

Upgrading the firmware

If you need to upgrade the firmware or activate features on the MCU, refer to these topics:

- [Upgrading the main MCU software image](#)
- [Upgrading the loader software image](#)
- [Enabling MCU features](#)
- [Storing user passwords securely](#)

Upgrading the main MCU software image

The main MCU software image is typically the only firmware component that you will need to upgrade.

Follow these steps to upgrade this image:

1. Check the *Current version* field to verify the currently installed version.
2. Log onto the [support pages](#) to identify whether a more recent image is available.
3. Download the latest available image and save it to a local hard drive.
4. Unzip the image file.
5. Log on to the MCU web browser interface.
6. Go to **Settings > Upgrade**.
7. Click **Browse** to locate the unzipped file on your hard drive.
8. Click **Upload software image**. The browser begins uploading the file to the MCU, and a new browser window opens to indicate the progress of the upload. When finished, the browser window refreshes and indicates that the "Main image upgrade completed."
9. The upgrade status displays in the MCU *software upgrade status* field.
10. [Shutdown and restart the MCU](#).

Upgrading the loader software image

Upgrades for the Loader software image are not typically available as often as upgrades to the main software image.

Follow these steps to upgrade this image:

1. Check the *Current version* field to verify the currently installed version.
2. Go to the software download pages of the web site to identify whether a more recent image is available.
3. Download the latest available image and save it to a local hard drive.
4. Unzip the image file.
5. Click **Browse** to locate the unzipped file on your hard drive.
6. Click **Upload software image**. The browser begins uploading the file to the MCU, and a new browser window opens to indicate the progress of the upload. When finished, the browser window refreshes and indicates that the "Loader image upgrade completed."
7. The upgrade status displays in the *Loader upgrade status* field.
8. [Shutdown and restart the MCU](#).

Enabling MCU features

The MCU requires activation before most of its features can be used. (If the MCU has not been activated, the banner at the top of the web interface will show a prominent warning; in every other respect the web interface will look and behave normally.)

Advanced MCU features (such as *Video Firewall*) are not enabled as standard, and require additional activation. For information about configuring the video firewall, refer to the FAQ section in the support pages of the web site.

If this is a new MCU you should receive the unit already activated; if it is not, you have upgraded to a newer firmware version, or you are enabling a new feature, you may need to contact your supplier to obtain an appropriate activation code. Activation codes are unique to a particular MCU so ensure you know the unit's serial number such that you may receive a code appropriate to your MCU.

Regardless of whether you are activating the MCU or enabling an advanced feature, the process is the same:

1. Check the *Activated features* (MCU activation is shown in this same list) to confirm that the feature you require is not already activated.
2. Enter the new feature code into the *Activation code* field exactly as you received it, including any dashes.
3. Click **Update features**. The browser window should refresh and list the newly activated feature, showing the activation code beside it. Activation codes may be time-limited. If this is the case, an expiry date will be displayed, or a warning that the feature has already expired. Expired activation codes remain listed, but the corresponding feature will not be activated.
If the activation code is not valid, you will be prompted to re-enter it.
4. It is recommended that you record the activation code in case you need to re-enter it in the future.

Successful MCU or feature activation has immediate effect and will persist even if the unit is restarted.

Note that you can remove MCU feature keys by clicking the **Remove** link next to the feature key on the **Settings > Upgrade** page.

Storing user passwords securely

You can configure the MCU to hash user passwords before storing them in the configuration.xml file. The configuration.xml file is used for [Backing up and restoring the configuration](#) of the MCU. If you do not select to hash stored passwords, all user passwords are stored in plain text in the configuration.xml; this might be a security issue. If you select to hash stored passwords, they will not be stored anywhere on the MCU in plain text; instead the passwords will be stored as hash sums. Note that hashing user passwords is an irreversible process.

To hash stored user passwords:

1. Go to **Settings > Upgrade** and scroll down to the *Security settings* section.
2. Select *Hash stored passwords* and click **Update security settings**. You will see a warning telling you that this is an irreversible step. If you are sure you want to hash stored user passwords, click **Confirm hash passwords**.