December 12th, 2025 | Read Time: 4 minutes

 Tony Foster (/author/c8e06ba5-531b-4470-a3fa-647c390aff6b/Tony-Foster/)

Do you remember that satisfying feeling of peeling the protective plastic covering off a new device, or maybe, if you're an old school gamer like me, peeling back the shrink wrap on a new video game as soon as you walked out of the electronics store after saving up for a month to buy it? Maybe you even stood in line the night before its release, just to be the first on your block to have it. It's time once again for those warm fuzzy feelings of peeling plastic wrapping off new gear.

The Dell PowerFlex team recently released PowerFlex version 4.8 and in this blog, we're going to peel the shrink wrap off the package and look at the new features of PowerFlex 4.8.

This release is packed with some amazing features that will help your organization in its day-to-day data management. The ones we'll have time to discuss in this blog are the new integrated management cluster and new hardware support. Now that we've peeled back that first corner of plastic, let's unbox the new version.

Let's start with the new integrated management cluster. This thing is slicker than a slide covered in oil. Going forward, on new deployments, you are not required to have a separate management cluster for your PowerFlex environment, and it no longer requires you to use VMware vSphere for the components. (Though if you really want to "be old school" and use a separate management cluster with vSphere, that option is still there for you.)

What the Dell engineers have done is build a management environment that runs in a KVM instance on the PowerFlex storage nodes. This means there are no longer extra hosts to buy or VMware Licenses to procure. I guess that also means no extra boxes to open.

This has many advantages for organizations. Beyond the obvious ones I mentioned previously, there are security advantages, since there is no separate

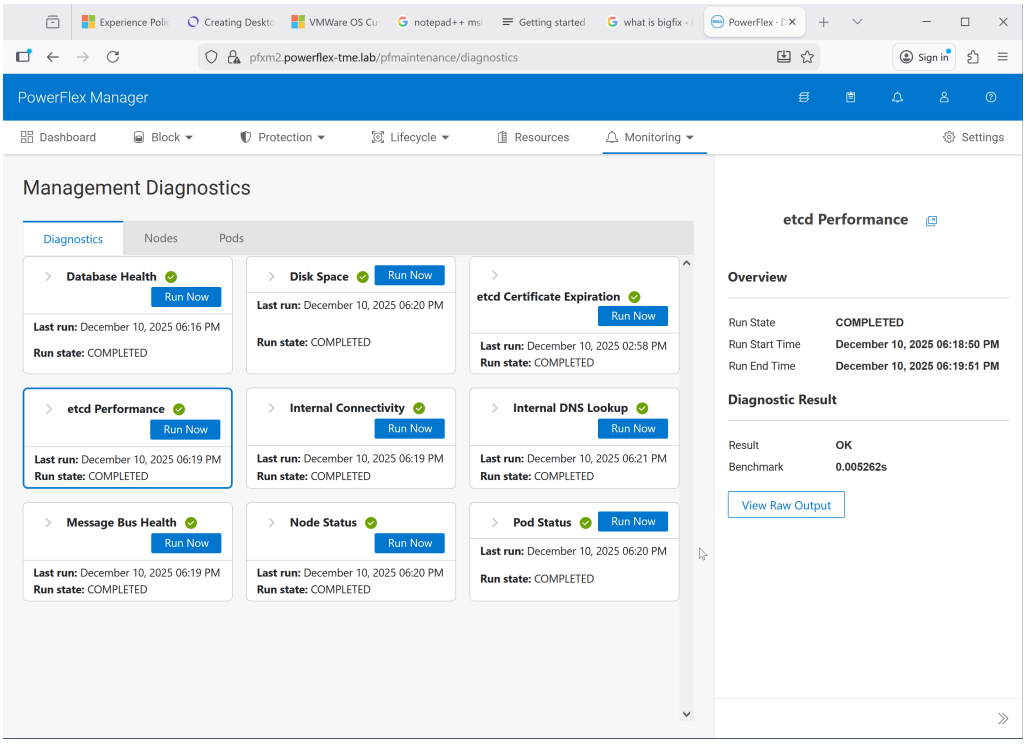
Let's peel that shrink-wrap back a little bit further and see what else is in the box for PowerFlex 4.8. We should also look at the new hardware options for PowerFlex.

I know that some people have been waiting for this addition for a bit and here it is… PowerFlex 4.8 adds support for PowerEdge R860 compute nodes. Additionally, support for 15TB NVMe drives has also been added.

These are two important additions. For database admins out there, the addition of the PowerEdge R860 allows them to build even denser systems with four sockets. In fact, they could now run four 60 core processors with 8TB of RAM. That could be the start of an impressive database. Who knows, the PowerEdge R860s may even be beneficial for licensing.

Plus, 15TB NVMe drives! That's a lot of data and a lot of IOPS. This can reduce the overall footprint of storage making it even easier to control storage silos.

The next bit of plastic is like that strip of plastic on the back of a new mobile phone, exciting and satisfying to remove, you really get a feel for the quality of the product you are holding. For PowerFlex 4.8, this is the addition of Management Diagnostics feature. You can find it under the monitoring tab.



Now we just have that little bit of plastic left to pull off this new PowerFlex release. Our development teams have been listening to customer requests. In this release we've included over 200 of them. Delivering more of what PowerFlex users have been asking for. Making PowerFlex a product engineered to meet customer needs.

I guess that means we have the plastic peeled off this release and can start enjoying that new system smell. If you'd like to discover more about PowerFlex 4.8 and all the exciting features we just unwrapped be sure to visit the Dell Support page at https://www.dell.com/support/product-details/en-us/product/scaleio/resources/manuals (https://www.dell.com/support/product-details/en-us/product/scaleio/resources/manuals). If that's not enough, be sure to contact your Dell representative for more information.

Author: Tony Foster

Twitter: @wonder_nerd (https://twitter.com/wonder_nerd)
LinkedIn (https://linkedin.com/in/wondernerd/)

Tags: PowerFlex