RELEASE:	4.1.8.5, 5.0.5.1, 5.1.3.1, 7.0.0.2