

Sierra 6.4 Release Notes

Release Notes

Sierra 6.4 is currently in general release.

 **NOTE:** Customers with Encore need to be at least Encore 4.6 SP2 in order to upgrade to Sierra 6.4.

 **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 6.4 went into general release on June 9, 2025. We released Sierra 6.4 Maintenance Release 1 on July 10, 2025 and Sierra 6.4 Maintenance Release 2 on August 4, 2025.

Each version of Sierra 6.4 will display in the **Help | About** section of the SDA as follows:

- Sierra 6.4 MR2, released August 4: Sierra 6.4.0_9
- Sierra 6.4 MR1, released July 10: Sierra 6.4.0_8
- Sierra 6.4, released June 9: Sierra 6.4.0_6

Any library running Sierra 6.3 or older that preps for update to Sierra 6.4 after August 4, 2025, noon PDT will receive version Sierra 6.4.0_8. Libraries running Sierra 6.4.0_6 that want the fixes included in Sierra 6.4.0_9 can update to that version by choosing to update (again) to Sierra 6.4.

For further information about what fixes are included in Sierra 6.4.0_8, see [Resolved Issues in Sierra 6.4](#). Sierra 6.4.0_9 contains internal fixes related to Rapido and has no listings in Resolved Issues.

Sierra 6.4 Features

Descriptions	Recommended Pre-Upgrade Action	Recommended Post-Upgrade Action
<p>Resource Sharing workflows managed in Sierra with Rapido Consortial Borrowing (RCB)</p> <p>With Rapido Consortial Borrowing, Sierra staff are empowered to process Rapido items using the same circulation workflows used for processing INN-Reach items.</p> <p>As a lending site, staff members will be able to generate paging slips/lists for Rapido items, check those items out to and then back from a remote library. As a borrowing site, staff members will be able to receive Rapido items for their patrons, check them out and eventually send them back to the lending</p>	None	None

<p>site. Visiting patron functionality, in which patrons can check items out from another library in the consortium without placing a request, will also be supported in Rapido Consortial Borrowing.</p>		
<p>Automatic Year to Date Circ Maintenance</p> <p>A new "Year to Date Circ Maintenance" task type has been added to Sierra Scheduler to enable library staff to automate the transfer of YTDCIRC statistics to the LYRCIRC field on a schedule managed by the library.</p> <p>This new functionality gives the library the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • schedule one or more Year to Date Circ Maintenance tasks in Sierra Scheduler to run automatically • send task update emails to a designated user • select whether to ADD or REPLACE the circulation stat in the LYRCIRC field • select whether to clear the YTDCIRC field • select whether to update the LAST CHANGED field in the item record • enter an optional start and stop item record number (if used, start number is required; stop number is optional, and can be a wildcard) • select an optional saved search that will be used to run the task on a limited set of records <p>When a new YTDCIRC task is created, the starting value is initialized to the first Item record number. If a YTDCIRC maintenance task does not specify a range <i>and</i> does not specify a saved search, it applies to <i>all</i> Item records.</p> <p>Manual invocation of this function through Admin Corner will check for a scheduled job and warn the staff user if one exists.</p> <p>Standard Scheduler permissions are required to use this new functionality.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Optionally, schedule a job for automatic YTDCIRC updating.</p>
<p>"Previous" button added to record creation wizard</p> <p>To help correct errors when creating new records in Sierra, a "Previous" button has been added to the record creation wizard. This lets staff go back to the previous screen to change or add data. Data entered in each field is saved as you move to the next one, and it will be shown again if you go back.</p> <p>If a field is expanded during the process, it will stay expanded</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

<p>when you return to it. Any fields skipped during data entry will be removed when the record is saved at the end.</p>		
<p>Management and bulk delete of hidden review files</p> <p>Library staff can now easily manage and delete hidden review files generated by Sierra. A new feature in Create Lists lets users select and delete one or more files from a list.</p> <p>Eligible files for bulk deletion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load files from Data Exchange jobs • Label files for batch printing • ERM tickler files • Files of delete candidates from coverage loads <p>Users can delete multiple eligible files at once or choose to delete them individually.</p> <p>Managing and deleting review files requires permission 186 (Review file list administrator).</p>	None	None
<p>Patron barcode on the Clear Holdshelf report</p> <p>The patron barcode is now included in the Clear Holdshelf report and the hold detail window. This helps identify patrons whose holdshelf items have expired or been cancelled. The barcode is visible both online and on printed “Expired holds” and “Expired holds and holdshelf” reports.</p> <p>Libraries using lockers will find this especially useful for clearing items from lockers.</p>	None	None
<p>SFTP option for auto notices</p> <p>Sierra 6.4 offers a new option to send notices generated through auto notices securely via SFTP. When the secure option is selected, the ASCII checkbox is disabled by default.</p> <p>Any existing auto notice jobs that use FTP will continue to use standard FTP processes to send notices until the notice job is modified by a staff user after upgrade.</p>	None	<p>Optionally, modify FTP options in auto notices jobs to enable SFTP.</p> <p>The first time after upgrade that staff open each saved notice job, Sierra will prompt to re-save the job because of automatic changes to the format of FTP options that were made to accommodate SFTP.</p>

<p>UPC in notice data sent to LX Starter</p> <p>Starting in Sierra 6.4, the UPC will be included as a new element in the notice data sent to the LX Starter notices queue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When present in a bibliographic record, the first UPC value (MARC 024 1_ \$a) is included in the notices JSON data sent to the LX Starter notices queue. • The UPC field will not be present in the notice data when there is not a UPC in the bib record. 	None	None
<p>Item return date in patron's reading history</p> <p>As of Sierra 6.4, the date/time an item was returned is stored in the patron's reading history and will be included in the GET /v6/patrons/{id}/checkouts/history API response when the reading history is requested through the Sierra API endpoint.</p>	None	None
<p>Patron PIN is optional in checkout API endpoint</p> <p>The patrons/checkout API endpoint has been enhanced to work seamlessly when the patron PIN is optional. When the patron PIN is included in the API request, it will be verified. When the patron PIN is not required, the checkout transaction can be completed without it.</p>	None	None
<p>Patron's SMS opt-in status in WebPAC</p> <p>Patrons will be able to view their opt-in status for Sierra SMS by viewing the modify patron information panel in Sierra WebPAC.</p> <p>A new webform token has been added to the Sierra WebPAC to display whether or not a successfully-logged-in patron is subscribed to receive Sierra SMS messages. This token is included in the modify patron information (modpinfo) webform and the text can be customized by the library.</p>	None	<p><i>Sierra SMS requires a separate subscription. For more information, please contact your library account manager.</i></p>
<p>New user-controlled option for "Enter" key behavior in select pop-ups</p> <p>A new checkbox was added to the Edit tab of the Admin Options dialog: "Enter key activates selected button".</p> <p>When the "Enter key activates selected button" option is enabled, pressing the <Enter> key will "activate" (i.e., act as if</p>	None	<p>None.</p> <p>Staff experiencing issues with activating buttons via keyboard can toggle this option.</p>

<p>the user had clicked on the button, or pressed <Space>) the button that currently has focus.</p> <p>When the "Enter key activates selected button" option is not enabled, pressing the <Enter> key is not expected to "activate" the currently focused button, although some buttons are controlled independently of this option.</p>		
<p>"Add to Review File" has new mnemonic in Tools menu</p> <p>To improve the usability of the Add to Review File feature, a mnemonic (Alt+t+w) has been added to the "Add to Review File" command on the Tools menu in the Sierra client.</p>	None	None
<p>Infrastructure for new reporting interface</p> <p>Vega Reports will introduce a modern, intuitive interface with flexible tools and interactive widgets that make it easier than ever to build insightful reports and visualizations. These enhancements are designed to help library administrators confidently make data-driven decisions and manage their resources with greater clarity.</p> <p>In preparation for this new reporting environment, Sierra 6.4 includes functionality that enables libraries to begin accumulating statistical data within our new data lakehouse. This ensures that, once Vega Reports becomes available for Sierra libraries, your historical data will already be in place and ready to support your reporting needs from day one.</p>	None	None

Sierra 6.4 System Changes and Important Fixes

Descriptions	Recommended Pre-Upgrade Action	Recommended Post-Upgrade Action
<p>OpenJDK 11 update</p> <p>The supported version of OpenJDK is now updated to JDK 11.0.24.</p>	None	None

<p>Apache HTTPD update</p> <p>The supported version of Apache HTTPD is now updated to version 2.4.62.</p>	None	None
<p>MacOS Sequoia</p> <p>The Sierra Desktop Application (SDA) is now certified to work on MacOS Sequoia.</p>	None	None
<p>Changes to CAS logout to improve security</p> <p>To keep you safe from phishing attacks, Sierra now returns a 403 forbidden error if the CAS logout screen tries to redirect you to an untrusted domain.</p>	None	None

Known Issues

Please visit the [Resolved Issues in Sierra 6.4](#) solution for information on issues fixed in Sierra 6.4. For a complete list of existing Known Issues from Sierra 2.0 through the present release, see [Known Issues for Sierra \(2.0-6.4\)](#).

Preparing to update your system

System Requirements

Sierra 6.4 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 6.4 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 6.4 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 6.4 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 6.4 upgrade, the package additions for Sierra 6.4 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 6.4 soon after installing Sierra 6.4 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 can self upgrade via the Admin App. Please visit the [Sierra Self-Upgrade Solution](#).

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Attributes

Software versions

- Sierra: 6.4

Taxonomy

- Solutions > Upgrade
- Solutions > Release Notes > Current

Collections

- Encore
- INNReach
- Millennium
- Sierra
- SkyRiver

[Go to Original Solution](#)