



Planning and Budgeting for Magento Commerce Upgrade Cycles

As we continually expand the market-leading capabilities of Magento Commerce, it is critical that you develop on the latest available release and build a site upgrade strategy into your project plans. Doing so helps you remain secure, compliant, and to up-to-date on the latest enhancements that allow you to grow sales faster, operate more effectively, and stay ahead of your competition now and into the future.

To help you plan and budget for software upgrades, take into account the following cadence by which Magento Commerce releases new software:

Minor Releases (e.g. 2.1, 2.2, 2.3): Magento Commerce minor releases deliver significant new features to the core product along with fixes for security, compliance, performance, and general platform quality. With a larger scope of changes, parts of a minor release may not be fully compatible with code written for the previous minor version. Merchants control when they adopt new minor versions.

Minor releases are distributed roughly annually, depending on scope and quality assurance.

Magento's software lifecycle and support policy is built around the minor release versions. For more details, please visit the [Magento Software Lifecycle Policy](#) page on Magento.com

Patch Releases (e.g. 2.2.6, 2.2.7, 2.3.1): Patch releases typically deliver security and quality fixes and are distributed on a regular cadence. Occasionally, patch releases will include minor feature enhancements and performance improvements. In order to keep down time to upgrade, quarterly patch releases are backward compatible, except when incompatible changes are required for security and compliance.

Patch releases are distributed quarterly. Merchants should account for patch releases during initial site development in order to launch on the latest version.

Hotfixes (MAGETWO-#####, PROSECBUG-#####): In the event of high priority security or quality fixes, Magento may issue hotfixes for specific issues on an as-needed basis. These fixes are always also rolled into the next patch release for the applicable Magento minor version.

Independently Released Modules (e.g. Progressive Web Applications Studio, Multi-Source Inventory Management): In order to deliver capabilities faster, new modules are being built independently of the core platform, often in partnership with our global developer community. This allows for new features to be iterated on more rapidly, and those interim changes are pushed to merchants via Composer packages that can be installed ahead of the next patch release.

Independently Released Modules each follow their own rapid development cycles, delivering updates more frequently. To track the compatibility of key modules by version please refer to our [Compatibility documentation](#).

SaaS Offerings (e.g. Magento Order Management, Business Intelligence): Some offerings that don't demand the level of flexibility and customization of the core Magento Commerce application are delivered as true SaaS offerings that receive upgrades without merchant involvement. This makes it seamless for our merchants to stay up to date as new features,

Release Type	Estimated frequency	Responsible for Applying Update	Backward Incompatibility
Minor	Annual	Merchant	Yes
Patch	Quarterly	Merchant	Rare
Hotfix	As Needed	Merchant	Rare
Independently Released Module	Varied	Merchant	Rare
SaaS	Varied	Magento	No

To view our supported and upcoming releases, please visit our Release Information page for [upcoming releases](#) and for our [release policy](#).

Note: This represents a framework for our releases and is subject to change at any time. For detailed software support plans view our official [Software Lifecycle Policy](#).