



ExpressSAS 6Gb RAID Flash Bundle v130304

1. General Release Information

These product release notes define the new features, changes, known issues and release details that apply to the ExpressSAS 6Gb RAID adapter flash bundle package, version 130304, which was released on March 12, 2013. This information pertains to the flash bundles and BIOS utility associated with the ExpressSAS 6Gb RAID product.

2. Changes

- **Version 130304/BIOS v3.15/EFI v3.00 (Released 3/12/2013)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 3.00
 - [EFI] Corrected the timer frequency that controls several operations including command timeouts.
 - [EFI] Corrected a rare issue that could cause a command to be completed twice.
 - Pass through devices are persistently mapped to prevent data corruption.
 - [BIOS] Fixed a problem where passthrough devices may not be discovered during the bus scan.
 - [BIOS / EFI Config] Added support for SSD RAID groups.
 - [BIOS Config] Update with some of the recent features added to the EFI Configuration Utility.
 - [BIOS] Added POST memory manager (PMM) support.
 - [BIOS / EFI Config] Added the ability to force the SAS link rate.

- **Version 121213/BIOS v3.11/EFI v2.70 (Released 12/18/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.90
 - Resolved various SGPIO issues
 - Resolved issues with staggered spin-up of disk drives

- **Version 120927/BIOS v3.11/EFI v2.70 (Released 9/27/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.85

- **Version 120824/BIOS v3.11/EFI v2.70 (Released 8/24/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.80
 - [BIOS] Fixed a problem where the system would hang when another BIOS driver allocated memory in the EBDA area after this driver.
 - Improved SATA error handling mechanisms
 - Improved parity on-the-fly performance
 - Improved device discovery logic
 - Implemented more robust firmware error reporting

- **Version 120611/BIOS v3.09/EFI v2.70 (Released 6/13/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.71
 - Resolved an installation issue present in the 120521 release. Refer to 120521 release notes below for additional details on features and changes.

- **Version 120521/BIOS v3.09/EFI v2.70 (Released 5/24/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.70
 - Resolved an issue where the R6xx cards would sometimes fail to notify the user in the event of an overheat condition.
 - Corrected various issues involving discovery with the 3-gig Areca Expander.
 - Fault LED behavior is now consistent after a drive is replaced.
 - Resolved issues causing Mac workstations to occasionally hang during reboot.
 - Event log message is now sent if a rebuild cannot be resumed at discovery.
 - [EFI] Corrected an issue introduced in the previous release that could cause commands to prematurely timeout.
 - [EFI] Fixed several issues with using CD-ROM type devices.
 - [EFI] The Open Firmware image has been removed from all EFI flash bundles.

- **Version 120217 (Released 2/22/2012)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.67
 - [BIOS/EFI] Resolved issue where “HBA Internal Error” message is displayed when trying to rebuild an invalid RAID group.
 - [EFI] Improvements have been made to keep track of system time more precisely.

- **Version 111209 (Released 12/15/2011)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.65
 - The Configuration Utility now saves NVRAM settings.
 - Corrected an issue where the Configuration Utility would incorrectly warn that NVRAM settings were not saved.

- **Version 111012 (Released 10/14/2011)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.60

- **Version 110926 (Released 09/29/2011)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v3.05 to v3.06.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.55

- **Version 110622 (Released 06/29/2011)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v3.04 to v3.05.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.50
 - Significant performance improvements via a new PRD API and addition of Read Direct feature (RAID 5 only).
 - The driver to firmware communication mechanism has been changed. Driver v2.10, or later, is required to support firmware v2.50, and later. Additionally, the v2.10 driver supports earlier firmware versions from v2.00 up through v2.20.
 - Removed support for creating RAID groups with less than 64 KB interleave sizes.
 - Several discovery problems pertaining to externally configurable route tables have been resolved
 - Corrected issues with SATA NCQ processing under heavy load that could result in temporarily slow or permanently stalled I/O
 - Corrected a memory corruption issue when the NVRAM is saved and the configuration utility is exited and re-entered.

- Fixed an issue where RAID groups were degraded with iStorage 6G Chassis
 - Fixed an issue with drives disappearing when daisy chaining JMR array
 - Fixed an issue where drives would disappear after returning from Sleep
- **Version 110418 (Released 04/21/2011)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v3.03 to v3.04.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.20
 - In the Configuration Tool, added an LED Control setting to the NVRAM panel
- **Version 110325 (Released 03/25/11)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v3.01 to v3.03.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.12
 - NCQ is now enabled by default.
- **Version 110211 (Released 02/16/11)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v3.00 to v3.01.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated VDA firmware version 2.10
 - Performance improvements in IOPs and MB/s applications.
 - CacheAssure™ performance improvements when in High Protection mode.
 - SAS Multiplexing implemented. This enables the user to achieve performance improvements with 6Gb RAID when using slower 3Gb drives.
- **Version 101119 (Released 11/30/10)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v2.00 to v3.00.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 2.05
 - Enhanced Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI) and Serial Over Lan (SOL) support within BIOS and the configuration utility.
- **Version 100917 (Released 9/22/2010)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v1.10 to v2.00.
 - **Note:** The upgrade from version 1.00 to 2.00 of the driver and firmware must be done in a specific order:
For Windows and OSX: "Any upgrade from a previous version to 2.00 for the driver and firmware must be done in a specific order. Version 2.00 firmware must be updated first with a flashbundle using the ATTO Configuration Tool. Once the new firmware is flashed, "DO NOT REBOOT," the 2.00 driver should be loaded. Your system will appear to freeze for up to three minutes while the new driver is loaded. A reboot is required to use the new update."
For Linux: Any upgrade from a previous version to 2.00 for the driver and firmware must also be done in a specific order. Version 2.00 firmware must be updated first with a flashbundle using the ATTO Configuration Tool or the Linux CLI tool, atflash_32 (for 32-bit OS) or atflash_x64 (for 64-bit OS) version 1.01. Once the new firmware is flashed, the 2.00 driver should be loaded using the "install.sh" script as described in the "installation instruction" in driver readme file. When the script asks if you would like to load the driver, type "N" for no and reboot the system to initiate all changes. Please note that if the driver is installed first you will not be able to install the 2.00 firmware using the ATTO Configuration Tool. Downgrading back to 1.00 will allow you to flash the 2.00 firmware.
New Features, Enhancements and Changes
 - Initial Release and added support for the R60F.
 - Incorporate firmware version 2.00.
 - The driver to firmware communication mechanism has been improved. Driver versions 2.00 and later are only supported with version 2.00 and later firmware

- **Version 100712 (Released 07/15/10)**
 - The following apply to changes made from v1.00 to v1.10.
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Incorporated firmware version 1.10
- **Version 100520 (Released 05/21/10)**
 - **New Features, Enhancements and Changes**
 - Initial release for the R644, R680 and R608.

3. Known Issues/Advisements

- The adapter can be flashed with only one boot driver at a time. The options are BIOS, EFI 32 bit or EFI 64 bit.
- The BIOS and EFI Configuration Utility have a default over-provisioning value of 0 for SSD RAID groups. This is different than the UVDA firmware default.
- After updating to firmware v2.50, or later, and if you have previously created RAID groups with interleave size less than 64KB, these RAID groups will not be visible. You must use firmware v2.20, or earlier, to continue to use these RAID groups.
- Method to back flash firmware from v2.50 to a previous firmware version when the installed driver is prior to v2.10. This is needed when a new card is purchased but the qualified driver version is not v2.10, or later.
 - a. Install driver version that supports firmware v2.50 (v2.10, or later)
 - b. Install the desired flash bundle
 - c. Reboot the system
 - d. Install the previously installed driver (pre-v2.10)

4. Affected Products

Product Name	SKU
ExpressSAS R644 RAID Adapter	ESAS-R644-000
ExpressSAS R680 RAID Adapter	ESAS-R680-000
ExpressSAS R608 RAID Adapter	ESAS-R608-000
ExpressSAS R60F RAID Adapter	ESAS-R60F-000
ExpressSAS R644 RAID Adapter with CacheAssure	ESAS-R644-C00
ExpressSAS R680 RAID Adapter with CacheAssure	ESAS-R680-C00
ExpressSAS R608 RAID Adapter with CacheAssure	ESAS-R608-C00
ExpressSAS R60F RAID Adapter with CacheAssure	ESAS-R60F-C00

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 6:00 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