



Announcing SoftRAID version 5.6.3

OWC Holdings, Inc. announces the release of SoftRAID version 5.6.3, an update and bug fix release, which makes SoftRAID compatible with macOS 10.13 High Sierra.

Primary changes/bug fixes in SoftRAID 5.6.3

- SoftRAID is now compatible with macOS High Sierra, although SoftRAID 5.6.3 does not support creating, modifying or converting APFS volumes. However SoftRAID's certify, verify and monitoring features do work with APFS formatted disks.
- High Sierra includes increased kernel security features which changed the behavior of some macOS kernel functions. This change in kernel behavior could cause disks to hang. SoftRAID 5.6.3 includes driver modifications to ensure that disks do not hang with macOS 10.13 High Sierra.
- The SoftRAID driver has been changed to handle disk errors better. A read error during a cache flush operation could cause a kernel panic with RAID 4 and 5 volumes.
- The SoftRAID driver has been changed to use fewer threads, since macOS 10.13, High Sierra, now limits the number of kernel threads which can run at one time. Previous releases of SoftRAID could cause this limit to be exceeded during disk update operations, causing a kernel panic. The new driver uses no more than 1 thread per disk for disk update operations.
- Fixes to driver loading ensure that the correct driver is installed when installing for the first time, and that newly updated drivers are always loaded. In previous versions it was possible for older, cached versions of the driver to be loaded by mistake under certain circumstances.
- The SoftRAID driver no longer reports read errors on stripe (RAID 0) volumes as write errors.
- The command line interface of the SoftRAID Tool no longer returns an error every time the disk unmount command is used. In previous versions, this command, used to unmount all volumes which use a given disk, would return an error even if it was successful.
- SoftRAID 5.6.3 also includes numerous bug fixes, details of which can be found in the release notes.

SoftRAID is actively supported and improved

At SoftRAID, we don't believe that software should be shipped and then forgotten. We are constantly refining and improving our product, because we love what we do and want it to be the best it can possibly be!

SoftRAID: invaluable features at a great price

SoftRAID 5.6.3 features a highly optimized driver, which provides a software RAID solution that equals, and can often exceed, the performance and reliability of dedicated hardware RAID controllers. In addition, users can also take advantage of SoftRAID's advanced disk testing, logging and disk health monitoring. SoftRAID's unique disk failure prediction provides advanced warning of potential disk problems, protecting users from catastrophic data loss that can occur when a disk suddenly fails.

At just \$179 the full version of SoftRAID supports 5 RAID levels (0, 1, 4, 5 & 1+0), plus email notification of potential disk failure and command line support.

For \$49, users can purchase SoftRAID Lite and create RAID 0 and RAID 1 volumes, or convert their AppleRAID volumes to SoftRAID.

Both versions use exactly the same great driver, provide the same disk testing and health monitoring, and are localized for French, German, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese.

Great customer support

SoftRAID has some of the best tech support in the industry. We know our users don't just work 9–5 on weekdays, so our tech support team is available for help at nights and weekends, ready to get to the bottom of each and every customer problem. Don't just take our word for it, visit our web site and see what customers say about SoftRAID: https://softraid.com/pages/comment/customers_comments.html

System Requirements

SoftRAID 5.6.3 requires an Intel based running Mac OS X 10.6.8 or later. Support for TRIM commands on SSDs requires Mac OS X 10.7.5 or later.

Partial list of SoftRAID Features

- Support for all Intel based Macs with Core Duo 2 processors or later
- Supports all versions of Mac OS X from 10.6.8 through macOS Sierra 10.12.x
- Support for Thunderbolt 1, 2 & 3, eSATA, SAS, FireWire and USB 2.0, 3.0, 3.1 and USB-C
- Convert AppleRAID stripe (RAID 0) and mirror (RAID 1) volumes to SoftRAID
- Support for RAID 0, 1, 4, 5 and 1+0 (and non-RAID volumes) - (RAID 4, 5 and 1+0 volumes not available with SoftRAID Lite)
- Support for TRIM (for SSDs) on all SoftRAID RAID levels
- All SoftRAID volumes can be startup volumes
- Supports volumes up to 4 petabytes (4,000 TB)
- Supports up to 16 disks per volume and up to 32 volumes per Mac
- Automatic rebuilding of out-of-sync RAID volumes
- "Fast Rebuilds" for accelerated rebuild times
- Disk error reporting; SoftRAID monitors and logs all disk errors (often ignored by macOS)
- Email notification (not available with SoftRAID Lite)
- Predictive failure analysis—giving advance warning of imminent disk failure—on all disks which support SMART, most USB 3, 3.1 and USB C disks (enclosures) and also many USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800 disks.
- "Certify Disk" guarantees disks reliably read and write data (destructive, ideal for new disks)

- "Verify Disk" ensures entire disk can be read (non-destructive test for any-time use)
- "Validate volume" confirms your entire volume is readable and all parity data is correct
- I/O and error counters for every SoftRAID disk and volume
- Extended disk information including: hours of use, reallocated sector counts and media wear for SSDs
- Disk labeling and LED blinking to aid in disk identification
- Extensive logging of SoftRAID events
- Command line interface with dedicated man page (CLI not available with SoftRAID Lite)
- Built in recovery tools for recovering severely damaged partition maps

SoftRAID supports mac OS from 10.6.8 to 10.13 High Sierra

SoftRAID version 5.6.3 is compatible with all versions of Mac OS X from 10.6.8 through the latest release of macOS 10.13 (High Sierra). We work hard to ensure that SoftRAID is ready for every new macOS release.

30 Day Trial

SoftRAID version 5.6.3 is available as a fully functional trial version, allowing prospective customers to download and try all the features of SoftRAID for 30 days for free.

Pricing

SoftRAID version 5.6.3 is available for just \$179 for the electronic download version and includes one year of free technical support via email. It can be purchased online at www.SoftRAID.com/store, through your Apple Certified Consultant or via retail outlets worldwide.

SoftRAID Lite is available for just \$49 for the electronic download version and includes support via our online forum. SoftRAID Lite supports only non-RAID, stripe (RAID 0) and mirror (RAID 1) volumes. It can be purchased online at www.SoftRAID.com/store, through your Apple Certified Consultant or via retail outlets worldwide.

Users of SoftRAID version 4 can purchase an upgrade to version 5.6.3 for \$89.

For more information about SoftRAID version 5.6.3 or to receive a review copy, please contact us at sales@softraid.com.

About SoftRAID

The SoftRAID team is headquartered in Mill Valley, California, and has been developing high quality applications for macOS for over 18 years. During this time, SoftRAID has earned its reputation as a rock solid product which comes with great technical support.

SoftRAID has been shipping for Mac OS X since 2003. SoftRAID has been first to market with many key features including: fast mirror rebuilds, full email notification, bootable RAID volumes, disk certification, RAID volume validation, TRIM support on all RAID Levels, disk failure prediction and more.

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