



Administration Guide

SUSE Manager 4.0

June 19, 2019



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Introduction

This book provides guidance on performing common Administrative tasks on SUSE Manager.

Image Building and Management

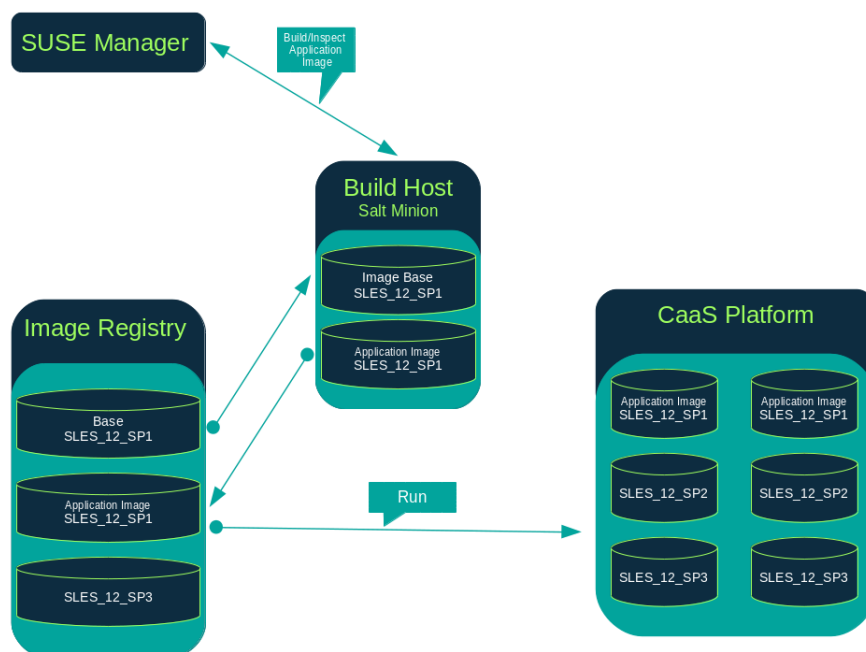
Image Building Overview

SUSE Manager enables system administrators to build containers, systems, and virtual images. SUSE Manager helps with creating Image Stores and managing Image Profiles.

SUSE Manager supports two distinct build types:

- Dockerfile-for more information, see [Container Images](#)
- Kiwi image system-for more information, see [OS Images](#)

Container Images



Requirements

The containers feature is available for Salt minions running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 or later. Before you begin, ensure your environment meets these requirements:

- An existing external GitHub or internal GitLab repository containing a Dockerfile and configuration scripts (example scripts are provided in this chapter).
- A properly configured image registry.



Registry Provider Solutions

If you require a private image registry you can use an open source solution such as [Portus](#). For additional information on setting up Portus as a registry provider, see the [Portus Documentation](#).

For more information on Containers or CaaS Platform, see:

- [SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 SP3 Docker Guide](#)
- [SUSE CaaS Platform 2 Documentation](#)

Creating a Build Host

To build images with SUSE Manager, you will need to create and configure a build host. Container build hosts are Salt minions running SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 or later. This section guides you through the initial configuration for a build host.

From the SUSE Manager Web UI perform these steps to configure a build host.

1. Select a minion to be designated as a build host from the **Systems > Overview** page.
2. From the [System Details](#) page for the selected minion assign the containers modules by going to **Software > Software Channels** and enabling [SLE-Module-Containers12-Pool](#) and [SLE-Module-Containers12-Updates](#). Confirm by clicking [**Change Subscriptions**].
3. From the **System Details > Properties** page, enable [Add-on System Type](#) and [Container Build Host](#) and confirm by clicking [**Update Properties**].
4. Install all required packages by applying [Highstate](#). From the system details page select **States > Highstate** and click [Apply Highstate](#). Alternatively, apply Highstate from the SUSE Manager Server command line:

```
salt '$your_minion' state.highstate
```

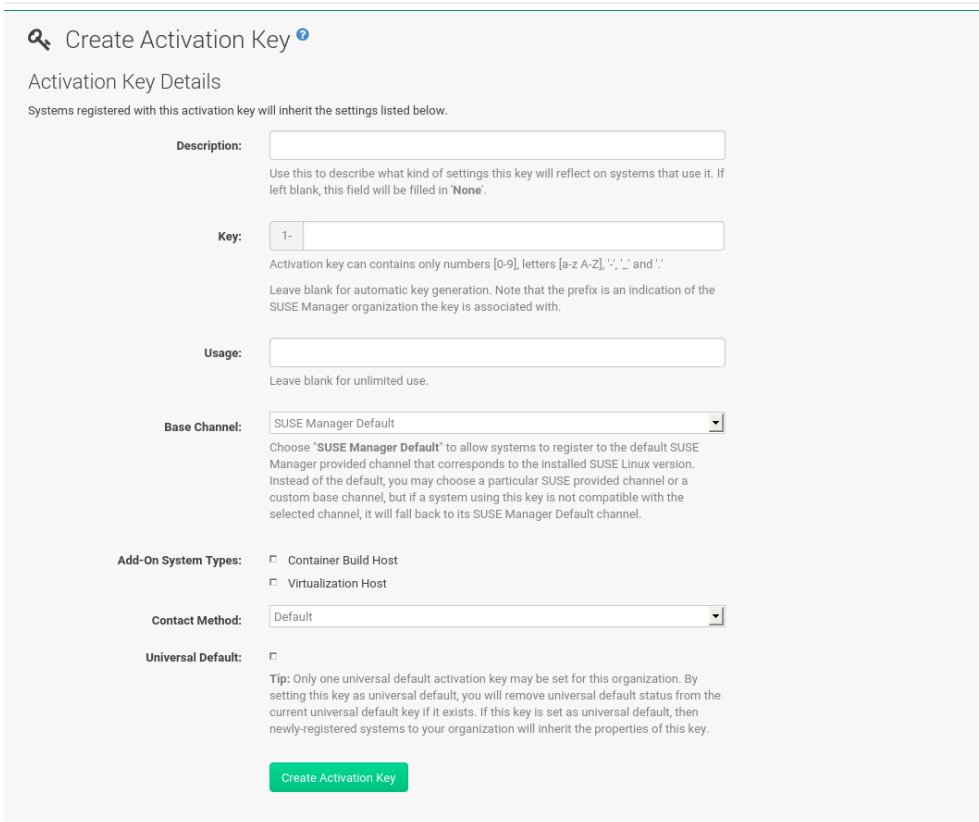
Define Container Build Channels with an Activation Key

Create an activation key associated with the channel that your images will use.



Relationship Between Activation Keys and Image Profiles

To build containers, you will need an activation key that is associated with a channel other than "SUSE Manager Default".



Create Activation Key ?

Activation Key Details

Systems registered with this activation key will inherit the settings listed below.

Description:
Use this to describe what kind of settings this key will reflect on systems that use it. If left blank, this field will be filled in 'None'.

Key: 1-
Activation key can contains only numbers [0-9], letters [a-z A-Z], '.', '_' and '-'.
Leave blank for automatic key generation. Note that the prefix is an indication of the SUSE Manager organization the key is associated with.

Usage:
Leave blank for unlimited use.

Base Channel:
Choose "SUSE Manager Default" to allow systems to register to the default SUSE Manager provided channel that corresponds to the installed SUSE Linux version. Instead of the default, you may choose a particular SUSE provided channel or a custom base channel, but if a system using this key is not compatible with the selected channel, it will fall back to its SUSE Manager Default channel.

Add-On System Types: ☐ Container Build Host ☐ Virtualization Host

Contact Method:

Universal Default: ☐
Tip: Only one universal default activation key may be set for this organization. By setting this key as universal default, you will remove universal default status from the current universal default key if it exists. If this key is set as universal default, then newly-registered systems to your organization will inherit the properties of this key.

Create Activation Key

1. Select **Main Menu** > **Systems** > **Activation Keys**.
2. Click [**Create Key**].
3. Enter a **Description** and a **Key** name. Use the drop-down menu to select the **Base Channel** to associate with this key.
4. Confirm with [**Create Activation Key**].

For more information, see [\[bp.key.management\]](https://bp.key.management).

Creating an Image Store

Define a location to store all of your images by creating an Image Store.

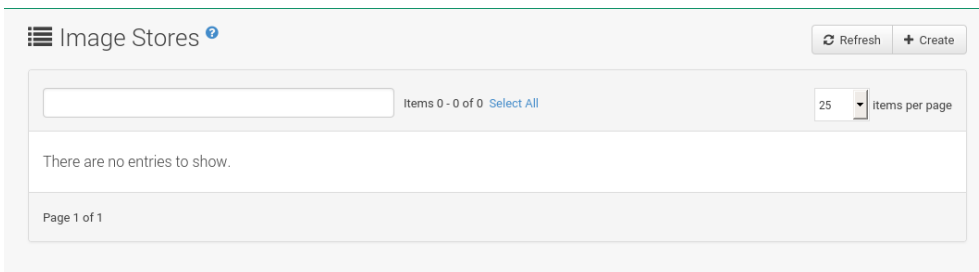


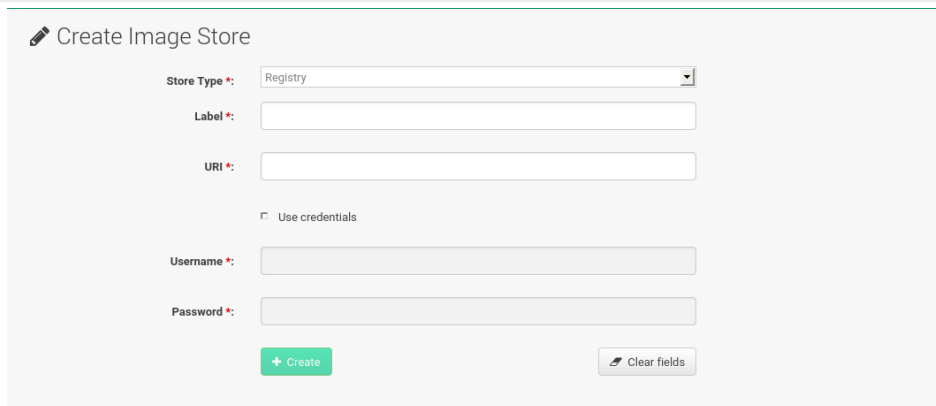
Image Stores ?

Items 0 - 0 of 0 [Select All](#) Items per page

There are no entries to show.

Page 1 of 1

1. Select **Main Menu** > **Images** > **Stores**.
2. Click **Create** to create a new store.



Create Image Store

Store Type *: Registry

Label *:

URI *:

☐ Use credentials

Username *:

Password *:

[+ Create](#) [Clear fields](#)

3. SUSE Manager currently provides support only for the **Registry** store type. Define a name for the image store in the **Label** field.
4. Provide the path to your image registry by filling in the **URI** field, as a fully qualified domain name (FQDN) for the container registry host (whether internal or external).

registry.example.com

The Registry URI can also be used to specify an image store on a used registry.

registry.example.com:5000/myregistry/myproject

5. Click [**Create**] to add the new image store.

Creating an Image Profile

Manage Image Profiles from the **Image Profile** page.

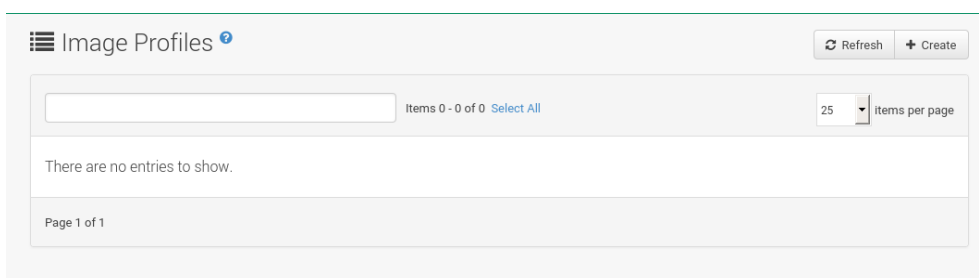


Image Profiles ?

[Refresh](#) [+ Create](#)

Items 0 - 0 of 0 [Select All](#)

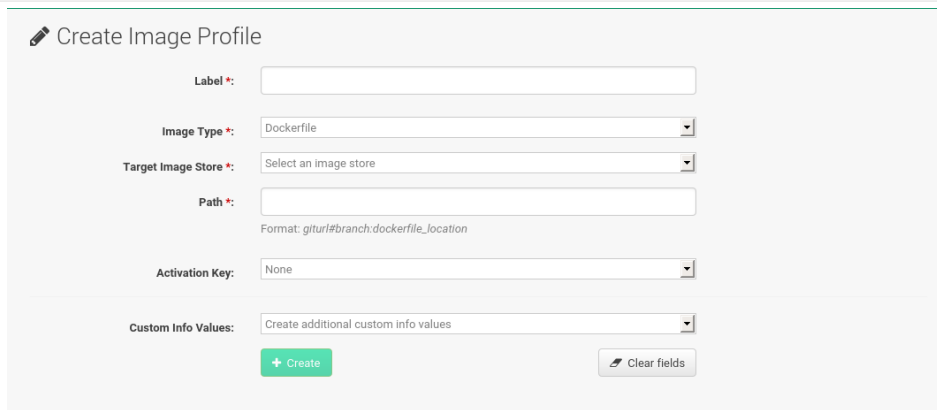
25 items per page

There are no entries to show.

Page 1 of 1

Procedure: Create an Image Profile

1. To create an image profile select **Image > Profiles** and click [**Create**].



Create Image Profile

Label *:

Image Type *:

Target Image Store *:

Path *:

Format: giturl#branch:dockerfile_location

Activation Key:

Custom Info Values:

2. Provide a name for the image profile by filling in the **Label** field.



Only lowercase characters are permitted in container labels. If your container image tag is in a format such as `myproject/myimage`, make sure your image store registry URI contains the `/myproject` suffix.

3. Use a **Dockerfile** as the **Image Type**
4. Use the drop-down menu to select your registry from the **Target Image Store** field.
5. Enter a Github or Gitlab repository URL (http, https, or token authentication) in the **Path** field using one of the following formats:

Github Path Options

- Github single user project repository

```
https://github.com/USER/project.git#branchname:folder
```

- Github organization project repository

```
https://github.com/ORG/project.git#branchname:folder
```

- Github token authentication:

If your git repository is private and not publicly accessible, you need to modify the profile's git URL to include authentication. Use this URL format to authenticate with a Github token:

```
https://USER:<AUTHENTICATION_TOKEN>@github.com/USER/project.git#master:/container/
```

Gitlab Path Options

- Gitlab single user project repository

```
https://gitlab.example.com/USER/project.git#master:/container/
```

- Gitlab groups project repository

```
https://gitlab.example.com/GROUP/project.git#master:/container/
```

- Gitlab token authentication If your git repository is private and not publicly accessible, you need to modify the profile's git URL to include authentication. Use this URL format to authenticate with a Gitlab token:

```
https://gitlab-ci-token:<AUTHENTICATION_TOKEN>@gitlab.example.com/USER/project.git#master:/container/
```



Specifying a Github or Gitlab Branch

If a branch is not specified, the **master** branch will be used by default. If a **folder** is not specified the image sources (**Dockerfile** sources) are expected to be in the root directory of the Github or Gitlab checkout.

1. Select an **Activation Key**. Activation Keys ensure that images using a profile are assigned to the correct channel and packages.



Relationship Between Activation Keys and Image Profiles

When you associate an activation key with an image profile you are ensuring any image using the profile will use the correct software channel and any packages in the channel.

2. Click the [**Create**] button.

Example Dockerfile and add_packages Script

This section contains an example Dockerfile. You specify a Dockerfile that will be used during image building when creating an image profile. A Dockerfile and any associated scripts should be stored within an internal or external Github or Gitlab repository:



Required Dockerfile Lines

The Dockerfile provides access to a specific repository version served by SUSE Manager. This example Dockerfile is used by SUSE Manager to trigger a build job on a build host minion. The **ARG** parameters ensure that the image that is built is associated with the desired repository version served by SUSE Manager. The **ARG** parameters also allow you to build image versions of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server which may differ from the version of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server used by the build host itself.

For example: The **ARG repo** parameter and the **echo** command pointing to the repository file, creates and then injects the correct path into the repository file for the desired channel version.

The repository version is determined by the activation key that you assigned to your image profile.

```
FROM registry.example.com/sles12sp2
MAINTAINER Tux Administrator "tux@example.com"

### Begin: These lines Required for use with {productname}

ARG repo
ARG cert

# Add the correct certificate
RUN echo "$cert" > /etc/pki/trust/anchors/RHN-ORG-TRUSTED-SSL-CERT.pem

# Update certificate trust store
RUN update-ca-certificates

# Add the repository path to the image
RUN echo "$repo" > /etc/zypp/repos.d/susemanager:dockerbuild.repo

### End: These lines required for use with {productname}

# Add the package script
ADD add_packages.sh /root/add_packages.sh

# Run the package script
RUN /root/add_packages.sh

# After building remove the repository path from image
RUN rm -f /etc/zypp/repos.d/susemanager:dockerbuild.repo
```

This is an example **add_packages.sh** script for use with your Dockerfile:

```
#!/bin/bash
set -e

zypper --non-interactive --gpg-auto-import-keys ref

zypper --non-interactive in python python-xml aaa_base aaa_base-extras net-tools timezone vim
less sudo tar
```



Packages Required for Inspecting Your Images

To inspect images and provide the package and product list of a container to the SUSE Manager Web UI you will need to install python and python-xml within the container. If these packages remain uninstalled, your images will still build, but the package and product list will be unavailable from the Web UI.

Building an Image

There are two ways to build an image. You can select **Images > Build** from the left navigation bar, or click the build icon in the **Images > Profiles** list.

Procedure: Build an Image

1. For this example select **Images > Build**.
2. Add a different tag name if you want a version other than the default **latest** (only relevant to containers).
3. Select **Build Profile** and **Build Host**.



Profile Summary

Notice the **Profile Summary** to the right of the build fields. When you have selected a build profile, detailed information about the selected profile will be displayed in this area.

4. To schedule a build click the [**Build**] button.

Importing an Image

You can import and inspect arbitrary images. Select **Images > Images** from the left navigation bar. Complete the text boxes of the **Import** dialog. Once it has processed, the imported image will be listed on the **Images** page.

Procedure: Import an Image

1. From **Images > Images** click [**Import**] to open the **Import Image** dialog.
2. In the **Import Image** dialog complete these fields:

Image store

The registry from where the image will be pulled for inspection.

Image name

The name of the image in the registry.

Image version

The version of the image in the registry.

Build host

The build host that will pull and inspect the image.

Activation key

The activation key that provides the path to the software channel that the image will be inspected with.

For confirmation, click [**Import**].

The entry for the image is created in the database, and an **Inspect Image** action on SUSE Manager is scheduled.

Once it has been processed, you can find the imported image in the **Images** list. It has a different icon in the **Build** column, to indicate that the image is imported (see screenshot). The status icon for the imported image can also be seen on the **Overview** tab for the image.

Troubleshooting

These are some known problems that you might encounter when working with images:

- HTTPS certificates to access the registry or the git repositories should be deployed to the minion by a custom state file.
- SSH git access using Docker is currently unsupported. You may test it, but SUSE will not provide support.
- If the python and python-xml packages are not installed in your images during the build process, Salt cannot run within the container and reporting of installed packages or products will fail. This will result in an **unknown** update status.

OS Images

OS images are built by the Kiwi image system. They can be of various types: PXE, QCOW2, LiveCD images, and others.

For more information about the Kiwi build system, see the [Kiwi documentation](#).

Requirements

The Kiwi image building feature is available for Salt minions running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12. It is currently not supported to build SUSE Linux Enterprise 15 images.

Kiwi image configuration files and configuration scripts must be accessible in one of these locations:

- Git repository
- HTTP hosted tarball
- Local build host directory

Example scripts are provided in the following sections.



Hardware Requirements for Hosts Running OS Images

Hosts running OS images built with Kiwi need at least 1 GB of RAM. Disk space depends on the actual size of the image. For more information, see the documentation of the underlying system.

Creating a Build Host

To build all kinds of images with SUSE Manager, create and configure a build host. OS image build hosts are Salt minions running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 (SP3 or later). This procedure will guide you through the initial configuration for a build host.

From the SUSE Manager Web UI perform these steps to configure a build host:

1. Select a minion that will be designated as a build host from the **Main Menu** > **Systems** > **Overview** page.
2. From the **System Details** > **Properties** page, enable the **Add-on System Type: OS Image Build Host** and confirm with [**Update Properties**].

3. From the **System Details** > **Software** > **Software Channels** page, enable **SLE-Manager-Tools12-Pool** and **SLE-Manager-Tools12-Updates** (or a later version). Schedule and click [**Confirm**].
4. Install Kiwi and all required packages by applying Highstate. From the system details page select **States** > **Highstate** and click [**Apply Highstate**]. Alternatively, apply Highstate from the SUSE Manager Server command line:

```
salt '$your_minion' state.highstate
```

SUSE Manager Web Server Public Certificate RPM

Build host provisioning copies the SUSE Manager certificate RPM to the build host. This certificate is used for accessing repositories provided by SUSE Manager.

The certificate is packaged in RPM by the **mgr-package-rpm-certificate-osimage** package script. The package script is called automatically during a new SUSE Manager installation.

When you upgrade the **spacewalk-certs-tools** package, the upgrade scenario will call the package script using the default values. However if the certificate path was changed or unavailable, you will need to call the package script manually using **--ca-cert-full-path <path_to_certificate>** after the upgrade procedure has finished.

Listing 1. Package script call example

```
/usr/sbin/mgr-package-rpm-certificate-osimage --ca-cert-full-path /root/ssl-build/RHN-ORG-TRUSTED-SSL-CERT
```

The RPM package with the certificate is stored in a salt-accessible directory such as `/usr/share/susemanager/salt/images/rhn-org-trusted-ssl-cert-osimage-1.0-1.noarch.rpm`.

The RPM package with the certificate is provided in the local build host repository `/var/lib/Kiwi/repo`.

The RPM Package with the SUSE Manager Certificate Must Be Specified in the Build Source

Make sure your build source Kiwi configuration contains `rhn-org-trusted-ssl-cert-osimage` as a required package in the `bootstrap` section.

Listing 2. config.xml




```
...
<packages type="bootstrap">
  ...
  <package name="rhn-org-trusted-ssl-cert-osimage"
bootinclude="true"/>
</packages>
...
```

Define Kiwi Build Channels with an Activation Key

Create an activation key associated with the channel that your images will use. Activation keys are mandatory for OS Image building.

Relationship Between Activation Keys and Image Profiles



To build OS Images, you will need an activation key that is associated with a channel other than "SUSE Manager Default".

Create Activation Key

Activation Key Details

Systems registered with this activation key will inherit the settings listed below.

Description:

Use this to describe what kind of settings this key will reflect on systems that use it. If left blank, this field will be filled in 'None'.

Key:

Activation key can contains only numbers [0-9], letters [a-z A-Z], '-', '_' and '.'

Leave blank for automatic key generation. Note that the prefix is an indication of the SUSE Manager organization the key is associated with.

Usage:

Leave blank for unlimited use.

Base Channel:

Choose "SUSE Manager Default" to allow systems to register to the default SUSE Manager provided channel that corresponds to the installed SUSE Linux version. Instead of the default, you may choose a particular SUSE provided channel or a custom base channel, but if a system using this key is not compatible with the selected channel, it will fall back to its SUSE Manager Default channel.

Add-On System Types:

☐ Container Build Host

☐ Virtualization Host

Contact Method:

Universal Default: ☐

Tip: Only one universal default activation key may be set for this organization. By setting this key as universal default, you will remove universal default status from the current universal default key if it exists. If this key is set as universal default, then newly-registered systems to your organization will inherit the properties of this key.

1. In the Web UI, select **Main Menu > Systems > Activation Keys**.
2. Click **Create Key**.
3. Enter a **Description**, a **Key** name, and use the drop-down box to select a **Base Channel** to associate with the key.
4. Confirm with [**Create Activation Key**].

For more information, see [\[bp.key.managment\]](#).

Image Store

OS images can require a significant amount of storage space. Therefore, we recommended that the OS image store is located on a partition of its own or on a btrfs subvolume, separate from the root partition. By default, the image store will be located at `/srv/www/os-images`.



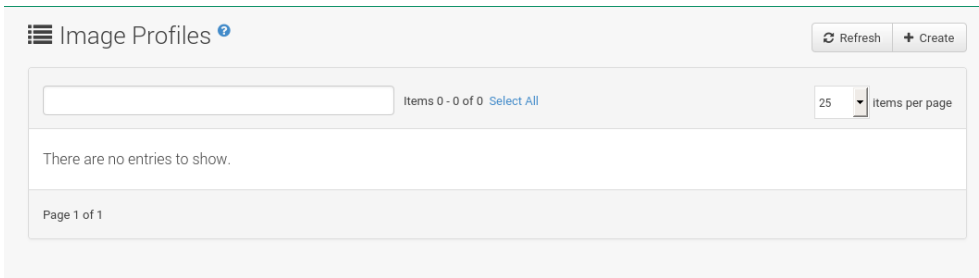
Image stores for Kiwi build type

Image stores for Kiwi build type, used to build system, virtual and other images, are not supported yet.

Images are always stored in `/srv/www/os-images/<organization id>` and are accessible via HTTP/HTTPS `https://<susemanager_host>/os-images/<organization id>`

Creating an Image Profile

Manage Image Profiles using the Web UI.



Procedure: Create an Image Profile

1. To create an image profile select from **Main Menu > Images > Images > Profiles** and click **[Create]**.

2. In the **Label** field, provide a name for the **Image Profile**.
3. Use **Kiwi** as the **Image Type**.
4. Image store is automatically selected.
5. Enter a **Config URL** to the directory containing the Kiwi configuration files:
 - a. Git URI
 - b. HTTPS tarball
 - c. Path to build host local directory
6. Select an **Activation Key**. Activation keys ensure that images using a profile are assigned to the correct channel and packages.



Relationship Between Activation Keys and Image Profiles

When you associate an activation key with an image profile you are ensuring any image using the profile will use the correct software channel and any packages in the channel.

7. Confirm with the **[Create]** button.

Source format options

- Git/HTTP(S) URL to the repository

URL to the Git repository containing the sources of the image to be built. Depending on the layout of the repository the URL can be:

```
https://github.com/SUSE/manager-build-profiles
```

You can specify a branch after the `#` character in the URL. In this example, we use the `master` branch:

```
https://github.com/SUSE/manager-build-profiles#master
```

You can specify a directory that contains the image sources after the `:` character. In this example, we use `OSImage/POS_Image-JeOS6`:

```
https://github.com/SUSE/manager-build-profiles#master:OSImage/POS_Image-JeOS6
```

- HTTP(S) URL to the tarball

URL to the tar archive, compressed or uncompressed, hosted on the webserver.

```
https://myimagesourceserver.example.org/MyKiwiImage.tar.gz
```

- Path to the directory on the build host

Enter the path to the directory with the Kiwi build system sources. This directory must be present on the selected build host.

```
/var/lib/Kiwi/MyKiwiImage
```

Example of Kiwi sources

Kiwi sources consist at least of `config.xml`. Usually `config.sh` and `images.sh` are present as well. Sources can also contain files to be installed in the final image under the `root` subdirectory.

For information about the Kiwi build system, see the [Kiwi documentation](#).

SUSE provides examples of fully functional image sources at the [SUSE/manager-build-profiles](#) public GitHub repository.

Listing 3. Example of JeOS config.xml

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

<image schemaversion="6.1" name="POS_Image_JeOS6">
  <description type="system">
    <author>Admin User</author>
    <contact>noemail@example.com</contact>
    <specification>SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 SP3 JeOS</specification>
  </description>
  <preferences>
    <version>6.0.0</version>
    <packagemanager>zypper</packagemanager>
    <bootplash-theme>SLE</bootplash-theme>
    <bootloader-theme>SLE</bootloader-theme>

    <locale>en_US</locale>
    <keytable>us.map.gz</keytable>
    <timezone>Europe/Berlin</timezone>
    <hwclock>utc</hwclock>

    <rpm-excludedocs>true</rpm-excludedocs>
    <type boot="saltboot/suse-SLES12" bootloader="grub2" checkprebuilt="true"
compressed="false" filesystem="ext3" fsmountoptions="acl" fsnocheck="true" image="pxe"
kernelcmdline="quiet"></type>
  </preferences>
  <!-- CUSTOM REPOSITORY
  <repository type="rpm-dir">
    <source path="this://repo"/>
  </repository>
  -->
  <packages type="image">
    <package name="patterns-sles-Minimal"/>
    <package name="aaa_base-extras"/> <!-- wouldn't be SUSE without that ;-) -->
    <package name="kernel-default"/>
    <package name="salt-minion"/>
    ...
  </packages>
  <packages type="bootstrap">
    ...
    <package name="sles-release"/>
    <!-- this certificate package is required to access {productname} repositories
    and is provided by {productname} automatically -->
    <package name="rhncert-trusted-ssl-cert-osimage" bootinclude="true"/>

  </packages>
  <packages type="delete">
    <package name="mtools"/>
    <package name="initvbiocons"/>
    ...
  </packages>
</image>

```

Building an Image

There are two ways to build an image using the Web UI. Either select **Main Menu** > **Images** > **Build**, or click the build icon in the **Main Menu** > **Images** > **Profiles** list.

Procedure: Build an Image

1. Select **Main Menu** > **Images** > **Build**.
2. Add a different tag name if you want a version other than the default **latest** (applies only to containers).
3. Select the **Image Profile** and a **Build Host**.



Profile Summary

A **Profile Summary** is displayed to the right of the build fields. When you have selected a build profile detailed information about the selected profile will show up in this area.

4. To schedule a build, click the [**Build**] button.

Image Inspection and Salt Integration

After the image is successfully built, the inspection phase begins. During the inspection phase SUSE Manager collects information about the image:

- List of packages installed in the image
- Checksum of the image
- Image type and other image details



If the built image type is **PXE**, a Salt pillar will also be generated. Image pillars are stored in the `/srv/susemanager/pillar_data/images/` directory and the Salt subsystem can access details about the generated image. Details include where the pillar is located and provided, image checksums, information needed for network boot, and more.

The generated pillar is available to all connected minions.

Troubleshooting

Building an image requires of several dependent steps. When the build fails, investigation of salt states results can help you to identify the source of the failure. Usual checks when the build fails:

- The build host can access the build sources
- There is enough disk space for the image on both the build host and the SUSE Manager server
- The activation key has the correct channels associated with it
- The build sources used are valid
- The RPM package with the SUSE Manager public certificate is up to date and available at [/usr/share/susemanager/salt/images/rhn-org-trusted-ssl-cert-osimage-1.0-1.noarch.rpm](#).

For more on how to refresh a public certificate RPM, see [Creating a Build Host](#).

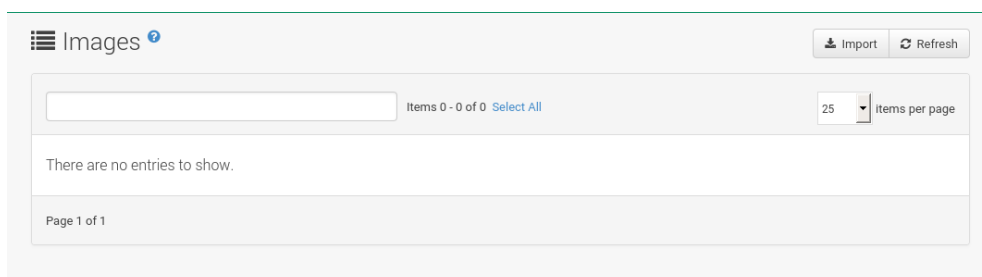
Limitations

The section contains some known issues when working with images.

- HTTPS certificates used to access the HTTP sources or Git repositories should be deployed to the minion by a custom state file, or configured manually.
- Importing Kiwi-based images is not supported.

Listing Image Profiles Available for Building

To list images available for building select **Main Menu** > **Images** > **Images**. A list of all images will be displayed.



Displayed data about images includes an image **Name**, its **Version** and the build **Status**. You will also see the image update status with a listing of possible patch and package updates that are available for the image.

Clicking the [**Details**] button on an image will provide a detailed view including an exact list of relevant patches and a list of all packages installed within the image.



The patch and the package list is only available if the inspect state after a build was successful.

Live Patching with SUSE Manager

Performing a kernel update usually requires a system reboot. Common vulnerability and exposure (CVE) patches should be applied as soon as possible, but if you cannot afford the downtime, you can use Live Patching to inject these important updates and skip the need to reboot.

The procedure for setting up Live Patching is slightly different for SLES 12 and SLES 15. Both procedures are documented in this section.

Live Patching on SLES 15

On SLES 15 systems and newer, live patching is managed by the `klp livepatch` tool.

Before you begin, ensure:

- SUSE Manager is fully updated
- You have one or more Salt clients running SLES 15 (SP1 or later)
- Your SLES 15 Salt clients are registered with SUSE Manager
- You have access to the SLES 15 channels appropriate for your architecture, including the Live Patching child channel (or channels)
- The clients are fully synchronized

Procedure: Setting up for Live Patching

1. Select the client you want to manage with Live Patching from **Systems > Overview**, and navigate to the **Software > Packages > Install** tab. Search for the `kernel-livepatch` package, and install it.
2. Apply the highstate to enable Live Patching, and reboot the client.
3. Repeat for each client that you want to manage with Live Patching.
4. To check that Live Patching has been enabled correctly, select the client from **Systems > Systems List**, and ensure that **Live Patching** appears in the **Kernel** field.

When you have the Live Patching channel installed on the client, you can clone the default vendor channel. This cloned channel will be used to manage Live Patching on your clients.

Cloned vendor channels should be prefixed by `dev` for development, `testing`, or `prod` for production. In this procedure, you will create a `dev` cloned channel, and later, you will need to promote the channel to `testing`.

Procedure: Cloning Live Patching Channels

1. At the command prompt on the client, as root, obtain the current package channel tree:

```
# spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle --list-channels
Spacewalk Username: admin
Spacewalk Password:
Channel tree:

1. sles15-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
   \__ sle-live-patching15-pool-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-live-patching15-updates-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-manager-tools15-pool-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-manager-tools15-updates-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sles15-sp{sp-ver}-updates-x86_64
```

2. Use the `spacewalk-manage-channel` command with the `init` argument to automatically create a new development clone of the original vendor channel:

```
spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle --init -c sles15-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
```

3. Check that `dev-sles15-spSP1-updates-x86_64` is available in your channel list.

Now you can check the `dev` cloned channel you created, and remove any kernel updates that require a reboot.

Procedure: Removing Non-Live Kernel Patches from Cloned Channels

1. Check the current kernel version by selecting the client from **Systems > Systems List**, and taking note of the version displayed in the **Kernel** field.
2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**, navigate to the **Software > Manage > Channels** tab, and select `dev-sles15-spSP1-updates-x86_64`. Navigate to the **Patches** tab, and click [**List/Remove Patches**].
3. In the search bar, type `kernel` and identify the kernel version that matches the kernel currently used by your client.
4. Remove all kernel versions that are newer than the currently installed kernel.

Your channel is now set up for Live Patching, and can be promoted to `testing`. In this procedure, you will also add the Live Patching child channels to your client, ready to be applied.

Procedure: Promoting Live Patching Channels

1. At the command prompt on the client, as root, promote and clone the `dev-sles15-spSP1-pool-x86_64` channel to a new testing channel:


```
# spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle -promote -c dev-sles15-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
```

2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**, and navigate to the **Software > Software Channels** tab.
3. Check the new `test-sles15-sp3-pool-x86_64` custom channel to change the base channel, and check both corresponding Live Patching child channels.

4. Click [**Next**], confirm that the details are correct, and click [**Confirm**] to save the changes.

You can now select and view available CVE patches, and apply these important kernel updates with Live Patching.

Procedure: Applying Live Patches to a Kernel

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**. You will see a banner at the top of the screen showing the number of critical and non-critical packages available for the client: 
2. Click [**Critical**] to see a list of the available critical patches.
3. Select any patch with a synopsis reading **Important: Security update for the Linux kernel**. Security bugs will also include their CVE number, where applicable.
4. OPTIONAL: If you know the CVE number of a patch you want to apply, you can search for it in **Audit > CVE Audit**, and apply the patch to any clients that require it.



Not all kernel patches are Live Patches! Non-Live kernel patches are represented by a **Reboot Required** icon located next to the **Security** shield icon. These patches will always require a reboot.



Not all security issues can be fixed by applying a live patch. Some security issues can only be fixed by applying a full kernel update and will require a reboot. The assigned CVE numbers for these issues are not included in live patches. A CVE audit will display this requirement.

Live Patching on SLES 12

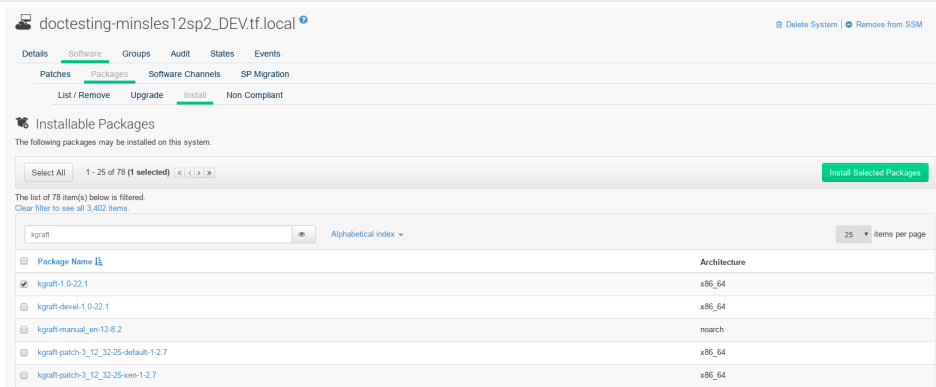
On SLES 12 systems, live patching is managed by kGraft. For in depth information covering kGraft use, see https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/singlehtml/book_sle_admin/book_sle_admin.html#cha.kgraft.

Before you begin, ensure:

- SUSE Manager is fully updated
- You have one or more Salt clients running SLES 12 (SP1 or later)
- Your SLES 12 Salt clients are registered with SUSE Manager
- You have access to the SLES 12 channels appropriate for your architecture, including the Live Patching child channel (or channels)
- The clients are fully synchronized

Procedure: Setting up for Live Patching

1. Select the client you want to manage with Live Patching from **Systems > Overview**, and navigate to the **Software > Packages > Install** tab. Search for the **kgraft** package, and install it.



2. Apply the highstate to enable Live Patching, and reboot the client.
3. Repeat for each client that you want to manage with Live Patching.
4. To check that Live Patching has been enabled correctly, select the client from **Systems > Systems List**, and ensure that **Live Patching** appears in the **Kernel** field.

When you have the Live Patching channel installed on the client, you can clone the default vendor channel. This cloned channel will be used to manage Live Patching on your clients.

Cloned vendor channels should be prefixed by **dev** for development, **testing**, or **prod** for production. In this procedure, you will create a **dev** cloned channel, and later, you will need to promote the channel to **testing**.

Procedure: Cloning Live Patching Channels

1. At the command prompt on the client, as root, obtain the current package channel tree:

```
# spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle --list-channels
Spacewalk Username: admin
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Channel tree:

1. sles12-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
   \__ sle-live-patching12-pool-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-live-patching12-updates-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-manager-tools12-pool-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sle-manager-tools12-updates-x86_64-sp{sp-ver}
   \__ sles12-sp{sp-ver}-updates-x86_64
```

2. Use the **spacewalk-manage-channel** command with the **init** argument to automatically create a new development clone of the original vendor channel:

```
spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle --init -c sles12-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
```

3. Check that **dev-sles12-spSP1-updates-x86_64** is available in your channel list.

Now you can check the **dev** cloned channel you created, and remove any kernel updates that require a reboot.

Procedure: Removing Non-Live Kernel Patches from Cloned Channels

1. Check the current kernel version by selecting the client from **Systems > Systems List**, and taking note of the version displayed in the **Kernel** field.
2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**, navigate to the **Software > Manage > Channels** tab, and select **dev-sles12-spSP1-updates-x86_64**. Navigate to the **Patches** tab, and click [**List/Remove Patches**].
3. In the search bar, type **kernel** and identify the kernel version that matches the kernel currently used by your client.
4. Remove all kernel versions that are newer than the currently installed kernel.

Your channel is now set up for Live Patching, and can be promoted to **testing**. In this procedure, you will also add the Live Patching child channels to your client, ready to be applied.

Procedure: Promoting Live Patching Channels


1. At the command prompt on the client, as root, promote and clone the **dev-sles12-spSP1-pool-x86_64** channel to a new testing channel:

```
# spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle -promote -c dev-sles12-sp{sp-ver}-pool-x86_64
```

2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**, and navigate to the **Software > Software Channels** tab.
3. Check the new **test-sles12-sp3-pool-x86_64** custom channel to change the base channel, and check both corresponding Live Patching child channels.
4. Click [**Next**], confirm that the details are correct, and click [**Confirm**] to save the changes.

You can now select and view available CVE patches, and apply these important kernel updates with Live Patching.

Procedure: Applying Live Patches to a Kernel

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, select the client from **Systems > Overview**. You will see a banner at the top of the screen showing the number of critical and non-critical packages available for the client: 
2. Click [**Critical**] to see a list of the available critical patches.
3. Select any patch with a synopsis reading **Important: Security update for the Linux kernel**. Security bugs will also include their CVE number, where applicable.
4. OPTIONAL: If you know the CVE number of a patch you want to apply, you can search for it in **Audit > CVE Audit**, and apply the patch to any clients that require it.



Not all kernel patches are Live Patches! Non-Live kernel patches are represented by a **Reboot Required** icon located next to the **Security** shield icon. These patches will always require a reboot.



Not all security issues can be fixed by applying a live patch. Some security issues can only be fixed by applying a full kernel update and will require a reboot. The assigned CVE numbers for these issues are not included in live patches. A CVE audit will display this requirement.

Monitoring with Prometheus

Monitoring can be performed in SUSE Manager using Prometheus and Grafana. The packages for Prometheus are shipped with SUSE Manager Client Tools, these packages also include several Prometheus exporters. SUSE Manager Server and Proxy are now able to provide self-health metrics, or install and manage a limited number of Prometheus exporters on managed client systems.

Prometheus is a monitoring tool, originally built at SoundCloud, that is used to record real-time metrics in a time-series database. Unlike other monitoring systems, Prometheus collects metrics using HTTP pulls, allowing for higher performance and scalability. Prometheus is an open-source software project, mostly written in Go, and its source code is available at <https://github.com/prometheus/>.

Grafana is a tool for data visualization, monitoring and analysis. It is used to create dashboards with panels representing specific metrics over a set period of time. Grafana is commonly used together with Prometheus, but also supports other data sources such as Elasticsearch, MySQL, PostgreSQL, and Influx DB. For more information about Grafana, see: <https://grafana.com/docs/>.

A Prometheus package is included in the SUSE Manager Client Tools for SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 and SUSE Linux Enterprise 15.

Prometheus Metrics

Prometheus metrics are time series data, or timestamped values belonging to the same group or dimension. A metric is uniquely identified by its name and set of labels.

metric name	labels	timestamp	value
<pre>http_requests_total{status="200", method="GET"} @1557331801.111 42236</pre>			

Each application or system being monitored must expose metrics in the format above, either through code instrumentation, or Prometheus exporters.

The different metric types are:

- Counter - cumulative values. ex: number of errors
- Gauge - can go up or down. ex: temperature
- Histogram - count observations in buckets
- Summary - similar to histogram, but provides totals (sum and count)

For more information about metric types, see: https://prometheus.io/docs/concepts/metric_types/

PromQL

Prometheus has its own query language called PromQL, which is a functional expression language. PromQL allows you to filter multi-dimensional time series data. It is used in all Prometheus interactions.

In PromQL, an expression can evaluate to one of three types:

- Instant vector: a set of time series containing a single sample for each time series, all sharing the same timestamp
- Range vector: a set of time series containing a range of data points over time for each time series
- Scalar: a numeric floating point value

The core part of any PromQL query is the metric name, for example: **http_requests_total**. Labels can be used as optional selectors. This example returns the total number of HTTP requests that have status **200** and method **GET**:

```
http_requests_total{status="200", method="GET"}
```

For more information about PromQL, see the official Prometheus documentation: <https://prometheus.io/docs/prometheus/latest/querying/basics/>.

Exporters

Exporters are libraries which help in exporting existing metrics from third-party systems as Prometheus metrics. Exporters are useful whenever it is not feasible to instrument a given application or system with Prometheus metrics directly. Multiple exporters can run on a monitored host to export local metrics.

The Prometheus community provides a list of official exporters, and many others can be found as community contributions. For detailed information and an extensive list of exporters, see: <https://prometheus.io/docs/instrumenting/exporters/>.

With SUSE Manager 4, you can set up the Server and Proxy to expose Prometheus metrics to provide insights about SUSE Manager self-health. Metrics are available for these services:

- Hardware and Operating System
- Java Virtual Machines
- Apache
- Squid
- PostgreSQL
- SUSE Manager internals

The self-health metrics are made available by SUSE Manager Java application combined with Prometheus standalone exporters, running as systemd daemons.

SUSE Manager requires these packages to be installed on the Server and the Proxy. The packages are shipped with SUSE Manager Server and Proxy, but their respective systemd daemons are disabled by default.

These exporter packages are shipped with SUSE Manager Server:

- Node exporter: [golang-github-prometheus-node_exporter](https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter). See https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter.
- PostgreSQL exporter: [golang-github-wrouesnel-postgres_exporter](https://github.com/wrouesnel/postgres_exporter). See https://github.com/wrouesnel/postgres_exporter.
- JMX exporter: [prometheus-jmx_exporter](https://github.com/prometheus/jmx_exporter). See https://github.com/prometheus/jmx_exporter.
- Apache exporter: [golang-github-lusitaniae-apache_exporter](https://github.com/Lusitaniae/apache_exporter). See https://github.com/Lusitaniae/apache_exporter.

These exporter packages are shipped with SUSE Manager Proxy:

- Node exporter: [golang-github-prometheus-node_exporter](https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter). See https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter.
- Squid exporter: [golang-github-boynux-squid_exporter](https://github.com/boynux/squid_exporter). See https://github.com/boynux/squid_exporter.

Install and Configure Prometheus

Prometheus is installed from a package, and needs configuration before you can use it to gather metrics.

Installing Prometheus

Procedure: Installing Prometheus

1. Install the [golang-github-prometheus-prometheus](#) package:

```
zypper in golang-github-prometheus-prometheus
```

2. Enable the Prometheus service:

```
systemctl enable --now prometheus
```

3. Confirm that the Prometheus interface is loading correctly. In your browser, navigate to the URL of the server where Prometheus is installed, on port 9090 (for example, <http://example.com:9090>).

Configuring Prometheus

Prometheus requires some configuration to collect metrics and set up alarms, or to display metrics graphically in Grafana. You can configure Prometheus in the static configuration file at [/etc/prometheus/prometheus.yml](#). It is important to understand how this file is structured. For example:

```

yaml
- job_name: 'suse-manager-server'
  static_configs:
    - targets:
      - 'suse-manager.local:9100' # Node exporter
      - 'suse-manager.local:9187' # PostgreSQL exporter
      - 'suse-manager.local:5556' # JMX exporter (Tomcat)
      - 'suse-manager.local:5557' # JMX exporter (Taskomatic)
      - 'suse-manager.local:9800' # Taskomatic
    - targets:
      - 'suse-manager.local:80' # Message queue
  labels:
    __metrics_path__: /rhn/metrics

```

For more information about configuring Prometheus, see the official Prometheus documentation: <https://prometheus.io/docs/prometheus/latest/configuration/configuration/>

Monitoring Managed Systems

Prometheus metrics exporters can also be used on managed client systems. The packages are available from the SUSE Manager client tools channels, and can be enabled and configured directly on the SUSE Manager Web UI. Currently, two exporters are supported:

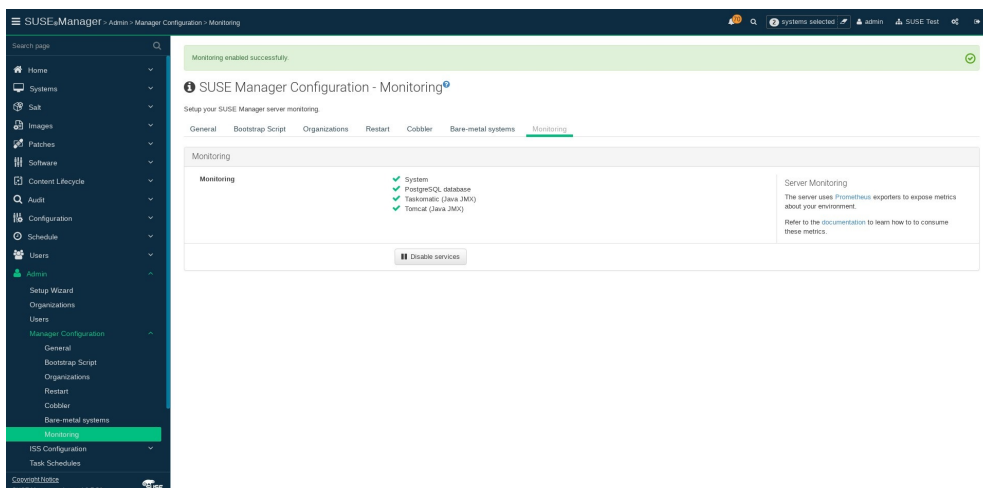
- Node exporter: [golang-github-prometheus-node_exporter](https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter). See https://github.com/prometheus/node_exporter.
- PostgreSQL exporter: [golang-github-wrouesnel-postgres_exporter](https://github.com/wrouesnel/postgres_exporter). See https://github.com/wrouesnel/postgres_exporter.

Installing and configuring exporters is done using a Salt formula.

Enable and Configure Monitoring

Procedure: Enabling Self Monitoring for SUSE Manager

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin > Manager Configuration > Monitoring**.
2. Click [**Enable services**].

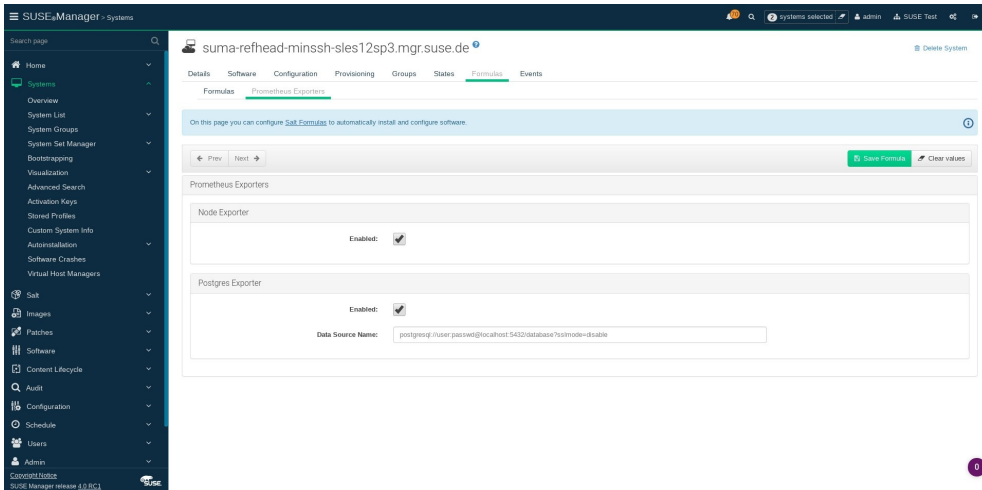


Procedure: Configuring Monitoring Formulas

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
2. Check the **Monitoring** checkbox to select all monitoring formulas, and click [**Save**].
3. Apply the highstate.

Procedure: Configuring the Exporters

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the server, and navigate to the **Formulas > Prometheus Exporters** tab.
2. Check the **Enabled** checkbox for both the Node Exporter, and the Postgres Exporter.
3. In the **Postgres Exporter** section, in the **Data Source Name** field, enter the path to your data source (for example `postgresql://user:passwd@localhost:5432/database?sslmode=disable`).
4. Click [**Save Formula**].
5. Apply the highstate.



Visualization with Grafana

The Grafana website contains dozens of dashboards uploaded by the community. For an example SUSE Manager dashboard to help you to get started, see <https://grafana.com/dashboards/10277>. For more information, see: <https://grafana.com/dashboards>

To use Grafana with SUSE Manager, you need to have enabled metrics in the SUSE Manager Web UI, and configured your Prometheus instance to collect those metrics.

Kubernetes

Prerequisites

The prerequisites listed below should be met before proceeding.

- At least one *Kubernetes* or *_SUSE CaaS Platform _* cluster available on your network
- SUSE Manager configured for container management



Required channels are present, a registered build host available etc.

- virtual-host-gatherer-Kubernetes package installed on your SUSE Manager server

Requirements

- Kubernetes version 1.5.0 or higher. Alternatively use SUSE CaaS Platform (*SUSE CaaS Platform includes Kubernetes 1.5.0 by default*)
- Docker version 1.12 or higher on the container build host



To enable all Kubernetes related features within the Web UI, the virtual-host-gatherer-Kubernetes package must be installed.

Register Kubernetes as a Virtual Host Manager

Kubernetes clusters are registered with SUSE Manager as **virtual host managers**. Registration and authorization begins with importing a **kubeconfig** file using Kubernetes official command line tool **kubectl**.

Procedure: Registering a Kubernetes Cluster with SUSE Manager

1. Select **Systems** > **Virtual Host Managers** from the navigation menu.
2. Expand the **Create** dropdown in the upper right corner of the page and select **Kubernetes Cluster**.
3. Input a label for the new Virtual Host Manager.
4. Select the **kubeconfig** file which contains the required data for the Kubernetes cluster.
5. Select the correct *context* for the cluster, as specified in the kubeconfig file.
6. Click **Create**.

View the List of Nodes in a Cluster

1. Select **Systems** > **Virtual Host Managers** from the navigation menu.
2. Select the desired Kubernetes cluster to view it.

3. Node data is not refreshed during registration. To refresh node data, click on [Schedule refresh data](#).
4. Refresh the browser. If the node data is not available wait a few moments and try again.

Obtain Runtime Data about Images

See the following steps to find runtime data for images.

1. Select **Images** > **Images** from the navigation menu.
2. In the image list table, take notice of the new runtime columns. These are labeled: [Revision](#), [Runtime](#) and [Instances](#). Initially these columns will not provide useful data.
 - [Revision](#): An artificial sequence number which increments on every rebuild for manager-built images, or on every reimport for externally built images.
 - [Runtime](#): Overall status of the running instances of the image throughout the registered clusters. The status can be one of the following:
 - All instances are consistent with SUSE Manager: All the running instances are running the same build of the image as tracked by SUSE Manager.
 - Outdated instances found: Some of the instances are running an older build of the image. A redeploy of the image into the pod may be required.
 - No information: The checksum of the instance image does not match the image data contained in SUSE Manager. A redeploy of the image into the pod may be required.
 - [Instances](#): Number of instances running this image across all the clusters registered in SUSE Manager. A breakdown of numbers can be seen by clicking on the pop-up icon next to the number.

Build an image for deployment in Kubernetes

The following steps will help you build an image for deployment in Kubernetes.

1. Under **Images** > **Stores**, create an image store.
2. Under **Images** > **Profiles**, create an image profile (with a Dockerfile which is suitable to deploy to Kubernetes).
3. Under **Images** > **Build**, build an image with the new profile and wait for the build to finish.
4. Deploy the image into one of the registered Kubernetes clusters (via [kubect1](#)).
5. Notice the updated data in [Runtime](#) and [Instances](#) columns in the respective image row.

Import a Previously Deployed Image in Kubernetes

The following steps will guide you through importing a previously deployed image in Kubernetes.

1. Select an image that has already been deployed to any of your registered Kubernetes clusters.
2. Add the registry owning the image to SUSE Manager as an image store.
3. Select **Images** > **Images** , click **Import** from the top-right corner, fill in the form fields and click **Import**.
4. Notice the updated data in **Runtime** and **Instances** columns in the respective image row.

Obtain Additional Runtime Data

The following steps will help you find additional runtime data.

1. Select to **Images** > **Images** , click the **Details** button on the right end of a row which has running instances.
2. Under the **Overview** tab, notice the data in **Runtime** and **Instances** fields under **Image Info** section.
3. Select the **Runtime** tab.
4. Here is a breakdown of the Kubernetes pods running this image in all the registered clusters including the following data:
 - Pod name
 - Namespace which the pod resides in
 - The runtime status of the container in the specific pod. Status icons are explained in the preceeding example.

Rebuild a Previously Deployed Image in Kubernetes

The following steps will guide you through rebuilding an image which has been deployed to a Kubernetes cluster.

1. Go to **Images** > **Images** , click the **Details** button on the right end of a row which has running instances. The image must be manager-built.
2. Click the **Rebuild** button located under the **Build Status** section and wait for the build to finish.
3. Notice the change in the **Runtime** icon and title, reflecting the fact that now the instances are running a previous build of the image.

Role Based Access Control Permissions and Certificate Data



Currently, only kubeconfig files containing all embedded certificate data may be used with SUSE Manager

The API calls from SUSE Manager are:

- GET /api/v1/pods
- GET /api/v1/nodes

According to this list, the minimum recommended permissions for SUSE Manager should be as follows:

- A ClusterRole to list all the nodes:

```
resources: ["nodes"]  
verbs: ["list"]
```

- A ClusterRole to list pods in all namespaces (role binding must not restrict the namespace):

```
resources: ["pods"]  
verbs: ["list"]
```

Due to a 403 response from /pods, the entire cluster will be ignored by SUSE Manager.

For more information on working with RBAC Authorization see: <https://kubernetes.io/docs/admin/authorization/rbac/>

Virtualization

SUSE Manager allows you to autoinstall and manage Xen and KVM VM Guests on a registered VM Host Server. To autoinstall a VM Guest, an autoinstallable distribution and an autoinstallation profile (AutoYaST or Kickstart) need to exist on SUSE Manager. VM Guests registered with SUSE Manager can be managed like “regular” machines. In addition, basic VM Guest management tasks such as (re)starting and stopping or changing processor and memory allocation can be carried out using SUSE Manager.

The following documentation is valid in the context of traditional clients. Salt minions must be treated differently:

- Autoinstallation is not supported, but creation of a guest from a template disk image is supported.



Limitation to Xen and KVM Guests

Autoinstalling and managing VM Guests via SUSE Manager is limited to Xen and KVM guests. SUSE Manager uses **libvirt** for virtual machine management. Currently, virtual machines from other virtualization solutions such as VMware* or VirtualBox*, are recognized as VM Guests, but cannot be managed from within SUSE Manager.

Autoinstalling VM Guests

With SUSE Manager you can automatically deploy Xen and KVM VM Guests using AutoYaST or Kickstart profiles. It is also possible to automatically register the VM Guests, so they can immediately be managed by SUSE Manager.

Requirements on SUSE Manager

Setting up and managing VM Guests with SUSE Manager does not require special configuration options. However, you need to provide activation keys for the VM Host Server and the VM Guests, an autoinstallable distribution and an autoinstallation profile. To automatically register VM Guests with SUSE Manager, a bootstrap script is needed.

Activation Keys

Just like any other client, VM Host Server and VM Guests need to be registered with SUSE Manager using activation keys. Find details on how to set up activation keys at [\[create.act.keys\]](#). While there are no special requirements for a VM Guest key, at least the following requirements must be met for the VM Host Server activation key.

VM Host Server Activation Key: Minimum Requirements

- Entitlements: Provisioning, Virtualization Platform.
- Packages: **mgr-virtualization-host**, **mgr-osad**.

If you want to manage the VM Host Server system from SUSE Manager (for example, by executing

remote scripts), the package `mgr-cfg-actions` needs to be installed as well.

Setting up an Autoinstallable Distribution

To autoinstall clients from SUSE Manager, you need to provide an “autoinstallable distribution”, also referred to as autoinstallable tree or installation source. This installation source needs to be made available through the file system of the SUSE Manager host. It can for example be a mounted local or remote directory or a “loop-mounted” ISO image. It must match the following requirements:

- Kernel and initrd location:

Red Hat Enterprise Linux / Generic RPM

- `images/pxeboot/vmlinuz`
- `images/pxeboot/initrd.img`

SUSE

- `boot/arch/loader/initrd`
- `boot/arch/loader/linux`
 - The **Base Channel** needs to match the autoinstallable distribution.



Autoinstallation package sources

There is a fundamental difference between Red Hat Enterprise Linux and SUSE systems regarding the package sources for autoinstallation. The packages for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux installation are being fetched from the **Base Channel**. Packages for installing SUSE systems are being fetched from the autoinstallable distribution.

As a consequence, the autoinstallable distribution for a SUSE system has to be a complete installation source (same as for a regular installation).

Procedure: Creating Autoinstallable Distribution

1. Make sure an installation source is available from a local directory. The data source can be any kind of network resource, a local directory or an ISO image (which has to be “loop-mounted”). Files and directories must be world readable.
2. Log in to the SUSE Manager Web UI and navigate to **Systems** > **Autoinstallation** > **Distributions** > **Create Distribution**.
3. Fill out the form **Create Autoinstallable Distribution** as follows:

Distribution Label

Choose a unique name for the distribution. Only letters, numbers, hyphens, periods, and underscores are allowed; the minimum length is 4 characters. This field is mandatory.

Tree Path

Absolute local disk path to installation source. This field is mandatory.

Base Channel

Channel matching the installation source. This channel is the package source for non-SUSE installations. This field is mandatory.

Installer Generation

Operating system version matching the installation source. This field is mandatory.

Kernel Options

Options passed to the kernel when booting for the installation. There is no need to specify the `install=` parameter since it will automatically be added. Moreover, the parameters `self_update=0` `pt.options=self_update` are added automatically to prevent AutoYaST from updating itself during the system installation. This field is optional.

Post Kernel Options

Options passed to the kernel when booting the installed system for the first time. This field is optional.

4. Save your settings by clicking [**Create Autoinstallable Distribution**].

To edit an existing **Autoinstallable Distribution**, go to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Distributions** and click on a **Label**. Save your settings by clicking [**Update Autoinstallable Distribution**].

Providing an Autoinstallation Profile

Autoinstallation profiles (AutoYaST or Kickstart files) contain all the installation and configuration data needed to install a system without user intervention. They may also contain scripts that will be executed after the installation has completed.

All profiles can be uploaded to SUSE Manager and be edited afterwards. Kickstart profiles can also be created from scratch with SUSE Manager.

A minimalist AutoYaST profile including a script for registering the client with SUSE Manager is listed in [\[advanced.topics.app.ay.example-simple\]](#).

For more information, examples and HOWTOs on AutoYaST profiles, refer to *SUSE Linux Enterprise AutoYaST* (https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_autoyast/data/book_autoyast.html). For more information on Kickstart profiles, refer to your Red Hat Enterprise Linux documentation.

SUSE Linux Enterprise 15 Systems

You need the installation media to setup the distribution. Starting with version 15, there is only one installation media. You will use the same one for SLES, SLED, and all the other SUSE Linux

Enterprise 15 based products.

In the AutoYaST profile specify which product is to be installed. For installing SUSE Linux Enterprise Server use the following snippet in `autoyast.xml`:

```
<products config:type="list">
  <listentry>SLES</listentry>
</products>
```

Then specify all the required modules as `add-on` in `autoyast.xml`. This is a minimal `SLE-Product-SLES15-Pool` selection that will result in a working installation and can be managed by SUSE Manager:

- SLE-Manager-Tools15-Pool
- SLE-Manager-Tools15-Updates
- SLE-Module-Basesystem15-Pool
- SLE-Module-Basesystem15-Updates
- SLE-Product-SLES15-Updates

It is also recommended to add the following modules:

- SLE-Module-Server-Applications15-Pool
- SLE-Module-Server-Applications15-Updates

Uploading an Autoinstallation Profile

1. Log in to the SUSE Manager Web interface and open **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles > Upload New Kickstart/AutoYaST File**.
2. Choose a unique name for the profile. Only letters, numbers, hyphens, periods, and underscores are allowed; the minimum length is 6 characters. This field is mandatory.
3. Choose an **Autoinstallable Tree** from the drop-down menu. If no **Autoinstallable Tree** is available, you need to add an Autoinstallable Distribution. Refer to [Setting up an Autoinstallable Distribution](#) for instructions.
4. Choose a **Virtualization Type** from the drop-down menu. KVM and Xen (para-virtualized and fully-virtualized) are available. Do not choose **Xen Virtualized Host** here.
5. Scroll down to the **File to Upload** dialog, click [**Browse**] to select it, then click [**Upload File**].
6. The uploaded file will be displayed in the **File Contents** section, where you can edit it.
7. Click [**Create**] to store the profile.

To edit an existing profile, go to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles** and click on a **Label**. Make the desired changes and save your settings by clicking [**Create**].



Editing existing Kickstart profiles

If you are changing the **Virtualization Type** of an existing Kickstart profile, it may also modify the bootloader and partition options, potentially overwriting any user customizations. Be sure to review the **Partitioning** tab to verify these settings when changing the **Virtualization Type**.

Creating a Kickstart Profile



Currently it is only possible to create autoinstallation profiles for Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems. If installing a SUSE Linux Enterprise Server system, you need to upload an existing AutoYaST profile as described in [Uploading an Autoinstallation Profile](#).

1. Log in to the SUSE Manager Web interface and go to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles > Create New Kickstart File**.
2. Choose a unique name for the profile. The minimum length is 6 characters. This field is mandatory.
3. Choose a **Base Channel**. This channel is the package source for non-SUSE installations and must match the **Autoinstallable Tree**. This field is mandatory.
4. Choose an **Autoinstallable Tree** from the drop-down menu. If no **Autoinstallable Tree** is available, you need to add an Autoinstallable Distribution. Refer to [Setting up an Autoinstallable Distribution](#) for instructions.
5. Choose a **Virtualization Type** from the drop-down menu. KVM and Xen (para-virtualized and fully-virtualized) are available. Do not choose **Xen Virtualized Host** here.
6. Click the [**Next**] button.
7. Select the location of the distribution files for the installation of your VM Guests. There should already be a **Default Download Location** filled out and selected for you on this screen. Click the [**Next**] button.
8. Choose a root password for the VM Guests. Click the [**Finish**] button to generate the profile.

This completes Kickstart profile creation. After generating a profile, you are taken to the newly-created Kickstart profile. You may browse through the various tabs of the profile and modify the settings as you see fit, but this is not necessary as the default settings should work well for the majority of cases.

Adding a Registration Script to the Autoinstallation Profile

A VM Guest that is autoinstalled does not get automatically registered. Adding a section to the autoinstallation profile that invokes a bootstrap script for registration will fix this. The following procedure describes adding a corresponding section to an AutoYaST profile. Refer to your Red Hat Enterprise Linux documentation for instructions on adding scripts to a Kickstart file.

1. First, provide a bootstrap script on the SUSE Manager:

- Create a bootstrap script for VM Guests on the SUSE Manager as described in [\[generate.bootstrap.script\]](#).
 - Log in as root to the konsole of SUSE Manager and go to [/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap](#). Copy [bootstrap.sh](#) (the bootstrap script created in the previous step) to for example, [bootstrap_vm_guests.sh](#) in the same directory.
 - Edit the newly created file according to your needs. The minimal requirement is to include the activation key for the VM Guests (see [Activation Keys](#) for details). We strongly recommend to also include one or more GPG keys (for example, your organization key and package signing keys).
2. Log in to the SUSE Manager Web interface and go to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles**. Click on the profile that is to be used for autoinstalling the VM Guests to open it for editing.

Scroll down to the **File Contents** section where you can edit the AutoYaST XML file. Add the following snippet at the end of the XML file right before the closing `</profile>` tag and replace the given IP address with the address of the SUSE Manager server. See [\[advanced.topics.app.ay.example-simple\]](#) for an example script.

```
<scripts>
  <init-scripts config:type="list">
    <script>
      <interpreter>shell </interpreter>
      <location>
        http://`192.168.1.1`/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap_vm_guests.sh
      </location>
    </script>
  </init-scripts>
</scripts>
```



Only one `<scripts>` section allowed

If your AutoYaST profile already contains a `<scripts>` section, do not add a second one, but rather place the `<script>` part above within the existing `<scripts>` section!

3. Click **Update** to save the changes.

VM Host Server Setup

A VM Host Server system serving as a target for autoinstalling VM Guests from SUSE Manager must be capable of running guest operating systems. This requires either KVM or Xen being properly set up. For installation instructions for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server systems refer to the *SLES Virtualization Guide* available from https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_virt/data/book_virt.html. For instructions on setting up a Red Hat Enterprise Linux VM Host Server refer to your Red Hat Enterprise Linux documentation.

Since SUSE Manager uses `libvirt` for VM Guest installation and management, the `libvirtd` needs to run on the VM Host Server. The default `libvirt` configuration is sufficient to install and manage VM

Guests from SUSE Manager. However, in case you want to access the VNC console of a VM Guest as a non-root user, you need to configure **libvirt** appropriately. Configuration instructions for **libvirt** on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server are available in the *SLES Virtualization Guide* available from https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_virt/data/book_virt.html available from <http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/>. For instructions for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux VM Host Server refer to your Red Hat Enterprise Linux documentation.

Apart from being able to serve as a host for KVM or Xen guests, which are managed by **libvirt**, a VM Host Server must be registered with SUSE Manager.

1. Make sure either KVM or Xen is properly set up.
2. Make sure the **libvirtd** is running.
3. Register the VM Host Server with SUSE Manager:
 - Create a bootstrap script on the SUSE Manager as described in [\[generate.bootstrap.script\]](#).
 - Download the bootstrap script from susemanager.example.com/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap.sh to the VM Host Server.
 - Edit the bootstrap script according to your needs. The minimal requirement is to include the activation key for the VM Host Server (see [Activation Keys](#) for details). We strongly recommend to also include one or more GPG keys (for example, your organization key and package signing keys).
 - Execute the bootstrap script to register the VM Host Server.

VM Host Server setup on Salt clients

If the VM Host Server is registered as a Salt minion, a final configuration step is needed in order to gather all the guest VMs defined on the VM Host Server:

1. From the **System Details > Properties** page, enable the **Add-on System Type Virtualization Host** and confirm with **[Update Properties]**.
2. Schedule a Hardware Refresh. On the **System Details > Hardware** page click **[Schedule Hardware Refresh]**.

Salt 2019.2.0 or later is required on the virtual host in order for the salt-based virtualization features to fully work on it.

VM Host Server setup on Traditional clients

Once the registration process is finished and all packages have been installed, enable **osad** (open source architecture daemon). On a SUSE Linux Enterprise Server system this can be achieved by running the following commands as user root:

```
systemctl stop rhnsd
systemctl disable rhnsd
```

```
systemctl enable osad
systemctl start osad
```



Using `osad` with `rhnsd`

The `rhnsd` daemon checks for scheduled actions every four hours, so it can take up to four hours before a scheduled action is carried out. If many clients are registered with SUSE Manager, this long interval ensures a certain level of load balancing since not all clients act on a scheduled action at the same time.

However, when managing VM Guests, you usually want actions like rebooting a VM Guest to be carried out immediately, which can be done by adding `osad`. The `osad` daemon receives commands over the jabber protocol from SUSE Manager and commands are instantly executed. Alternatively you may schedule actions to be carried out at a fixed time in the future (whereas with `rhnsd` you can only schedule for a time in the future plus up to four hours).

Autoinstalling VM Guests

Once all requirements on the SUSE Manager and the VM Host Server are met, you can start to autoinstall VM Guests on the host. Note that VM Guests will not be automatically registered with SUSE Manager, therefore we strongly recommend to modify the autoinstallation profile as described in [Adding a Registration Script to the Autoinstallation Profile](#). VM Guests need to be registered to manage them with SUSE Manager. Proceed as follows to autoinstall a VM Guest.



No parallel Autoinstallations on VM Host Server

It is not possible to install more than one VM Guest at a time on a single VM Host Server. When scheduling more than one autoinstallation with SUSE Manager make sure to choose a timing, that starts the next installation after the previous one has finished. If a guest installation starts while another one is still running, the running installation will be cancelled.

1. In the Web UI click the **Main Menu** > **Systems** > **Systems** tab.
2. Click the VM Host Server's name to open its **System Status** page.
3. Open the form for creating a new VM Guest by clicking **Virtualization** > **Provisioning**. Fill out the form by choosing an autoinstallation profile and by specifying a name for the VM Guest (must not already exist on VM Host Server). Choose a proxy if applicable and enter a schedule. To change the VM Guest's hardware profile and configuration options, click [**Advanced Options**].
4. Finish the configuration by clicking [**Schedule Autoinstallation and Finish**]. The **Session Status** page opens for you to monitor the autoinstallation process.

Checking the Installation Log

To view the installation log, click **Events** > **History** on the [Session Status](#) page. On the [System History Event](#) page you can click a [Summary](#) entry to view a detailed log.



In case an installation has failed, you can [**Reschedule**] it from this page once you have corrected the problem. You do not have to configure the installation again.

If the event log does not contain enough information to locate a problem, log in to the VM Host Server console and read the log file for your package manager.

If you are using the [rhnsd](#), you may alternatively immediately trigger any scheduled actions by calling [rhn_check](#) on the VM Host Server. Increase the command's verbosity by using the options [-v](#), [-vv](#), or [-vvv](#), respectively.

Managing VM Guests

Basic VM Guest management actions such as restarting or shutting down a virtual machine as well as changing the CPU and memory allocation can be carried out in the SUSE Manager Web interface if the following requirements are met:

- VM Host Server must be a KVM or Xen host.
- [libvirtd](#) must be running on VM Host Server.
- VM Host Server must be registered with SUSE Manager.

In addition, if you want to see the profile of the VM Guest, install packages, etc., you must also register it with SUSE Manager.

All actions can be triggered in the SUSE Manager Web UI from the [Virtualization](#) page of the VM Host Server. Navigate to this page by clicking the **Main Menu** > **Systems** > **Systems**. On the resulting page, click the VM Host Server's name and then on [Virtualization](#). This page lists all VM Guests for this host, known to SUSE Manager.

Displaying a VM Guest 's Profile

Click the name of a VM Guest on the VM Host Server's [Virtualization](#) page to open its profile page with detailed information about this guest. For details, refer to [\[ref.webui.systems.systems\]](#).

A profile page for a virtual system does not differ from a regular system's profile page. You can perform the same actions (for example, installing software or changing its configuration).

Starting, Stopping, Suspending and Resuming a VM Guest

To start, stop, restart, suspend, or resume a VM Guest, navigate to the VM Host Server's [Virtualization](#) page. Click the corresponding action button in the row of the VM Guest.

Alternatively, check one or more **Guests** listed in the table and click the corresponding button above the table. [**Confirm**] the action on the displayed popup dialog.



Automatically restarting a VM Guest

Automatically restarting a VM Guest when the VM Host Server reboots is not enabled by default on VM Guests and cannot be configured from SUSE Manager. Refer to your KVM or Xen documentation. Alternatively, you may use **libvirt** to enable automatic reboots.

Changing the CPU or RAM allocation of a VM Guest

To change the CPU or RAM allocation of a VM Guest navigate to the VM Host Server's **Virtualization** page. Click the [**Edit**] button on the VM Guest row. Change the values to the desired ones in the next page and click the [**Update**] button to apply.

The memory allocation can be changed on the fly, provided the memory ballooning driver is installed on the VM Guest. If this is not the case, or if you want to change the CPU allocation, you need to shutdown the guest first. Refer to [Starting, Stopping, Suspending and Resuming a VM Guest](#) for details.

You can also perform more advanced VM Guest editing tasks on Salt minions, such as adding or removing disks and network interfaces, and changing the display type.

Deleting a VM Guest



Deleting a VM Guest is only possible on Salt minions, not on traditional clients.

To delete a VM Guest, navigate to the VM Host Server's **Virtualization** page. Click the [**Delete**] button on the VM Guest row. Alternatively, check one or more **Guests** listed in the table and click the [**Delete**] button above the table. [**Confirm**] the action on the displayed popup dialog.

Displaying VM Guest graphical console

In order to be able to display a VM Guest VNC or Spice graphical console, the virtual host corresponding port needs to be reachable by the server. The server's 8050 port also needs to be reachable. The VM Guest graphics settings also have to listen on at least the virtual host address. This is the default for any VM Guest created using the web interface.

Public Cloud

Some public cloud environments provide images for SUSE Manager Server and Proxy. This section discusses what you will require to run SUSE Manager in a public cloud, and how to set up your installation.



Public clouds provide SUSE Manager under a Bring Your Own Subscription (BYOS) model. This means that you must register them with the SUSE Customer Center. For more information about registering SUSE Manager with SUSE Customer Center, see [[Installation > General-requirements >](#)].

Depending on the public cloud network you are using, you can locate the SUSE Manager installation images by searching for the keywords [suse](#), [manager](#), [proxy](#), or [BYOS](#).

Instance Requirements

Select a public cloud instance that meets the hardware requirements in [[Installation > Hardware-requirements >](#)].

In addition, be aware of these important considerations:

- The SUSE Manager setup procedure performs a forward-confirmed reverse DNS lookup. This must succeed in order for the setup procedure to complete successfully and for SUSE Manager to operate as expected. Therefore, it is important that the hostname and IP configuration be performed prior to running the SUSE Manager setup procedure.
- SUSE Manager Server and Proxy instances are expected to run in a network configuration that provides you control over DNS entries, but cannot access the wider internet. Within this network configuration DNS resolution must be provided, such that `hostname -f` returns the FQDN. DNS resolution is also important for connecting clients. DNS is dependent on the cloud framework you choose, refer to the cloud service provider documentation for detailed instructions.
- We recommend that you locate software repositories, the server database, and the Proxy squid cache on an external virtual disk. This prevents data loss if the instance is unexpectedly terminated. Instructions for setting up an external virtual disk are contained in this section.

Network Setup

On a public cloud service, you must run SUSE Manager within a restricted network, such as VPC private subnet with an appropriate firewall setting. The instance must only be able to be accessed by machines in your specified IP ranges.



A world-accessible SUSE Manager instance violates the terms of the SUSE Manager EULA, and it will not be supported by SUSE.

When you are setting up your networking environment, you will need to ensure that you allow https, in order to be able access the SUSE Manager Web UI.

Set the hostname

SUSE Manager requires a stable and reliable hostname. Changing the hostname at a later point can create errors.

In most public cloud environments, the method shown in this section will work correctly. However, you will have to perform the same modification for every client.

You might prefer to manage DNS resolution by creating a DNS entry in your network environment instead.

You can also manage hostname resolution by editing the `/etc/resolv.conf` file. Depending on the order of your setup, if you start the SUSE Manager instance prior to setting up DNS services the file may not contain the appropriate `search` directive. Check that the proper search directive exists in `/etc/resolv.conf` and add it if it is missing.

Procedure: Setting the host name locally

1. Disable hostname setup by editing the DHCP configuration file at `/etc/sysconfig/network/dhcp`, and adding this line:

```
DHCLIENT_SET_HOSTNAME="no"
```

2. Set the hostname locally with the `hostnamectl` command. Ensure you use the system name, not the FQDN. For example, if the FQDN is `system_name.example.com`, the system name is `system_name`, and the domain name is `example.com`.

```
hostnamectl set-hostname system_name
```

3. Create a DNS entry in your network environment for domain name resolution, or force correct resolution by editing the `/etc/hosts` file:

```
$ echo "${local_address} suma.cloud.net suma" >> /etc/hosts
```

You can find the local address by checking your public cloud web console, or from the command line :

- Amazon EC2 instance:

```
$ ec2metadata --local-ipv4
```

- Google Compute Engine:

```
$ gcloud metadata --query instance --network-interfaces --ip
```

- Microsoft Azure:

```
$ azuremetadata --internal-ip
```

Set up DNS resolution

You will need to update the DNS records for the instance within the DNS service of your network environment. Refer to the cloud service provider documentation for detailed instructions: * [DNS setup on Amazon EC2](#) * [DNS setup on Google Compute Engine](#) * [DNS setup on Microsoft Azure](#)

If you run a SUSE Manager Server instance, you can run YaST after the instance is launched to ensure the external storage is attached and prepared correctly, and that DNS resolution is set up as described:

```
$ /sbin/yast2 susemanager_setup
```

Virtual Hosts

Inventorying vCenter/vSphere ESXi Hosts with SUSE Manager

Foreign virtual hosts (such as vCenter and vSphere ESXi) can be inventoried using the [Virtual Host Manager](#). From the vSphere Client you can define roles and permissions for vCenter and vSphere ESXi users allowing vSphere objects and resources to be imported and inventoried by SUSE Manager. Objects and resources are then displayed as foreign hosts on the SUSE Manager **System List > Virtual Systems** page.

The following sections will guide you through:

- Requirements
- Overview of permissions and roles
- Adding vCenter and vSphere ESXi hosts to SUSE Manager

Requirements

This table displays the default API communication port and required access rights for inventorying objects and resources:

Ports / Permissions	Description
443	Default port that SUSE Manager uses to access the ESXi API for obtaining infrastructure data
read-only	All vCenter/ESXi objects and resources that should be inventoried by the Virtual Host Manager should be at least assigned the <i>read-only</i> role. Mark objects and resources with <i>no-access</i> to exclude them from the inventory.

Permissions and Roles Overview

This section will guide you through assigning user permissions and roles in vCenter/ESXi.

A user is someone who has been authorized to access an ESXi host. The Virtual Host Manager (located on the SUSE Manager server) will inventory ESXi data defined by assigned roles and permissions on a user account.

For example: The user *John* has been assigned the *read-only* access role to all servers and datacenters in his company with one exception. John's account has been assigned the *no-access* role on the company's *Financial Database server*. You decide to use John's user account and add the ESXi host to SUSE Manager. During the inventory the *Financial Database server* will be excluded.

Keep user access roles in mind when planning to add ESXi hosts to SUSE manager. Note that SUSE Manager will not inventory any objects or resources assigned with the *no-access* role on any user account.



User Roles/Permissions

When planning to add new ESXi hosts to SUSE Manager, consider if the roles and permissions assigned users require need to be inventoried by SUSE Manager.

Adding New Users and Assigning Roles

See the official vSphere documentation on adding new users and assigning roles.

- [Authentication and User Management](#)

Inventorying vCenter/vSphere ESXi Hosts

This procedure guides you through inventorying a VSphere ESXi host with SUSE Manager.

1. From the SUSE Manager Web UI select **Main Menu > Systems > Virtual Host Managers** from the left navigation bar.
2. From the upper right corner of the *Virtual Host Managers* page select [**Create**] VMWare-based.
3. From the *Add a VMware-based Virtual Host Manager* page complete these fields with your ESXi host data:

Label

Custom name for your Virtual Host Manager

Hostname

Fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) or host IP address

Port

Default ESXi API port

Username

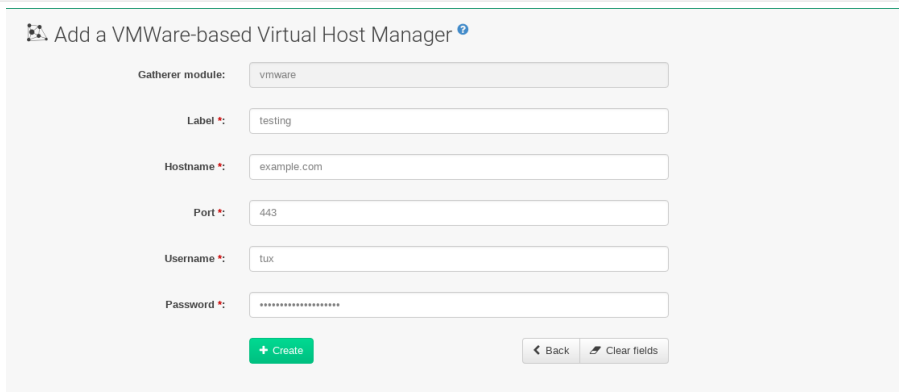
Assign a username



Remember that only objects and resources which match a user's defined role will be inventoried. Set the user's role on objects and resources you want inventoried to *read-only*.

Password

ESXi users password



4. Click the [**Create**] button.
5. From the **Systems** > **Virtual Host Managers** page select the new Virtual Host manager.
6. From the **Virtual Host Managers** > **Properties** page click the [**Refresh**] button.



If you do not refresh the data from a new Virtual Host Manager, host data will not be inventoried and therefore will not be displayed under **System List** > **Virtual Systems**.

7. View inventoried ESXi host objects and resources by selecting **System List** > **Virtual Systems**.



Connecting to the ESXi server from a browser using HTTPS can sometimes log an **invalid certificate** error. If this occurs, refreshing the data from the virtual hosts server will fail. To correct the problem, extract the certificate from the ESXi server, and copy it to **/etc/pki/trust/anchors**. Re-trust the certificate by running the **update-ca-certificates** command on the command line, and restart the spacewalk services.

Inter-Server Synchronization

If you have more than one SUSE Manager installation, you will probably want to ensure that they stay aligned on content and permissions. Inter-Server Synchronization (ISS) allows you to connect two or more SUSE Manager Servers and keep them up-to-date.

To set up ISS, you need to define one SUSE Manager Server as a master, with the other as a slave. If conflicting configurations exist, the system will prioritize the master configuration.

Procedure: Setting up an ISS Master

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin** > **ISS Configuration** > **Slave Setup**, and click [**Add new master**].
2. In the **Details for new Master** dialog, provide these details for the Server to use as the ISS master:
 - In the **Master Fully-Qualified Domain Name** field, enter the FQDN of the ISS master (for example: <http://server1.example.com>).
 - In the **Filename of this Master's CA Certificate** field, enter the absolute path to the CA certificate on the ISS master (for example: [/etc/pki/trust/anchors-org-ssl](#)).
3. Click [**Add new master**] to add the ISS master.

Procedure: Setting up an ISS Slave

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin** > **ISS Configuration** > **Master Setup**, and click [**Add new slave**].
2. In the **Edit Slave Details** dialog, provide these details for the Server to use as the ISS slave:
 - In the **Slave Fully-Qualified Domain Name** field, enter the FQDN of the ISS slave (for example: <http://server2.example.com>).
 - Check the **Allow Slave to Sync?** checkbox to enable the slave to synchronize with the master.
 - Check the **Sync All Orgs to Slave?** checkbox to synchronize all organizations to this slave.
3. Click [**Create**] to add the ISS slave.
4. In the **Allow Export of the Selected Organizations** section, check the organizations you want to allow this slave to export to the master, and click [**Allow Orgs**].

When you have the master and slaves set up, you can perform a synchronization from the command line on the master, with this command:

```
mgr-inter-sync
```

Setup a Minion to Master Validation Fingerprint

In highly secure network configurations you may wish to ensure your minions are connecting a specific master. To setup validation from minion to master enter the masters fingerprint within the `/etc/salt/minion` configuration file. See the following procedure:

1. On the master enter the following command as root and note the fingerprint:

```
salt-key -F master
```

On your minion, open the minion configuration file located in `/etc/salt/minion`. Uncomment the following line and enter the masters fingerprint replacing the example fingerprint:

```
master_finger: 'ba:30:65:2a:d6:9e:20:4f:d8:b2:f3:a7:d4:65:11:13'
```

2. Restart the salt-minion service:

```
# systemctl restart salt-minion
```

For more information on configuring security from a minion see: <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/configuration/minion.html>

Signing Repository Metadata

TODO

Explain why repository metadata should/would be signed.

You will require a custom GPG key to be able to sign repository metadata.

Procedure: Generating a custom GPG Key

1. As the root user, use the **gpg** command to generate a new key:

```
gpg --gen-key
```

2. At the prompts, select **RSA** as the key type, with a size of 2048 bits, and select an appropriate expiry date for your key. Check the details for your new key, and type **y** to confirm.
3. At the prompts, enter a name and email address to be associated with your key. You can also add a comment to help you identify the key, if desired. When you are happy with the user identity, type **0** to confirm.
4. At the prompt, enter a passphrase to protect your key.
5. The key should be automatically added to your keyring. You can check by listing the keys in your keyring:

```
gpg --list-keys
```

6. Add the password for your keyring to the **/etc/rhn/signing.conf** configuration file, by opening the file in your text editor and adding this line:

```
GPGPASS="password"
```

You can manage metadata signing on the command line using the **mgr-sign-metadata-ctl** command.

Procedure: Enabling Metadata Signing

1. You will need to know the short identifier for the key to use. You can list your available public keys in short format:

```
gpg --keyid-format short --list-keys
...
pub  rsa2048/3E7BFE0A 2019-04-02 [SC] [expires: 2021-04-01]
    A43F9EC645ED838ED3014B035CFA51BF3E7BFE0A
uid  [ultimate] SUSE Manager
sub  rsa2048/118DE7FF 2019-04-02 [E] [expires: 2021-04-01]
```


2. Enable metadata signing with the `mgr-sign-metadata-ctl` command:

```
mgr-sign-metadata-ctl enable 3E7BFE0A
OK. Found key 3E7BFE0A in keyring.
DONE. Set key 3E7BFE0A in /etc/rhn/signing.conf.
DONE. Enabled metadata signing in /etc/rhn/rhn.conf.
DONE. Exported key 4E2C3DD8 to /srv/susemanager/salt/gpg/mgr-keyring.gpg.
DONE. Exported key 4E2C3DD8 to /srv/www/htdocs/pub/mgr-gpg-pub.key.
NOTE. For the changes to become effective run:
    mgr-sign-metadata-ctl regen-metadata
```

3. You can check that your configuration is correct with this command:

```
mgr-sign-metadata-ctl check-config
```

4. Restart the services and schedule metadata regeneration to pick up the changes:

```
mgr-sign-metadata-ctl regen-metadata
```

You can also use the `mgr-sign-metadata-ctl` command to perform other tasks. Use `mgr-sign-metadata-ctl --help` to see the complete list.

Repository metadata signing is a global option. When it is enabled, it is enabled on all software channels on the server. This means that all clients connected to the server will need to trust the new GPG key to be able to install or update packages.

Procedure: Importing GPG keys on Clients

1. For RPM-based client systems, use these remote commands:

```
rpm --import http://server.example.com/pub/keyname.key
rpm --import http://server.example.com/pub/company.key
```

2. For Ubuntu clients, you will need to reassign the channels, which will automatically pick up the new GPG key. You can do this through the SUSE Manager Web UI, or from the command line on the server with this command:

```
salt <ubuntu-minion> state.apply channels
```

3. **OPTIONAL:** For salt minions, you might prefer to use a state to manage your GPG keys.

Mirror Source Packages

If you build your own packages locally, or if you require the source code for your packages for legal reasons, it is possible to mirror the source packages on SUSE Manager Server.



Note that this can consume a significant amount of disk space.

Procedure: Mirroring Source Packages

1. Open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file, and add this line:

```
server.sync_source_packages = 1
```

1. Restart the spacewalk service to pick up the changes:

```
spacewalk-service restart
```

Currently, this feature can only be enabled globally for all repositories. It is not possible to select individual repositories for mirroring.

When this feature has been activated, the source packages will become available in the SUSE Manager Web UI. They will be shown as sources for the binary package, and can be downloaded directly from the Web UI. Source packages cannot be installed on clients using the Web UI.

Authentication Methods

Authentication Via PAM

As security measures become increasingly complex, SUSE Manager supports network-based authentication systems via Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM). PAM is a suite of libraries that allows to integrate SUSE Manager with a centralized authentication mechanism, thus eliminating the need to remember multiple passwords. SUSE Manager supports LDAP, Kerberos, and other network-based authentication systems via PAM. To enable SUSE Manager to use PAM in your organization's authentication infrastructure, follow the steps below.

1. Set up a PAM service file (default location: `/etc/pam.d/susemanager`) then enforce its use by adding the following line to `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` :

```
pam_auth_service = susemanager
```



This assumes the PAM service file is named susemanager.

2. To enable a new or existing user to authenticate with PAM, proceed to the **Create User** page and select the checkbox labeled Pluggable Authentication Modules (PAM) positioned below the password and password confirmation fields.
3. To authenticate a SLES system against Kerberos add the following lines to `/etc/pam.d/susemanager` :

```

#%PAM-1.0
auth      include      common-auth
account   include      common-account
password  include      common-password
session   include      common-session

```



To register a Red Hat Enterprise Linux System against Kerberos add the following lines to `/etc/pam.d/susemanager`

```

#%PAM-1.0
auth      required      pam_env.so
auth      sufficient     pam_krb5.so no_user_check
auth      required      pam_deny.so
account   required      pam_krb5.so no_user_check

```

+

1. YaST can now be used to configure PAM, when packages such as `yast2-ldap-client` and `yast2-kerberos-client` are installed; for detailed information on configuring PAM, see the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Security Guide https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_security/data/

[part_auth.html](#). This example is not limited to Kerberos; it is generic and uses the current server configuration. Note that only network based authentication services are supported.



Changing Passwords

Changing the password on the SUSE Manager Web interface changes only the local password on the SUSE Manager server. But this password may not be used at all if PAM is enabled for that user. In the above example, for instance, the Kerberos password will not be changed.

Authentication Via eDirectory and PAM

1. First check to ensure eDirectory authentication is working with your current OS for example:

```
#getent passwd
```

2. If users are returned from eDirectory then create the following file:

```
# cat /etc/pam.d/susemanager
```

3. And add the following content:

```
##PAM-1.0
auth    include      common-auth
account include      common-account
password include     common-password
session include      common-session
#
```

4. Finally add the following lines to the SUSE Manager conf file:

```
# grep -i pam /etc/rhn/rhn.conf
pam_auth_service = susemanager
```

5. You may now create users with the same id that appears on eDirectory and mark the Use PAM check-box from the SUSE Manager WebUI.

Example Quest VAS Active Directory Authentication Template

If you are using Quest VAS for active directory authentication, you can use the following [/etc/pam.d/susemanager](#) file.

```

##PAM-1.0
auth      required      pam_env.so
auth      sufficient    pam_vas3.so no_user_check
auth      requisite     pam_vas3.so echo_return
auth      required      pam_deny.so
account   required      pam_vas3.so no_user_check

```

Authentication Via Single Sign-On (SSO)



This feature is provided as a technical preview. It is not supported for use in production environments.

SUSE Manager supports single sign-on (SSO) by implementing the Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) 2 protocol.

Single sign-on is an authentication process that allows a user to access multiple applications with one set of credentials. SAML is an XML-based standard for exchanging authentication and authorization data. A SAML identity service provider (IdP) provides authentication and authorization services to service providers (SP), such as SUSE Manager. SUSE Manager exposes three endpoints which must be enabled for single sign-on.

SSO in SUSE Manager supports:

- Log in with SSO.
- Log out with service provider-initiated single logout (SLO), and Identity service provider single logout service (SLS).
- Assertion and nameId encryption.
- Assertion signatures.
- Message signatures with AuthNRequest, LogoutRequest, LogoutResponses.
- Enable an Assertion consumer service endpoint.
- Enable a single logout service endpoint.
- Publish the SP metadata (which can be signed).

SSO in SUSE Manager does not support:

- Product choosing and implementation for the Identity Service Provider (IdP).
- SAML support for other products (please check with the respective product documentation).

Before you begin, you will need to have configured an external Identity Service Provider with these parameters. Check your IdP documentation for instructions.

You will need these endpoints:

- Assertion Consumer Service (or ACS): an endpoint to accept SAML messages to establish a session

into the Service Provider. The endpoint for ACS in SUSE Manager is: <https://example.com/rhn/manager/sso/acs>

- Single Logout Service (or SLS): an endpoint to initiate a logout request from the IdP. The endpoint for SLS in SUSE Manager is: <https://example.com/rhn/manager/sso/sls>
- Metadata: an endpoint to retrieve SUSE Manager metadata for SAML. The endpoint for Metadata in SUSE Manager is: <https://example.com/rhn/manager/sso/metadata>



Your IdP must have a SAML:Attribute containing the username of the IdP user domain, called `uid`. The `uid` attribute passed in the SAML:Attribute must be created in the SUSE Manager user base before you activate single sign-on.

After the authentication with the IdP using the user `orgadmin` is successful, you will be logged in into SUSE Manager as the `orgadmin` user, provided that the `orgadmin` user exists in SUSE Manager.



Using SSO is mutually exclusive with other types of authentication: it is either enabled or disabled. SSO is disabled by default.

Procedure: Enabling SSO

1. If your users do not yet exist in SUSE Manager, create them first.
2. Edit `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` and add this line at the end of the file:

```
java.sso = true
```

3. Copy parameters you want to customize from `/usr/share/rhn/config-defaults/rhn_java_sso.conf` into `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` and proceed by inserting the parameters you want to customize by prefixing them with `java.sso..`

For example, in `/usr/share/rhn/config-defaults/rhn_java_sso.conf`:

```
onelogin.saml2.sp.assertion_consumer_service.url = https://YOUR-PRODUCT-HOSTNAME-OR-IP/rhn/manager/sso/acs
```

In order to customize it, create the corresponding option in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` by prefixing the option name with `java.sso.:`

```
java.sso.onelogin.saml2.sp.assertion_consumer_service.url = https://YOUR-PRODUCT-HOSTNAME-OR-IP/rhn/manager/sso/acs
```

To find all the occurrences you need to change, search in the file for the placeholders `YOUR-PRODUCT` and ``YOUR-IDP-ENTITY``. Every parameter comes with a brief explanation of what it is meant for.

4. Restart spacewalk-service to pick up the changes:

```
spacewalk-service restart
```

When you visit the SUSE Manager URL, you will be redirected to the IdP for SSO where you will be requested to authenticate. Upon successful authentication, you will be redirected to the SUSE Manager Web UI, logged in as the authenticated user. If you encounter problems with logging in using SSO, check the SUSE Manager logs for more information.

Using a Custom SSL Certificate

The following section will guide you through using a custom certificate with SUSE Manager 4.0 and SUSE Manager Proxy 4.0.

Prerequisites

The following list provides requirements for using a custom certificate.

- A Certificate Authority (CA) SSL public certificate file
- A Web server SSL private key file
- A Web server SSL public certificate file
- Key and Certificate files must be in PEM format



Hostname and SSL Keys

The hostname of the web server's SSL keys and relevant certificate files must match the hostname of the machine which they will be deployed on.



Intermediate Certificates

In case you want to use CAs with intermediate certificates, merge the intermediate and root CA certificates into one file. It is important that the intermediate certificate comes first within the combined file.

Setup

After completing YaST firstboot procedures, export your current environment variables and point them to the correct SSL files to be imported. Running these commands will make the default certificate obsolete after executing the `yast2 susemanagersetup` command. For more information on YaST firstboot, see https://www.suse.com/documentation/suse-manager-3/singlehtml/suse_manager21/book_susemanager_install/book_susemanager_install.html#sec.manager.inst.setup.

1. Export the environment variables and point to the SSL files to be imported:

```
export CA_CERT='path_to_CA_certificate_file'export
SERVER_KEY='path_to_web_server_key'export SERVER_CERT='path_to_web_server_certificate'
```

2. Execute SUSE Manager setup with

```
yast2 susemanagersetup
```

Proceed with the default setup. Upon reaching the Certificate Setup window during YaST installation, fill in random values, as these will be overridden with the values specified in

[bp.cert.custom.setup.proc.export].



Shell Requirements

Make sure that you execute `yast2 susemanagersetup` from within the same shell the environment variables were exported from.

Using a Custom Certificate with SUSE Manager Proxy

After completing the installation with `yast` found in [\[advanced.topics.proxy.quickstart\]](#) continue with a modified [\[at.manager.proxy.run.confproxy\]](#) procedure:

1. Execute `configure-proxy.sh`.
2. When prompted with:

Do you want to import existing certificates?

Answer with `y`.

3. Continue by following the script prompts.

Backup and Restore

Back up your SUSE Manager installation regularly, in order to prevent data loss. Because SUSE Manager relies on a database as well as the installed program and configurations, it is important to back up all components of your installation. This chapter contains information on the files you need to back up, and introduces the `smdba` tool to manage database backups. It also contains information about restoring from your backups in the case of a system failure.



Backup Space Requirements

Regardless of the backup method you use, you must have available at least three times the amount of space your current installation uses. Running out of space can result in backups failing, so check this often.

Backing up SUSE Manager

The most comprehensive method for backing up your SUSE Manager installation is to back up the relevant files and directories. This can save you time in administering your backup, and can be faster to reinstall and re-synchronize in the case of failure. However, this method requires significant disk space and could take a long time to perform the backup.



If you want to only back up the required files and directories, use the following list. To make this process simpler, and more comprehensive, we recommend backing up the entire `/etc` and `/root` directories, not just the ones specified here. Some files only exist if you are actually using the related SUSE Manager feature.

- `/etc/cobbler/`
- `/etc/dhcp.conf`
- `/etc/fstab` and any ISO mountpoints you require.
- `/etc/rhn/`
- `/etc/salt`
- `/etc/sudoers`
- `/etc/sysconfig/rhn/`
- `/root/.gnupg/`
- `/root/.ssh`

This file exists if you are using an SSH tunnel or SSH `push`. You will also need to have saved a copy of the `id-susemanager` key.

- `/root/ssl-build/`

- `/srv/formula_metadata`
- `/srv/pillar`
- `/srv/salt`
- `/srv/susemanager`
- `/srv/tftpboot/`
- `/srv/www/cobbler`
- `/srv/www/htdocs/pub/`
- `/srv/www/os-images`
- `/var/cache/rhn`
- `/var/cache/salt`
- `/var/lib/cobbler/`
- `/var/lib/cobbler/templates/` (before version 4.0 it was `/var/lib/rhn/kickstarts/`)
- `/var/lib/Kiwi`
- `/var/lib/rhn/`
- `/var/spacewalk/`
- Plus any directories containing custom data such as scripts, Kickstart profiles, AutoYaST, and custom RPMs.



You will also need to back up your database, which you can do by using the `smdba` tool, which is explained in [Administering the Database with smdba](#).

Procedure: Restore from a Manual Backup

1. Re-install SUSE Manager. For more information, see [Recovering from a Crashed Root Partition](#).
2. Re-synchronize your SUSE Manager repositories with the `mgr-sync` tool. For more information about the `mgr-sync` tool, see [\[syncing.suse.mgr.repositories.scc\]](#).
3. You can choose to re-register your product, or skip the registration and SSL certificate generation sections.
4. Re-install the `/root/ssl-build/rhn-org-httpd-ssl-key-pair-MACHINE_NAME-VER-REL.noarch.rpm` package.
5. Schedule the re-creation of search indexes next time the `rhn-search` service is started:

```
rhn-search cleanindex
```

This command produces only debug messages. It does not produce error messages.

6. If you did not have `/var/pacewalk/packages/` in your backup, but the source repository still exists, you can restore it by performing a complete channel synchronization with:

```
mgr-sync refresh --refresh-channels
```

You can check the progress by running `tail -f /var/log/rhn/reposync/<CHANNEL_NAME>.log` as *root*.

Administering the Database with `smdba`

The `smdba` tool is used for managing a local PostgreSQL database. It allows you to back up and restore your database, and manage backups. It can also be used to check the status of your database, and perform administration tasks, such as restarting.



The `smdba` tool works with local PostgreSQL databases only, it will not work with remotely accessed databases, or Oracle databases.



The `smdba` tool requires `sudo` access, in order to execute system changes. Ensure you have enabled `sudo` access for the `admin` user before you begin, by checking the `/etc/sudoers` file for this line:

```
admin    ALL=(postgres) /usr/bin/smdba
```

Check the runtime status of your database with the `smdba db-status` command. This command will return either **online** or **offline**:

```
smdba db-status
Checking database core...      online
```

Starting and stopping the database can be performed with `smdba db-start` and `smdba db-stop`.

```
smdba db-start
Starting core...      done
```

```
smdba db-stop
Stopping the SUSE Manager database...
Stopping core:      done
```

Database Backup with smdba

The `smdba` tool performs a continuous archiving backup. This backup method combines a log of every change made to the database during the current session, with a series of more traditional backup files. When a crash occurs, the database state is first restored from the most recent backup file on disk, then the log of the current session is replayed exactly, to bring the database back to a current state. A continuous archiving backup with `smdba` is performed with the database running, so there is no need for downtime.

This method of backing up is stable and generally creates consistent snapshots, however it can take up a lot of storage space. Ensure you have at least three times the current database size of space available for backups. You can check your current database size by navigating to `/var/lib/pgsql/` and running `df -h`.

The `smdba` tool also manages your archives, keeping only the most recent backup, and the current archive of logs. The log files can only be a maximum file size of 16 MB, so a new log file will be created when the files reach this size. Every time you create a new backup, previous backups will be purged to release disk space. We recommend you use `cron` to schedule your `smdba` backups to ensure that your storage is managed effectively, and you always have a backup ready in case of failure.

Performing a Manual Database Backup

The `smdba` tool can be run directly from the command line. We recommend you run a manual database backup immediately after installation, or if you have made any significant changes to your configuration.



When `smdba` is run for the first time, or if you have changed the location of the backup, it will need to restart your database before performing the archive. This will result in a small amount of downtime. Regular database backups will not require any downtime.

Procedure: Performing a Manual Database Backup

1. Allocate permanent storage space for your backup. This example uses a directory located at `/var/spacwalk/`. This will become a permanent target for your backup, so ensure it will remain accessible by your server at all times.
2. In your backup location, create a directory for the backup:

```
sudo -u postgres mkdir /var/spacwalk/db-backup
```

Or, as root:

```
install -d -o postgres -g postgres -m 700 /var/spacwalk/db-backup
```

3. Ensure you have the correct permissions set on the backup location:

```
chown postgres:postgres /var/pacewalk/db-backup
```

- To run a backup for the first time, run the `smdba backup-hot` command with the `enable` option set. This will create the backup in the specified directory, and, if necessary, restart the database:

```
smdba backup-hot --enable=on --backup-dir=/var/pacewalk/db-backup
```

This command produces debug messages and finishes successfully with the output:

```
INFO: Finished
```

- Check that the backup files exist in the `/var/pacewalk/db-backup` directory, to ensure that your backup has been successful.

Scheduling Automatic Backups

You do not need to shut down your system in order to perform a database backup with `smdba`. However, because it is a large operation, database performance can slow down while the backup is running. We recommend you schedule regular database backups for a low-traffic period, to minimize disruption.



Ensure you have at least three times the current database size of space available for backups. You can check your current database size by navigating to `/var/lib/pgsql/` and running `df -h`.

Procedure: Scheduling Automatic Backups

- Create a directory for the backup, and set the appropriate permissions:

```
# install -m 700 -o postgres -g postgres /var/pacewalk/db-backup
```

- Open `/etc/cron.d/db-backup-mgr`, or create it if it does not exist, and add the following line to create the cron job:

```
0 2 * * * root /usr/bin/smdba backup-hot --enable=on --backup-dir=/var/pacewalk/db-backup
```

- Check the backup directory regularly to ensure the backups are working as expected.

Restoring from Backup

The `smdba` tool can be used to restore from backup in the case of failure.

Procedure: Restoring from Backup

1. Shut down the database:

```
smdba db-stop
```

2. Start the restore process and wait for it to complete:

```
smdba backup-restore start
```

3. Restart the database:

```
smdba db-start
```

4. Check if there are differences between the RPMs and the database.

```
spacewalk-data-fsck
```

Archive Log Settings

In SUSE Manager with an embedded database, archive logging is enabled by default. This feature allows the database management tool `smdba` to perform hot backups.

With archive log enabled, even more data is stored on the hard disk:

- PostgreSQL maintains a limited number of archive logs. Using the default configuration, approximately 64 files with a size of 16 MiB are stored.

Creating a user and syncing the channels:

- SLES12-SP2-Pool-x86_64
- SLES12-SP2-Updates-x86_64
- SLE-Manager-Tools12-Pool-x86_64-SP2
- SLE-Manager-Tools12-Updates-x86_64-SP2

PostgreSQL will generate an additional roughly 1 GB of data. So it is important to think about a backup strategy and create backups in a regular way.

Archive logs are stored at `/var/lib/pgsql/data/pg_xlog/` (postgresql).

Retrieving an Overview of Occupied Database Space

Database administrators may use the subcommand `space-overview` to get a report about occupied table spaces, for example:

```
smdba space-overview
SUSE Manager Database Control. Version 1.5.2
Copyright (c) 2012 by SUSE Linux Products GmbH
```

Tablespace	Size (Mb)	Avail (Mb)	Use %
postgres	7	49168	0.013
susemanager	776	48399	1.602

The `smdba` command is available for PostgreSQL. For a more detailed report, use the `space-tables` subcommand. It lists the table and its size, for example:

```
smdba space-tables
SUSE Manager Database Control. Version 1.5.2
Copyright (c) 2012 by SUSE Linux Products GmbH
```

Table	Size
public.all_primary_keys	0 bytes
public.all_tab_columns	0 bytes
public.allserverkeywordsincereboot	0 bytes
public.dblink_pkey_results	0 bytes
public.dual	8192 bytes
public.evr_t	0 bytes
public.log	32 kB
...	

Moving the Database

It is possible to move the database to another location. For example if your database storage space is running low. The following procedure will guide you through moving the database to a new location for use by SUSE Manager.

Procedure: Moving the Database

1. The default storage location for SUSE Manager is `/var/lib/pgsql/`. If you would like to move it, for example to `/storage/postgres/`, proceed as follows.
2. Stop the running database with:

```
# rcpostgresql stop
```

Shut down the running spacewalk services with:

```
# spacewalk-service stop
```

3. Copy the current working directory structure with `cp` using the `-a`, `--archive` option. For example:


```
# cp --archive /var/lib/pgsql/ /storage/postgres/
```

This command will copy the contents of `/var/lib/pgsql/` to `/storage/postgres/pgsql/`.



The contents of the `/var/lib/pgsql` directory needs to remain the same, otherwise the SUSE Manager database may malfunction. You also should ensure there is enough available disk space.

4. Mount the new database directory with:

```
# mount /storage/postgres/pgsql
```

5. Make sure ownership is `postgres:postgres` and not `root:root` by changing to the new directory and running the following commands:

```
# cd /storage/postgres/pgsql/
# ls -l
total 8
drwxr-x--- 4 postgres postgres 47 Jun 2 14:35 ./
```

6. Add the new database mount location to your servers fstab by editing `etc/fstab`.
7. Start the database with:

```
# rcpostgresql start
```

Start the spacewalk services with:

```
# spacewalk-service start
```

Recovering from a Crashed Root Partition

This section provides guidance on restoring your server after its root partition has crashed. This section assumes you have setup your server similar to the procedure explained in Getting Started guide with separate partitions for the database and for channels mounted at `/var/lib/pgsql` and `/var/spacewalk/`.

Procedure: Recovering from a Crashed Root Partition

1. Start by installing SLES12 SP2 and the SUSE Manager Extension. Do not mount the `/var/spacewalk` and `/var/lib/pgsql` partitions.
2. Once installation of SUSE Manager has completed shutdown services with `spacewalk-service shutdown` and the database with `rcpostgresql stop`.

3. Mount your `/var/spacewalk` and `/var/lib/pgsql` partitions and restore the directories listed in section one.
4. Start SUSE Manager services and the database with `spacewalk-services start` and `rcpostgresql start`
5. SUSE Manager should now operate normally without loss of your database or synced channels.

Database Connection Information

The information for connecting to the SUSE Manager database is located in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` :

```
db_backend = postgresql
db_user = susemanager
db_password = susemanager
db_name = susemanager
db_host = localhost
db_port = 5432
db_ssl_enabled =
```

Tuning Apache and Tomcat



Altering Apache and Tomcat Parameters

Apache and Tomcat Parameters should only be modified with support or consulting as these parameters can have severe and catastrophic performance impacts on your server when improperly adjusted. SUSE will not be able to provide support for catastrophic failure when these advanced parameters are modified without consultation. Tuning values for Apache httpd and Tomcat requires that you align these parameters with your server hardware. Furthermore testing of these altered values should be performed within a test environment.

Apache's httpd MaxClients Parameter

The **MaxClients** setting determines the number of Apache httpd processes, and thus limits the number of client connections that can be made at the same time (SUSE Manager uses the pre-fork MultiProcessing Modules). The default value for **MaxClients** in SUSE Manager is 150. If you need to set the **MaxClients** value greater than 150, Apache httpd's ServerLimit setting and Tomcat's **maxThreads** must also be increased accordingly (see below).



The Apache httpd **MaxClients** parameter must always be less or equal than Tomcat's **maxThreads** parameter!

If the **MaxClients** value is reached while the software is running, new client connections will be queued and forced to wait, this may result in timeouts. You can check the Apache httpd's **error.log** for details:

```
[error] Server reached MaxClients setting, consider increasing the MaxClients setting
```

The default **MaxClients** parameter can be overridden on SUSE Manager by editing the **server-tuning.conf** file located at **/etc/apache2/**. For example **server-tuning.conf** file:

```
# prefork MPM
<IfModule prefork.c>
    # number of server processes to start
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#startservers
    StartServers      5
    # minimum number of server processes which are kept spare
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/prefork.html#minspareservers
    MinSpareServers   5
    # maximum number of server processes which are kept spare
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/prefork.html#maxspareservers
    MaxSpareServers   10
    # highest possible MaxClients setting for the lifetime of the Apache process.
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#serverlimit
    ServerLimit       150
    # maximum number of server processes allowed to start
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#maxclients
    MaxClients        150
    # maximum number of requests a server process serves
    # http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/mpm_common.html#maxrequestperchild
    MaxRequestsPerChild 10000
</IfModule>
```



Whenever the Apache httpd **MaxClients** parameter is changed, the **ServerLimit** must also be updated to the same value, or the change will have no effect.

Tomcat's maxThreads Parameter

Tomcat's **maxThreads** represents the maximum number of request processing threads that it will create. This value determines the maximum number of simultaneous requests that it is able to handle. All HTTP requests to the SUSE Manager server (from clients, browsers, XMLRPC API scripts, etc.) are handled by Apache httpd, and some of them are routed to Tomcat for further processing. It is thus important that Tomcat is able to serve the same amount of simultaneous requests that Apache httpd is able to serve in the worst case. The default value for SUSE Manager is 200 and should always be equal or greater than Apache httpd's **MaxClients**. The **maxThreads** value is located within the **server.xml** file located at **/etc/tomcat/**.

Example relevant lines in **server.xml**:

```
<Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" URIEncoding="UTF-8"
address="127.0.0.1" maxThreads="200" connectionTimeout="20000"/>
<Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" URIEncoding="UTF-8"
address="::1" maxThreads="200" connectionTimeout="20000"/>
```

Tuning Notes

When configuring Apache httpd's **MaxClients** and Tomcat's **maxThreads** parameters you should also take into consideration that each HTTP connection will need one or more database connections. If the RDBMS is not able to serve an adequate amount of connections, issues will arise. See the following equation for a rough calculation of the needed amount of database connections:

$$((3 * \text{java_max}) + \text{apache_max} + 60)$$



Where:

- 3 is the number of Java processes the server runs with pooled connections (Tomcat, Taskomatic and Search)
- java_max is the maximum number of connections per Java pool (20 by default, changeable in </etc/rhn/rhn.conf> via the hibernate.c3p0.max_size parameter)
- apache_max is Apache httpd's **MaxClients**
- 60 is the maximum expected number of extra connections for local processes and other uses

Tuning Large Deployments

In the following sections find considerations about a big scale deployment. In this context, a big scale comprises 1000 minions or more.

General Recommendations

SUSE recommends the following in a big scale SUSE Manager deployment:

- SUSE Manager servers should have at least 8 recent x86 cores, 32 GiB of RAM, and, most important, fast I/O devices such as at least an SSD (2 SSDs in RAID-0 are strongly recommended).
- Proxies with many minions (hundreds) should have at least 2 recent x86 cores and 16 GiB of RAM.
- Use one SUSE Manager Proxy per 500-1000 clients. Keep into account that download time depends on network capacity. Here is a rough example calculation with physical link speed of 1 GB/s:

$$400 \text{ Megabytes} * 3000 / 119 \text{ Megabyte/s} / 60 = 169 \text{ Minutes}$$

This is:

$$\text{Size of updates} * \text{Number of minions} / \text{Theoretical download speed} / 60$$

- Depending on hardware you can accept hundreds of minion keys.
- Plan time for onboarding minions- at least one hour per 1000 minions.
- It is not recommended onboarding more than approx. 1000 minions directly to the SUSE Manager server- proxies should be used instead. This is because every minion can use up to 3 TCP connections simultaneously, and too many TCP connections can cause performance issues.
- If the following error appears in output of `dmesg`, you probably have an excessive number of minions attached to a single SUSE Manager server or proxy for the ARP cache to contain all of their addresses:

```
kernel: neighbour table overflow
```

In that case, increase the ARP cache values via `sysctl`, for example, by adding the following lines to `/etc/sysctl.conf`:

```
net.ipv4.neigh.default.gc_thresh1 = 4096
net.ipv4.neigh.default.gc_thresh2 = 8192
net.ipv4.neigh.default.gc_thresh3 = 16384
net.ipv4.neigh.default.gc_interval = 60
net.ipv4.neigh.default.gc_stale_time = 120
```



Start Small and Scale Up

Always start small and scale up gradually. Keep the server monitored in order to identify possible issues early.

Tuning Proposals

SUSE proposes the following tuning settings in a big scale SUSE Manager deployment:

- Increase the maximum Tomcat heap memory to face a potentially long queue of Salt return results. Set 8 GiB instead of the current default 1 GiB: parameter `Xmx1G` in `/etc/sysconfig/tomcat` (affects onboarding and Action execution).
- Increase the number of Taskomatic workers, allowing to parallelize work on a high number of separate jobs. Set parameter `org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount = 100` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects onboarding and staging).
- Allow Taskomatic to check for runnable jobs more frequently to reduce latency. Set parameter `org.quartz.scheduler.idleWaitTime = 1000` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects onboarding, staging and Action execution).
- Increase Tomcat's Salt return result workers to allow parallelizing work on a high number of Salt return results. Set parameter `java.message_queue_thread_pool_size = 100` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects patching).
- Increase the number of PostgreSQL connections available to Java applications (Tomcat, Taskomatic) according to the previous parameters, otherwise extra workers will starve waiting for a connection. Set parameter `hibernate.c3p0.max_size = 150` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects all minion operations). Make sure enough PostgreSQL connections are configured before changing this parameter - refer to `smdba system-check autotuning --help` to get automatic tuning of the PostgreSQL configuration file while changing the number of available connections. Additional manual tuning is usually not necessary but might be required depending on scale and exact use cases.
- Increase the number of Taskomatic's `minion-action-executor` worker threads allowing to parallelize the scheduling of Actions to minions. Set parameter `taskomatic.com.redhat.rhn.taskomatic.task.MinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads = 8` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects all minion operations, especially staging).
- Increase Salt's presence ping timeouts if responses might come back later than the defaults. Set parameters `java.salt_presence_ping_timeout = 20` and `java.salt_presence_ping_gather_job_timeout = 20` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects all minion operations).
- Increase the number of Salt master workers so that more requests can run in parallel (otherwise Tomcat and Taskomatic workers will starve waiting for the Salt API, and Salt will not be able to serve files timely). Set parameter `worker_threads: 100` in `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf` (affects onboarding and patching).
 - Increase this parameter further if file management states fail with the error "Unable to manage file: Message timed out"

- Note that Salt master workers can consume significant amounts of RAM (typically about 70 MB per worker). It is recommended to keep usage monitored when increasing this value and to do so in relatively small increments (eg. 20) until failures are no longer produced.
- Increase the maximum heap memory for the search daemon to be able to index many minions. Set 4 GiB instead of the current default 512 MB: add `rhncd.socket.maxmemory=4096` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` (affects background indexing only).
- Consider disabling Taskomatic jobs, especially if the provided functionality is not used:
 - Disable daily comparison of configuration files. Click **Admin** > **Task Schedules**, then the [**compare-configs-default**] link, then the [**Disable Schedule**] button and finally [**Delete Schedule**].
 - Disable hourly synchronization of Cobbler files. Click **Admin** > **Task Schedules**, then the [**cobbler-sync-default**] link, then the [**Disable Schedule**] button and finally [**Delete Schedule**].
 - Disable daily run of Gatherer and Subscription Matcher. Click **Admin** > **Task Schedules**, then the [**gatherer-matcher-default**] link, then the [**Disable Schedule**] button and finally [**Delete Schedule**].

Note that increasing the number of PostgreSQL connections will require more RAM, make sure the SUSE Manager server is monitored and swap is never used.

Also note the above settings should be regarded as guidelines—they have been tested to be safe but care should be exercised when changing them, and consulting support is highly recommended.

Content Lifecycle Management

Content Lifecycle Management allows you to customize and test packages before updating production systems. This is especially useful if you need to apply updates during a limited maintenance window.

Content Lifecycle Management allows you to select software channels as sources, adjust them as required for your environment, and thoroughly test them before installing onto your production systems.

While you cannot directly modify vendor channels, you can clone them and then modify the clones by adding or removing packages and custom patches. You can then assign these cloned channels to test systems to ensure they work as expected and, once all tests pass, apply them to production servers.

This is achieved through a series of environments that your software channels can move through on their lifecycle. Most environment lifecycles include at least test and production environments, but you can have as many environments as you require.

Procedure: Creating a Content Lifecycle Project

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Content Lifecycle** > **Content Lifecycle Projects**, and click [**Create Project**]
2. In the **Label** field, enter a label for your project. The **Label** field only accepts lowercase letters, numbers, periods (.), hyphens (-) and underscores (_).

3. In the **Name** field, enter a descriptive name for your project.
4. Click the [**Create**] button to create your project and return to the project page.
5. Click [**Attach/Detach Sources**].
6. In the **Sources** dialog, select the source type, and select a base channel for your project. The available child channels for the selected base channel are displayed, including information on whether the channel is mandatory or recommended.
7. Check the child channels you require, and click [**Save**] to return to the project page. The software channels you selected should now be showing.
8. Click [**Attach/Detach Filters**].
9. In the **Filters** dialog, select the filters you want to attach to the project. To create a new filter, click [**Create new Filter**].
10. Click [**Add Environment**].
11. In the **Environment Lifecycle** dialog, give the first environment a name and a description, and click [**Save**]. The **Name** field only accepts lowercase letters, numbers, periods (.), hyphens (-) and underscores (_).
12. Continue creating environments until you have all the environments for your lifecycle completed. You can select the order of the environments in the lifecycle by selecting an environment in the **Insert before** field when you create it.



Content filters are global in your organization and can be shared between projects.



If your project already contains built sources, when you add an environment it will automatically populate with the existing content. Content will be drawn from the previous environment of the cycle if it had one. If there is no previous environment, it will be left empty until the project sources are built again.

Build a Content Lifecycle Project

When you have created your project, defined environments, and attached sources and filters, you can build the project for the first time.

Building applies filters to the attached sources and clones them to the first environment in the project.

Procedure: Building a Content Lifecycle Project

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Content Lifecycle > Content Lifecycle Projects**, and select the project you want to build.
2. Review the attached sources and filters, and click [**Build**].
3. You can monitor build progress in the **Environment Lifecycle** section.

After the build is finished, the environment version is increased by one and the built sources, such as software channels, can be assigned to your systems.

Promote Environments

When the project has been built, the built sources can be sequentially promoted to the environments.

Procedure: Promoting Environments

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Content Lifecycle > Content Lifecycle Projects**, and select the project you want to work with.
2. In the **Environment Lifecycle** section, locate the environment to promote to its successor, and click [**Promote**].
3. You can monitor build progress in the **Environment Lifecycle** section.

Assign Systems to Environments

When you build and promote content lifecycle projects, it creates a tree of software channels. To add systems to the environment, assign the base and child software channels to your system using **Software > Software Channels** in the **System Details** page for the system.



Newly added cloned channels are not assigned to systems automatically. If you add or promote sources you will need to manually check and update your channel assignments.

Automatic assignment is intended to be added to SUSE Manager in a future version.

Troubleshooting

This section contains some common problems you might encounter with SUSE Manager, and solutions to resolving them.

Before you begin troubleshooting, you might want to produce some reports from your system to help you understand what is going on.

Producing Reports

The `spacewalk-report` command is used to produce a variety of reports for system administrators. These reports can be helpful for taking inventory of your entitlements, subscribed systems, users, and organizations. Using reports is often simpler than gathering information manually from the SUSE Manager Web UI, especially if you have many systems under management.



`spacewalk-reports` Package

To use `spacewalk-report`, you must have the `spacewalk-reports` package installed.

`spacewalk-report` allows administrators to organize and display reports about content, systems, and user resources across SUSE Manager. Using `spacewalk-report`, you can receive reports on:

1. System Inventory: lists all of the systems registered to SUSE Manager.
2. Entitlements: lists all organizations on SUSE Manager, sorted by system or channel entitlements.
3. Patches: lists all the patches relevant to the registered systems and sorts patches by severity, as well as the systems that apply to a particular patch.
4. Users: lists all the users registered to SUSE Manager and any systems associated with a particular user.

`spacewalk-report` allows administrators to organize and display reports about content, systems, and user resources across SUSE Manager. To get the report in CSV format, run the following at the command line of your SUSE Manager server.

```
spacewalk-report report_name
```

The following reports are available:

Table 1. `spacewalk-report` Reports

Report	Invoked as	Description
Channel Packages	<code>channel-packages</code>	List of packages in a channel.
Channel Report	<code>channels</code>	Detailed report of a given channel.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Cloned Channel Report	cloned-channels	Detailed report of cloned channels.
Custom Info	custom-info	System custom information.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Entitlements	entitlements	Lists all organizations on SUSE Manager with their system or channel entitlements.
Patches in Channels	errata-channels	Lists of patches in channels.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Patches Details	<code>errata-list</code>	Lists all patches that affect systems registered to SUSE Manager.
All patches	<code>errata-list-all</code>	Complete list of all patches.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Patches for Systems	errata-systems	Lists applicable patches and any registered systems that are affected.
Host Guests	host-guests	List of host-guests mapping.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Inactive Systems	<code>inactive-systems</code>	List of inactive systems.
System Inventory	<code>inventory</code>	List of systems registered to the server, together with hardware and software information.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Kickstart Trees	<code>kickstartable-trees</code>	List of kickstartable trees.
All Upgradable Versions	<code>packages-updates-all</code>	List of all newer package versions that can be upgraded.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Newest Upgradable Version	<code>packages-updates-newest</code>	List of only newest package versions that can be upgraded.
Result of SCAP	<code>scap-scan</code>	Result of OpenSCAP sccdf eval.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Result of SCAP	<code>scap-scan-results</code>	Result of OpenSCAP sccdf eval, in a different format.
System Data	<code>splice-export</code>	System data needed for splice integration.

Report	Invoked as	Description
System Groups	system-groups	List of system groups.
Activation Keys for System Groups	system-groups-keys	List of activation keys for system groups.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Systems in System Groups	<code>system-groups-systems</code>	List of systems in system groups.
System Groups Users	<code>system-groups-users</code>	Report of system groups users.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Installed Packages	<code>system-packages-installed</code>	List of packages installed on systems.
Users in the System	<code>users</code>	Lists all users registered to SUSE Manager.

Report	Invoked as	Description
Systems administered	<code>users-systems</code>	List of systems that individual users can administer.

For more information about an individual report, run `spacewalk-report` with the option `--info` or `--list-fields-info` and the report name. The description and list of possible fields in the report will be shown.

For further information on program invocations and options, see the `spacewalk-report(8)` man page as well as the `--help` parameter of the `spacewalk-report`.

Troubleshooting Corrupt Repositories

The information in the repository data file can become corrupt or out of date. This can create problems with updating the server. You can fix this by removing the files and regenerating it. With an new repository data file, updates should operate as expected.

Procedure: Resolving Corrupt Repository Data

1. Remove all files from `/var/cache/rhn/repodata/sles15-sp1-updates-x86_64`
2. Regenerate the file from the command line:

```
spacecmd softwarechannel_regenerateyumcache sles{sles-version}-{sp-version-l}-updates-x86_64
```

Troubleshooting Disk Space

Running out of disk space can have a severe impact on the SUSE Manager database and file structure which, in most cases, is not recoverable. You can recover disk space by removing unused custom channels and redundant database entries before you run out of space entirely.

For instructions on how to delete custom channels, see [**Administration > Channel-management >**].

Procedure: Resolving redundant database entries

1. Use the `spacewalk-data-fsck` command to list any redundant database entries.
2. Use the `spacewalk-data-fsck --remove` command to delete them.

Troubleshooting Local Issuer Certificates

Some older bootstrap scripts create a link to the local certificate in the wrong place. This results in zypper returning an **Unrecognized error** about the local issuer certificate. You can ensure that the link to the local issuer certificate has been created correctly by checking the `/etc/ssl/certs/` directory. If you come across this problem, you should consider updating your bootstrap scripts to ensure that zypper operates as expected.

Troubleshooting OSAD and jabberd

Open File Count Exceeded

SYMPTOMS: OSAD clients cannot contact the SUSE Manager Server, and jabberd requires long periods of time to respond on port 5222.

CAUSE: The number of maximum files that a jabber user can open is lower than the number of connected clients. Each client requires one permanently open TCP connection and each connection requires one file handler. The result is jabberd begins to queue and refuse connections.

CURE: Edit the `/etc/security/limits.conf` to something similar to the following:
`jabbersoftnofile<#clients + 100> jabberhardnofile<#clients + 1000>`

This will vary according to your setup. For example in the case of 5000 clients:
`jabbersoftnofile5100 jabberhardnofile6000`

Ensure you update the `/etc/jabberd/c2s.xml` `max_fds` parameter as well. For example:
`<max_fds>6000</max_fds>`

EXPLANATION: The soft file limit is the limit of the maximum number of open files for a single process. In SUSE Manager the highest consuming process is c2s, which opens a connection per client. 100 additional files are added, here, to accommodate for any non-connection file that c2s requires to work correctly. The hard limit applies to all processes belonging to the jabber user, and accounts for open files from the router, s2s and sm processes additionally.

jabberd Database Corruption

SYMPTOMS: After a disk is full error or a disk crash event, the jabberd database may have become corrupted. jabberd may then fail to start during spacewalk-service start:

```
Starting spacewalk services...
  Initializing jabberd processes...
    Starting router
    Starting sm startproc: exit status of parent of /usr/bin/sm: 2
failed
  Terminating jabberd processes...
```

/var/log/messages shows more details:

```
jabberd/sm[31445]: starting up
jabberd/sm[31445]: process id is 31445, written to /var/lib/jabberd/pid/sm.pid
jabberd/sm[31445]: loading 'db' storage module
jabberd/sm[31445]: db: corruption detected! close all jabberd processes and run db_recover
jabberd/router[31437]: shutting down
```

CURE: Remove the jabberd database and restart. Jabberd will automatically re-create the database:

```
spacewalk-service stop
rm -Rf /var/lib/jabberd/db/*
spacewalk-service start
```

An alternative approach would be to test another database, but SUSE Manager does not deliver drivers for this:

```
rcosa-dispatcher stop
rcjabberd stop
cd /var/lib/jabberd/db
rm *
cp /usr/share/doc/packages/jabberd/db-setup.sqlite .
sqlite3 sqlite.db < db-setup.sqlite
chown jabber:jabber *
rcjabberd start
rcosa-dispatcher start
```

Capturing XMPP Network Data for Debugging Purposes

If you are experiencing bugs regarding OSAD, it can be useful to dump network messages in order to help with debugging. The following procedures provide information on capturing data from both the client and server side.

Procedure: Server Side Capture

1. Install the tcpdump package on the SUSE Manager Server as root: `zypper in tcpdump`
2. Stop the OSA dispatcher and Jabber processes with `rcosa-dispatcher stop` and `rcjabberd stop`.

3. Start data capture on port 5222: `tcpdump -s 0 port 5222 -w server_dump.pcap`
4. Start the OSA dispatcher and Jabber processes: `rcosa-dispatcher start` and `rcjabberd start`.
5. Open a second terminal and execute the following commands: `rcosa-dispatcher start` and `rcjabberd start`.
6. Operate the SUSE Manager server and clients so the bug you formerly experienced is reproduced.
7. Once you have finished your capture re-open terminal 1 and stop the capture of data with: `CTRL+c`

Procedure: Client Side Capture

1. Install the tcpdump package on your client as root: `zypper in tcpdump`
2. Stop the OSA process: `rcosad stop`.
3. Begin data capture on port 5222: `tcpdump -s 0 port 5222 -w client_client_dump.pcap`
4. Open a second terminal and start the OSA process: `rcosad start`
5. Operate the SUSE Manager server and clients so the bug you formerly experienced is reproduced.
6. Once you have finished your capture re-open terminal 1 and stop the capture of data with: `CTRL+c`

Engineering Notes: Analyzing Captured Data

This section provides information on analyzing the previously captured data from client and server.

1. Obtain the certificate file from your SUSE Manager server: `/etc/pki/spacewalk/jabberd/server.pem`
2. Edit the certificate file removing all lines before `-----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY-----`, save it as `key.pem`
3. Install Wireshark as root with: `zypper in wireshark`
4. Open the captured file in wireshark.
5. From **Eidt >]menu:Preferences[** select SSL from the left pane.
6. Select RSA keys list: **Edit >]menu:New[**
 - IP Address any
 - Port: 5222
 - Protocol: xmpp
 - Key File: open the key.pem file previously edited.
 - Password: leave blank

For more information see also:

- <https://wiki.wireshark.org/SSL>

- https://bugs.wireshark.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=3444

Troubleshooting Package Inconsistencies

Packages can sometimes be locked or taskomatic can experience problems, which creates problems with metadata regeneration. When this occurs, package updates will be available in the Web UI, but will not appear on the client, and attempts to update the client will fail. To correct this, determine if any processes are running, or if a crash could have occurred. Check package locks and exclude lists to determine if packages are locked or excluded on the client. When you have located the problematic process, the metadata can be regenerated and synchronization occurs as expected.

Procedure: Resolving Package Inconsistencies

1. On the server, check the `/var/log/rhn/rhn_taskomatic_daemon.log` file to determine if any processes are still running or a crash occurred.
2. Restart taskomatic:

```
/etc/init.d/taskomatic restart
```

3. Check package locks and exclude lists to determine if packages are locked or excluded on the client:
 - On Expanded Support Platform, check `/etc/yum.conf` and search for `exclude=`.
 - On SLES, use the `zypper locks` command.

Troubleshooting Registering Cloned Minions

Sometimes a cloned client (either traditional or Salt) will use the same machine ID as the system they are a clone of. This results in SUSE Manager only recognizing one system, rather than two different systems. This can be resolved by changing the machine ID of the cloned system, so that SUSE Manager recognizes them as two different clients.



Each step in this section is performed on the cloned system. This procedure does not manipulate the original system, which will still be registered to SUSE Manager. The cloned virtual machine should have a different UUID from the original (the UUID is generated by your hypervisor) or SUSE Manager will overwrite the original system data with the new one.

Procedure: Resolving Duplicate Machine IDs in Cloned Salt Clients

1. For SLES 12: If your machines have the same machine IDs then delete the file on each minion and recreate it:

```
# rm /etc/machine-id
# rm /var/lib/dbus/machine-id
# dbus-uuidgen --ensure
# systemd-machine-id-setup
```

ones

2. For SLES 11: As there is no systemd machine ID, generate one from dbus:

```
# rm /var/lib/dbus/machine-id
# dbus-uuidgen --ensure
```

3. If your machines still have the same minion ID then delete the minion_id file on each minion (FQDN will be used when it is regenerated on minion restart):

```
# rm /etc/salt/minion_id
```

4. Delete accepted keys from the Onboarding page and the system profile from SUSE Manager, and restart the minion with:

```
# systemctl restart salt-minion
```

5. Re-register the clients. Each minion will now have a different `/etc/machine-id` and should now be correctly displayed on the System Overview page.

Procedure: Resolving Duplicate Machine IDs in Cloned Traditional Clients

1. On the cloned machine, change the hostname and IP addresses, and make sure `/etc/hosts` contains the changes you made and the correct host entries.
2. Stop rhnsd daemon with:

```
# /etc/init.d/rhnsd stop
```

or:

```
# rcrhnsd stop
```

3. Stop osad with:

```
# /etc/init.d/osad stop
```

or:

```
# service osad stop
```

or:

```
# rcosad stop
```

4. Remove the osad authentication configuration file and the system ID:

```
# rm -f /etc/sysconfig/rhn/{osad-auth.conf,systemid}
```

5. Delete the files containing the machine IDs:

- SLES 12:

```
# rm /etc/machine-id  
# rm /var/lib/dbus/machine-id  
# dbus-uuidgen --ensure  
# systemd-machine-id-setup
```

- SLES 11:

```
# suse_register -E
```

- SLES 10:

```
# rm -rf /etc/{zmd,zypp}  
# rm -rf /var/lib/zypp/!(db)  
# rm -rf /var/lib/zmd/
```

6. Remove the credential files:

- SLES clients:

```
# rm -f /etc/zypp/credentials.d/{SCCcredentials,NCCcredentials}
```

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux clients:

```
# rm -f /etc/NCCcredentials
```

7. Re-run the bootstrap script. You should now see the cloned system in SUSE Manager without overwriting the system it was cloned from.

Troubleshooting RPC Connection Timeouts

RPC connections can sometimes time out due to slow networks or a network link going down. This results in package downloads or batch jobs hanging or taking longer than expected. You can adjust the maximum time that an RPC connection can take by editing the configuration file. While this will not resolve networking problems, it will cause a process to fail rather than hang.

Procedure: Resolving RPC connection timeouts

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` file and set a maximum timeout value (in seconds) for this parameter:

```
server.timeout = `number`
```

2. On the SUSE Manager Proxy, open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` file and set a maximum timeout value (in seconds) for this parameter:

```
proxy.timeout = `number`
```

3. On a SUSE Linux Enterprise Server client that uses zypper, open the `/etc/zypp/zypp.conf` file and set a maximum timeout value (in seconds) for this parameter:

```
## Valid values: [0,3600]
## Default value: 180
download.transfer_timeout = 180
```

4. On a Red Hat Enterprise Linux client that uses yum, open the `/etc/yum.conf` file and set a maximum timeout value (in seconds) for this parameter:

```
timeout = `number`
```



If you limit RPC timeouts to less than 180 seconds, you risk aborting perfectly normal operations.

Troubleshooting the Saltboot Formula

Because of a problem in the computed partition size value, the saltboot formula can sometimes fail when it is created on SLE 11 SP3 clients, with an error like this:

```
ID: disk1_partitioned
Function: saltboot.partitioned
Name: disk1
Result: false
Comment: An exception occurred in this state: Traceback (most recent call last):
File "/usr/lib/python2.6/site-packages/salt/state.py", line 1767, in call
**kwargs))
File "/usr/lib/python2.6/site-packages/salt/loader.py", line 1705, in wrapper
return f(*args, **kwargs)
File "/var/cache/salt/minion/extmods/states/saltboot.py", line 393, in disk_partitioned
existing = __salt__['partition.list'](device, unit='MiB')
File "/usr/lib/python2.6/site-packages/salt/modules/parted.py", line 177, in list_
'Problem encountered while parsing output from parted')
CommandExecutionError: Problem encountered while parsing output from parted
```

This problem can be resolved by manually configuring the size of the partition containing the operating system. When the size is set correctly, formula creation will work as expected.

Procedure: Manually configuring the partition size in the Saltboot Formula

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > System Groups** and select the Hardware Type Group that contains the SLE 11 SP3 client that is causing the error. In the **Formulas** tab, navigate to the **Saltboot** subtab.
2. Locate the partition that contains the operating system, and in the **Partition Size** field, type the appropriate size (in MiB).
3. Click [**Save Formula**], and apply the highstate to save your changes.