

VOTIRO

Secure File Gateway V9.4

# Release Notes

Votiro Support  
**November 2020**

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# Contents

- 1 Introduction ..... 4**
- 2 New Features ..... 5**
  - 2.1 Office Macros ..... 5
  - 2.2 Support for XLSB and old Excel Formats ..... 5
  - 2.3 Support for P7S & P7M – Email Digital Signature ..... 5
  - 2.4 Support for SVG – Scalable Vector Graphics ..... 6
  - 2.5 Improvements in Email (TNEF, MSG & EML) ..... 6
  - 2.6 New Branding – Color and Logo ..... 6
  - 2.7 Increased Throughput to 35k Files per hour ..... 6
  - 2.8 And there's more... ..... 7
    - 2.8.1 Code Security - Snyk Integration ..... 7
    - 2.8.2 Analytics Refactoring ..... 7
    - 2.8.3 Storage and Stability ..... 7
    - 2.8.4 IE for Password Protected File ..... 7
- 3 Deprecated Features ..... 8**
  - 3.1 Removal of Fake File Policy ..... 8
  - 3.2 Removal of Policy by Active Directory ..... 8

# 1 Introduction

We are very pleased to announce the latest release of Votiro's Secure File Gateway, version 9.4. The focus on this version has been our transition from file blocking towards zero-block.

We have added to the suite of file types recognized for positive selection, in turn improving the processing of files that have these files embedded. File types include: XLSB and legacy excel formats, SVG, TNEF, and P7S & P7M email digital signatures. As ever, you can use policies to further define how files are processed to meet the needs of your organization.

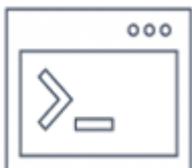
Improvements to our handling of office macros has delivered a more streamlined business workflow. Our superior standard of protection has been maintained with more files safely processed.

As always, we fixed several bugs and carried out general product maintenance to provide a more stable environment with an ever-increasing throughput of files for processing.

## 2 New Features

The following new features and improvements are added to this version of Votiro's Secure File Gateway.

### 2.1 Office Macros



The release sees significant improvements in our handling of office macros. Our excellent protection from suspicious macros has been maintained, with a reduction rate of false positives in excess of 50%, resulting in a less disruptive business workflow.

We strive to continue improving our handling of office macros as threats become more sophisticated, and new to detect.

### 2.2 Support for XLSB and old Excel Formats



In this release we added several legacy excel formats to our detection process, including XLSB files. XLSB is a binary excel file, similar to a standard XLSX file, offering binary file compression to make files smaller and easier to save, open and store.

Prior to this inclusion we had on occasion seen XLSB files being blocked or added as an exception. The analytics data captured about these additional file formats will help inform future decisions.

### 2.3 Support for P7S & P7M – Email Digital Signature



P7S files are email messages that include a digital signature. Digitally signed emails are used to verify the identity of the sender. As opposed to other file formats, P7S cannot be used as an independent file.

Prior to this release these files were blocked by default, causing user confusion about the content of the email released by the admin. In version 9.4 we are accepting these files by default reducing the break-rate significantly.

## 2.4 Support for SVG – Scalable Vector Graphics

Version 9.4 introduces support for SVG files, a popular vector image format which is often used for logos and symbols in presentations.



Although SVG files have several attack vectors due to the fact they are XML based, the threat level is low. The most dangerous attack vector in SVG is the embedded JavaScript which we detect and remove.

Office documents with embedded SVG files would previously have been blocked. They are now mainstreamed in the positive selection process.

## 2.5 Improvements in Email (TNEF, MSG & EML)



Email is the container for the vast majority of the traffic Votiro processes today.

TNEF is an email attachment format owned by Microsoft. TNEF emails can contain features such as embedded objects (OLE), forms, polls, voting buttons and more.

Version 9.4 introduces important improvements for handling email attachments and invites.

## 2.6 New Branding – Color and Logo



Version 9.4's GUI was updated with the new Votiro logo and color scheme. A fundamental part of rebranding a company is making sure every piece of the company is aligned to the new identity.

Our current management dashboard doesn't fully reflect the updated principles and messaging of our new brand. These will be introduced in 9.5.

## 2.7 Increased Throughput to 35k Files per hour



One of the top VA objectives was to improve the scalability of our product, to increase throughput and manage traffic at peak hours. Each release has seen an increase in throughput volumes, version 9.4 is no exception and we are easily seeing a minimum of 35k files processed per hour.

Although our system can hold a high scale of files using our current cluster of 3 nodes. As an enterprise solution we are working to scale these numbers even more. Let's see what version 9.5 delivers!

## **2.8 And there's more...**

### **2.8.1 Code Security - Snyk Integration**

We implemented the tool Snyk for building automatic security testing for our development process. Snyk will also provide a frequent evaluation the quality of our code. This process is also required by some customers for vendor compliance purposes.

### **2.8.2 Analytics Refactoring**

Our analytics module has been refined to handle a high volume of traffic without impacting the product's performance in real-time. The restructuring of anonymous data collected will further improve insights, and create measurable goals.

### **2.8.3 Storage and Stability**

We made improvements in our product's stability and durability, preventing downtime in the case of a shortage in storage.

### **2.8.4 IE for Password Protected File**

The user interactions for managing password protected files with our product can now be performed in the IE browser, as well as in Chrome. This provides additional flexibility for user to safely retrieve their files in a timely manner.

## 3 Deprecated Features

### 3.1 Removal of Fake File Policy

The feature to define a Policy to deal with a **Fake File** has been removed. Instances where the file's extension does not match the file type are processed for positive selection, so pose no threat to your organization.

### 3.2 Removal of Policy by Active Directory

The feature to create policies for managing files for each Active Directory group has been removed. Policies for individuals can still be managed by adding exceptions for cases and file types.