

NextGen software release cycle and "beta" version

How often NextGen is released, what each update contains and what's the "beta" version available between each official release.

Online version: <https://nextgen.sant-ambrogio.it/KB367536>

Latest update: 26 apr 2017

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Every 3-4 months the NextGen software is distributed to customers in a new "official" or "stable" version. This version is generally denominated with the current year, followed by a progressive number within the same year. The "zero" version of the year is the one distributed with a new version number in January or February (e.g. this year, 2017.0).

Between one version and another what has been modified is listed in a list of changes, or changelog, available for consultation [at this link](#).

The updates consist of a series of "bugfixes", i.e. correction of errors in the software, optimizations (improvements of features already available in the software) and new features. These changes are what the development team has worked on in the months between an official release and the next one.

In the days before the distribution of an official release, the development team focuses mainly on testing the features introduced for the new version and checking the effective removal of bugs reported by customers or found internally. For this reason, some features or bugs reported near to the distribution of a new version are planned for the next one, so as not to conflict with the verification work already carried out.

The "beta" version

A version called "beta" is an intermediate version between two "stable" versions: this version contains everything available in the latest "stable", in addition to all the changes made by the development team from the official release of the latest version to the current one.

When we provide a "beta" version, we request to accept a series of conditions, in particular the fact that the software is provided "as is", and on these versions the assistance is not guaranteed (it is always possible to return to the previous official version).

What do the "beta" versions differ from the official ones? As already mentioned, they contain the changes made in the last months by the development team. Above all, a "beta" version may contain an urgent correction requested by a customer. These changes will go through a complete verification process only near the official release: the software is however automatically tested every time its installation package is created, but it will still have to go through a verification process that for a "beta" version has not been done.

Some important points to consider:

- NextGen versions can be freely installed and uninstalled, going to either a subsequent version or a previous one.
- The beta version replaces the installed stable version if both have the same major version number (e.g. stable 2024.0 and beta 2024.1). If the beta has a different major version number (e.g. stable 2024.1 and beta 2025.0), they can be installed at the same time

- There is no changelog for beta versions. The changelog is only published when a stable version is released
- the project files are **not** touched or deleted by the installation and uninstallation processes of the various versions
- the files saved with a later version may **not** be completely compatible with a previous one: for this reason, we require that before installing a "beta" version a backup of your files is made (just back up the files that will actually be processed with the "beta")
- if you have a license on a hardware key, you can install the "beta" version on a different computer from the one on which a "stable" version is being used
- at any time, it is possible to reinstall the current "stable" version, available [at this link](#)