

RELEASE OF INTEREST IN PROPERTY LETTER File PDF

release of interest in property letter is a crucial document used in real estate transactions to formally withdraw or relinquish any legal or equitable interest an individual or entity might have in a specific property. This letter serves as an official statement indicating that the party holding an interest, whether as an owner, lienholder, or claimant, no longer wishes to maintain that interest. The importance of a well-drafted release of interest letter cannot be overstated, as it helps prevent future disputes, clarifies ownership rights, and facilitates smooth transfer processes. Whether you are a property owner releasing your interest, a lender releasing a lien, or a claimant relinquishing a claim, understanding the purpose, content, and proper procedures for issuing such a letter is essential.

Understanding the Purpose of a Release of Interest in Property Letter

What Is a Release of Interest?

A release of interest is a legal document that confirms a party's decision to give up any claims, rights, or stakes they have in a property. It is frequently used in various contexts such as mortgage payoffs, estate settlements, or resolving disputes over property ownership.

Why Is It Necessary?

The necessity of a release of interest stems from the need to:

- Clear title or ownership rights
- Prevent future legal claims on the property
- Comply with legal procedures during property transfers
- Document the cessation of a lien or claim

Who Usually Issues a Release of Interest?

Parties who may issue a release include:

- Property owners or former owners
- Lienholders or mortgage lenders

- Claimants or parties with a financial interest
- Court-appointed representatives

Key Components of a Release of Interest in Property Letter

A comprehensive release letter should include specific details to ensure clarity and legal validity. The main components include:

1. Title and Introduction

- Clearly state the document as a "Release of Interest" or similar
- Identify the parties involved and the relevant property

2. Details of the Property

- Full legal description of the property (e.g., lot number, parcel number)
- Address of the property
- Any relevant registration or deed numbers

3. Identification of the Releasing Party

- Full name and contact information
- Relationship to the property (owner, lienholder, claimant)

4. Statement of Release

- Clear declaration that the party releases their interest
- Specific details of what interest is being relinquished

5. Consideration (If Applicable)

- Mention of any payment or consideration exchanged (e.g., payoff amount)

6. Effective Date

- Date when the release becomes effective

7. Signatures and Notarization

- Signatures of the releasing party
- Notary public signature and seal (if required)

8. Witnesses (Optional)

- Witness signatures, depending on jurisdiction

Steps to Draft and Issue a Release of Interest in Property Letter

Creating an effective release of interest letter involves several steps to ensure legal compliance and clarity:

Step 1: Verify the Details

- Confirm the legal description of the property
- Ensure the party releasing the interest has the authority to do so

Step 2: Draft the Document

- Use clear, precise language
- Incorporate all necessary components outlined above

Step 3: Review and Legal Validation

- Have the draft reviewed by a legal professional
- Ensure compliance with local laws and regulations

Step 4: Signatures and Notarization

- Obtain signatures in the presence of a notary public if required
- Notarization helps authenticate the document

Step 5: Record the Release

- File the signed release with the appropriate land registry or recorder's office
- Maintain copies for your records

Common Scenarios Requiring a Release of Interest in Property

Understanding typical situations where a release of interest is necessary can help in ensuring proper handling:

1. Mortgage Payoff

When a borrower repays their mortgage, the lender issues a release of lien to confirm the loan has been paid in full.

2. Estate Settlement

Executors or beneficiaries may release their interests in inherited properties after settlement.

3. Property Sale

Buyers and sellers often exchange releases to confirm that liens or claims are cleared before the transfer.

4. Dispute Resolution

Parties might agree to release claims to resolve disputes amicably.

5. Cancellation of Rights or Claims

Individuals or entities may relinquish any future rights or claims to avoid legal complications.

Legal Considerations and Best Practices

1. Ensure Clear Intent

The language used should unmistakably demonstrate the intent to release interest.

2. Use Precise Descriptions

Accurate property descriptions prevent confusion or future disputes.

3. Consult Legal Professionals

Legal advice ensures the document complies with local laws and adequately protects all parties involved.

4. Record the Document Properly

Filing the release with the appropriate land registry office provides public notice and legal recognition.

5. Keep Copies

Maintain multiple copies of the signed and notarized document for your records.

Sample Language for a Release of Interest in Property Letter

While the specific language may vary, here is an example template:

> Release of Interest in Property

> I, [Releasor's Full Name], residing at [Address], hereby acknowledge that I hold no further interest, claim, or right in the property located at [Legal Description or Address], and I release any and all such interests effective as of [Date].

> This release is made voluntarily and without duress, and I understand its legal implications.

> Signed: _____

> Date: _____

> Notary Public: _____ (if applicable)

Conclusion

A release of interest in property letter is a vital document that facilitates clear property ownership and legal clarity. Properly drafted, executed, and recorded, it ensures that all parties understand and agree that their interests in the property have been relinquished. Whether dealing with the payoff of a mortgage, settling an estate, or resolving disputes, knowing how to prepare and utilize this document effectively can prevent future complications and protect your rights. Always seek legal

advice when drafting or signing such documents to ensure compliance with jurisdictional requirements and to safeguard your interests.

Remember: A well-crafted release of interest not only streamlines property transactions but also provides peace of mind by establishing clear, legally binding agreements.

Understanding the Release of Interest in Property Letter: A Comprehensive Guide

When navigating real estate transactions, legal agreements, or property disputes, the term release of interest in property letter often emerges as a fundamental document. This letter acts as a formal declaration that a party relinquishes their claim, lien, or interest in a specific property. Whether you're a property owner, a lender, or an attorney, understanding the nuances of this document is crucial for ensuring clarity, legal protection, and smooth transaction processes.

In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the purpose, components, process, and best practices associated with the release of interest in property letter. By the end, you'll be equipped with the knowledge to draft, review, or understand this important legal instrument confidently.

What Is a Release of Interest in Property Letter?

A release of interest in property letter is a written document used to formally declare that an individual or entity has relinquished their rights, claims, or interests associated with a specific property. This interest could stem from various sources such as liens, mortgages, judgments, or ownership rights.

Why Is It Important?

- Legal Clarity: It confirms that the party no longer has any claims or rights over the property.
- Facilitates Transactions: Essential for buyers, sellers, or lenders to ensure clear title transfer.
- Prevents Future Disputes: Serves as evidence that interest has been properly released, reducing legal risks later.

Common Situations Requiring a Release of Interest

Understanding when and why such a letter is needed can help parties recognize its importance in different scenarios:

- Mortgage Satisfaction

When a borrower pays off a mortgage, the lender releases their interest, often through a formal document called a release of mortgage or a discharge of mortgage.

- Lien Removal

A lien holder may release their claim once the debt is settled, ensuring the property owner can transfer clear title.

- Settlement of Disputes

Parties involved in a property dispute may execute a release to confirm that claims have been resolved and interests relinquished.

- Probate or Estate Settlement

Heirs or beneficiaries might release their claims to property as part of estate distribution.

- Refinancing or Refinance

When refinancing a property, previous interests or claims may be released to facilitate the new mortgage.

Key Components of a Release of Interest in Property Letter

A well-drafted release of interest in property letter should include specific elements to ensure its legality and clarity. Here are the essential components:

- Title and Introduction

- Clearly state the purpose of the document, e.g., "Release of Interest in Property."

- Identify the parties involved: the releasor (person releasing interest) and the recipient (party receiving the release).

- Property Description

- Precise legal description of the property (e.g., parcel number, lot, block, or legal description).
- Address of the property, if applicable.

- Statement of Interest

- Detailed description of the interest being released (e.g., mortgage lien, claim, ownership stake).
- Reference to original agreement or instrument creating the interest (e.g., mortgage number, loan agreement).

- Acknowledgment of Payment or Settlement

- Confirmation that all dues, payments, or obligations related to the interest have been settled, if relevant.

- Declaration of Release

- Clear statement that the releasor releases, remises, and forever discharges the recipient from all claims, rights, or interests.

- Signatures and Notarization

- Signatures of all relevant parties.
- Notary acknowledgment to enhance enforceability and authenticity.

- Date and Witnesses

- Date on which the document is executed.
- Witness signatures, if required by jurisdiction.

Step-by-Step Process to Draft or Obtain a Release of Interest in Property Letter

Step 1: Identify the Need and Parties

Determine which interest is being released and who the parties involved are. Clarify the reason for the release and ensure all relevant parties agree.

Step 2: Gather Relevant Documentation

Collect supporting documents such as:

- Original mortgage or lien documents
- Payment receipts or settlement agreements
- Court orders, if applicable

Step 3: Draft the Letter

Use clear, precise language to outline the key components mentioned earlier. If unsure, consult legal templates or professionals.

Step 4: Review and Verify

- Confirm that all details are correct, including property description and party information.
- Ensure the releasor has authorized the release.

Step 5: Signatures and Notarization

- Have the releasor sign the document in the presence of a notary public.
- Obtain notarization to authenticate the document.

Step 6: Record or Distribute

- Send copies to relevant parties, such as the property owner, lienholder, or title company.
- Record the release with the appropriate land records office if required by law.

Best Practices for a Release of Interest in Property Letter

- Use Formal Language: Maintain professionalism and clarity.

- Be Specific: Clearly describe the property and the interest being released.
- Legal Review: Have the document reviewed by legal counsel, especially for complex or high-value transactions.
- Keep Copies: Maintain multiple signed and notarized copies for your records.
- Record with Authorities: File the release with local land registry or recorder's office as mandated.

Legal and Practical Considerations

Validity and Enforceability

A release of interest must be executed properly to be legally binding. This includes:

- Proper identification of parties
- Complete and accurate property description
- Signatures, notarization, and witnesses as required

Jurisdictional Variations

Laws regarding releases vary by jurisdiction. Some areas may require specific forms or recording procedures.

Potential Challenges

- Disputes over the validity of the release
- Unpaid debts or claims not fully settled
- Fraud or misrepresentation

It's advisable to consult a real estate attorney to navigate complex situations effectively.

Common Examples of Release of Interest in Property Letters

Example 1: Release of Mortgage

"This is to certify that the mortgage executed by John Doe in favor of ABC Bank on January 1, 2020, recorded in Book 123, Page 456, has been fully paid and satisfied. Accordingly, the bank releases its interest in the property located at 123 Elm Street, City, State."

Example 2: Lien Release

"The undersigned, XYZ Lienholder, hereby releases all claims and interests in the property located at 456 Maple Avenue, upon full payment received from the owner, Jane Smith. This release is effective immediately."

Final Thoughts

The release of interest in property letter is a vital document in the realm of real estate, ensuring that parties can conclusively and legally document the relinquishment of claims or interests. Proper drafting, execution, and recording of this document help prevent future disputes, facilitate smooth transactions, and uphold legal protections.

Whether you're settling a mortgage, removing a lien, or concluding a property dispute, understanding the purpose and process of this release can save you time, money, and legal complications. Always consider consulting legal professionals when preparing or reviewing such documents to ensure compliance with local laws and regulations.

Question What is a release of interest in property letter? A release of interest in property letter is a formal document indicating that a party relinquishes any claim or interest they have in a specific property, often used to clear title or finalize ownership transfer. **When should I request a release of interest letter?** You should request a release of interest letter when a party has agreed to relinquish their claim on a property, such as after a sale, settlement, or resolution of a dispute, to ensure clear ownership. **Who typically issues a release of interest in property?** A release of interest is usually issued by the individual or entity that holds an interest in the property, such as a former owner, lienholder, or co-owner, upon agreement or settlement. **How does a release of interest letter impact property ownership?** The letter formally confirms that the party's interest has been released, which helps to clear any encumbrances or claims, thereby establishing clear ownership for the new owner. **Is a release of interest letter legally binding?** Yes, when properly drafted and signed, a release of interest letter is a legally binding document that confirms the relinquishment of interest in the property. **What information should be included in a release of interest letter?** The letter should include details about the property, parties involved, date of agreement, description of the interest being released, and signatures of all involved parties. **Can a release of interest be revoked once issued?** Generally, once a release of interest is signed and executed, it cannot be revoked unless there is mutual consent or evidence of fraud or misrepresentation. **How do I obtain a release of interest letter?** You can request it from the party holding the interest, or it can be prepared by legal professionals, ensuring all necessary details are accurately included and signatures obtained. **Are there any costs involved in obtaining a release of interest letter?** Costs may vary depending on the situation, including legal fees, administrative fees, or other charges associated with drafting or processing the document. **What are the common scenarios requiring a release of interest letter?** Common scenarios include property sales, settling liens or claims, co-ownership agreements ending, or resolving inheritance and estate matters.

Related keywords: property interest withdrawal, interest declaration letter, property interest revocation, real estate interest letter, interest removal notice, property interest cancellation, interest disinterest letter, property interest termination, interest withdrawal form, real estate interest notice

Application guide release notes

application guide release notes are an essential component of software development and deployment, serving as a comprehensive record that communicates updates, enhancements, bug fixes, and other significant changes to users and stakeholders. Whether you're releasing a new version of an application or updating an existing one, well-crafted release notes play a critical role in ensuring transparency, improving user experience, and facilitating smooth adoption of new features. In this article, we delve into the importance of application guide release notes, best practices for creating effective notes, and how to structure and distribute them to maximize their impact.

Understanding the Importance of Release Notes

What Are Release Notes?

Release notes are official documents or communications that summarize the updates made in a software release. They serve as a bridge between developers and users, providing clear information about what has changed, what new features are available, what bugs have been fixed, and any known issues that users should be aware of. Well-written release notes help set expectations and guide users on how to leverage new functionalities.

Why Are Release Notes Critical?

Effective release notes contribute to several key objectives:

- **Transparency:** Keeping users informed about changes fosters trust and confidence in the software.
- **Adoption:** Clear documentation of new features and improvements encourages users to utilize updated functionalities.
- **Support Efficiency:** Well-documented updates help support teams troubleshoot issues and answer user queries more effectively.
- **Compliance and Documentation:** For regulated industries, release notes serve as part of compliance records.

Best Practices for Creating Effective Release Notes

1. Know Your Audience

Before drafting release notes, understand whether your readers are end-users, administrators, developers, or internal stakeholders. Tailor the language and detail level accordingly:

- End-users prefer simple, non-technical language focusing on benefits and usability.
- Developers and technical staff may require detailed technical information, such as API changes or system requirements.

2. Structure Your Release Notes Clearly

A well-organized format enhances readability and ensures users can quickly find relevant information. Common sections include:

- **Overview:** Brief summary of the release and its significance.
- **New Features:** Descriptions of added functionalities.
- **Improvements:** Enhancements to existing features.
- **Bug Fixes:** Issues resolved in this release.
- **Known Issues:** Problems that remain unresolved, with guidance if available.
- **Notes/Important Information:** Additional details or instructions for users.

3. Use Clear and Concise Language

Avoid jargon and overly technical language unless appropriate for your audience. Focus on clarity:

- Explain what has changed and why it matters.
- Use bullet points for easy scanning.
- Include screenshots or visuals for complex updates.

4. Highlight Key Updates

Make the most critical information stand out by:

- Placing major features or fixes at the top.
- Using headings, bold text, or callouts to emphasize important points.

5. Incorporate Versioning and Dates

Always specify:

- The version number (e.g., 2.4.1)
- The release date

This helps users track updates over time and ensures they are referring to the correct documentation.

6. Include Call to Action

Encourage users to take specific steps, such as:

- Updating to the latest version
- Reviewing new documentation
- Providing feedback or reporting issues

Structuring Release Notes Effectively

Creating a Template for Consistency

Maintaining a consistent format helps users become familiar with your release notes and find information quickly. A typical template might include:

- **Release Title:** Version and date
- **Overview:** Summary of the release
- **New Features:**
 - Feature 1: Description
 - Feature 2: Description
- **Improvements:**
 - Improvement 1: Description
- **Bug Fixes:**

- Issue 1: Description
- **Known Issues:**
- Issue 1: Description and workaround if available
- **Additional Notes:** Any other relevant information

Using Visuals and Formatting

Enhance readability with:

- Headings and subheadings
- Bullet points and numbered lists
- Bold or italics for emphasis
- Screenshots or diagrams for complex features

Distribution and Accessibility of Release Notes

Choosing the Right Channels

Distribute release notes through channels that your users access regularly:

- Company website or product portal
- Email newsletters
- In-app notifications or pop-ups
- Support portals or knowledge bases
- Social media platforms

Timing and Frequency

Decide on a release schedule that suits your development cycle:

- Regular updates (monthly, quarterly)
- Major releases with comprehensive notes
- Emergency patches with quick summaries

Ensure release notes are accessible at the time of deployment.

Ensuring Accessibility and Clarity

Make release notes easy to find and read:

- Use clear titles and headings
- Provide downloadable PDFs for offline access
- Ensure compatibility with assistive technologies

Tools and Automation for Creating Release Notes

Utilizing Version Control Systems

Many teams automate release notes generation using version control tools like Git:

- Extract commit messages linked to features or fixes
- Generate changelogs automatically with tools like Conventional Commits or semantic-release

Dedicated Release Notes Software

Several platforms assist in managing and publishing release notes:

- GitHub Releases
- JIRA Release Hub
- Confluence or other documentation tools

Benefits of Automation

Automated tools:

- Reduce manual effort and errors
- Ensure consistency across releases
- Facilitate timely updates

Conclusion

Application guide release notes are more than just a formality?they are a vital communication tool that fosters transparency, supports user engagement, and streamlines software adoption. By

adhering to best practices such as clear structure, audience awareness, and consistent formatting, organizations can create release notes that are informative and user-friendly. Leveraging automation tools can further enhance efficiency and accuracy, ensuring that your release documentation keeps pace with your development cycle. Ultimately, well-crafted release notes contribute significantly to the overall success of your application by building trust and empowering users with the knowledge they need to maximize the value of your software updates.

Application Guide Release Notes: Navigating Updates and Enhancements

Application guide release notes serve as the vital bridge between software developers and end-users, providing a comprehensive overview of what's new, improved, or deprecated in each version of an application. In an era where digital tools evolve rapidly, clear and detailed release notes ensure users can adapt seamlessly, leverage new features effectively, and understand the reasoning behind updates. This article explores the purpose, structure, and best practices of crafting compelling application guide release notes that inform and empower users, all while maintaining a technical yet accessible tone.

The Purpose of Release Notes: Bridging the Gap Between Developers and Users

At its core, application guide release notes fulfill several critical functions:

- **Communication of Changes:** They inform users about new features, bug fixes, improvements, and deprecated functionalities.
- **Guidance for Adoption:** They help users understand how to utilize new features or adapt to interface changes.
- **Transparency:** They foster trust by openly sharing the development process, challenges addressed, and future directions.
- **Documentation for Support Teams:** They serve as a reference for customer support, helping troubleshoot issues related to recent updates.

Understanding these purposes underscores the importance of crafting well-structured, accurate, and user-friendly release notes.

Structuring Effective Release Notes: A Deep Dive

Clear organization is key to making release notes accessible and informative. Here's a typical structure that balances technical details with reader-friendliness:

- **Introduction and Overview**

Start with a brief summary that encapsulates the essence of the release. Highlight the main themes?whether it?s a major overhaul, minor bug fix, or security patch. Use plain language alongside technical details to cater to a broad audience.

Example:

This release introduces significant improvements to the user interface, enhances security protocols, and fixes several bugs reported in previous versions.

- Version Number and Release Date

Clearly specify the version number and the release date. This helps users verify if they are running the latest build and understand the timeline of updates.

Example:

Version 4.2.1 ? Released October 15, 2023

- New Features and Enhancements

List and describe new functionalities added to the application. Use bullet points for clarity, and include screenshots or links to documentation where applicable.

Tips:

- Focus on user benefits, not just technical specs.
- Mention prerequisites or configuration steps if necessary.

Example:

- Dashboard Customization: Users can now personalize their dashboards with draggable widgets.
- Enhanced Search Functionality: Improved algorithms for faster and more relevant search results.

- Improvements and Optimizations

Detail enhancements that improve performance, usability, or stability, even if they don't introduce new features.

Example:

- Reduced application load time by optimizing backend queries.
- Streamlined onboarding process for new users.

- Bug Fixes and Resolutions

Enumerate fixed issues, referencing bug IDs or issue trackers when possible. Be transparent about the scope and impact of fixes.

Example:

- Fixed crash when exporting reports with large datasets.
- Resolved login issues experienced on older browsers.

- Deprecated and Removed Features

Inform users about functionalities that are deprecated or removed, providing guidance on alternatives or migration paths.

Example:

- The legacy reporting module has been deprecated. Users are encouraged to transition to the new Analytics Dashboard.

- Security Updates and Patches

Highlight critical security fixes that safeguard user data and application integrity.

Example:

- Addressed vulnerabilities related to session management, aligning with best security practices.
- Known Issues and Workarounds

Be upfront about unresolved problems, and suggest workarounds if available. This fosters transparency and manages user expectations.

Example:

- Some users may experience delayed notifications on Windows 10. We are actively investigating.

Best Practices for Writing User-Friendly Release Notes

While technical accuracy is paramount, readability and clarity ensure users can easily grasp the updates. Here are best practices to strike that balance:

Use Clear and Concise Language

Avoid jargon where possible. When technical terms are necessary, provide definitions or links to more detailed explanations.

Be Chronological and Logical

Present updates in a logical order, often starting with new features, followed by improvements, fixes, and deprecated items.

Highlight Impact and Benefits

Explain how each change benefits the user, emphasizing practical implications rather than just technical modifications.

Incorporate Visuals and Links

Screenshots, diagrams, and hyperlinks to documentation or support pages enhance understanding and usability.

Maintain Consistency

Use a standardized format across release notes to help users quickly locate the information they need.

The Role of Automation and Tools in Release Notes Management

Creating detailed release notes can be resource-intensive. To streamline this process, many organizations leverage tools and automation:

- Version Control Integration: Linking release notes to commit histories for traceability.
- Template Systems: Ensuring consistent formatting and coverage.
- Automated Summaries: Extracting change logs from code repositories to generate draft notes.
- Feedback Loops: Incorporating user feedback for continuous improvement of communication.

By integrating these tools, teams can produce accurate, timely, and comprehensive release notes at scale.

The Future of Release Notes: Trends and Innovations

As software ecosystems grow more complex, release notes are evolving:

- Interactive Release Notes: Embedding videos, demos, and tutorials within notes.
- Personalized Updates: Tailoring release information based on user roles or preferences.
- Real-Time Notifications: Combining release notes with push notifications or in-app messages for immediate awareness.
- AI-Assisted Drafting: Using artificial intelligence to analyze changes and suggest concise summaries.

These innovations aim to make release notes not just informative but also engaging and actionable.

Conclusion: Elevating the Communication of Change

In the dynamic world of software development, application guide release notes are more than mere formalities?they are essential tools for transparency, user empowerment, and effective change management. When thoughtfully crafted, they bridge the gap between complex technical updates and user comprehension, ensuring that every stakeholder is informed and equipped to make the most of new features and improvements.

By adhering to structured formats, clear language, and incorporating user feedback, organizations can foster trust and enhance user satisfaction. As technology advances, so too will the ways we

communicate updates, making release notes a continually vital component of the software lifecycle. Whether you're a developer, product manager, or support specialist, understanding and leveraging best practices in release notes can significantly impact the success and adoption of your application.

In summary:

- Release notes communicate the who, what, when, and why of software updates.
- A structured approach includes summaries, detailed change logs, and guidance.
- Clarity and transparency build user trust.
- Leveraging automation and emerging trends can improve efficiency and engagement.
- Well-crafted release notes empower users to adapt quickly, enhancing overall satisfaction and product success.

Question What are application guide release notes? Application guide release notes are detailed documents that outline the updates, new features, bug fixes, and improvements made in a specific release of an application's guide or documentation. **Answer** How can I access the latest application guide release notes? You can access the latest release notes through the application's official website, documentation portal, or within the app itself under the 'Updates' or 'What's New' section. Why are release notes important for users? Release notes inform users about recent changes, enhancements, and fixes, helping them understand new features, assess impact, and adapt accordingly for a better user experience. What key information is typically included in application guide release notes? They usually include version numbers, release dates, new features, improvements, bug fixes, known issues, and instructions for upgrading or using new functionalities. How often should I review application guide release notes? It's recommended to review release notes with each new update or release to stay informed about the latest changes and ensure optimal use of the application. Can release notes help troubleshoot issues? Yes, release notes often highlight fixed bugs and known issues, which can assist users in troubleshooting problems or understanding limitations in a particular release. What is the best way to stay updated on application guide release notes? Subscribe to official newsletters, follow the application's update blog, or enable notifications within the app to receive automatic alerts about new release notes. Are there different formats for release notes? Yes, release notes can be presented as PDFs, web pages, blog posts, or within in-app notifications, depending on the company's documentation practices. How should I interpret technical jargon in release notes? If technical terms are unclear, consult the detailed documentation or support resources provided alongside the release notes for better understanding.

Related keywords: user guide, release notes, software updates, version history, documentation, changelog, user manual, update documentation, release information, product updates

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