

Sierra 6.3 Release Notes

Release Notes

Sierra 6.3 is currently in general release.

 **NOTE:** Customers with Encore need to be at least Encore 4.6 SP2 in order to upgrade to Sierra 6.3.

 **CAUTION:** In Sierra 5.2 and later, the SDA must run on Java 1.8 and will no longer launch if run on Java 1.6 - see [Sierra 5.2 Release Notes](#).

Sierra 6.3 Features

Description	Recommended Pre-Upgrade Action	Recommended Post-Upgrade Action
<p>New Load Table Editing Platform</p> <p>A new Load Tables function has been added to the Sierra staff client.</p> <p>New permissions have been introduced to allow staff to use this function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permission 710: View Load Tables• Permission 711: Edit Load Tables <p>Authorized users can now access this function to manage files, including viewing and editing load tables (m2btap). They can also export and import files, modify existing files, create new files by copying an existing one, and switch between guided view and source view. The source view shows the command string, while the guided view provides a template for viewing and editing command strings in a form.</p>	None	To enable access to the new feature, add Load Tables to desired Workflows and add 710 (View Load Tables) and 711 (Edit Load Tables) to user permissions. See also Can't Find the Load Tables function .
<p>Support Home Pickup Logic for Requests Placed Through Sierra API</p> <p>The Sierra API now uses the same home pickup rules as WebPAC and Encore, preventing patrons from selecting invalid pickup locations when requesting items from a local library. To enforce these policies, the system won't accept requests or holds with invalid</p>	None	None

<p>combinations of borrower, materials, and pickup location. To avoid repeated rejections, the application using the Sierra API must request the current list of valid pickup locations for a given materials list and borrower. This helps guide users to choose only valid locations.</p>		
<p>Add Record to List</p> <p>Staff members can now easily add any open record in Sierra to a review file.</p> <p>When viewing or editing a record, staff with permission 18 (Create Lists) will see an option to add the record to a review file. Selecting this option opens a window showing existing review files of the same record type, allowing the user to choose the desired file.</p> <p>The record can be added if the review file's status is 'complete' and the file is owned or accessible to the user. If the record can't be added, an error message will appear, and the user can select a different file or cancel the operation.</p> <p>The system remembers the last selected review file for convenience, but users can choose a different one if needed. If a staff member doesn't have permission 18, this option won't be available.</p>	None	None
<p>Clear Jarcache Files in the SDA</p> <p>A new option in the Sierra Desktop Application (SDA) lets you clear the jarcache files, so new ones will be downloaded the next time you launch the SDA.</p> <p>This option automatically clears old or unused JAR files from the cache directory after an upgrade. You can also manually clear the JAR cache from the <i>Help > About</i> window before you exit the SDA.</p>	None	None
<p>Navigate from Create Lists to Global Update/Rapid Update</p> <p>A Sierra staff user will be able to navigate from a review file to Global Update or Rapid Update to work on the file, without having to open the new function and search for the file. A new "Send To" option on the Tools menu makes it easy to open the review file in either Global Update or Rapid Update. The relevant</p>	None	None

<p>option in the Tools menu will be greyed out if the user does not have permission to use Global Update or Rapid Update.</p>		
<p>Reduce Time for Patron Record Payment Lock</p> <p>Sierra shows a lock message when a staff member tries to open a patron record that's locked due to a fine payment process. The message tells you which user has the record locked and when the lock will expire. You can either clear the lock to complete the transaction or wait for it to expire automatically. The clear action requires permission 44 (Circulation Financial Functions). All actions to clear the lock are logged automatically by the system.</p>	None	None
<p>Copy Metadata URL from SAML Identity Providers</p> <p>When setting up SAML, the library administrator needs to share the metadata URL with the IdP administrator. To make this easier, we've added a 'copy' option in the Identify Provider panel on the SAML configuration screen. This allows the URL to be copied to the clipboard, so it can be easily pasted and sent to the IdP administrator, ensuring the full URL is correctly shared for configuration.</p>	None	None
<p>Log Fines Paid through Vega Discover with "e" Payment Type</p> <p>The fines paid report in Sierra will now show transactions paid through Vega Discover with the payment type 'e', just like it does for fines paid through WebPAC or Encore.</p>	None	None
<p>Update "Title Paging List" in Saved Notice Jobs List</p> <p>To make things clearer, we're changing the notice type for Title Paging Lists from 'Bib Paging List' to 'Title Paging List' in the Notice Type column of your saved notice jobs. The term 'Title Paging List' is already widely used in Sierra.</p>	None	None
<p>Update URL Checker Report</p> <p>The 'print' to email option in the URL Checker has</p>	None	None

<p>been fixed so that URLs in the report are not broken by column constraints. This ensures that links in the URL and New URL columns are clickable and lead to the correct pages, making it easier to check electronic materials efficiently.</p>		
<p>New Review File Endpoints</p> <p>As an API user, you can now access review files created in Sierra through two new read-only API endpoints. The first endpoint lets you retrieve a list of existing review files, with an optional parameter to filter by record type. The second endpoint allows you to specify a review file and get a list of record IDs contained in it. This makes it easier for external systems to access and use data from Sierra without needing to create complex JSON queries.</p>	None	None
<p>Sierra SMS Notifications</p> <p>Libraries can now use the new IPA SMS notification service to send patrons text messages about overdue items, available holds, and cancelled holds. Libraries can customize these messages and send them in English, French, or Spanish, based on the patron's language preference.</p>	None	<i>This service requires a separate subscription. For more information, please contact your library account manager.</i>

Sierra 6.3 System Changes and Important Fixes

Descriptions	Recommended Pre-Upgrade Action	Recommended Post-Upgrade Action
<p>Support for OEL 9/RHEL 9</p> <p>Sierra is now certified to run on RHEL 9 & OEL 9</p>	None	None
<p>Content Security Policy change</p> <p>Sierra 6.3 includes an enhanced Content Security Policy. This policy might prevent some integrations that your library previously added to WebPAC and Encore from functioning correctly and being blocked. We have added new CSP Web options to allow you to configure these third party integrations.</p>	<p>For a smoother post upgrade experience, add any known third party hosts to the new CSP Web Options prior to upgrading Sierra. Sierra's Web Options mode will not know about the new option names, but you can type them in manually</p>	<p>If your integrated links display a Content Security Policy error message that is blocking the page, you will need to add the hosts to the new CSP options under the XSS Security</p>

<p>New XSS Security Web Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSP_DEFAULT_SRC_HOSTS • CSP_SCRIPT_SRC_HOSTS • CSP_CONNECT_SRC_HOSTS • CSP_FORM_ACTION_HOSTS <p>For more information, please refer to "Using the Content Security Policy Web Options" on XSS Security Options in the Sierra WebHelp.</p>	<p>under the XSS Security Options group.</p>	<p>Options group in Web Options.</p> <p><i>A restart of the HTTP server is needed for these changes to take effect after you edit the Web Options file.</i></p>
<p>Behavior change with pop-up dialog box</p> <p>In order to resolve previous focus issues with pop-up boxes, the "enter" key has been de-activated for some pop-up dialog boxes. The space bar and hot key to activate the button are not affected.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Behavior change when using /patroninfo for authentication</p> <p>As a result of enhancements to Sierra 6.3 to improve system security regarding the referrer, GET and POST requests using /patroninfo to authenticate patrons are no longer supported. A GET request will return the login form and a POST request will return a 403 Forbidden page. Libraries must use published Sierra REST API endpoints or CAS for patron authentication.</p>	<p>If you use an application that relies on WebPAC's /patroninfo to authenticate or login, we recommend switching to Sierra REST API endpoints for patron authentication. If your application supports CAS for authentication, you can confirm CAS is enabled on your server by checking that URL <a href="https://<your SierraFQDN>/iii/cas/login">https://<your SierraFQDN>/iii/cas/login takes you to a login page. If you need CAS enabled, please open a support ticket.</p>	<p>None</p>

Known Issues

Please visit the [Resolved Issues in Sierra 6.3](#) solution for information on issues fixed in Sierra 6.3. For a complete list of existing Known Issues from Sierra 2.0 through the present release, see [Known Issues for Sierra \(2.0-6.3\)](#).

Preparing to update your system

System Requirements

Sierra 6.3 will require Red Hat or Oracle Linux version 8 as Red Hat reached end of life Centos 7 on July 1, 2024. During the Prep Phase, the Sierra 6.3 self upgrade checks for the required Operating System and Red Hat Network requirements and will fail if those requirements are not met. Details are contained in the [Sierra Self-Upgrade Solution](#).

Red Hat Network

Access to several repositories and new packages are needed and the upgrade process for Sierra 6.3 will automatically issue Linux package install requests for packages matching the following patterns:

- apr
- apr-devel
- apr-util
- apr-util-devel
- ansible
- curl
- expat
- expat-devel
- expect
- expect-devel
- git
- jq
- json-c-devel
- libcurl-devel
- librabbitmq
- librabbitmq-devel
- libxml2
- libxml2-devel
- makeself
- openssl
- openssl-devel
- p7zip
- pcre
- pcre-devel
- perl-LDAP
- python
- python-jinja2
- python-requests
- python2-pip
- python3-dnf-plugin-versionlock
- python3-jinja2
- python3-pip
- python3-requests
- python36
- rabbitmq-server
- readline
- readline-devel


- stunnel
- tcl
- unzip
- wget
- xorg-x11-fonts-misc
- xorg-x11-server-Xvfb
- xorg-x11-utils
- xz-devel
- yum-plugin-versionlock
- zip
- zlib
- zlib-devel
- epel-release (repo)
- erlang-solutions (repo)
- erlang
- logstash (repo)
- logstash

By issuing these requests automatically during the upgrade, if the system being upgraded to Sierra 6.3 is subscribed to the Red Hat Network (or has otherwise been configured to have online access to a repository of operating system packages) at the time of the Sierra 6.3 upgrade, the package additions for Sierra 6.3 will be made automatically and no action is required on the part of the library even for those libraries ordinarily responsible for operating system updates.

For more information on the Sierra Upgrade External Access, Package, and Maintenance Requirements, please see the [Sierra Self-Upgrade Solution](#).

Release Notes

Release notes include software behavior changes introduced in the update (some may have implications for training or data review prior to upgrade), any actions library staff should take prior to or just after updating the system, and notification of new features and other enhancements included in the update.

 **NOTE:** After you restart the upgrade process via Admin Corner to begin the Commit Phase, you will see a prompt before you reboot the server into maintenance mode. The prompt is for a passkey that you can obtain from CSDirect (<https://csdirect.iii.com/custconv-aws>) using your login credentials, allowing for software upg

If you have Encore, we highly recommend that you upgrade your Encore to Encore 6.3 soon after installing Sierra 6.3 to keep both Sierra and Encore up to date on the latest and aligning software.

For MyLibrary! customers and Sierra API users who also have the Patron Update Web Service, additional configuration may be necessary to enable all functions in MyLibrary! and the Sierra API. Please contact Customer Support if you are having trouble updating patron information using the Sierra API or within MyLibrary!.

Actions staff must take

This update consists of a Prep and a Commit Phase. The Commit Phase will require approximately 30 minutes to 1 hour of downtime and a reboot of the Sierra servers (application and database). A full backup (both application and DB servers) is required within 24 hours of the Commit Phase. Please review your backup schedule and choose the day/time for the Commit Phase accordingly. Note, if you own an Encore server, it will also be inaccessible during the Commit Phase.

At the end of the Prep Phase, the update process checks for a successfully completed backup within the last 24 hours and will alert you of potential problems. For customers on 5-day backup schedules, this may indicate that the Prep Phase ran on a day outside the normally scheduled backup. This same check is also performed at the beginning of the Commit Phase. You will not be able to proceed with the Commit Phase until a successful backup is verified.

Updating Your System

If you are a Hosted Sierra system or a Combo (single server) Sierra Training system, please schedule the update with Support. Submit the [Sierra Upgrade Request form](#).

For libraries running Sierra 2.0 SP2 or newer, you now have the ability to self upgrade via the Admin App. Please visit the [Sierra Self-Upgrade Solution](#).

Solution ID

241206161529363

Last Modified Date

03/26/2025 08:02:37 PM

Attributes

Software versions

- Sierra: 6.2

Taxonomy

- Solutions > Upgrade
- Solutions > Release Notes > Current

Collections

- Encore
- INNReach
- Millennium
- Sierra
- SkyRiver

[Go to Original Solution](#)

