MR.PLANB FIELD GUIDE · CEPH

Ceph 19.2.6 Upgrade Preflight Checklist

What to record and verify before patching a Ceph Squid cluster, from .mgr placement groups to CephX key rotation.

Updated **2026-10-29** · Full guide: www.mrplanb.com/blog/ceph-19-2-6-upgrade-check-pg-counts-before-you-start

> Ceph Squid 19.2.6 fixes four CVEs and should not be postponed indefinitely, but a large cluster needs a preflight first. Check cluster health, PG counts on the internal .mgr pool, client compatibility and the new aes256k CephX key rotation procedure. Delay the first production node only long enough to inspect these, then patch in controlled waves.

4	aes256k	7.0	10
CVEs fixed in Squid 19.2.6	new CephX key type introduced by the fix	Linux kernel where upstream aes256k client support begins	items on the preflight checklist

Capture the starting state

Save the outputs in the maintenance ticket so you can compare after node three.

1. `ceph health detail`
2. `ceph osd lspools`
3. `ceph osd pool ls detail`
4. `ceph osd pool autoscale-status`
5. `ceph -s`
6. Find the .mgr entry and record its pg_num, autoscale mode, size and application metadata.

Preflight checklist

- [ ] All expected monitors, managers, OSDs and MDS daemons are up.
- [ ] PG states are understood, preferably active+clean.
- [ ] `ceph versions` recorded so you know which daemons run which release.
- [ ] All pool details recorded, with attention to .mgr and other internal pools.
- [ ] Autoscale status reviewed for unexpected PG recommendations or disabled autoscaling.
- [ ] Free capacity and recovery headroom checked. Do not upgrade a cluster close to full.
- [ ] Official 19.2.6 CephX key rotation procedure read before the first daemon changes.
- [ ] Kernel CephFS and RBD clients inventoried, not only cluster daemons.
- [ ] RGW multisite users have followed the release note about rgw_sigv4_insecure.
- [ ] Critical configuration and monitor data backed up for your deployment method.

What is the .mgr pool?

- A reserved pool created by ceph-mgr so manager modules can store persistent state.

- The leading dot marks an internal reserved pool name.
- It holds no normal RBD images or CephFS user data, but it is not disposable.
- Do not delete or casually modify it.
- The community warning says to check its PG count before upgrading larger clusters.
- Follow Ceph issue 77610 for exact status. No universal safe PG number has been published.

Why release 19.2.6 is not a normal patch

Topic	What changes	What to do
CVEs	Four: CVE-2025-30156, CVE-2026-39944, CVE-2026-50152, CVE-2026-54330	Do not leave the cluster unpatched for months
Release	Squid 19.2.6 with Tentacle 20.2.4, published August 19, 2026	Follow the official announcement
CephX key	New aes256k type for CVE-2025-30156	Verify daemons and clients understand it
cephadm	Rotates OSD and MDS keys during the upgrade	Expect a longer upgrade
Client keys	Some still need operator attention	Validate representative clients first

Order of work

1. Capture the current state.
2. Investigate any unusual .mgr PG configuration.
3. Stage the upgrade on the least risky environment available.
4. Patch production in controlled waves.
5. Rotate credentials only after client compatibility is verified.
6. If on Proxmox, finish the Ceph path before the Proxmox VE 8 to 9 upgrade.

Sources and notes: Ceph Squid 19.2.6 release announcement · Ceph Manager administrator guide · Ceph issue 77610 and the Ceph users mailing list discussion