

What's New in OpenVox 9?

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VoxConf 2026



OpenVox 9 in one sentence

- A platform-support catch-up release — new features wait for 10.x
 - Modernize the stack: Ruby, OpenSSL, Jetty, JDK, PostgreSQL
 - Pay down years of inherited deprecations, deliberately
- Where we are today
 - **9.0.0~beta1 released 2026-07-15**
 - main is the 9.x line; 8.x continues on its own maintenance branch

Ruby 4.0 in the agent

- AIO packages now bundle Ruby 4.0
- Why Ruby 4.0?
 - Parity with Puppet 9 — Perforce is also moving to Ruby 4
 - More runway before EOL than Ruby 3.4
 - 4.0 was a milestone bump, not a heavily breaking release
- Ruby 3.2 went EOL in March 2026 — the upgrade was overdue
- OpenVox 8.x keeps shipping Ruby 3.2 for its remaining life

...but the floor stays at Ruby 3.2

- The openvox gem supports Ruby $\geq 3.2.0$ — on purpose
- An OpenVox 9 server delivers plugin code to OpenVox 8 agents via pluginsync
 - Those agents run Ruby 3.2
 - Dropping 3.2 support risks breaking fleets mid-upgrade
- Ruby 3.2 stays in CI for as long as 8.x agents are supported
- Mixed 8/9 fleets are a supported, tested reality

Runtime & security refresh

- OpenSSL 3.5 LTS (3.5.7) — alpha2 alone resolved 15 OpenSSL CVEs
 - Including two rated 8.8 and 9.1 CVSS
- Slimmer AIO runtime: curl and multi_json removed from the payload
- Windows agent builds moved to MSYS2 UCRT for Ruby 4.0
- Continuous dependency refresh via automated update workflows

Platform support

- New agent platforms
 - windows-msys2-x64 build variant
 - Fedora 44
- EL 10: group membership management fixed (no libuser dependency)
- Server & OpenVoxDB: JDK 25 (default) and 21 (JDK 17 dropped on the 9.x line)
- OpenVoxDB tested with PostgreSQL 17 and 18 (up from 14)

Deprecations: how we decided

- Every inherited deprecation got an issue, a community review, and a decision
 - Reviewed together in community discussion (April 2026)
- Three possible outcomes
 - Remove in 9 — the deprecation has served its time
 - Defer to 10 — real user impact, needs more runway
 - Un-deprecate — the feature deserves to live
- ~18 agent-side deprecations reviewed, plus openfact, server, and db

Removed (or removing) in OpenVox 9 — agent

- `--configprint` → use ``puppet config print``
- `pluginsync` setting (dead code), `regsubst()` encoding argument (ignored since 2007)
- PAL script-eval shims, ~~`Puppet::SSL::CertificateCompatibilityClass`~~
- Hierarchic terminus + `data_binding_terminus` / `environment_data_provider`
- `file { content => '<checksum>' }` implicit filebucket retrieval
- 'puppet master' terminology swept from CLI help, docs, and man pages
- `pe_serverversion` fact; deferred functions preprocessed by default again

Un-deprecated: deprecation is not a one-way door

- `source_permissions` on the file type
 - Still widely used — the warning is gone, the feature stays
- Fine-grained `filetimeout` values
 - Deprecated in favor of JVM-side timers...
 - ...useful again as OpenVox plans a future beyond the JVM
- Under reconsideration: `puppet doc` (docs gaps in the strings tooling)
- `Puppet::SSL::Certificate` — removed, then restored within days
 - `openvox-server` needs it to populate `$trusted` in FIPS mode
 - agent CI can't see server-side FIPS breakage — a coverage gap we're now aware of

openfact (Facter)

- openvox 9 alphas ship openfact 5.6.1
- Removed in 9: legacy ldapname fact option
- Warn in 9, remove in 10:
 - Facter::Core::Execution.exec / Facter::Util::Resolution exec & which
 - time_limit / limit aliases for the execute timeout option
- Tested against Ruby 4.0 and JRuby 10 in CI

openvox-server & OpenVoxDB

- Jetty 12 migration complete (also backported to 8.x)
 - logback 1.5.x, ring 1.15.x, logback-access for Jetty 12
- JDK 21 + 25 supported and tested; build environment on Alma 10
- Dependency refresh: cheshire 6, HikariCP 7, tools.namespace 1.5, ...
- Clojure-code deprecation removals deliberately rejected for 9
 - Limited deep Clojure bench on the team; a future rewrite discussion is open

JRuby 10: ~~the long pole~~ DONE ✓

- The server embeds JRuby to run Puppet code — today that's JRuby 9.4
- JRuby 10 targets Ruby 3.4+ semantics and requires Java 21 or 25
- Progress so far
 - openvox and openfact CI are green on JRuby 10.0.5 and 10.1
 - JDK 21/25-only CI matrix already in place for server and db
- Remaining: update jruby-deps / jruby-utils and adopt in openvox-server
- Still targeted for the 9.0 server release — and still the biggest risk

Release plan & how you can help

- openvox-agent, openvox-server, and openvoxdb 9.0.0 betas are installable today — test them!
 - Especially mixed fleets: OpenVox 8 agents against 9.x servers
- Remaining before GA: land the accepted deprecation PRs, JRuby 10 server work
- Timelines: set by data, not dates — GA when the checklist is green
- Follow along: the OpenVox 9 Release Planning page on the planning wiki

Looking ahead — OpenVox 10: scheduled removals

- Deprecations deferred from 9, warning today, removed in 10:
 - Legacy hiera / hiera_array / hiera_hash / hiera_include functions
 - PSON serialization fallback (needs a PSON-free agent matrix)
 - Partial CLI argument matching (exact option names required)
 - Legacy Puppet::Network HTTP APIs (plugin ecosystem risk)
 - Puppet::Util environment wrapper helpers, empty(Numeric)
 - openfact: exec/which compatibility shims, timeout aliases
- Module authors: fix the warnings during 9, and 10 will be a non-event

Looking ahead — OpenVox 10: the bigger conversations

- Features return — 9 cleared the runway
- The JVM question: moving server components toward Ruby
 - Parked Clojure cleanups assume this conversation happens
 - filetimeout un-deprecation is an early signal of that direction
- Ecosystem maintenance debt
 - r10k is unmaintained — it pins jwt, fast_gettext, and friends
 - openbolt gem refresh: rubyzip 3, ruby_smb 3, connection_pool 3
- These are community decisions — bring your use cases

Thanks — and come build OpenVox 10 with us

Planning wiki: github.com/OpenVoxProject/planning/wiki

Code & issues: github.com/OpenVoxProject

Community: Vox Pupuli chat & mailing lists

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