



ExpressSAS RAID Flash Bundle v080627

1. General Release Information

These product release notes define the new features, changes, known issues and release details that apply to the ExpressSAS RAID adapter flash bundle package, version 080627, which was released on 6/30/2008. This information pertains to the flash bundles and BIOS utility associated with the ExpressSAS RAID product.

2. Changes

- **Version 080627 (Released 6/30/2008)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v2.00 to v2.20
 - **New Features**
 - **Improved Media Error Handling**
 - To account for variances in physical media, the ExpressSAS RAID products have implemented enhanced error handling to minimize potential workflow interruptions caused by imperfect media. In addition, during RAID group initialization, users will have a choice between an Advanced Initialization method which will thoroughly scan and clean the selected media minimizing the RAID group's susceptibility to errors. This is usually done the first time a RAID group is created and requires that no I/O be allowed during the process. Another initialization method added, Express Initialization, allows users to perform I/O during initialization and is generally used when the media has previously been through a full initialization cycle.
 - **Enhanced SES support:**
 - Monitoring and notification of enclosure properties (i.e. power, fan speed, etc.)
 - Users are able to actively monitor the characteristics of any SES supported enclosure device. This includes viewing the status of the enclosure power supply, temperature and fan speed. In addition, through the Configuration Tool, the user can configure the ExpressSAS RAID to provide email notifications when an event such as a failure occurs.
 - Support for displaying enclosure serial number
 - The ExpressSAS RAID adapter/Configuration Tool can display an enclosure serial number attached to the adapter if supported by the enclosure.
 - Ability to illuminate fault LEDs in an enclosure with an embedded expander
 - To simplify usability, users can easily identify a faulted drive and replace accordingly.
 - Identify a drive in an enclosure with an embedded expander from the Configuration Tool
 - To simplify usability, from the Configuration Tool, users are able to identify a selected drive by flashing the drive LED.
 - Identify all drives in a single RAID group within an enclosure with an embedded expander

- To simplify usability, from the Configuration Tool, users are able to identify all members of a selected RAID group by flashing the LEDs of the respective drives.
 - Identify all drives within an enclosure with an embedded expander
 - To simplify usability, from the Configuration Tool, users are able to identify all drives within a selected enclosure by flashing the LEDs of the respective drives.
 - **Enhanced GUI functionality:**
 - The following implementations have been made to the ATTO Configuration Tool to improve overall usability and provide the user with more relevant information related to their RAID group and media.
 - Enhanced RAID group properties provide more functionality and additional performance optimization parameters for the advanced user.
 - Ability to display advanced drive properties provides the user with additional information related to the attached drives.
 - Enhanced event notifications and logging provides users with additional troubleshooting information to diagnose problems.
 - Improved user help text provides additional information on product functionality.
 - **Support for drive filtering (OEM Only)**
 - Through a unique OEM parameter setting, the ExpressSAS RAID adapter can limit the RAID group creation to use only specified drive types. This minimizes the support efforts for OEMs and allows them to use only those drives “qualified” for their solution.
 - **Support for 4KB sector size RAID groups**
 - This enables users to create RAID groups larger than 2TB addressable in 32-bit Windows XP.
 - **Improved Performance**
 - Additional performance improvements have been incorporated to further enhance SAS and SATA performance for reads as well as writes in various applications.
 - The ExpressSAS RAID product has enhanced the rebuild prioritization feature thus increasing general MB/sec performance during the rebuild process.
 - **Added support for ExpressSAS R30F 16 port RAID adapter**
 - **Incident Resolutions/Bug Fixes/Changes**
 - Enhanced stability while performing heavy I/O during a RAID group rebuild.
 - Improved handling of I/O during RAID group conversion
 - Added ability to support LUNs > 0 on pass-through devices such as SAS tape libraries.
 - Addressed an issue when performing a RAID 0 to RAID 10 migration.
 - Improved the handling of data overrun conditions.
 - BIOS driver signatures were updated so as not to cause conflicts when more than one ATTO adapter family is used in the same system.
 - In the event a system BIOS assigns the improper I/O address, the ExpressSAS RAID will reassign I/O base register to avoid potential system hangs.
 - Enable/Disable BIOS setting is now applied to all installed adapters, not just the currently enabled adapter.
 - Enhanced device wait time processing.
- **Version 080123 (Released 1/24/2008)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v1.20 to v2.00
 - **New Features**
 - **Performance improvements:** Up to 5x improvement in IOPS performance.
 - **Pass-through mode:** Provides support for operation of the RAID adapter with non-block devices such as tape drives and libraries.
 - **Auto rebuild:** Support added to allow users to set the adapter to automatically begin a rebuild of a RAID group when a failed drive is replaced with a new, clean drive.
 - **Staggered drive spin-up:** Support added to set the interval to spin drives up individually ultimately lowering the power consumption on the enclosure power supply.
 - **SES support:** Added support to monitor the health of the storage enclosure and its respective devices.

- **SpeedRead functionality:** Added adaptive speedread control to provide optimal performance based on the read I/O of your application (i.e. sequential vs. random).
 - **Incident Resolutions/Bug Fixes/Changes**
 - Enhanced device enumeration to improve user experience by providing feedback while waiting for drives to be discovered.
 - Improved messaging during the configuration of hot spares.
 - Reassign I/O base registers when a system BIOS improperly assigns I/O addresses to avoid system hangs on some platforms.
 - Improved detection of mapped partitions to avoid failed deleting RAID group attempt when no partitions are mapped.
 - Fixed system hang with drive pull during DVRAID group rebuild.
 - Improved interoperability with Promise RAID array.
 - Improved error handling with drive pull with speed read enabled
 - Improved auto-mapping implementation.
 - Addressed a firmware hang when a cable is pulled under certain conditions.
 - Improved conversion processing.
 - Modified driver initialization to account for drives not being available during initialization.
 - Addressed an issue with multiple RAID groups requiring rebuilds simultaneously.
 - Addressed firmware crash when playing back HD with Avid Nitris.
 - Expanded drive configurations for DVRAID
 - Modified faulted rebuild event log message.

3. Known Issues/Advisements

- When used in PCIe 2.0 bus slots, the ExpressSAS RAID adapter may not negotiate to the full width of the bus and performance may be impacted. A reboot of the system will result in a re-negotiation and may resolve performance issues.
- It is recommended that a RAID group conversion not be paused as the RAID group will go offline and the conversion cannot be resumed via the GUI interface.
- The BlockDevIdentify command does not work correctly for Fujitsu drives. Drive activity light only flashes once when this option is enabled.
- Adapter target device discovery does not work properly if a SATA array has been previously connected (without being power-cycled) to another HBA (ie. a second ATTO HBA or another vendor's).
- Setting the RAIDCommandTimeout parameter to 500 msec or below causes a RAID group to go offline when using SATA drives.

4. Affected Products

Product Name	SKU
ExpressSAS R348 RAID Adapter	ESAS-R348-000
ExpressSAS R380 RAID Adapter	ESAS-R380-000
ExpressSAS R30F RAID Adapter	ESAS-R30F-000

5. Contacting ATTO Support

ATTO Technology, Inc. is renowned for its technical support services. ATTO's goal is to provide you the quickest response possible for your technical support needs, and is available Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM EST (except holidays and plant closings).

ATTO Technical Support can be contacted via phone or email:

- Phone: 716.691.1999 ext. 242
- E-Mail: techsupport@attotech.com