

## FAX COVER SHEET

---

---

**To:** John Doe

**From:** Gregory Hansell

**Company:** Company Name

**Date:** July 23, 2024 19:10

**Fax Number:** 19292070142

**Pages (Including cover):** 13

**Re:** The Content We Discussed

---

---

**Notes:**

Hi John,

Here are the notes we discussed. Please give me a call when you have had a chance to review.

Thanks!

Greg

SoftRAID 8.1 Release Notes  
July 12, 2024

## **SoftRAID 8.1**

SoftRAID 8.1 incorporates many improvements and bug fixes.

### **SoftRAID Driver now Auto-Installs**

When you are on macOS 13.3 and later, macOS automatically installs and activates the SoftRAID driver as soon as the first SoftRAID disk is connected, without any action from you. Your SoftRAID volumes have all the speed and reliability you expect even if you never ever run the SoftRAID application.

The SoftRAID driver which macOS automatically installs is the full release version, not one with reduced performance or limited features. This is the same version of the driver we are continually testing and improving.

When running macOS 14.4 or later, version 8.0 of the SoftRAID driver is the one which will always be used. When running macOS 14.0 - 14.3, version 7.6 of the driver is used and when running macOS 13.3 - 13.5, version 7.5 of the driver is used.

While you can use your SoftRAID volumes without running the application, you will miss out on all SoftRAID's great volume and disk monitoring features. When you run the SoftRAID application, it installs the SoftRAID Monitor, the part of SoftRAID which watches over your disks and volumes, and notifies you when there is a problem.

### **Improved Support for SoftRAID for Windows:**

SoftRAID now offers improved support for SoftRAID for Windows. If you are creating a SoftRAID volume, and will be using it frequently with SoftRAID for Windows, you may want to select a stripe unit size of 64 KB. Changing the stripe unit size from 16 KB to 64 KB does not affect performance when using RAID 4 or 5 volumes with SoftRAID on macOS.

**Warning:** Versions 6.1 and earlier of SoftRAID for Mac do not correctly support a stripe unit size of 64 KB on RAID 4 or 5 volumes. You must upgrade the SoftRAID driver on your Mac to version 6.2 or later before attaching these volumes or a kernel panic will occur.

### **System Requirements:**

SoftRAID 8.0 works with macOS 10.14 or later.

### **Known Bugs:**

[Click here for an up-to-date list of known issues.](#)

### **New features in version 8.1:**

- Adds support for macOS 15 (Sequoia).
- Removes the volume Safeguard preference in the SoftRAID application. The volume Safeguard now defaults to the value used the last time a new volume was created.
- Changes the SoftRAID application so that it no longer deletes the SoftRAID.log file when a user selects the Uninstall in the SoftRAID application.
- Adds error dialogs and email notifications for Critical Warnings on NVMe blades.

### **Bugs fixed in version 8.1:**

- Fixes a bug which causes SoftRAID application to display “Premium Trial will expire in (null) days” in the license type window.
- Fixes a bug in SoftRAID Monitor which causes the menu to say “((null) remaining)” and a dialog to say “You are using a free trial of SoftRAID. This is for evaluation purposes only and will expire in %@.”
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes the Services menu item in the SoftRAID menu to not be translated into the user’s chosen language.
- Fixes a bug which causes SoftRAID Monitor to not show an error dialog if the user selects Launch SoftRAID from the SoftRAID Monitor menu but there is no SoftRAID application available to launch
- Fixes a bug in the command line interface of SoftRAID Tool which prevents an error being returned when the tool fails to create a volume.
- Fixes a bug which causes the SoftRAID application to quit when applying a malformed recovery file.

### **New features in version 8.0:**

- Uses as little as 25% of the CPU resources as SoftRAID version 7 when writing to RAID 5 volumes.
- Faster write performance on RAID 5 volumes with NVMe blades on PCIe cards in the 2023 Mac Pro.
- Adds SMART support for NVMe blades.
- Adds failure prediction, using SMART, for NVMe blades.
- Adds background email notification when warnings or errors are detected with SoftRAID disks or volumes.
- Adds support for Standard and Premium licenses.
- Changes free trial period to 30 days.
- Adds the ability to detect older versions of SoftRAID (or SoftRAID folders) in the Applications folder and asks the user if these should be moved to the trash.

### **Bugs fixed in version 8.0:**

- Fixes a bug that causes the SoftRAID application to display a blank window.
- Changes the process of uninstalling SoftRAID using the SoftRAID application. If the user is running a version of macOS which ships with the SoftRAID driver pre-installed at /System/Library/Extensions/SoftRAID.kext, the application no longer restarts the Mac after the uninstall operation finishes.

### **New features in version 7.6.1:**

- Adds a check in the SoftRAID application to detect if application cleaner or anti-malware utilities are installed. These applications are known to interfere with some SoftRAID functionality.

### **Bugs fixed in version 7.6.1:**

- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID Tool which causes it to crash when run on a 2019 Mac Pro with internal SATA drives connected to the motherboard.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which prevents the "Don't show this warning again" checkbox, in dialog boxes, from working. It would work on the first dialog and fail for all subsequent dialogs.

### **New features in version 7.6:**

- Adds support for macOS 14.
- Improves SoftRAID online help.
- Allows SoftRAID Monitor to update the expiration date when an Update & Support Plan is renewed. This update will occur automatically if the renewal is purchased using a web browser on the same Mac which is running SoftRAID.
- Improves volume reliability by removing the ability to create SoftRAID volumes in exFAT format.

### **Bugs fixed in version 7.6:**

- Fixes a bug that causes the SoftRAID application to display a blank window.
- Fixes an issue that causes SoftRAID to prompt for a user's password every time the application is launched.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes volume tiles to display incorrect values for volumes' available space.
- Adds code to make sure that the SoftRAID Monitor and softraidd daemon have not been deleted by a utility like CleanMyMac X. The SoftRAID application now checks that these components are correctly installed and reinstalls them if necessary.
- Fixes a bug which causes the SoftRAID Monitor to display an incorrect dialog box when a RAID 1+0 volume starts rebuilding.
- Fixes a bug which prevents some panic logs from being saved in Tech Support Reports.

- Fixes several bugs which cause the incorrect help page to be displayed when a help button is clicked in some windows and dialog boxes.
- Fixes several bugs which prevent resizing SoftRAID volumes.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which prevented a volume's bsd disk name from updating after a volume is resized.
- Fixes a bug which allows users to resize RAID 1+0 volumes which are missing disks.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes some progress indicators to disappear while resizing a volume.
- Fixes several problems converting between AppleRAID and SoftRAID volumes.
- Fixes several problems converting between Apple Disk Utility non-RAID and SoftRAID volumes.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which prevents the progress indicator from appearing after converting a non-RAID volume to RAID 1 or converting a RAID 0 volume to RAID 4 or RAID 1+0.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which prevents converting newly created non-RAID volumes to RAID 1 volumes.
- Fixes a bug which prevents converting volumes between SoftRAID and AppleRAID. This bug was caused by the SoftRAID application not having Full Disk Access. SoftRAID now notifies the user if the application needs to be given Full Disk Access.
- Fixes a problems converting from AppleRAID to SoftRAID volumes. This was only observed on some disks and was dependent on whether the part of the disk which could be in a partition map ended on a 4 KB boundary.
- Fixes a bug which causes the SoftRAID Tool to crash if the user has attached a SoftRAID volume which was created by converting an AppleRAID volume to SoftRAID.

### **New features in version 7.5:**

- Includes a new driver loading architecture which allows users to load the SoftRAID driver without having to reduce security on Macs with Apple silicon.
- Users no longer have to allow the SoftRAID driver to load in System Settings on either Intel Macs or Macs with Apple silicon (This feature requires macOS 13.3.)
- Adds support to the SoftRAID XT license for any storage card in an Akitio Node Titan.

### **Bugs fixed in version 7.5:**

- Improves compatibility with Mac Studio Ultra computers.
- Fixes a bug which results in the SoftRAID Monitor menu disappearing from the menu bar. This occurs when running macOS 13.3 or if the user deletes the DriverPreferences.plist file.
- Changes the SoftRAID driver so that macOS no longer hangs after using Apple Disk Utility to erase a SoftRAID formatted disk.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver which could cause a kernel panic when a Mac entered hibernate and SoftRAID formatted SATA disks were attached.

- Fixes kernel panic bugs in the SoftRAID driver which could occur when the Mac wakes from hibernate.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID Tool which prevented users from disabling the Safeguard on newly created volumes.
- Fixes a bug in SoftRAID Monitor and the SoftRAID application which caused the Update & Support Plan menu item to say "Expires on %@". This would happen when the license was deactivated.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes a dialog mentioning mirrors to be displayed if you are starting the rebuild of a RAID 4, 5 or 1+0 volume.
- Raises the limit on the size of the System Report file, included in Tech Support Reports, from 10 MB to 30 MBs.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Monitor menu which caused a '@' character to appear in the Upgrade & Support Plan menu item if running with Simplified or Traditional Chinese.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which caused the prompt to overwrite the "Click here for more info..." string in the dialog which appears when running a version of SoftRAID built after the Upgrade & Support Plan has expired.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes the license state and license capability menu items to be incorrect if the user is running a build created after their Update & Support Plan has expired.
- Adds code to write the serial number to the SoftRAID.log file whenever the activation server returns an error.
- The SoftRAID application now fetches the expiration date of the Update & Support Plan every time it is launched if the release of SoftRAID was created after the expiration date and if the license is currently activated. The SoftRAID Monitor fetches the expiration date of the Update & Support Plan on every login or restart under the same conditions.
- The expiration date of the Update & Support Plan is now logged to the SoftRAID.log file every time the license is activated. If the user has an activated license with an expired Update & Support plan, the expiration date is also logged every time the users restarts or logs in and every time the SoftRAID application is launched.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID Monitor which could cause "Cannot download new version of SoftRAID" dialog to appear twice in a row.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID Monitor which results in users having to enter their serial numbers repeatedly.
- Fixes a bug which caused the activation mode to always go to expired trial mode after an invalid serial number was entered. The activation mode now remains unchanged after an invalid serial number is entered.
- Fixes a bug in SoftRAID Monitor which prevents the Upgrade & Support Plan dialogs from closing if the user clicks the checkbox which says "Don't display this warning again." This bug only occurs on macOS 13.x.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID Monitor which prevents the license activated dialog box from appearing. This occurs when the user has an expired Upgrade & Support Plan and has previously selected the "Don't display this warning again" checkbox in the expired plan warning dialog box.

- Adds code to delete the obsolete copy of the SoftRAID driver when running macOS 13.3 or later.
- Changes the SoftRAID application so the serial number is always visible in the About window, even if the user is not an administrator.

### **New features in version 7.0.1:**

- Changes the mount/unmount menu item in the SoftRAID application so that it functions even if the free trial period has expired.
- Changes the “Welcome to SoftRAID” splash screen so it contains information about upgrading from previous SoftRAID versions. This page includes a “Click here for your upgrade options” link which opens a web page with information about upgrading to SoftRAID version 7.

### **Bugs fixed in version 7.0.1:**

- Improves the user experience when upgrading to SoftRAID version 7.
- Allows users to return to SoftRAID version 6, after running version 7, without having to re-enter their version 6 serial number.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which could cause occasional hangs with RAID 0 and RAID 1+0 volumes.
- Increases protection from malware in the SoftRAID driver.
- Fixes a kernel panic which occurred when using encrypted APFS volumes.

### **New features in version 7.0:**

- Adds windows to the SoftRAID application with instructions for finishing the driver installation process when running macOS 11 or later.
- Incorporates many security improvements in the SoftRAID driver.

### **Bugs fixed in version 7.0:**

- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which prevents it from running on macOS 13, Ventura.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes an occasional hang when the application is first launched.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver which causes an occasional hang with RAID 0 volumes. When this occurs, all i/o requests to the volume stop but the cursor is still moveable on the screen.
- Fixes a bug which prevented disks from being added to SoftRAID volumes. This was introduced in SoftRAID version 6.1 (SR-471).
- Fixes a bug which causes the “Uninstall All SoftRAID Components” menu item in the SoftRAID application to fail if the SMART over USB drivers are not installed.

- Fixes a bug which prevents a warning dialog from appearing when the user restarts their Mac and a beta version has already expired or a Free Trial period is already over.
- Fixes a bug which caused the SoftRAID to discard an activated serial number if the user runs a beta version of software and then subsequently runs a release version.
- Fixes a bug which caused offline activation of a serial number to fail if it has already been activated online on the same Mac. This occurs if the user doesn't deactivate the serial number between the two activation attempts.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver which occasionally causes very slow performance on some RAID volumes. This bug caused read and write speeds to be limited to 200 MB/sec.

### **New features in version 6.3:**

- Adds support for the new serial number validation server. This allows users to use the web interface to this server to manage their serial number ([click here for more info](#)).
- Adds code to deactivate a serial number when uninstalling SoftRAID using the "Uninstall All SoftRAID Components" menu item.
- Includes updated English language QuickStart Guide. All non-English versions of the QuickStart Guide are the older version.
- Adds uninstall command to the SoftRAIDTool command line interface.
- Adds clickable link to the SoftRAID support forum in the SoftRAID application about box.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.3:**

- Fixes bug which causes SoftRAID to block a restart if a SoftRAID application or SoftRAID Monitor dialog box is being displayed.
- Fixes a bug which causes the main window of the SoftRAID application to have incorrect text at the bottom when running with a SoftRAID Lite license. This bug also caused incorrect menu items in the application's SoftRAID menu when running with a Lite license.
- Fixes a bug which causes the SoftRAID logo to get moved off the top of the Updates Available window when there are many items in the list of changes for the available update.
- Fixes bug which causes SoftRAID require the user to re-enter their serial number after every restart. This occurs only on some Mac Studios
- Fixes a bug which prevents the SoftRAID driver from being installed if the startup volume is case-sensitive.
- Fixes bug in the SoftRAID application which causes a volume to be erased if the user hits <Command>Period in the Erase Volume window.
- Fixes bugs which affect which menu items are functional in the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Monitor when a license has been deactivated.
- Adds code to the SoftRAID Monitor to deactivate the previous, activated serial number if a user has selected Change Serial Number and entered a new serial number.
- Fixes a bug in SoftRAIDTool which caused unpredictable behavior when uninstalling SoftRAID using the SoftRAID application.



### **New features in version 6.2.1:**

- Changes the SoftRAID application and driver to make it easier to apply recovery files. The new code no longer requires the user to uninstall the SoftRAID driver before applying a recovery file.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.2.1:**

- Prevents a hang when erasing SoftRAID disks with Apple's Disk Utility application.
- Prevents a kernel panic when connecting SoftRAID disks to the USB-A port on M1 Macs.
- Fixes occasional kernel panic with prolonged i/o to a SoftRAID volume which uses NVMe blades.
- Changes the driver to mark all SoftRAID volumes as removable in the IORegistry. This prevents a kernel panic when a SoftRAID Time Machine backup volume is disconnected.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver which causes the "Volume locked" dialog to mistakenly be displayed when a Mac comes out of sleep.
- Fixes a bug which prevents the SoftRAID application from displaying the bsd name in the volume tile if the volume is corrupted and unmountable. This bug only occurs in macOS 12.
- Fixes a problem in the SoftRAID driver which prevents validating nonRAID, RAID 0, 1 and 1+0 volumes.
- Fixes a bug which results in unmountable exFAT volumes caused by volume names which are too long. This occurs both when an exFAT volume is created and when a volume with a different format is erased as exFAT.

### **New features in version 6.2:**

- Adds support for macOS 12 Monterey.
- Adds support for creating and mounting RAID 4 and 5 volumes using a stripe unit size of 64 KB.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.2:**

- Fixes a bug which prevented the SoftRAID application from displaying the UUID of volumes.
- Removes preference for manually loading the driver. The driver is now manually loaded anytime a Mac is running macOS 11.
- Fixes a kernel panic bug in the SoftRAID driver which occurs when a RAID 4 or 5 volume, which uses a stripe unit size of 64 KB is attached to a Mac.

### **New features in version 6.1:**

- Adds support for APFS SoftRAID volumes.
- Improves support for TRIM commands to better support volumes transferring data at over 10 gigabytes per second.
- Works around several driver loading bugs found in macOS 11.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.1:**

- Fixes a kernel panic bug which would occasionally affect SoftRAID volumes.
- Supports using SoftRAID volumes for Time Machine in macOS 11 and later.

### **New features in version 6.0.5:**

- Adds support for reading and writing NTFS volumes (requires Paragon NTFS for Mac).
- Adds support for exFAT volumes
- Adds code in SoftRAID to detect if the Mac was started in Safe Boot mode. If the Mac is in Safe Boot, an error dialog is displayed and the application quits.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.0.5:**

- Adds support for NTFS volumes created with SoftRAID for Windows. These volumes can now be used read/write when Paragon Software NTFS for Mac is installed.

### **New features in version 6.0.4:**

- Adds support for Lite licenses. When using a Lite license, users can create and manage stripe (RAID 0) and mirror (RAID 1) volumes only.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.0.4 b9:**

- Fixes a several user interfaces bugs in the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Monitor which affect activating and deactivating licenses
- Improves translations for all non-English languages.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.0.3:**

- Updates bugs Finder window background in the SoftRAID 6.0.3 .dmg file.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.0.2:**

- Fixes bugs in the SoftRAID application which caused the "Upgrade to SoftRAID Pro License" menu item to say "Unlock All Disks."
- Adds a new menu item to the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Monitor, "Purchase Additional Seats for License", which takes users to the web page for adding seats to their SoftRAID license.
- Fixes bugs which caused some menu items in the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Monitor to be enabled when they shouldn't be. These menu items are involved serial numbers and activation.
- Fixes bugs in the SoftRAID application and the SoftRAID Monitor which prevented activation from working if the user did not have admin privileges.

- Adds a warning dialog to the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID monitor which guides users to the web page for upgrading serial numbers if the user enters a serial number for SoftRAID version 5.
- Fixes bugs in the SoftRAID application and the SoftRAID Monitor which prevented users from pasting a serial number into the Enter Serial Number window.
- Fixes a bug which prevents the SoftRAID application from working with an OWC Mercury Elite Pro Quad or a ThunderBay 4 - Thunderbolt 2 when using an XT license.
- Fixes several translation issues in the SoftRAID application with Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese.
- Fixes a bug which caused the SoftRAID application to fail to remove the alias to the SoftRAIDTool when a user selected Uninstall SoftRAID.
- Fixes a problem in the SoftRAID application online help which prevents some images from being displayed.

### **New features in version 6.0.1:**

- Adds support for macOS 11 (Big Sur) and Macs with Apple silicon.
- SoftRAID now ships as a single application. Features are enabled based on the license you have purchased. [Click here for more info.](#)
- Changes minimum required system version to macOS 10.12. This was done to accommodate Apple's code notarization mechanism.
- Disk tiles in the SoftRAID application are now grouped by enclosure, all the disks in a given enclosure are displayed next to each other.
- Adds support for Dark Mode.
- Adds a new serial number mechanism which allows users to activate and deactivate their SoftRAID license easily.
- Changes the way the SoftRAID driver handles calls to flush the cache on HDDs and SSDs. This call is now completed in parallel, all disks for a volume complete the call at the same time. Previous builds issued this call, one at a time, to each disk drive in turn. This change dramatically reduces the time required to shutdown or restart a Mac with many SoftRAID HDDs.
- Optimizes the performance of RAID 1 and RAID 1+0 volumes using a combination of SSDs and HDDs. The SoftRAID driver will now automatically select an SSD to be the primary disk in RAID 1 and RAID 1+0 volumes if the volume contains both HDDs and SSDs. This ensures optimum performance in RAID 1+0 volumes when each mirror pair is made up of 1 HDD and 1 SSD.
- Changes the creation of RAID 1+0 volumes when using the SoftRAID Tool command line interface. The new code ensures that when SSDs are present, they are used preferentially for primary disks in mirror pairs.

### **Bugs fixed in version 6.0.1:**

- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver that causes a kernel panic when a user unmounts a SoftRAID volume and then unplugs it. This bug affects RAID 1, 4, 5, and 1+0 volumes.

- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID driver that causes a kernel panic when the last disk in a volume is zeroed or re-initialized. This bug affects RAID 1, 4, 5, and 1+0 volumes.
- This version of the driver includes a work-around for a bug in macOS which causes a kernel panic when Disk Utility erases a SoftRAID formatted disk. This bug was introduced in macOS 10.12. The work-around prevents this kernel panic from occurring in all versions of macOS.
- Fixes a hang that often occurs when SoftRAID initiates a restart.
- Fixes a bug that causes multiple beta version or evaluation mode expiration warning dialogs to appear one after the other. This can happen if a Mac is left on for multiple days and is running in evaluation mode or running a beta version of SoftRAID.
- Fixes a bug which occasionally causes volume corruption when creating or deleting volumes. This can occur when creating or deleting volumes on one OWC Accelsior 4M2 when a second OWC Accelsior 4M2 is installed in the same Mac.
- Fixes a crash that occurs when creating RAID 1+0 volumes when running with Simplified Chinese as the chosen language.
- Fixes several bugs that causes jumbled text in SoftRAID log files.
- Fixes the bug that causes the SoftRAID Monitor to crash as soon as it is launched.
- Fixes a bug that causes incorrect logging of SSDs which are predicted to fail. The log entry now just lists the uncorrectable error count as the reason the disk is predicted to fail.
- Fixes a bug that causes the SoftRAID application to gradually use more and more memory. This occurs when the SoftRAID application is left running for many hours.
- Adds additional information to the SoftRAID.log file to indicate if incorrect blocks are updated when a volume is being validated.
- Fixes a bug that causes volumes made with 4Kn disks (disks with 4 KB sector sizes) to act as if they have 512 byte sectors.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application that limits the size of reads and writes to NVMe SSDs to 128 KB.
- Makes SoftRAID for Mac able to recognize disks initialized by SoftRAID for Windows. Older versions of the SoftRAID application and SoftRAID Tool were unable to recognize disks initialized by SoftRAID for Windows as being SoftRAID disks.
- Fixes a bug that causes newly created volumes to have incorrect permissions. This bug also affects volumes which have just been erased.
- Fixes a bug that causes volumes to have incorrect permissions after converting between SoftRAID and AppleRAID formats.
- Fixes a bug that prevents converting SoftRAID RAID 4 volumes to other volume types.
- Fixes a bug that prevented buttons in the SoftRAID Monitor update available window from working.
- Fixes a bug that prevents converting mirrors or stripes to AppleRAID.
- Fixes a bug that makes a volume change back to Optimized for Workstation after it is erased.
- Fixes a bug that allows Read-Only-Secondary volumes to be erased.
- Fixes a bug that prevents the SoftRAID application from being able to create RAID 1+0 volumes.

- Fixes a bug that prevents the SoftRAID application from being able to split mirrors.
- Fixes a bug in the SoftRAID application which causes some Apple internal SSDs to indicate that they are worn out.
- Fixes many bugs in SoftRAID Monitor which prevent notification of failed or failing disks when they are inserted.