



Client Configuration Guide

SUSE Manager 4.0

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Introduction

Registering clients is the first step after installing SUSE Manager, and most of the time you spend with SUSE Manager will be spent on maintaining those clients.

SUSE Manager is compatible with a range of client technologies: you can install traditional or Salt clients, running SUSE Linux Enterprise or another Linux operating system, with a range of hardware options.

For a complete list of supported clients and features, see [**Client-configuration** > **Supported-features** >].

This guide discusses how to register and configure different clients, both manually and automatically.

Supported Clients and Features

SUSE Manager is compatible with a range of client technologies. You can install traditional or Salt clients, running SUSE Linux Enterprise or another Linux operating system, with a range of hardware options.

This section contains summary of supported client systems. For a detailed list of features available on each client, see the following pages.

Supported Client Systems

Supported operating systems for traditional and Salt clients are listed in this table.

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ clients running this operating system are supported by SUSE
- ✗ clients running this operating system are not supported by SUSE
- ? clients are under consideration, and may or may not be supported at a later date.



Client operating system versions and SP levels must be under general support (normal or LTSS) to be supported with SUSE Manager. For details on supported product versions, see <https://www.suse.com/lifecycle>.

Table 1. Supported Client Systems

Operating System	Architecture	Traditional Clients	Salt Clients
SUSE Linux Enterprise 15	x86_64, POWER, IBM Z, ARM	✓	✓
SUSE Linux Enterprise 12	x86_64, POWER, IBM Z, ARM	✓	✓
SUSE Linux Enterprise 11	x86, x86_64, Itanium, IBM POWER, IBM Z	✓	✓

Operating System	Architecture	Traditional Clients	Salt Clients
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP	x86_64, POWER	✓	✓
openSUSE Leap 15.1	x86_64	✗	✓
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server-ES 8	x86_64	✗	✓
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server-ES 7	x86_64	✓	✓
SUSE Linux Enterprise Server-ES 6	x86, x86_64	✓	✓
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8	x86_64	✗	✓
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7	x86_64	✓	✓
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6	x86, x86_64	✓	✓
CentOS 8	x86_64	✗	? / ✓ (with ES)
CentOS 7	x86_64	?/✓ (with ES)	? / ✓ (with ES)
CentOS 6	x86, x86_64	?/✓ (with ES)	? / ✓ (with ES)
Ubuntu 18.04	x86_64	✗	✓
Ubuntu 16.04	x86_64	✗	✓

Supported SUSE and openSUSE Client Features

This table lists the availability of various features on SUSE and openSUSE clients. This table covers all variants of the SUSE Linux Enterprise operating system, including SLES, SLED, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP, and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for HPC.

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ the feature is available on both traditional and Salt clients
- ✗ the feature is not available
- ? the feature is under consideration, and may or may not be made available at a later date
- Traditional the feature is supported only on traditional clients
- Salt the feature is supported only on Salt clients.

Table 2. Supported Features on SUSE and openSUSE Operating Systems

Feature	SUSE Linux Enterprise 11	SUSE Linux Enterprise 12	SUSE Linux Enterprise 15	openSUSE 15.1
Client	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operating system packages	✓	✓	✓	✓
Registration	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Install packages	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Apply patches	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Remote commands	✓	✓	✓	Salt
System package states	Salt	Salt	Salt	Salt
System custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt	Salt
Group custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt	Salt
Organization custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt	Salt
System set manager (SSM)	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Service pack migration	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Basic Virtual Guest Management *	Traditional	✓	✓	'Salt
Advanced Virtual Guest Management *	✗	Salt	Salt	Salt
Virtual Guest Installation (AutoYaST), as Host OS	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Virtual Guest Installation (image template), as Host OS	✗	Salt	Salt	Salt

Feature	SUSE Linux Enterprise 11	SUSE Linux Enterprise 12	SUSE Linux Enterprise 15	openSUSE 15.1
Virtual Guest Management	✗	Salt	Salt	Salt
System redeployment (AutoYaST)	Traditional	✓	✓	Salt
Contact methods	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH
Works with SUSE Manager Proxy	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Action chains	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Software crash reporting	✗	✗	✗	✗
Staging (pre-download of packages)	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Duplicate package reporting	✓	✓	✓	Salt
CVE auditing	✓	✓	✓	Salt
SCAP auditing	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Package verification	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Package locking	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System locking	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System snapshot	Traditional	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Configuration file management	✓	✓	✓	Salt
Package profiles	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported

Feature	SUSE Linux Enterprise 11	SUSE Linux Enterprise 12	SUSE Linux Enterprise 15	openSUSE 15.1
Power management	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitoring	?	Salt	Salt	Salt
Docker buildhost	✗	Salt	Salt	?
Build Docker image with OS	✗	Salt	Salt	Salt
Kiwi buildhost	✗	Salt	?	?
Build Kiwi image with OS	✗	Salt	?	✗

* Virtual Guest Management:

In this table, virtual guest management is split into basic and advanced.

Basic virtual guest management includes listing VMs, slow refresh, VM lifecycle actions (start, stop, resume, pause), and modifying VM vCPU and Memory.

Advanced virtual guest management includes fast refresh, VM lifecycle actions (delete, reset, power off), modifying VM disk, network, graphical display, and graphical display configuration.

Supported SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support Features

This table lists the availability of various features on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support clients.

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ the feature is available on both traditional and Salt clients
- ✗ the feature is not available
- ? the feature is under consideration, and may or may not be made available at a later date
- Traditional the feature is supported only on traditional clients
- Salt the feature is supported only on Salt clients.

Table 3. Supported Features on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support Operating Systems

Feature	SLES ES 6	SLES ES 7
Client	✓	✓
Operating system packages	✓	✓

Feature	SLES ES 6	SLES ES 7
Registration	✓	✓
Install packages	✓	✓
Apply patches	✓	✓
Remote commands	✓	✓
System package states	Salt	Salt
System custom states	Salt	Salt
Group custom states	Salt	Salt
Organization custom states	Salt	Salt
System set manager (SSM)	Salt	Salt
Service pack migration	✗	✗
Basic Virtual Guest Management *	Traditional	✓
Advanced Virtual Guest Management *	✗	Salt
Virtual Guest Installation (Kickstart), as Host OS	Traditional	Traditional
Virtual Guest Installation (image template), as Host OS	Traditional	✓
System redeployment (AutoYaST)	Traditional	✓
Contact methods	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH
Works with SUSE Manager Proxy	✓	✓
Action chains	✓	✓
Software crash reporting	✗	Traditional
Staging (pre-download of packages)	✓	✓
Duplicate package reporting	✓	✓
CVE auditing	✓	✓

Feature	SLES ES 6	SLES ES 7
SCAP auditing	✓	✓
Package verification	Traditional	Traditional
Package locking	Traditional	Traditional
System locking	Traditional	Traditional
System snapshot	Traditional	Traditional
Configuration file management	✓	✓
Snapshots and profiles	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported
Power management	✓	✓
Monitoring	Salt	Salt
Docker buildhost	✗	✗
Build Docker image with OS	?	?
Kiwi buildhost	✗	✗
Build Kiwi image with OS	✗	✗

* Virtual Guest Management:

In this table, virtual guest management is split into basic and advanced.

Basic virtual guest management includes listing VMs, slow refresh, VM lifecycle actions (start, stop, resume, pause), and modifying VM vCPU and Memory.

Advanced virtual guest management includes fast refresh, VM lifecycle actions (delete, reset, power off), modifying VM disk, network, graphical display, and graphical display configuration.

Supported Red Hat Enterprise Linux Features

This table lists the availability of various features on native Red Hat Enterprise Linux clients (without Expanded Support).

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ the feature is available on both traditional and Salt clients
- ✗ the feature is not available

- **?** the feature is under consideration, and may or may not be made available at a later date
- **Traditional** the feature is supported only on traditional clients
- **Salt** the feature is supported only on Salt clients.

Table 4. Supported Features on Red Hat Enterprise Linux Operating Systems

Feature	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8
Client	✓	✓	Salt
Operating system packages	✗	✗	✗
Registration	✓	✓	Salt
Install packages	✓	✓	Salt
Apply patches	✓	✓	Salt
Remote commands	✓	✓	Salt
System package states	Salt	Salt	Salt
System custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
Group custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
Organization custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
System set manager (SSM)	Salt	Salt	Salt
Service pack migration	✗	✗	✗
Basic Virtual Guest Management *	Traditional	✓	Salt
Advanced Virtual Guest Management *	✗	Salt	Salt
Virtual Guest Installation (Kickstart), as Host OS	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Virtual Guest Installation (image template), as Host OS	Traditional	✓	Salt
System deployment (PXE/Kickstart)	✓	✓	✓

Feature	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8
System redeployment (Kickstart)	Traditional	✓	✓
Contact methods	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH
Works with SUSE Manager Proxy	✓	✓	Salt
Action chains	✓	✓	Salt
Software crash reporting	✗	Traditional	✗
Staging (pre-download of packages)	✓	✓	Salt
Duplicate package reporting	✓	✓	Salt
CVE auditing	✓	✓	Salt
SCAP auditing	✓	✓	Salt
Package verification	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Package locking	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System locking	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System snapshot	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Configuration file management	✓	✓	Salt
Snapshots and profiles	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported
Power management	✓	✓	Salt
Monitoring	Salt	Salt	Salt
Docker buildhost	✗	✗	✗
Build Docker image with OS	?	?	?
Kiwi buildhost	✗	✗	✗

Feature	RHEL 6	RHEL 7	RHEL 8
Build Kiwi image with OS	✗	✗	✗

* Virtual Guest Management:

In this table, virtual guest management is split into basic and advanced.

Basic virtual guest management includes listing VMs, slow refresh, VM lifecycle actions (start, stop, resume, pause), and modifying VM vCPU and Memory.

Advanced virtual guest management includes fast refresh, VM lifecycle actions (delete, reset, power off), modifying VM disk, network, graphical display, and graphical display configuration.

Supported CentOS Features

This table lists the availability of various features on CentOS clients.



CentOS is not currently an officially supported client operating system. It may or may not be supported in a future version of SUSE Manager. However, CentOS with an Expanded Support subscription is supported.

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ the feature is available on both traditional and Salt clients
- ✗ the feature is not available
- ? the feature is under consideration, and may or may not be made available at a later date
- Traditional the feature is supported only on traditional clients
- Salt the feature is supported only on Salt clients.

Table 5. Supported Features on CentOS Operating Systems

Feature	CentOS 6	CentOS 7	CentOS 8
Client	? (plain CentOS) / ✓ (with Expanded Support)	? (plain CentOS) / ✓ (with Expanded Support)	? (plain CentOS) / Salt (with Expanded Support)
Operating system packages	✗ (plain CentOS) / ✓ (with Expanded Support)	✗ (plain CentOS) / ✓ (with Expanded Support)	✗ (plain CentOS) / Salt (with Expanded Support)
Registration	✓	✓	Salt
Install packages	✓	✓	Salt

Feature	CentOS 6	CentOS 7	CentOS 8
Apply patches (requires CVE ID)	✓ (third-party service required for errata)	✓ (third-party service required for errata)	Salt (third-party service required for errata)
Remote commands	✓	✓	Salt
System package states	Salt	Salt	Salt
System custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
Group custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
Organization custom states	Salt	Salt	Salt
System set manager (SSM)	✓	✓	Salt
Service pack migration	✗	✗	✗
Basic Virtual Guest Management *	Traditional	✓	Salt
Advanced Virtual Guest Management *	✗	Salt	Salt
Virtual Guest Installation (Kickstart), as Host OS	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Virtual Guest Installation (image template), as Host OS	Traditional	✓	Salt
System deployment (PXE/Kickstart)	✓	✓	✓
System redeployment (Kickstart)	Traditional	✓	✓
Contact methods	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Traditional: OSAD, RHNSD, SSH-push. Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH
Works with SUSE Manager Proxy	✓	✓	Salt
Action chains	✓	✓	Salt
Software crash reporting	✗	Traditional	✗

Feature	CentOS 6	CentOS 7	CentOS 8
Staging (pre-download of packages)	✓	✓	Salt
Duplicate package reporting	✓	✓	Salt
CVE auditing (requires CVE ID)	✓	✓	Salt
SCAP auditing	✓	✓	Salt
Package verification	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Package locking	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System locking	Traditional	Traditional	✗
System snapshot	Traditional	Traditional	✗
Configuration file management	✓	✓	Salt
Snapshots and profiles	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Traditional. Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported
Power management	✓	✓	Salt
Monitoring	Salt	Salt	Salt
Docker buildhost	✗	✗	✗
Build Docker image with OS	✗	✗	✗
Kiwi buildhost	✗	✗	✗
Build Kiwi image with OS	✗	✗	✗

* Virtual Guest Management:

In this table, virtual guest management is split into basic and advanced.

Basic virtual guest management includes listing VMs, slow refresh, VM lifecycle actions (start, stop, resume, pause), and modifying VM vCPU and Memory.

Advanced virtual guest management includes fast refresh, VM lifecycle actions (delete, reset, power off), modifying VM disk, network, graphical display, and graphical display configuration.

Supported Ubuntu Features

This table lists the availability of various features on Ubuntu clients.

The icons in this table indicate:

- ✓ the feature is available on both traditional and Salt clients
- ✕ the feature is not available
- ? the feature is under consideration, and may or may not be made available at a later date
- **Traditional** the feature is supported only on traditional clients
- **Salt** the feature is supported only on Salt clients.

Table 6. Supported Features on Ubuntu Operating Systems

Feature	Ubuntu 16.04	Ubuntu 18.04
Client	✓	✓
Operating system packages	✕	✕
Registration	Salt	Salt
Install packages	Salt	Salt
Apply patches	?	?
Remote commands	Salt	Salt
System package states	Salt	Salt
System custom states	Salt	Salt
Group custom states	Salt	Salt
Organization custom states	Salt	Salt
System set manager (SSM)	Salt	Salt
Service pack migration	N/A	N/A
Basic Virtual Guest Management *	Salt	Salt
Advanced Virtual Guest Management *	Salt	Salt
Virtual Guest Installation (Kickstart), as Host OS	✕	✕

Feature	Ubuntu 16.04	Ubuntu 18.04
Virtual Guest Installation (image template), as Host OS	Salt	Salt
System redeployment (AutoYaST)	?	?
Contact methods	Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH	Salt: ZeroMQ, Salt-SSH
Works with SUSE Manager Proxy	Salt	Salt
Action chains	Salt	Salt
Software crash reporting	✗	✗
Staging (pre-download of packages)	?	?
Duplicate package reporting	Salt	Salt
CVE auditing	?	?
SCAP auditing	?	?
Package verification	✗	✗
Package locking	✗	✗
System locking	✗	✗
System snapshot	✗	✗
Configuration file management	Salt	Salt
Package profiles	Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported	Salt: Profiles supported, Sync not supported
Power management	✓	✓
Monitoring	✗	Salt
Docker buildhost	?	?
Build Docker image with OS	Salt	Salt
Kiwi buildhost	✗	✗
Build Kiwi image with OS	✗	✗

✱ Virtual Guest Management:

In this table, virtual guest management is split into basic and advanced.

Basic virtual guest management includes listing VMs, slow refresh, VM lifecycle actions (start, stop, resume, pause), and modifying VM vCPU and Memory.

Advanced virtual guest management includes fast refresh, VM lifecycle actions (delete, reset, power off), modifying VM disk, network, graphical display, and graphical display configuration.

SLE Client Registration Overview

There are several ways to register clients to your SUSE Manager Server. The preferred methods are described in the following sections:

- For Salt clients, we recommend that you register clients using the SUSE Manager Web UI. For more information, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-webui >**].
- If you want more control over the process, have to register many clients, or are registering traditional clients, we recommend that you create a bootstrap script. For more information, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >**].
- For Salt clients and even more control over the process, executing single commands on the command line can be useful. For more information, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-cli >**].

You must create an activation key first, to use bootstrap script or command line method. For more information about creating activation keys, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].

Register Clients with the Web UI

Registering clients with the SUSE Manager Web UI works for Salt clients only.

Procedure: Registering Clients with the Web UI

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Bootstrapping**.
2. In the **Host** field, type the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) of the client to be bootstrapped.
3. In the **SSH Port** field, type the SSH port number to use to connect and bootstrap the client. By default, the SSH port is **22**.
4. In the **User** field, type the username to log in to the client. By default, the username is **root**.
5. In the **Password** field, type password to log in to the client.
6. In the **Activation Key** field, select the activation key that is associated with the software channel you want to use to bootstrap the client. For more information, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].
7. OPTIONAL: In the **Proxy** field, select the proxy to register the client to.
8. By default, the **Disable SSH Strict Key Host Checking** checkbox is selected. This allows the bootstrap process to automatically accept SSH host keys without requiring you to manually authenticate.
9. OPTIONAL: Check the **Manage System Completely via SSH** checkbox. If you check this option, the client will be configured to use SSH for its connection to the server, and no other connection method will be configured.
10. Click [**Bootstrap**] to begin registration.

When the bootstrap process has completed, your client will be listed at **Systems > System List**.



When new packages or updates are installed on the client using SUSE Manager, any end user license agreements (EULAs) are automatically accepted. To review a package EULA, open the package details page in the Web UI.

Register Clients with a Bootstrap Script

Registering clients with a bootstrap script gives you control over parameters, and can help if you have to register a large number of clients at once. This method works for both Salt and traditional clients.

To register clients using a bootstrap script, we recommend you create a template bootstrap script to begin, which can then be copied and modified. The bootstrap script you create is executed on the client when it is registered, and ensures all the necessary packages are deployed to the client. There are some parameters contained in the bootstrap script, which ensure the client system can be assigned to its base channel, including activation keys and GPG keys.

It is important that you check the repository information carefully, to ensure it matches the base channel repository. If the repository information does not match exactly, the bootstrap script will not be able to download the correct packages.



A bootstrap repository is needed for non-SLE clients in general and for SLE clients before version 15. A bootstrap offers packages for installing Salt on clients and for registering Salt or traditional clients. For information about creating a bootstrap repository, see [**Client-configuration > Creating-a-tools-repository >**].

If you are bootstrapping Salt clients using the Web UI, you will need to ensure that the client system has Python installed before you begin. For Salt clients running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 or older, you will also require the `python-xml` package.



openSUSE Leap 15 and SLES 15 and Python 3

openSUSE Leap 15 and SLE 15 use Python 3 by default. Bootstrap scripts based on Python 2 must be re-created for openSUSE Leap 15 and SLE 15 systems. Attempting to register openSUSE Leap 15 or SLE 15 systems using Python 2 bootstrap scripts will fail.

Create a Bootstrap Script

This procedure describes how to generate a bootstrap script.

Procedure: Creating a Bootstrap Script

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin > Manager Configuration > Bootstrap Script**.
2. In the **SUSE Manager Configuration - Bootstrap** dialog, uncheck the **Bootstrap using Salt** checkbox if you are installing a traditional client. For Salt clients, leave it checked. Use default settings and click the **[Update]** button.

SUSE Manager Configuration - Bootstrap

The following information will be used to generate bootstrap scripts. These bootstrap scripts can be used to configure a client to use this SUSE Manager to receive updates. Once the bootstrap scripts have been generated, they will be available from [this server](#).

Please note that some manual configuration of these scripts may still be required. The bootstrap script can be found on the SUSE Manager Server's filesystem here: `/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap`

General **Bootstrap Script** Organizations Restart Cobbler Bare-metal systems

Client Bootstrap Script Configuration

SUSE Manager server hostname*

SSL cert location*

Bootstrap using Salt ☐

Enable SSL ☒

Enable Client GPG checking ☒

Enable Remote Configuration ☐

Enable Remote Commands ☐

Client HTTP Proxy

Client HTTP Proxy username

Client HTTP Proxy password



Using SSL

Unchecking **Enable SSL** in the Web UI or setting `USING_SSL=0` in the bootstrap script is not recommended. If you disable SSL nevertheless you will need to manage custom CA certificates to be able to run the registration process successfully.

3. A template bootstrap script is generated and stored on the server in the `/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap` directory.

```
cd /srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap
```

The bootstrap script is also available at your server over HTTPS; replace `EXAMPLE.COM` with the host name of your server:

```
https://EXAMPLE.COM/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap.sh
```

Edit a Bootstrap Script

You can copy and modify the template bootstrap script you created to customize it. A minimal requirement when modifying a bootstrap script for use with SUSE Manager is the inclusion of an activation key. Most packages are signed with GPG, so you will also need to have trusted GPG keys on your system to install them.

In this procedure, you will need to know the exact name of your activation keys. Navigate to **Home** >

Overview and, in the **Tasks** box, click **Manage Activation Keys**. All keys created for channels are listed on this page. You must enter the full name of the key you wish to use in the bootstrap script exactly as presented in the key field. For more information about activation keys, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].

Procedure: Modifying a Bootstrap Script

1. On your SUSE Manager server, as root at the command line change to the bootstrap directory with:

```
cd /srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap/
```

2. Create and rename two copies of the template bootstrap script for use with each of your clients.

```
cp bootstrap.sh bootstrap-sles12.sh
cp bootstrap.sh bootstrap-sles15.sh
```

3. Open **bootstrap-sles12.sh** for modification. Scroll down and modify both lines marked in green. You must comment out **exit 1** with a hash mark (**#**) to activate the script and then enter the name of the key for this script in the **ACTIVATION_KEYS=** field as follows:

```
echo "Enable this script: comment (with #'s) this block (or, at least just"
echo "the exit below)"
echo
#exit 1

# can be edited, but probably correct (unless created during initial install):
# NOTE: ACTIVATION_KEYS *must* be used to bootstrap a client machine.
ACTIVATION_KEYS=1-sles12
ORG_GPG_KEY=
```

4. When you have finished, save the file, and repeat this procedure for the second bootstrap script.

Connect Clients

When you have finished creating your script, you can use it to register clients.

Procedure: Running the Bootstrap Script

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, log in as root. At the command prompt, and change to the bootstrap directory:

```
cd /srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap/
```

2. Run this command to execute the bootstrap script on the client; replace **EXAMPLE.COM** with the host name of your server:

```
cat bootstrap-sles12.sh | ssh root@EXAMPLE.COM /bin/bash
```

The script will execute and proceed to download the required dependencies located in the repositories directory you created earlier.

3. When the script has finished running, you can check that your client is registered correctly by opening the SUSE Manager Web UI and navigating to **Systems > Overview** to ensure the new client is listed.



When new packages or updates are installed on the client using SUSE Manager, any end user license agreements (EULAs) are automatically accepted. To review a package EULA, open the package detail page in the Web UI.

Package Locks



Package locks can only be used on traditional clients that use the Zypper package manager. The feature is not currently supported on Red Hat Enterprise Linux or Salt clients.

Package locks are used to prevent unauthorized installation or upgrades to software packages on traditional clients. When a package has been locked, it will show a padlock icon, indicating that it can not be installed. Any attempt to install a locked package will be reported as an error in the event log.

Locked packages can not be installed, upgraded, or removed, either through the SUSE Manager Web UI, or directly on the client machine using a package manager. Locked packages will also indirectly lock any dependent packages.

Procedure: Using Package Locks

1. On the client machine, install the **zypp-plugin-spacewalk** package as **root**:

```
zypper in zypp-plugin-spacewalk
```

2. Navigate to the **Software > Packages > Lock** tab on the managed system to see a list of all available packages.
3. Select the packages to lock, and click **[Request Lock]**. You can also choose to enter a date and time for the lock to activate. Leave the date and time blank if you want the lock to activate as soon as possible. Note that the lock might not activate immediately.
4. To remove a package lock, select the packages to unlock and click **[Request Unlock]**. Leave the date and time blank if you want the lock to deactivate as soon as possible. Note that the lock might not deactivate immediately.

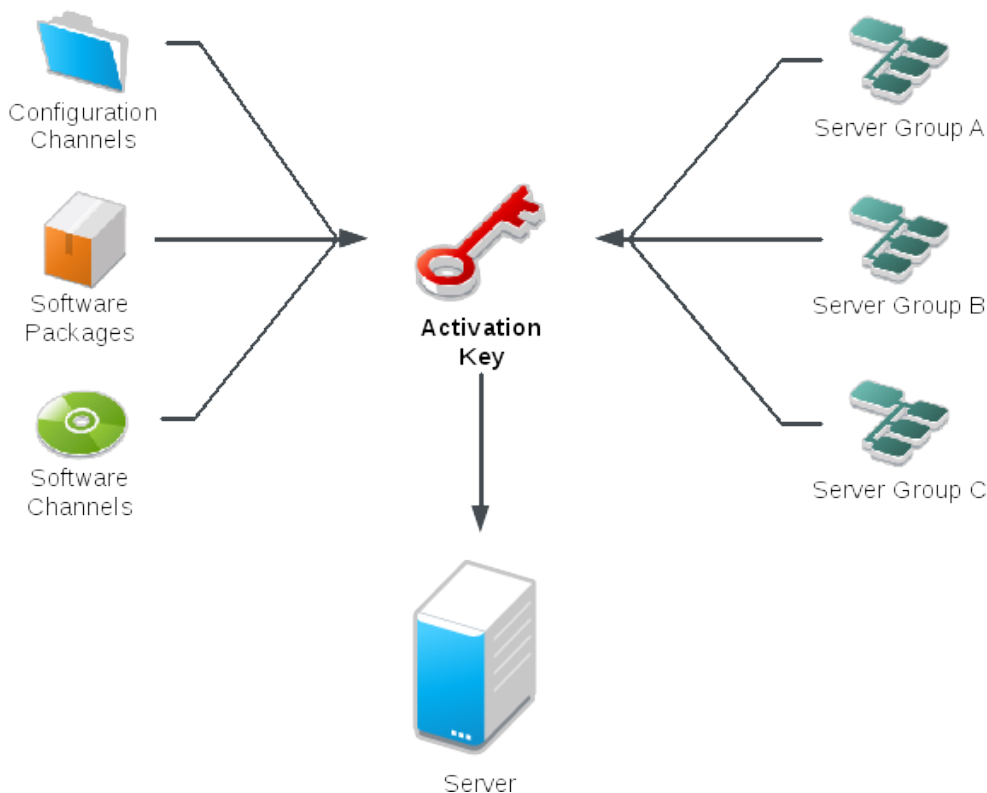
Activation Keys

Activation keys are used with traditional and Salt clients to ensure that your clients have the correct software entitlements, are connecting to the appropriate channels, and are subscribed to the relevant groups. Each activation key is bound to an organization, which you can set when you create the key.

In SUSE Manager, an activation key is a group of configuration settings with a label. You can apply all configuration settings associated with an activation key by adding its label as a parameter to a bootstrap script. We recommend you use an activation key label in combination with a bootstrap script. When the bootstrap script is executed all configuration settings associated with the label are applied to the system the script is run on.

An activation key can specify:

- Channel Assignment
- System Types (Traditionally called Add-on Entitlements)
- Contact Method
- Configuration Files
- Packages to be Installed
- System Group Assignment



Procedure: Creating an Activation Key

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, as an administrator, navigate to **Systems > Activation Keys**.
2. Click the **[Create Key]** button.
3. On the **Activation Key Details** page, in the **Description** field, enter a name for the activation key.
4. In the **Key** field, enter the distribution and service pack associated with the key. For example, **SLES12-SP4** for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 SP4.



Do not use commas in the **Key** field for any SUSE products. However, you **must** use commas for Red Hat Products. For more information, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

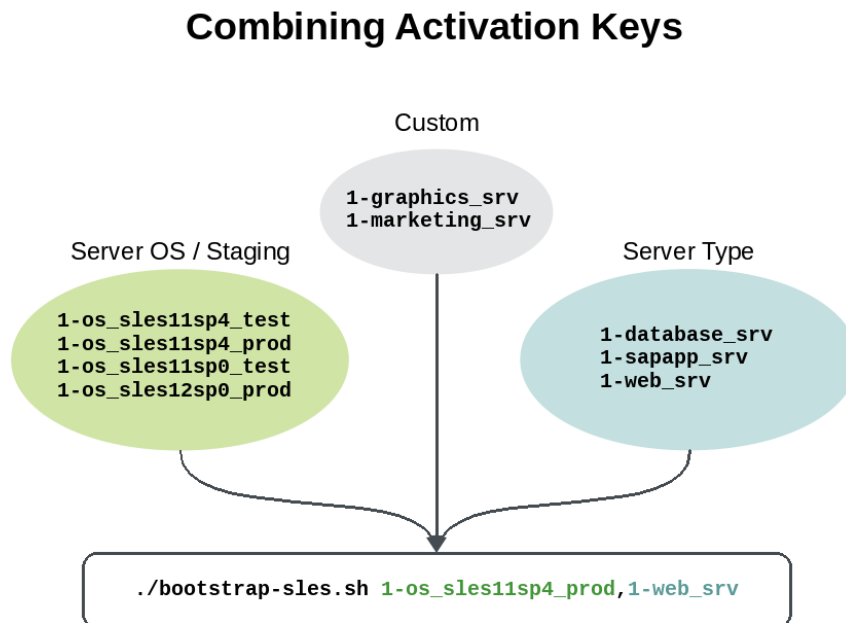
5. In the **Base Channels** drop-down box, select the appropriate base software channel, and allow the relevant child channels to populate. For more information, see [reference:admin/setup-wizard.pdf](#) and [**Administration** > **Custom-channels** >].
6. Select the child channels you need (for example, the mandatory SUSE Manager tools and updates channels).
7. We recommend you leave the **Contact Method** set to **Default**.
8. We recommend you leave the **Universal Default** setting unchecked.
9. Click [**Create Activation Key**] to create the activation key.
10. Check the **Configuration File Deployment** check box to enable configuration management for this key, and click [**Update Activation Key**] to save this change.



The **Configuration File Deployment** check box does not appear until after you have created the activation key. Ensure you go back and check the box if you need to enable configuration management.

Combining Activation Keys

You can combine activation keys when executing the bootstrap script on your traditional clients. Combining keys allows for more control on what is installed on your systems and reduces duplication of keys for large or complex environments.



Combining Activation Keys

Server OS / Stage Key

Base Channels:

Any system registered using this activation key will be subscribed to the selected child channels.

The following child channels of **sles12sp0_3prod-sles12-pool-x86_64 (01.06.2015)** can be associated with this activation key.

- sles12sp0_3prod-obs-home-packages-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-obs-server-packages-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-12-ga-desktop-amd-driver-x86_64-we
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-12-ga-desktop-nvidia-driver-x86_64-we
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-ha12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-ha12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-manager-tools12-pool-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-manager-tools12-updates-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-adv-systems-management12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-adv-systems-management12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-legacy12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-legacy12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-public-cloud12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-public-cloud12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-web-scripting12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-web-scripting12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sles12-updates-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-sdk12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-sdk12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-we12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-we12-updates-x86_64

Update Key

Any other type of key

Base Channels:

Any system registered using this activation key will be subscribed to the selected child channels.

- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-legacy12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-legacy12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-public-cloud12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-public-cloud12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-web-scripting12-pool-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-module-web-scripting12-updates-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sles12-updates-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-sdk12-pool-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-sdk12-updates-x86_64**
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-we12-pool-x86_64
- sles12sp0_3prod-sle-we12-updates-x86_64
- SUSE-Manager-Proxy-1.7-Pool for x86_64
- SLES11-SP1-Pool for x86_64 Proxy 1.7
- SLES11-SP1-Updates for x86_64 Proxy 1.7
- SLES11-SP2-Core for x86_64 Proxy 1.7
- SLES11-SP2-Updates for x86_64 Proxy 1.7
- SUSE-Manager-Proxy-1.7-Updates for x86_64
- SUSE-Manager-Proxy-2.1-Pool for x86_64
- SLES11-SP3-Pool for x86_64 Proxy 2.1
- SLES11-SP3-Updates for x86_64 Proxy 2.1
- SUSE-Manager-Proxy-2.1-Updates for x86_64

Update Key



With Salt clients, you cannot combine activation keys. Only the first key will be used.

Activation Key Best Practices

Default Parent Channel

Avoid using the **SUSE Manager Default** parent channel. This setting forces SUSE Manager to choose a parent channel that best corresponds to the installed operating system, which can sometimes lead to unexpected behavior. Instead, we recommend you create activation keys specific to each distribution and architecture.

Bootstrapping with Activation Keys

If you are using bootstrap scripts, consider creating an activation key for each script. This will help you align channel assignments, package installation, system group memberships, and configuration channel assignments. You will also need less manual interaction with your system after registration.

Bandwidth Requirements

Using activation keys might result in automatic downloading of software at registration time, which might not be desirable in environments where bandwidth is constrained.

These options create bandwidth usage:

- Assigning a SUSE Product Pool channel will result in the automatic installation of the corresponding product descriptor package.
- Any package in the **Packages** section will be installed.

- Any Salt state from the [Configuration](#) section might trigger downloads depending on its contents.

Key Label Naming

If you do not enter a human-readable name for your activation keys, the system will automatically generate a number string, which can make it difficult to manage your keys.

Consider a naming scheme for your activation keys to help you keep track of them. Creating names which are associated with your organization's infrastructure will make it easier for you when performing more complex operations.

When creating key labels, consider these tips:

- OS naming (mandatory): Keys should always refer to the OS they provide settings for
- Architecture naming (recommended): Unless your company is running on one architecture only, for example x86_64, then providing labels with an architecture type is a good idea.
- Server type naming: What is, or what will this server be used for?
- Location naming: Where is the server located? Room, building, or department?
- Date naming: Maintenance windows, quarter, etc.
- Custom naming: What naming scheme suits your organizations needs?

Example activation key label names:

```
sles12-sp2-web_server-room_129-x86_64
```

```
sles12-sp2-test_packages-blg_502-room_21-ppc64le
```



Do not use commas in the [Key](#) field for any SUSE products. However, you **must** use commas for Red Hat Products. For more information, see [[Reference > Systems >](#)].

Included Channels

When creating activation keys you also need to keep in mind which software channels will be associated with it.



Keys should have a specific base channel assigned to them, for example: [SLES12-SP2-Pool1-x86_64](#). If this is not the case, SUSE Manager cannot use specific stages. Using the default base channel is not recommended and may cause problems.

- Channels to be included:

- suse-manager-tools
- Typical packages to be included:
 - mgr-osad (pushing tasks)
 - Installs `python-jabberpy` and `pyxml` as dependencies
 - `mgr-cfg-actions` (Remote Command, Configuration Management)
 - Installs `mgr-cfg` and `mgr-cfg-client` as dependencies

The `suse-manager-tools` channel is mandatory.

Typical packages to be included:

- osad (pushing tasks): Installs `python-jabberpy` and `pyxml` as dependencies
- `rhncfg-actions` (Remote Command, Configuration Management): Installs `rhncfg` and `rhncfg-client` as dependencies

SLE Client Registration on a Proxy

Proxy servers can act as a broker and package cache for both Salt and traditional clients. Registering clients on a SUSE Manager Proxy is similar to registering them directly on SUSE Manager, with a few key differences.

These sections contain information on registering Salt clients on a proxy using the Web UI, commands on the command line, or a bootstrap script. There is also information on registering traditional clients using a bootstrap script.

Within the Web UI, proxy pages will show information about both Salt and traditional clients. You can see a list of clients that are connected to a proxy by clicking the name of the proxy in **Systems** > **System List** > **Proxy**, then select the **Proxy** subtab of the **Details** tab.

A list of chained proxies for a Salt client can be seen by clicking the name of the client in **Systems** > **All**, then select the **Connection** subtab of the **Details** tab.

If you decide to move any of your clients between proxies or the server you will need to repeat the registration process from the beginning.

Register in the Web UI (Salt Only)

Using the Web UI is similar to registering clients directly with the SUSE Manager Server.



A bootstrap repository is needed for non-SLE clients in general and for SLE clients before version 15. A bootstrap offers packages for installing Salt on clients and for registering Salt or traditional clients. For information about creating a bootstrap repository, see [**Client-configuration** > **Creating-a-tools-repository** >].

Procedure: Registering Clients to a Proxy in the Web UI

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems** > **Bootstrapping**.
2. In the **Host** field, type the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) of the client to be bootstrapped.
3. In the **SSH Port** field, type the SSH port number that will be used to connect and bootstrap the client. By default, the SSH port is **22**.
4. In the **User** field, type the username to log in to the client. By default, the username is **root**.
5. In the **Password** field, type password to log in to the client.
6. In the **Activation Key** field, select the activation key that is associated with the software channel you want to use to bootstrap the client.
7. In the **Proxy** field, select the proxy server you want to register to.
8. By default, the **Disable SSH Strict Key Host Checking** checkbox is selected. This allows the bootstrap process to automatically accept SSH host keys without requiring you to manually

authenticate.

9. OPTIONAL: Check the **Manage System Completely via SSH** checkbox. If you check this option, the client will be configured to use SSH for its connection to the server, and no other connection method will be configured.

10. Click **[Bootstrap]** to begin registration.

When the bootstrap process has completed, your client will be listed at **Systems > System List**.

Register on the Command Line (Salt)

Instead of the Web UI, you can use the command line to register a Salt client to a proxy. This procedure requires that you have installed the Salt package on the Salt client before registration. For SLE 12 based clients, you also must have activated the **Advanced Systems Management** module.



Registering traditional clients on the command line is also possible, but it requires more steps. It is not covered here. Use the bootstrap script procedure to register traditional clients. For more information, see [script-client-proxy.pdf](#).

Procedure: Registering Clients to a Proxy Using the Command Line

1. Choose a client configuration file located at:

```
/etc/salt/minion
```

or:

```
/etc/salt/minion.d/NAME.conf
```

This is sometimes also called a minion file.

2. Add the proxy FQDN as the **master** to the client configuration file:

```
master: PROXY123.EXAMPLE.COM
```

3. Restart the **salt-minion** service:

```
systemctl restart salt-minion
```

4. On the server, accept the new client key; replace **<client>** with the name of your client:

```
salt-key -a '<client>'
```

Registering with a Bootstrap Script (Salt and Traditional)

Registering clients (either traditional or Salt) via SUSE Manager Proxy with a bootstrap script is done almost the same way as registering clients directly with the SUSE Manager Server. The difference is that you create the bootstrap script on the SUSE Manager Proxy with a command line tool. The bootstrap script then deploys all necessary information to the clients. The bootstrap script requires some parameters (such as activation keys or GPG keys) that depend on your specific setup.

Procedure: Registering Clients to a Proxy with a Bootstrap Script

1. Create a client activation key on the SUSE Manager server using the Web UI. For more information, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].
2. On the proxy, execute the `mgr-bootstrap` command line tool as root. If needed, use the additional command line switches to tune your bootstrap script. To install a traditional client instead of a Salt client, ensure you use the `--traditional` switch.

To view available options type `mgr-bootstrap --help` from the command line:

```
# mgr-bootstrap --activation-keys=key-string
```

3. Optional: edit the resulting bootstrap script.
4. Execute the bootstrap script on the clients.

Automate Client Installation

AutoYaST and Kickstart configuration files allow you to automate client system installations. This is useful if you need to install a large number of clients.

For SUSE Linux Enterprise clients, use AutoYaST. When you have created an AutoYaST file, you can upload and manage it using the SUSE Manager Web UI.

For Red Hat Enterprise Linux clients, use Kickstart. Kickstart files are created, modified, and managed within the SUSE Manager Web UI.

We recommend that you use PXE boot for installing clients. PXE booting requires a DHCP server that points to your SUSE Manager Server. The SUSE Manager Server then acts as a TFTP server.

The TFTP environment is generated with Cobbler. Cobbler can also generate a bootable ISO image. The ISO image can be used to install machines when PXE boot is not an option; for more information, see [**Client-configuration > Cobbler >**].

Preparation

A configured distribution and an autoinstallation profile is required.

Procedure: Preparing a Distribution

1. Provide the files required to start an installation. Unpack an installation medium such as a DVD image on your Server. It contains the Linux kernel, an initrd, and other files required to boot the OS in installation mode.
2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **System > Autoinstallation > Distributions**.
3. In the **Autoinstallable Distributions** dialog, click **Create Distribution**:
 - In the **Distribution Label** field, enter a name to identify your autoinstallable distribution.
 - In the **Tree Path** field, enter the path to an installation tree located on your SUSE Manager Server.
 - Select the matching **Base Channel** mirrored on the SUSE Manager Server. This base channel must represent the distribution you want to install. It can be the **Vendor**, **Custom**, or **Cloned Channels**.
 - The **Installer Generation** should also match.
 - Optionally, you can specify kernel options which should be added when booting this distribution. Note that there are multiple places where you can provide kernel options. Only add options here that are generic for the distribution.
4. Click [**Create Autoinstallable Distribution**].

For more information, see [**Reference > Systems >**].

Procedure: Preparing a Profile

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **System** > **Autoinstallation** > **Profiles**.
2. In the **Autoinstallation Profiles** dialog, add the profile for your autoinstallation. It can be an **AutoYaST** or **Kickstart** profile.
3. There are two ways to create profiles:
 - Create a **Kickstart** profile using a wizard
 - Upload an externally created profile (**Kickstart** or **AutoYaST**)

For more information about the **Kickstart** wizard, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

Upload a Profile

Profiles require a label, and an **Autoinstallation Tree** (distribution).

Upload the **Kickstart** or **AutoYaST** profile. You can write your own kickstart or AutoYaST profile directly in the Web UI, or create the profile and upload it from your local filesystem.

AutoYaST is able to dump a profile from an existing installation. This can be used as template, but will need to be edited to make it usable by SUSE Manager:

- Change the **add-on** section and add SUSE Manager URLs. These URLs must have a special format:

```
http://$redhat_management_server/ks/dist/child/<channel-label>/<distribution-label>
```

- Replace **<channel-label>** and **<distribution-label>** with the correct labels. You can also use a variable for **distribution-label**. Ensure that the distribution label corresponds to the autoinstallable distribution you selected. You can only configure child channels in this file. The channels must be children of the base channel you selected in the distribution you use for this profile.



You do not need to specify a base channel. The base channel is defined in the distribution.

- Register the system after it is installed. For this step we provide script snippets that can be used.

For Salt managed clients, use the **spacewalk/minion_script** snippet:

```
<scripts>
  <init-scripts config:type="list">
    $SNIPPET('spacewalk/minion_script')
  </init-scripts>
</scripts>
```

For traditional clients, use the **spacewalk/sles_register_script** snippet:

```
<scripts>
  <init-scripts config:type="list">
    $SNIPPET('spacewalk/sles_register_script')
  </init-scripts>
</scripts>
```



For registering Salt clients, you must accept the Salt key on the SUSE Manager Server before you attempt autoinstallation.

For more information about autoinstallation profiles, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

Variables and snippets

Profiles are not finalized until they are requested by a client. This allows you to use variables in profiles. You can define profile variables in the Web UI by navigating to **Profiles** > **Variables**.

Some common variables are:

redhat_management_server

The server Red Hat clients register to (automatically set).

org

The organization ID where this profile is created (automatically set).

registration_key

The key used in the registration snippets. By specifying this variable, you can set the activation key to be used to register the system.

dont_register

If specified, the registration will be skipped.

allow_config_actions

If set to **1**, it will allow traditional configuration management (traditional only).

allow_remote_commands

If set to **1**, it will allow traditional remote command execution (traditional only).

dont_disable_automatic_onlineupdate

If set, the automatic online update will stay enabled (SUSE OSes only).

dont_disable_local_repos

If set, local repositories will stay active (not recommended).

Navigate to **Systems** > **Autoinstallation** > **Autoinstallation Snippets** to see which snippets are available. For more information, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

Autoinstallation with AutoYaST

When [**Client-configuration** > **Client-automating-preparation** >] is successfully finished you can begin with the actual installation.

To start an autoinstallation the system must already be known to SUSE Manager. You can use bare metal provisioning to bring systems into SUSE Manager. For more information, see [**Reference** > **Admin** >].

On the command line, you can use the API calls `system.createSystemRecord` or `system.createSystemProfile` to bring systems into SUSE Manager. For example (replace `<hw_addr>` with a hardware address such as `00:25:22:71:e7:c6` and `<name>` with the name of your system):

```
spacecmd api -- --args '["systemname", {"hwAddress": "<hw_addr>", "hostname":"<name>"}]'
system.createSystemProfile
```

Procedure: Autoinstalling with AutoYaST

1. In SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems** > **Overview**, and select the system for the automated installation.
2. On the systems details page, navigate to the **Provisioning** > **Autoinstallation** > **Schedule** tab, and select the AutoYaST profile you want to use to (re-)install the system.

Advanced PXE Installation Configuration

If the client needs to be installed for the first time, you can use the `Create PXE installation configuration` option. This option creates a PXE boot configuration. When you power on the client system, it boots from the network and the correct profile is selected for installation.

If the system is already managed, click [**Schedule Autoinstallation and Finish**] to start the installation.

For more information about AutoYaST, see <https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/autoyast/>.

Kickstart

When you install a Red Hat Enterprise Linux client, there are a number of questions you need to answer. To automate installation, you can create a Kickstart file with all the answers to those questions, so that no user intervention is required.

Kickstart files can be kept on a server and read by individual clients during installation. The same Kickstart file is used to install multiple clients.

Kickstart can be used to schedule a registered system to be installed with a new operating system and package profile, or you can use it to install a new system that was not previously registered, or does not yet have an operating system installed.

For more information about Kickstart, see the Red Hat documentation.

Before you Begin

Some preparation is required for your infrastructure to handle Kickstart installations. Before you create a Kickstart profile, consider:

- A DHCP server is not required for kickstarting, but it can make things easier. If you are using static IP addresses, select static IP while developing your Kickstart profile.
- An FTP server can be used instead of hosting the Kickstart distribution tree using HTTP.
- If you are performing a bare metal Kickstart installation, use these settings:
 - Configure DHCP to assign the required networking parameters and the bootloader program location.
 - In the bootloader configuration file, specify the kernel and appropriate kernel options to be used.

Build a Bootable ISO

You will need to create a bootable ISO image to be used by the target system for installation. When the system is rebooted or switched on, it boots from the image, loads the Kickstart configuration from your SUSE Manager, and installs Red Hat Enterprise Linux according to the Kickstart profile.

Building a Bootable ISO

1. Copy the contents of `/isolinux` from the first CD-ROM of the target distribution.
2. Edit the `isolinux.cfg` file to default to 'ks'. Change the 'ks' section to read:

```
label ks
kernel vmlinuz
append text ks='url`initrd=initrd.img lang= devfs=nomount \
ramdisk_size=16438`ksdevice`
```

IP address-based Kickstart URLs will look like this:

```
http://`my.manager.server`/kickstart/ks/mode/ip_range
```

The Kickstart distribution defined via the IP range should match the distribution from which you are building, or errors will occur.

3. OPTIONAL: If you want to use the `ksdevice`, it looks like:

```
ksdevice=eth0
```

It is possible to change the distribution for a Kickstart profile within a family, such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux AS 4 to Red Hat Enterprise Linux ES 4, by specifying the new distribution label.

Note that you cannot move between versions (4 to 5) or between updates (U1 to U2).

4. Customize `isolinux.cfg` further as required. For example, you can add multiple options, different boot messages, or shorter timeout periods.
5. Create the ISO with this command:

```
mkisofs -o file.iso -b isolinux.bin -c boot.cat -no-emul-boot \
  -boot-load-size 4 -boot-info-table -R -J -v -T isolinux/
```

Note that `isolinux/` is the relative path to the directory containing the modified isolinux files copied from the distribution CD, while `file.iso` is the output ISO file, which is placed into the current directory.

6. Burn the ISO to CD-ROM and insert the disk.
7. Boot the system and type `ks` at the prompt (if you left the label for the Kickstart boot as 'ks').
8. Press *Enter* to start Kickstart.

Integrating with PXE

Instead of using a bootable ISO image, you can use a PXE image instead. This is less error-prone, allows Kickstart installation from bare metal, and integrates with existing PXE/DHCP environments.

To use this method, make sure your systems have network interface cards (NICs) that support PXE. You will need to install and configure a PXE server, ensure DHCP is running, and place the installation repository on an HTTP server that is reachable by the SUSE Manager Server.

Upload the Kickstart profile to the SUSE Manager Server using the SUSE Manager Web UI.

When the AutoYaST profile has been created, use the URL from the **Autoinstallation Overview** page as the image location.

For more information about PXE boot, see <https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP1/html/SLES-all/cha-deployment-prep-pxe.html>.

For more information about autoinstallation profiles, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

Cobbler

Cobbler is an installation server that allows you to perform unattended system installations. Cobbler is installed on the SUSE Manager Server.



SUSE only supports Cobbler functions that are available in the SUSE Manager Web UI, or through the SUSE Manager API. Only supported features are documented here.

This section explains the Cobbler features most commonly used with SUSE Manager:

- The `cobbler sync` command is triggered from SUSE Manager Server and generate the TFTP boot environment
- Installation environment analysis using the `cobbler check` command
- Virtual machine guest installation automation with the `koan` client-side tool
- Building installation ISOs with PXE-like menus using the `cobbler buildiso` command (for SUSE Manager systems with x86_64 architecture)

For more information about Cobbler, see <https://cobbler.readthedocs.io>.

Cobbler Requirements

To use Cobbler for system installation with PXE, you will require a TFTP server. SUSE Manager installs a TFTP server by default. To PXE boot systems, you will require a DHCP server, or have access to a network DHCP server.



Cobbler uses host names as a unique key for each system. If you are using the `pxe-default-image` to onboard bare metal systems, make sure every system has a unique host name. Non-unique host names will cause all systems with the same host name to have the configuration files overwritten when a provisioning profile is assigned.

Configure Cobbler

Cobbler configuration is primarily managed using the `/etc/cobbler/settings` file. Cobbler will run with the default settings unchanged. All configurable settings are explained in detail in the `/etc/cobbler/settings` file.

The PXE boot process uses DHCP to find the TFTP boot server. The SUSE Manager Server can act as such a TFTP boot server and Cobbler can generate the content for it. You must have administrative access to the network's DHCP server. Edit the DHCP configuration file so that it points to the SUSE Manager Server as the TFTP boot server:

Procedure: Example for Configuring the ISC DHCP Server

1. On the DHCP server, as root, open the `/etc/dhcpd.conf` file.
2. Append a new class with options for performing PXE boot installation. For example:

```
allow booting;
allow bootp;
class "PXE"
{match if substring(option vendor-class-identifier, 0, 9) = "PXEClient";
next-server 192.168.2.1;
filename "pxelinux.0";}
```

This example:

- Enables the `bootp` protocol for network booting.
- Creates a class called `PXE`.
- Identifies systems as `PXEClient` if they are configured with PXE as the first boot priority.
- Directs PXEclients to the Cobbler server at `192.168.2.1`.
- Retrieves the `pxelinux.0` bootloader file.

3. Save the file.

Procedure: Configuring PXE Boot in KVM

While it is possible to use KVM with PXE booting, it can be unreliable. We do not recommend you use this on production systems.

1. Use the `virsh` command to produce a dump of the current network XML description:

```
virsh net-dumpxml --inactive network > network.xml
```

2. Open the XML dump file at `network.xml` and add a `bootp` parameter within the `<dhcp>` element:

```
<bootp file='/pxelinux.0' server='192.168.100.153' />
```

3. Use the `virsh` command to install the updated description:

```
virsh net-define network.xml
```

Alternatively, you can use the `net-edit` subcommand, which will also perform some error checking.

Listing 1. Example: Minimal Network XML Description for KVM

```
<network>
  <name>default</name>
  <uuid>1da84185-31b5-4c8b-9ee2-a7f5ba39a7ee</uuid>
  <forward mode='nat'>
    <nat>
      <port start='1024' end='65535' />
    </nat>
  </forward>
  <bridge name='virbr0' stp='on' delay='0' />
  <mac address='52:54:00:29:59:18' />
  <domain name='default' />
  <ip address='192.168.100.1' netmask='255.255.255.0'>
    <dhcp>
      <range start='192.168.100.128' end='192.168.100.254' />
      <bootp file='/pxelinux.0' server='192.168.100.153' />
    </dhcp>
  </ip>
</network>
```

TFTP

SUSE Manager uses the `tftp` daemon. The `tftp` daemon is the recommended method for PXE services, and is installed by default. The default configuration works in most cases. However, if you need to change the configuration, use the YaST Services Manager.

The TFTP service must be running so it can serve the `pxelinux.0` boot image. Start YaST and use **System > Services Manager** to configure the `tftp` daemon.

You can also synchronize Cobbler-generated TFTP contents to a SUSE Manager Proxy. For synchronization, HTTPS port 443 must be open.

Procedure: Installing TFTP

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, as root, install the `susemanager-tftpsync` package:

```
zypper install susemanager-tftpsync
```

2. On the SUSE Manager Proxy, as root user, install the `susemanager-tftpsync-recv` package:

```
zypper install susemanager-tftpsync-recv
```

Procedure: Configuring TFTP on a Proxy

1. On the SUSE Manager Proxy, as root, run the `configure-tftpsync.sh` script.
2. The script will interactively ask you for details on the host names and IP addresses of the SUSE Manager Server and Proxy, as well for the location of the `tftpboot` directory on the Proxy.

For more information, use the `configure-tftpsync.sh --help` command.

Procedure: Configuring TFTP on a Server

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, as root, run the `configure-tftpsync.sh` script.

```
configure-tftpsync.sh proxy1.example.com proxy2.example.com
```

2. Run the `cobbler sync` command to push the files to the proxy. This will fail if you have not configured the proxies correctly.
3. If you want to change the list of proxies later on, you can use the `configure-tftpsync.sh` script to edit them.



If you reinstall an already configured proxy and want to push all the files again, you must remove the cache file at `/var/lib/cobbler/pxe_cache.json` before you call `cobbler sync`.

Background Information about the Synchronization Process

A `cobbler sync` is a rebuild of every file Cobbler touched. On SUSE Manager, `cobbler sync` does the following actions:

1. Run pre-sync triggers. This can be any number of shell scripts.
2. Delete all files and directories that are not allowed in `/srv/www/cobbler/`.
3. Create all needed directories.
4. Delete all elements inside the directories.
5. Create the TFTP directory.
6. Write the DHCP files if management is enabled (unsupported). For more information, see [Configure Cobbler](#).
7. Do the same with DNS (unsupported).
8. Clean up the cache.
9. Run `rsync` if rsync management is enabled.
10. Run post-sync triggers. This can be any number of shell scripts (unsupported).

SUSE Manager also adds or removes, or edits systems that are in Cobbler. Those actions trigger a so-called lite sync process. This sync only touches files and directories that are related to the change which triggered it.

Synchronize and Start the Cobbler Service

When tftpsync is configured, the SUSE Manager Server must be able to access the SUSE Manager Proxy systems directly.



Do not start or stop the **cobblerd** service independent of the SUSE Manager service. Doing so can cause errors. Always use **/usr/sbin/spacewalk-service** to start or stop SUSE Manager.

Check that all the prerequisites the Cobbler service requires, are configured according to your requirements. You can do this by running the **cobbler check** command.

When you had to change the configuration, restart the SUSE Manager service:

```
/usr/sbin/spacewalk-service restart
```

Autoinstallation Templates

AutoYaST or Kickstart profiles are used to automate SUSE Linux Enterprise or Red Hat Enterprise Linux client installations. Templates are used to describe how to create autoinstallation profiles. You can create autoinstallation variables within the SUSE Manager Web UI. This allows you to create and manage large numbers of profiles and systems, without having to manually create profiles for each.

Cobbler uses a template engine called Cheetah that provides support for templates, variables, and snippets.

For more information on creating profiles, see [**Reference > Systems >**].

Kickstart Template Syntax

Kickstart templates can have static values for certain common items such as PXE image file names, subnet addresses, and common paths such as **/etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/**. However, templates differ from standard Kickstart files in their use of variables.

For example, a standard Kickstart file might have a networking section like this:

```
network --device=eth0 --bootproto=static --ip=192.168.100.24 \
--netmask=255.255.255.0 --gateway=192.168.100.1 --nameserver=192.168.100.2
```

In a Kickstart template file, the networking section would look like this instead:

```
network --device=$net_dev --bootproto=static --ip=$ip_addr \
--netmask=255.255.255.0 --gateway=$my_gateway --nameserver=$my_nameserver
```

These variables are substituted with the values set in your Kickstart profile variables or in your system detail variables. If the same variable is defined in both the profile and the system detail, then the system detail variable takes precedence.

Kickstart templates use syntax rules that rely on punctuation symbols. To avoid clashes, they need to be properly treated.

If the template contains shell script variables like `$(example)`, the content needs to be escaped with a backslash: `\$(example)`. If the variable is defined in the template, the templating engine will evaluate it correctly. If there is no such variable, the content will be left unchanged. Escaping the `$` symbol will prevent the templating engine from evaluating the symbol as an internal variable.

Long scripts or strings can be escaped by wrapping them with the `\#raw` and `\#end raw` directives. For example:

```
#raw
#!/bin/bash
for i in {0..2}; do
  echo "$i - Hello World!"
done
#end raw
```

Any line with a `#` symbol followed by a whitespace is treated as a comment and is therefore not evaluated. For example:

```
#start some section (this is a comment)
echo "Hello, world"
#end some section (this is a comment)
```

Kickstart Snippets

Kickstart snippets are sections of Kickstart code that can be called by a `$SNIPPET()` function. The snippet is parsed by Cobbler and substituted with the contents of the snippet.

This example sets up a snippet for a common hard drive partition configuration:

```
clearpart --all
part /boot --fstype ext3 --size=150 --asprimary
part / --fstype ext3 --size=40000 --asprimary
part swap --recommended

part pv.00 --size=1 --grow

volgroup vg00 pv.00
logvol /var --name=var vgroup=vg00 --fstype ext3 --size=5000
```

Save this snippet of the configuration to a file in `/var/lib/cobbler/snippets/`, where Cobbler can access it.

Use the snippet by calling the `$SNIPPET()` function in your Kickstart templates. For example:

```
$SNIPPET('my_partition')
```

Cobbler will parse the function with the snippet of code contained in the `my_partition` file.

Build ISOs with Cobbler

Cobbler can create ISO boot images that contain a set of distributions, kernels, and a menu, that work similar to a PXE installation.



Building ISOs with Cobbler is not supported on IBM Z.

The Cobbler `buildiso` command takes parameters to define the name and output location of the boot ISO. For example:

```
cobbler buildiso --iso=/path/to/boot.iso
```

The boot ISO includes all profiles and systems by default. You can limit which profiles and systems are used, with the `--profiles` and `--systems` options. For example:

```
cobbler buildiso --systems="system1,system2,system3" \
  --profiles="profile1,profile2,profile3"
```



If you cannot write an ISO image to a public `tmp` directory, check your `systemd` settings in `/usr/lib/systemd/system/cobblerd.service`.

Bare Metal Provisioning

Systems that have not yet been provisioned are called bare metal systems. You can provision bare metal systems using Cobbler. Once a bare metal system has been provisioned in this way, it will appear in the `Systems` list, where you can perform regular provisioning with autoinstallation, for a completely unattended installation.

To successfully provision a bare metal system, you will require a fully patched SUSE Manager server.

The system to be provisioned must have x86_64 architecture, with at least 2 GB RAM, and be capable of PXE booting.

The server uses TFTP to provision the bare metal client, so the appropriate port and networks must be configured correctly in order for provisioning to be successful. In particular, ensure that you have a DHCP server, and have set the `next-server` parameter to the SUSE Manager server IP address or hostname.

Enable Bare Metal Systems Management

Bare metal systems management can be enabled or disabled in the SUSE Manager Web UI by navigating to **Admin > SUSE Manager Configuration > Bare-metal systems**.



New systems are added to the organization of the administrator who enabled the bare metal systems management feature. To change the organization, log in as an Administrator of the required organization, and re-enable the feature.

When the feature has been enabled, any bare metal system connected to the server network will be automatically added to the organization when it is powered on. The process can take a few minutes, and the system will automatically shut down when it is complete. The system will now be visible in the **Systems > System list**. Click on the name of the system to see basic information. For more details, go to the [Properties](#), [Notes](#), and [Hardware](#) tabs. You can migrate bare metal systems to other organizations if required, using the [Migrate](#) tab.

Provision Bare Metal Systems

Provisioning bare metal systems is similar to provisioning other systems, and can be done using the [Provisioning](#) tab. However, you will not be able to schedule provisioning, it will happen automatically as soon as the system is configured and powered on.



System Set Manager can be used with bare metal systems. However, not all SSM features are available, because bare metal systems do not have an operating system installed. This also applies to mixed sets that contain bare metal systems. All features will be re-enabled if the bare metal systems are removed from the set.

Other Clients

It is possible to register clients using operating systems from Red Hat, CentOS, or Ubuntu.

This section contains information specific to clients running operating systems other than those provided by SUSE.

Registering SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support Clients

This section contains information about registering traditional and Salt clients running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support (Expanded Support) operating systems.

Expanded Support clients are based on Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS.

They are sometimes also called SLESES, RES or Red Hat Expanded Support.



You are responsible for arranging access to Red Hat or CentOS base media repositories and installation media.



You must obtain support from SUSE for all your Expanded Support systems.



Traditional clients are not available on Expanded Support 8. Expanded Support 8 clients are only supported as Salt clients.

Server Requirements

Before you begin, check that your SUSE Manager Server meets the requirements at [**Installation > Hardware-requirements >**].

Taskomatic uses one CPU core, and requires at least 3072 MB of RAM. To ensure that taskomatic has access to enough memory, open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file, and add this line:

```
taskomatic.java.maxmemory=3072
```

Restart Taskomatic:

```
systemctl restart taskomatic
```

Add Client Tools

For Expanded Support clients, some required packages are contained on the Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS installation media. You must have these packages installed before you can register a Expanded

Support client.

The Expanded Support product is provided by SUSE Customer Center. This also includes the client tools package.

Before you register Expanded Support clients to your SUSE Manager Server, check that you have the corresponding Expanded Support product enabled, and the required channels are fully synchronized.

You need to select two different sets of channels, one for Expanded Support and the other for the Client Tools.

You will need an activation key associated with the correct Expanded Support channels. For more information about activation keys, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].



For Expanded Support 8 clients, add both the **BaseOS** and **Appstream** channels. You will require packages from both channels. If you do not add both channels, you will not be able to create the bootstrap repository, due to missing packages.

Procedure: Adding Client Tools Channels

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, add the appropriate Expanded Support channels:

- For Expanded Support 6:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL6 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools RES6 x86_64**.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-6** and **res6-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

- For Expanded Support 7:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL7 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools RES7 x86_64**.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-7** and **res7-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

- For Expanded Support 8:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL8 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Manager Tools for RHEL and ES 8 x86_64**.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-8** and **res8-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

2. Synchronize the SUSE Manager Server with the SUSE Customer Center. You can do this using the

Web UI, or by running `mgr-sync` at the command prompt.

3. Add the new channel to your activation key.

There are two ways to check if a channel has finished synchronizing:

- In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin** > **Setup Wizard** and select the **SUSE Products** tab.

This dialog displays a completion bar for each product when they are being synchronized.

- Check the synchronization log file at the command prompt with `tail -f /var/log/rhn/reposync/channel-label.log` file.

Each child channel will generate its own log during the synchronization progress. You will need to check all the base and child channel log files to be sure that the synchronization is complete.



The Expanded Support channels can be very large. The initial channel synchronization can sometimes take up to 24 hours.

When the initial synchronization is complete, we recommended you clone the channel before you work with it. This gives you a backup of the original synchronization data.

Add Base Media

The base Expanded Support channel does not contain any packages, because SUSE does not provide Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS base media. You will need to obtain base media from Red Hat or CentOS, which you can add as a child channel to the Expanded Support parent channel.

You can use SUSE Manager custom channels to set up the Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS media. All packages on the base media are mirrored into a child channel.



Procedure: Creating a Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS Custom Channel

- SLES ES 6 and 7, require only one child channel for the os repository
- SLES ES 8 requires two child channels for both the BaseOS and AppStream repositories. If you do not add both channels, you will not be able to create the bootstrap repository, due to missing packages.

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Software** > **Manage** > **Channels**.
2. Click **[Create Channel]** and set these parameters:
 - In the **Channel Name** field, type a name for your channel, specifying the OS name and architecture.
 - In the **Channel Label** field, type a label for your channel, specifying the OS name and

architecture.

- In the **Parent Channel** field, select the corresponding Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS distribution channel for your architecture. The parent channel will not contain any packages.
- In the **Architecture** field, select the appropriate architecture.
- In the **Repository Checksum Type** field, select **sha1**.
- In the **Channel Summary** field, type a summary for your channel, specifying the OS name and architecture.
- In the **Organization Sharing** field, select **Public**.

3. Click **[Create Channel]**.

4. Add the new channel to your activation key.

Procedure: Adding Base Media to Custom Channels

Mount the Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS 6, 7 or 8 Media:

1. On the SUSE Manager Server command prompt, as root, copy the base media image to the **/tmp** directory.
2. Create a directory to contain the media content. Replace **<os_name>** with either **rhel** or **centos**:

```
mkdir -p /srv/www/htdocs/pub/rhel
```

3. Mount the image:

```
mount -o loop /tmp/<iso_filename> /srv/www/htdocs/pub/rhel
```

4. Proceed to Syncing Base media for Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS 6,7, or 8.

Procedure: Syncing Base Media

The following steps require you to have mounted the base media for the selected distribution.

- For Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS 8:
 1. At the command prompt as root enter the following to sync the **BaseOS** channel:

```
spacewalk-repo-sync -c channel_name -u https://EXAMPLE.COM/pub/rhel/BaseOS/
```

2. Wait for the sync to complete.
3. At the command prompt as root enter the following to sync the **AppStream** channel:

```
spacewalk-repo-sync -c channel_name -u https://EXAMPLE.COM/pub/rhel/AppStream/
```

4. Wait for the sync to complete.

- For Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS 7:

At the command prompt as root enter the following:

```
spacewalk-repo-sync -c channel_name -u https://EXAMPLE.COM/pub/<os_name>/
```

- For Red Hat Enterprise Linux or CentOS 6:

At the command prompt as root enter the following:

```
spacewalk-repo-sync -c channel_name -u https://<SERVER-FQDN>/pub/<os_name>/Server/
```

Troubleshooting Synchronization

Sometimes, the `spacewalk-repo-sync` command will stop running during a synchronization, and give this error:

```
[Errno 256] No more mirrors to try.
```

If this occurs, run `spacewalk-repo-sync` in debugging mode to determine the error.

Start debugging mode:

```
export URLGRABBER_DEBUG=DEBUG
```

Check the output:

```
/usr/bin/spacewalk-repo-sync --channel <channel-label> --type yum
```

Disable debug mode:

```
unset URLGRABBER_DEBUG
```

Register Expanded Support Clients

You Expanded Support clients are now ready to be registered.

For more information on registering your clients, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-overview >**].

Registering Red Hat Enterprise Linux Clients

This section contains information about registering traditional and Salt clients running Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating systems.



Red Hat Enterprise Linux clients are based on Red Hat and are unrelated to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support, RES, Red Hat, or SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. You are responsible for arranging access to Red Hat base media repositories and RHEL installation media, as well as connecting SUSE Manager Server to the Red Hat content delivery network. You must obtain support from Red Hat for all your RHEL systems. If you do not do this, you might be violating your terms with Red Hat.



Traditional clients are not available on Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8. Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 clients are only supported as Salt clients.

Server Requirements

Before you begin, check that your SUSE Manager Server meets the requirements at [**Installation > Hardware-requirements >**].

Taskomatic uses one CPU core, and requires at least 3072 MB of RAM. To ensure that taskomatic has access to enough memory, open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file, and add this line:

```
taskomatic.java.maxmemory=3072
```

Restart Taskomatic:

```
systemctl restart taskomatic
```

Import Entitlements and CA Certificate

Red Hat clients require a Red Hat certificate authority (CA) and entitlement certificate, and an entitlement key.

Entitlement certificates are embedded with expiration dates, which match the length of the support subscription. To avoid disruption, you will need to repeat this process at the end of every support subscription period.

Red Hat supply a subscription manager tool to manage subscription assignments. It runs locally to track installed products and subscriptions. Clients must be registered with the subscription manager to obtain certificates.

Red Hat clients use a URL to replicate repositories. The URL will change depending on where the Red

Hat client is registered.

Red Hat clients can be registered in three different ways:

- Red Hat content delivery network (CDN) at redhat.com
- Red Hat Satellite Server
- Red Hat update infrastructure (RHUI) in the cloud

This guide covers clients registered to Red Hat CDN. You must have at least one system registered to the CDN, with an authorized subscription for repository content.



Entitlement certificates for RHUI (cloud-based systems) only allow you to download content, not repository data. Satellite certificates for client systems require a Satellite server and subscription. Clients using Satellite certificates are not supported with SUSE Manager Server.



Entitlement certificates are embedded with expiration dates, which match the length of the support subscription. To avoid disruption, you will need to repeat this process at the end of every support subscription period.

Red Hat supplies the subscription-manager tool to manage subscription assignments. It runs locally on the client system to track installed products and subscriptions. Register to redhat.com with subscription-manager, then follow this procedure to obtain certificates.

Procedure: Registering Clients to Subscription Manager

1. On the client system, at the command prompt, register with the subscription manager tool:

```
subscription-manager register
```

Enter your Red Hat Portal username and password when prompted.

2. Copy your entitlement certificate and key from the client system, to a location that the SUSE Manager Server can access:

```
cp /etc/pki/entitlement/ /<example>/entitlement/
```



Your entitlement certificate and key will both have a file extension of **.pem**.
The key will also have **key** in the filename.

3. Copy the Red Hat CA Certificate file from the client system, to the same web location as the entitlement certificate and key:

```
cp /etc/rhsm/ca/redhat-uep.pem /example/entitlement
```

To manage repositories on your Red Hat client, you need to import the CA and entitlement certificates to the SUSE Manager Server. This requires three entries: one each for the entitlement certificate, the entitlement key, and the Red Hat certificate.

Procedure: Importing Certificates to the Server

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Autoinstallation > GPG and SSL Keys**.
2. Click [**Create Stored Key/Cert**] and set these parameters for the entitlement certificate:
 - In the **Description** field, type **Entitlement-Cert-date**.
 - In the **Type** field, select **SSL**.
 - In the **Select file to upload** field, browse to the location where you saved the entitlement certificate, and select the **.pem** certificate file.
3. Click [**Create Key**].
4. Click [**Create Stored Key/Cert**] and set these parameters for the entitlement key:
 - In the **Description** field, type **Entitlement-key-date**.
 - In the **Type** field, select **SSL**.
 - In the **Select file to upload** field, browse to the location where you saved the entitlement key, and select the **.pem** key file.
5. Click [**Create Key**].
6. Click [**Create Stored Key/Cert**] and set these parameters for the Red Hat certificate:
 - In the **Description** field, type **redhat-uep**.
 - In the **Type** field, select **SSL**.
 - In the **Select file to upload** field, browse to the location where you saved the Red Hat certificate, and select the certificate file.
7. Click [**Create Key**].

Repository Management

You can use the subscription manager tool to get the URLs of the repositories you want to mirror:

```
subscription-manager repos
```

You can use these repository URLs to create custom repositories. This allows you to mirror only the content you need to manage your clients.



For Red Hat 8 clients, add both the **BaseOS** and **Appstream** channels. You will require packages from both channels. If you do not add both channels, you will not be able to create the bootstrap repository, due to missing packages.



You can only create custom versions of Red Hat repositories if you have the correct entitlements in your Red Hat Portal.

Procedure: Creating Custom Repositories

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Software > Manage > Repositories**.
2. Click **[Create Repository]** and set these parameters for the entitlement certificate:
 - In the **Repository Label** field, type **rhel-7-server-rpms**.
 - In the **Repository URL** field, type the URL of the repository to mirror. For example, https://cdn.redhat.com/content/dist/rhel/server/7/7Server/x86_64/os/.
 - In the **Has Signed Metadata?** field, uncheck all Red Hat Enterprise Repositories.
 - In the **SSL CA Certificate** field, select **redhat-uep**.
 - In the **SSL Client Certificate** field, select **Entitlement-Cert-date**.
 - In the **SSL Client Key** field, select **Entitlement-Key-date**.
 - Leave all other fields as the default values.
3. Click **[Create Repository]**.
4. Repeat for every repository you want to define.

When you have created the custom repositories, you can create corresponding custom channels.

Procedure: Creating Custom Channels

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Software > Manage > Channels**.
2. Click **[Create Channel]** and set these parameters for the entitlement certificate. Ensure you use the correct RHEL version:
 - In the **Channel Name** field, type **RHEL 7 x86_64**.
 - In the **Channel Label** field, type **rhel7-x86_64-server**.
 - In the **Parent Channel** field, select **None**.
 - In the **Architecture** field, select **x86_64**.
 - In the **Repository Checksum Type** field, select **sha1**.
 - In the **Channel Summary** field, type **RHEL 7 x86_64**.
 - In the **Organization Sharing** field, select **Public**.
3. Click **[Create Channel]**.

4. Navigate to the **Repositories** tab, check the appropriate repository, and click **[Update repositories]**.
5. OPTIONAL: Navigate to the **Sync** tab to set a recurring schedule for synchronization of this repository.
6. Click **[Sync Now]** to begin synchronization immediately.



Red Hat Enterprise Linux channels can be very large. Synchronization can sometimes take several hours.

When you have created the custom channels and synchronized them with the repositories, you can create child channels.

Procedure: Creating Child Channels

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Software > Manage > Channels**.
2. Click **[Create Channel]** and set these parameters for the entitlement certificate. Ensure you use the correct RHEL version:
 - In the **Channel Name** field, type **RHEL 7 x86_64**.
 - In the **Channel Label** field, type **rhel7-x86_64-extras**.
 - In the **Parent Channel** field, select **rhel7-x86_64-server**.
 - In the **Architecture** field, select **x86_64**.
 - In the **Repository Checksum Type** field, select **sha1**.
 - In the **Channel Summary** field, type **RHEL 7 x86_64 Extras**.
 - In the **Organization Sharing** field, select **Public**.
3. Click **[Create Channel]**.
4. Navigate to the **Repositories** tab, check the appropriate repository, and click **[Update repositories]**.
5. OPTIONAL: Navigate to the **Sync** tab to set a recurring schedule for synchronization of this repository.
6. Click **[Sync Now]** to begin synchronization immediately.



Red Hat Enterprise Linux channels can be very large. Synchronization can sometimes take several hours.

Add Client Tools

When you have set up all the custom channels, you can add the client tools.

For this section, you will require an activation key. For more information about activation keys, see [

Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >].

Your SUSE Manager subscription entitles you to the tools channels for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support (also known as Red Hat Expanded Support or RES). You must use the client tools channel to create the bootstrap repository. This procedure applies to both traditional and Salt minions.

Procedure: Adding Client Tools Channels

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, add the appropriate Expanded Support channels:

- For Expanded Support 6:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL6 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools RES6 x86_64**.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-6** and **res6-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

- For Expanded Support 7:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL7 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools RES7 x86_64**.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-7** and **res7-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

- For Expanded Support 8:

From the Web UI, add **RHEL8 Base x86_64** and **SUSE Manager Tools for RHEL and ES 8 x86_64**. You will also need to add the **Appstream** channel.

From the command prompt, add **rhel-x86_64-server-8** and **res8-suse-manager-tools-x86_64**.

2. Synchronize the SUSE Manager Server with the SUSE Customer Center. You can do this using the Web UI, or by running **mgr-sync** at the command prompt.
3. Add the new channel to your activation key.

You can choose to disable the Red Hat Enterprise Linux subscription-manager yum plugins.

The yum plugins are disabled with a configuration Salt state.



This procedure is optional.

Procedure: Creating a Salt State to Deploy Configuration Files

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Configuration > Channels**.

2. Click **[Create State Channel]**

- In the **Name** field, type `subscription-manager: disable yum plugins`.
- In the **Label** field, type `subscription-manager-disable-yum-plugins`.
- In the **Description** field, type `subscription-manager: disable yum plugins`.
- In the **SLS Contents** field, leave it empty.

3. Click **[Create Config Channel]**4. Click **[Create Configuration File]**

- In the **Filename/Path** field type `/etc/yum/pluginconf.d/subscription-manager.conf`.
- In the **File Contents** field type:

```
[main]
enabled=0
```

1. Click **[Create Configuration File]**

2. Take note of the value of the field **Salt Filesystem Path**.
3. Click on the name of the Configuration Channel.
4. Click on **View/Edit 'init.sls' File**
 - In the **File Contents** field, type:

```
configure_subscription-manager-disable-yum-plugins:
  cmd.run:
    - name: subscription-manager config --rhsm.auto_enable_yum_plugins=0
    - watch:
      - file: /etc/yum/pluginconf.d/subscription-manager.conf
  file.managed:
    - name: /etc/yum/pluginconf.d/subscription-manager.conf
    - source: salt:///etc/yum/pluginconf.d/subscription-manager.conf
```

1. Click **[Update Configuration File]***Procedure: Creating a System Group for Red Hat Enterprise Linux Clients*

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Systems > System Groups**.
2. Click **[Create Group]**.
 - In the **Name** field, type `rhel-systems`.
 - In the **Description** field, type `All RHEL systems`.
3. Click **[Create Group]**.
4. Click **States** tab.

5. Click **Configuration Channels** tab.
6. Type **subscription-manager: disable yum plugins** at the search box.
7. Click **[Search]** and the state will appear.
8. Click the checkbox for the state at the **Assign** column.
9. Click **[Save changes]**.
10. Click **[Confirm]**.

If you already have RHEL systems added to SUSE Manager, assign them to the new system group, and then apply the highstate.

Procedure: Adding the System Group to Activation Keys

You need to modify the activation keys you used for RHEL systems to include the system group created above.

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Activation Keys**.
2. For each the Activation Keys you used for RHEL systems, click on it and:
3. Navigate to the **Groups** tab, and the **Join** subtab.
4. Check **Select rhel-systems`**.
5. Click **[Join Selected Groups]**.

Trust GPG Keys on Clients

By default, Red Hat Enterprise Linux does not trust the GPG key for SUSE Manager Expanded Support client tools.

The clients can be successfully bootstrapped without the GPG key being trusted. However, they will not be able to install new client tool packages or update them. If this occurs, add GPG key to the **ORG_GPG_KEY=** parameter in all Red Hat Enterprise Linux bootstrap scripts.

For example, for SLES ES 6 (**RES6-SUSE-Manager-Tools**) use:

```
sle11-gpg-pubkey-307e3d54.key
```

For example, for SLES ES 7 (**RES7-SUSE-Manager-Tools**) and SLES ES 8 (**RES8-SUSE-Manager-Tools**), and Ubuntu 16.04 (**Ubuntu-16.04-SUSE-Manager-Tools**) and Ubuntu 18.04 (**Ubuntu-18.04-SUSE-Manager-Tools**) use:

```
sle12-gpg-pubkey-39db7c82.key
```

You will find all keys available on the server in **/srv/www/htdocs/pub/**:

```
ptf-gpg-pubkey-b37b98a9.key
res-gpg-pubkey-0182b964.key
sle10-gpg-pubkey-9c800aca.key
sle11-gpg-pubkey-307e3d54.key
sle12-gpg-pubkey-39db7c82.key
sle12-reserve-gpg-pubkey-50a3dd1c.key
```

You do not need to delete any previously stored keys.

If you are bootstrapping clients from the SUSE Manager Web UI, you will need to use a Salt state to trust the key. Create the Salt state and assign it to the organization. You can then use an activation key and configuration channels to deploy the key to the clients.

Register Clients

To register your Red Hat clients, you will need a bootstrap repository. Create the bootstrap repository at the command prompt, with this command:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo --with-custom-channels
```

For more information on registering your clients, see [[Client-configuration > Registration-overview >](#)].

Registering CentOS Clients

This section contains information about registering traditional and Salt clients running CentOS operating systems.



CentOS clients are based on CentOS and are unrelated to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support, RES, Red Hat, or Expanded Support. You are responsible for arranging access to CentOS base media repositories and CentOS installation media, as well as connecting SUSE Manager Server to the CentOS content delivery network.



SUSE does not provide support for CentOS operating systems. SUSE Manager allows you to manage CentOS clients, but support is not provided.



Traditional clients are not available on CentOS 8. CentOS 8 clients are only supported as Salt clients.

Server Requirements

Before you begin, check that your SUSE Manager Server meets the requirements at [[Installation > Hardware-requirements >](#)].

Taskomatic uses one CPU core, and requires at least 3072 MB of RAM. To ensure that taskomatic has

access to enough memory, open the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file, and add this line:

```
taskomatic.java.maxmemory=3072
```

Restart Taskomatic:

```
systemctl restart taskomatic
```

Channel and Repository Management

The `spacewalk-utils` package contains a number of command line tools required for client administration, including the `spacewalk-common-channels` tool.



SUSE only provides support for `spacewalk-clone-by-date` and `spacewalk-manage-channel-lifecycle` tools.



For CentOS 8 clients, add both the `BaseOS` and `Appstream` channels. You will require packages from both channels. If you do not add both channels, you will not be able to create the bootstrap repository, due to missing packages.

Procedure: Adding Channels and Repositories

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, install the `spacewalk-utils` package:

```
zypper in spacewalk-utils
```

2. Add the CentOS base, updates, and client channels, specifying the CentOS version and architecture:
 - For CentOS 6:

```
spacewalk-common-channels -a x86_64 centos6 \
centos6-uyuni-client centos6-updates
```

- For CentOS 7:

```
spacewalk-common-channels -a x86_64 centos7 \
centos7-uyuni-client centos7-updates
```

- For CentOS 8:

```
spacewalk-common-channels -a x86_64 centos8 \
centos8-uyuni-client centos8-appstream
```



The client tools channel provided by [spacewalk-common-channels](#) is sourced from Uyuni and not from SUSE.

Procedure: Synchronizing CentOS repositories

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Software** > **Manage**, and check every CentOS channel.
2. In the [Repositories](#) tab, navigate to the [Sync](#) subtab, and click [**Sync Now**]. You can also create a regular synchronization schedule on this page.

Create an Activation Key

You will need to create an activation key that is associated with your CentOS channels.

For more information on activation keys, see [[Client-configuration](#) > [Clients-and-activation-keys](#) >].

Register Clients

CentOS clients are registered in the same way as all other clients. For more information, see [[Client-configuration](#) > [Registration-overview](#) >].

Manage Errata

When you update CentOS clients, the packages do not include metadata about the updates. You can use a third-party errata service to obtain this information.



The third-party errata service described here is provided and maintained by the community. It is not supported by SUSE.

Procedure: Installing an Errata Service

1. From the command prompt, as root, add the [sle-module-development-tools](#) module:

```
SUSEConnect --product sle-module-development-tools/15.1/x86_64
```

2. Install the errata service:

```
zypper in perl-Text-Unidecode
```

3. Create a file for your errata script:

```
touch /usr/local/bin/cent-errata.sh
```

4. Edit the new file to include this script, editing the repository details as required. This script fetches the errata details from an external errata service, unpacks it, and publishes the details:

```
#!/bin/bash
mkdir -p /usr/local/centos
cd /usr/local/centos
rm *.xml
wget -c http://cefs.steve-meier.de/errata.latest.xml
#wget -c https://www.redhat.com/security/data/oval/com.redhat.rhsa-all.xml
wget -c https://www.redhat.com/security/data/oval/com.redhat.rhsa-RHEL7.xml
wget -c http://cefs.steve-meier.de/errata-import.tar
tar xvf errata-import.tar
chmod +x /usr/local/centos/errata-import.pl
export SPACEWALK_USER='<adminname>';export SPACEWALK_PASS='<password>'
/usr/local/centos/errata-import.pl --server '<servername>' \
--errata /usr/local/centos/errata.latest.xml \
--include-channels=centos7-x86_64-updates,centos7-x86_64,centos7-x86_64-extras \
--publish --rhsa-oval /usr/local/centos/com.redhat.rhsa-RHEL7.xml
```

5. Set up a cron job to run the script daily:

```
ln -s /usr/local/bin/cent-errata.sh /etc/cron.daily
```

For more information on this tool, see <https://cefs.steve-meier.de/>.

Registering Ubuntu Clients

This section contains information about registering Salt clients running Ubuntu operating systems.

SUSE Manager supports Ubuntu 16.04 LTS, 18.04 LTS, and 20.04 LTS Clients using Salt. Traditional clients are not supported.



Canonical does not endorse or support SUSE Manager.

Supported features:

- Bootstrapping
- Synchronizing **.deb** channels
- Assigning **.deb** channels to clients
- GPG signing **.deb** repositories
- Information displayed in System details pages
- Package install, update, and remove
- Package install using **Package States**
- Configuration and state channels

Bootstrapping is supported for starting Ubuntu clients and performing initial state runs such as setting repositories and performing profile updates.

However, the root user on Ubuntu is disabled by default, so in order to use bootstrapping, you will require an existing user with `sudo` privileges for Python. For instructions, see the [Granting Root User Access](#) procedure in the [Root Access](#) section.

Some actions are not yet supported:

- Patch and errata support
- Bare metal installations, PXE booting, and virtual host provisioning
- Live patching
- CVE Audit
- If you use are using a repository from storage media (`server.susemanager.fromdir = ...` option in `rhncnf`), Ubuntu Client Tools will not work.

Prepare to Register

Some preparation is required before you can register Ubuntu clients to the SUSE Manager Server.

Procedure: Adding client tools channels

Before you begin, ensure you have the Ubuntu product enabled, and have synchronized the Ubuntu channels for SUSE Customer Center:

For Ubuntu 16.04:

- From the Web UI, add [Ubuntu 16.04](#) and [SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools Ubuntu 1604 amd64](#).
- From the command prompt, add `ubuntu-16.04-pool-amd64` and `ubuntu-16.04-suse-manager-tools-amd64`.

For Ubuntu 18.04:

- From the Web UI, add [Ubuntu 18.04](#) and [SUSE Linux Enterprise Client Tools Ubuntu 1804 amd64](#).
- From the command prompt, add `ubuntu-18.04-pool-amd64` and `ubuntu-18.04-suse-manager-tools-amd64`.



The mandatory channels do not contain Ubuntu upstream packages. The repositories and channels for synchronizing upstream content must be configured manually.

In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Software > Channel List > All**. Verify that you have a base channel and a child channel for your architecture.

For example:

- Base channel: `ubuntu-18.04-pool for amd64`
- Child channel: `Ubuntu-18.04-SUSE-Manager-Tools for amd64`

Procedure: Creating Custom Repositories

1. On the SUSE Manager Server Web UI, navigate to **Software > Manage > Repositories**.
2. Click **[Create Repository]** and set these parameters for the `main` repository:
 - In the **Repository Label** field, type `ubuntu-bionic-main`.
 - In the **Repository URL** field, type `http://ubuntumirror.example.com/ubuntu/dists/bionic/main/binary-amd64/`.
 - In the **Repository Type** field, select `deb`.
 - Leave all other fields as the default values.
3. Click **[Create Repository]**
4. Click **[Create Repository]** and set these parameters for the `main-updates` repository:
 - In the **Repository Label** field, type `ubuntu-bionic-main-updates`.
 - In the **Repository URL** field, type `http://ubuntumirror.example.com/ubuntu/dists/bionic-updates/main/binary-amd64/`.
 - In the **Repository Type** field, select `deb`.
 - Leave all other fields as the default values.
5. Click **[Create Repository]**.

When you have created the repositories, you can create the custom channels.

Ensure the custom channels you create have `AMD64 Debian` architecture.

Your custom channels should use this structure:

- Parent channel: `ubuntu-18.04-pool for amd64`
- Child vendor channel: `Ubuntu-18.04-SUSE-Manager-Tools for amd64`
- Child custom channel: `ubuntu-18.04-amd64-main`
- Child custom channel: `ubuntu-18.04-amd64-main-updates`

When you have the channels set up, associate each channel with the appropriate repository, and synchronize then channels.



You need all the new channels fully synchronized before bootstrapping any Ubuntu client.



Ubuntu channels can be very large. Synchronization can sometimes take several hours.

There are two ways to check if a channel has finished synchronizing:

- In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin > Setup Wizard** and select the **SUSE Products** tab.

This dialog displays a completion bar for each product when they are being synchronized.

- Check the synchronization log file at the command prompt with `tail -f /var/log/rhn/reposync/channel-label.log`.

Each child channel will generate its own log during the synchronization progress. You will need to check all the base and child channel log files to be sure that the synchronization is complete.

Root Access

The root user on Ubuntu is disabled by default. You can enable it by editing the **sudoers** file.

Procedure: Granting Root User Access

1. On the client, edit the **sudoers** file:

```
sudo visudo
```

Grant **sudo** access to the user by adding this line at the end of the **sudoers** file. Replace **<user>** with the name of the user that will be used to bootstrap the client in the Web UI:

```
<user> ALL=NOPASSWD: /usr/bin/python, /usr/bin/python2, /usr/bin/python3
```

Register Clients

1. To register your Ubuntu clients, you will need a bootstrap repository. Create the bootstrap repository at the command prompt, with this command:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo --with-custom-channels
```

For more information on registering your clients, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-overview >**].

Virtualization

You can use SUSE Manager to manage virtualized clients in addition to regular traditional or Salt clients. In this type of installation, a virtual host is installed on the SUSE Manager Server to manage any number of virtual guests. If you choose to, you can install several virtual hosts to manage groups of guests.

The range of capabilities that virtualized clients have depends on the third-party virtualization provider you choose.

Xen and KVM hosts and guests can be managed directly in SUSE Manager. This enables you to autoinstall hosts and guests using AutoYaST or Kickstart, and manage guests in the Web UI.

For VMWare, including VMWare vSphere, SUSE Manager requires you to set up a virtual host manager (VHM) to control the VMs. This gives you control over the hosts and guests, but in a more limited way than available with Xen and KVM.

Other third-party virtualization providers are not directly supported by SUSE Manager. However, if your provider allows you to export a JSON configuration file for the VM, you can upload that configuration file to SUSE Manager and manage it with a VHM.

Virtualization with Xen and KVM

Xen and KVM virtualized clients can be managed directly in SUSE Manager.

To begin, you will need to set up a virtual host on your SUSE Manager Server. You can then set up autoinstallation using AutoYaST or Kickstart for future virtual hosts, and for virtual guests.

This section also includes information about administering your virtual guests after they have been installed.

Host Setup

The way that you set up Xen or KVM on a VM host depends on what operating system you want to use on its associated guests.

For SUSE operating systems, see the SLES Virtualization Guide available from <https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP1/html/SLES-all/book-virt.html>.

For Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating systems, refer to the Red Hat documentation for your version.

SUSE Manager uses `libvirt` to install and manage guests. You must have the `libvirt` package installed on your host. In most cases, the default settings are usually sufficient, and you should not need to adjust them. However, if you want to access the VNC console on your guests as a non-root user, you will need to perform some configuration changes. For more information about how to set this up, consult the relevant documentation for your operating system.

You will require a bootstrap script on the SUSE Manager Server. Your bootstrap script must include the

activation key for your host. We also recommend that you include your GPG key for additional security. For more on creating a bootstrap script, see [[Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >](#)].

When your bootstrap script is ready, execute it on the host to register it with the SUSE Manager Server. For more on client registration, see [[Client-configuration > Registration-overview >](#)].

For Salt clients, you will need to enable the [Virtualization Host](#) entitlement. This allows you to see VM changes instantly. To do this, in the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to the [System Details](#) page for the host, and click on the [Properties](#) tab. In the [Add-On System Types](#) section, check [Virtualization Host](#), and click [**Update Properties**] to save the changes. You will need to schedule a hardware refresh to activate the change. Navigate to [System Details > Hardware](#), and click [**Schedule Hardware Refresh**].

By default, VM hosts use the [rhnsd](#) service to check for scheduled actions every four hours, in order to load balance in environments where there are a lot of clients. This can create delays of up to four hours before an action is carried out. When you are managing VM guests, this long delay is not always ideal, especially for actions like rebooting a guest. To address this, you can disable the [rhnsd](#) service, and enable the [osad](#) service. The [osad](#) service receives commands using a jabber protocol, and will execute commands instantly.

To disable the [rhnsd](#) service, and enable the [osad](#) daemon, run these commands as the root user:

```
service rhnsd stop
service rhnsd disable
```

```
service osad enable
service osad start
```

Autoinstallation

You can use AutoYaST or Kickstart to automatically install and register Xen and KVM guests.

You will require an activation key for the VM host you want to register the guests to, and for each guest. Your activation key must have the [provisioning](#) and [Virtualization Platform](#) entitlements. Your activation key must also have access to the [mgr-virtualization-host](#) and [mgr-osad](#) packages. For more on creating activation keys, see [[Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >](#)].

If you want to automatically register the guests with SUSE Manager after installation, you will need to create a bootstrap script. For more on creating a bootstrap script, see [[Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >](#)].



Autoinstallation of VM guests works only if they are configured as Traditional clients. Salt clients can be created using a template disk image, but not by using AutoYaST or Kickstart.

Create an Autoinstallable Distribution

You will need to create an autoinstallable distribution on the VM host to be able to autoinstall clients from SUSE Manager. The distribution can be made available from a mounted local or remote directory, or on a loop-mounted ISO image.

The configuration of the autoinstallable distribution will differ depending on whether you are using a SLES or Red Hat Enterprise Linux operating system on your guests. The packages for a Red Hat Enterprise Linux installation are fetched from the associated base channel. Packages for installing SUSE systems are fetched from the autoinstallable distribution. Therefore, for SLES systems, the autoinstallable distribution must be a complete installation source.

Table 7. Paths for autoinstallable distributions

Operating System Type	Kernel Location	initrd Location
Red Hat Enterprise Linux	<code>images/pxeboot/vmlinuz</code>	<code>images/pxeboot/initrd.img</code>
SLES	<code>boot/<arch>/loader/initrd</code>	<code>boot/<arch>/loader/linux</code>

In all cases, ensure that the base channel matches the autoinstallable distribution.

Before you begin, ensure you have a installation media available to your VM Host. It can be on a network resource, a local directory, or an loop-mounted ISO image. Additionally, ensure that all files and directories are world-readable.

Procedure: Creating an Autoinstallable Distribution

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Distributions** and click **[Create Distribution]**.
2. In the **Create Autoinstallable Distribution** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Distribution Label** section, type a unique name for the distribution. Use only letters, numbers, hyphens (-), periods (.), and underscores (_), and ensure the name is longer than four characters.
 - In the **Tree Path** field, type an absolute path to the installation source.
 - In the **Base Channel** field, select the channel that matches the installation source. This channel is used as the package source for non-SUSE installations.
 - In the **Installer Generation** field, select the operating system version that matches the installation source.
 - In the **Kernel Options** field, type any options to be passed to the kernel when booting for the installation. The `install=` parameter and the `self_update=0pt.options=self_update` parameter are added by default.
 - In the **Post Kernel Options** section, type any options to be passed to the kernel when

booting the installed system for the first time.

3. Click **[Create Autoinstallable Distribution]** to save.

When you have created an autoinstallable distribution, you can edit it by navigating to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Distributions** and selecting the distribution you want to edit.

Create and Upload an Autoinstallation Profile

Autoinstallation profiles contain all the installation and configuration data needed to install a system. They can also contain scripts to be executed after the installation is complete.

Kickstart profiles can be created using the SUSE Manager Web UI, by navigating to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles**, clicking **[Create New Kickstart File]**, and following the prompts. You can also create AutoYaST or Kickstart autoinstallation profiles by hand.

An example AutoYaST profile that includes a script for registering the client with SUSE Manager is available in **[Client-configuration > Autoyast-example >]**. If you are using AutoYaST to install SLES, you will also need to include this snippet:

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

- For more on AutoYaST, see **[Client-configuration > Client-automating-installation >]**.
- For more on Kickstart, see **[Client-configuration > Kickstart >]**, or refer to the Red Hat documentation for your installation.

Procedure: Uploading an Autoinstallation Profile

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles** and click **[Upload Kickstart/AutoYaST File]**.
2. In the **Create Autoinstallation Profile** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a unique name for the profile. Use only letters, numbers, hyphens (-), periods (.), and underscores (_), and ensure the name is longer than six characters.
 - In the **Autoinstall Tree** field, select the autoinstallable distribution you created earlier.
 - In the **Virtualization Type** field, select the relevant Guest type (for example, **KVM Virtualized Guest**). Do not choose **Xen Virtualized Host** here.
 - OPTIONAL: If you want to manually create your autoinstallation profile, you can type it directly into the **File Contents** field. If you have a file already created, leave the **File Contents** field blank.
 - In the **File to Upload** field, click **[Choose File]**, and use the system dialog to select the file to upload. If the file is successfully uploaded, the filename will be shown in the **File to Upload** field.

- The contents of the uploaded file will be shown in the **File Contents** field. If you need to make edits, you can do so directly.

3. Click **[Create]** to save your changes and store the profile.

When you have created an autoinstallation profile, you can edit it by navigating to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles** and selecting the profile you want to edit. Make the desired changes and save your settings by clicking **[Create]**.



If you change the **Virtualization Type** of an existing Kickstart profile, it might also modify the bootloader and partition options, potentially overwriting any custom settings. Carefully review the **Partitioning** tab to verify these settings before making changes.

Automatically Register Guests

When you install VM guests automatically, they are not registered to SUSE Manager. If you want your guests to be automatically registered as soon as they are installed, you can add a section to the autoinstallation profile that invokes a bootstrap script, and registers the guests.

This section gives instructions for adding a bootstrap script to an existing AutoYaST profile.

For more on creating a bootstrap script, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >**]. For instructions on how to do this for {kickstart}, refer to the Red Hat documentation for your installation.

Procedure: Adding a Bootstrap Script to an AutoYaST Profile

1. Ensure your bootstrap script contains the activation key for the VM guests you want to register with it, and that is located on the host at **/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap_vm_guests.sh**.
2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Autoinstallation > Profiles**, and select the AutoYaST profile to associate this script with.
3. In the **File Contents** field, add this snippet at the end of the file, immediately before the closing **</profile>** tag. Ensure you replace the example IP address in the snippet with the correct IP address for your SUSE Manager Server:

```
<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>
```

4. Click **Update** to save your changes.



If your AutoYaST profile already contains a `<scripts>` section, do not add a second one. Place the bootstrap snippet inside the existing `<scripts>` section.

Autoinstall VM Guests

Once you have everything set up, you can start to autoinstall your VM guests.



Each VM host can only install one guest at a time. If you are scheduling more than one autoinstallation, make sure you time them so that the next installation does not begin before the previous one has completed. If a guest installation starts while another one is still running, the running installation will be canceled.

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Overview**, and select the VM host you want to install guests on.
2. Navigate to the **Virtualization** tab, and the **Provisioning** subtab.
3. Select the autoinstallation profile you want to use, and specify a unique name for the guest.
4. Choose a proxy if applicable and enter a schedule.
5. To change the guest's hardware profile and configuration options, click **[Advanced Options]**.
6. Click **[Schedule Autoinstallation and Finish]** to complete.

Manage VM Guests

You can use the SUSE Manager Web UI to manage your VM Guests, including actions like shutting down and restarting, and adjusting CPU and memory allocations.

To do this, you will need your Xen or KVM VM host registered to the SUSE Manager Server, and have the **libvirtd** service running on the host. You will also need the **mgr-cfg-actions** package installed on your SUSE Manager Server.

In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > System List**, and click on the VM host for the guests you want to manage. Navigate to the **Virtualization** tab to see all guests registered to this host, and access the management functions.

For more information on managing VM guests using the Web UI, see **[Reference > Systems >]**.

Virtualization with VMWare

You can use VMWare vSphere virtual machines, including ESXi and vCenter, with SUSE Manager by setting up a virtual host manager (VHM).

To begin, you will need to set up a VHM on your SUSE Manager Server, and inventory the available VM hosts. Taskomatic can then begin data collection using the VMs API.

VHM Setup

The Virtual Host Manager (VHM) runs on the SUSE Manager Server.

To run a VHM, your SUSE Manager Server will need to have port 443 open, in order to access the VMWare API.

VMWare hosts use access roles and permissions to control access to hosts and guests. Ensure that any VMWare objects or resources that you want to be inventoried by the VHM have at least **read-only** permissions. If you want to exclude any objects or resources, mark them with **no-access**.

When you are adding new hosts to SUSE Manager, you will need to consider if the roles and permissions that have been assigned to users and objects need to be inventoried by SUSE Manager.

For more on users, roles, and permissions, see the VMWare vSphere documentation: <https://docs.vmware.com/en/VMware-vSphere/index.html>

Procedure: Creating a VMWare VHM

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Click [**Create**] and select **VMWare-based**.
3. In the **Add a VMWare-based Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - In the **Hostname** field, type the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) or host IP address.
 - In the **Port** field, type the ESXi API port to use (for example, **443**).
 - In the **Username** field, type the username associated with the VM host.
 - In the **Password** field, type the password associated with the VM host user.
4. Click [**Create**] to save your changes and create the VHM.
5. On the **Virtual Host Managers** page select the new VHM.
6. On the **Properties** page, click [**Refresh Data**] to inventory the new VHM.

To see which objects and resources have been inventoried, navigate to **Systems > 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.

After your VHM has been created and configured, Taskomatic will run data collection automatically. If

you want to manually perform data collection, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**, select the appropriate VHM, and click **[Refresh Data]**.

SUSE Manager ships with a tool called **virtual-host-gatherer** that can connect to VHMs using their API, and request information about virtual hosts. **virtual-host-gatherer** maintains the concept of optional modules, where each module enables a specific VHM. This tool is automatically invoked nightly by Taskomatic. Log files for the **virtual-host-gatherer** tool are located at **/var/log/rhn/gather.log**.

Virtualization with Other Third Party Providers

If you want to use a third-party virtualization provider other than Xen, KVM, or VMware, you can import a JSON configuration file to SUSE Manager.

Similarly, if you have a VMWare installation that does not provide direct access to the API, a file-based VHM will provide you with some basic management features.



This option is for importing files that have been created with the **virtual-host-gatherer** tool. It is not designed for manually created files.

Procedure: Exporting and Importing a JSON File

1. Export the JSON configuration file by running **virtual-host-gatherer** on the VM network.
2. Save the produced file to a location accessible by your SUSE Manager Server.
3. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
4. Click **[Create]** and select **File-based**.
5. In the **Add a file-based Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - In the **Url** field, type the path to your exported JSON configuration file.
6. Click **[Create]** to save your changes and create the VHM.
7. On the **Virtual Host Managers** page, select the new VHM.
8. On the **Properties** page, click **[Refresh Data]** to inventory the new VHM.

Listing 2. Example: Exported JSON configuration file:

```
{
  "examplevhost": {
    "10.11.12.13": {
      "cpuArch": "x86_64",
      "cpuDescription": "AMD Opteron(tm) Processor 4386",
      "cpuMhz": 3092.212727,
      "cpuVendor": "amd",
      "hostIdentifier": "'vim.HostSystem:host-182'",
      "name": "10.11.12.13",
      "os": "VMware ESXi",
      "osVersion": "5.5.0",
      "ramMb": 65512,
      "totalCpuCores": 16,
      "totalCpuSockets": 2,
      "totalCpuThreads": 16,
      "type": "vmware",
      "vms": {
        "vCenter": "564d6d90-459c-2256-8f39-3cb2bd24b7b0"
      }
    },
    "10.11.12.14": {
      "cpuArch": "x86_64",
      "cpuDescription": "AMD Opteron(tm) Processor 4386",
      "cpuMhz": 3092.212639,
      "cpuVendor": "amd",
      "hostIdentifier": "'vim.HostSystem:host-183'",
      "name": "10.11.12.14",
      "os": "VMware ESXi",
      "osVersion": "5.5.0",
      "ramMb": 65512,
      "totalCpuCores": 16,
      "totalCpuSockets": 2,
      "totalCpuThreads": 16,
      "type": "vmware",
      "vms": {
        "49737e0a-c9e6-4ceb-aef8-6a9452f67cb5": "4230c60f-3f98-2a65-f7c3-600b26b79c22",
        "5a2e4e63-a957-426b-bfa8-4169302e4fdb": "42307b15-1618-0595-01f2-427ffcddd88e",
        "NSX-gateway": "4230d43e-aafe-38ba-5a9e-3cb67c03a16a",
        "NSX-l3gateway": "4230b00f-0b21-0e9d-dfde-6c7b06909d5f",
        "NSX-service": "4230e924-b714-198b-348b-25de01482fd9"
      }
    }
  }
}
```

For more information, see the man page on your SUSE Manager server for [virtual-host-gatherer](#):

```
man virtual-host-gatherer
```

The [README](#) file of that package provides background information about the [type](#) of a hypervisor, etc.:

```
/usr/share/doc/packages/virtual-host-gatherer/README.md
```

The man page and the [README](#) file also contain example configuration files.

Virtual Host Managers

Virtual Host Managers (VHMs) are used to gather information from a range of client types.

VHMs can be used to collect private or public cloud instances and organize them into virtualization groups. With your virtualized clients organized this way, Taskomatic collects data on the clients for display in the SUSE Manager Web UI. VHMs also allow you to use subscription matching on your virtualized clients.

You can create a VHM on your SUSE Manager Server, and use it to inventory available public cloud instances. You can also use a VHM to manage clusters created with Kubernetes and SUSE CaaS Platform.

For more information on using a VHM with Microsoft Azure, see [**Client-configuration** > **Vhm-azure** >]. For more information on using a VHM with Amazon Web Services, see [**Client-configuration** > **Vhm-aws** >]. For more information on using a VHM with Google Compute Engine, see [**Client-configuration** > **Vhm-gce** >]. For more information on using a VHM with Kubernetes, see [**Client-configuration** > **Vhm-kubernetes** >].

SUSE Support and VM Zones

Public cloud providers use regions to define the physical geographic location of the datacenter providing virtual machines. For example, **US-East**, or **Asia**.

Regions are then further divided into zones. For example, the **US-East** region might contain zones called **us-east-2a** and **us-east-2b**, among others.

SUSE uses the zone of a virtual machine to determine the appropriate subscription to provide. If all of your VMs are provided by the same zone, you are within the terms and conditions of the **1-2 Virtual Machines** subscription.

If your VMs are provided by different zones, even if they are within the same region, you might not meet the conditions of the **1-2 Virtual Machines** subscription. In this case, check your subscription carefully.

For more information, see https://www.suse.com/products/terms_and_conditions.pdf or contact SUSE.

VHM and Azure

You can use a SUSE Manager VHM to gather instances from Microsoft Azure.

The VHM allows SUSE Manager to obtain and report information about your virtual machines. For more information on VHMs, see [**Client-configuration** > **Vhm** >].

Create an Azure VHM

The Virtual Host Manager (VHM) runs on the SUSE Manager Server.

Ensure you have installed the `virtual-host-gatherer-libcloud` package on the SUSE Manager Server.

Procedure: Creating an Azure VHM

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Click **[Create]** and select **Azure** from the drop-down menu.
3. In the **Add an Azure Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - In the **Subscription ID** field, type the subscription ID provided by Azure.
 - In the **Application ID** field, type the application ID provided by Azure.
 - In the **Tenant ID** field, type the tenant ID provided by Azure.
 - In the **Secret Key** field, type the secret key associated with the Azure instance.
 - In the **Zone** field, type the zone your VM is located in. This is required for subscription matching to work.
4. Click **[Create]** to save your changes and create the VHM.
5. On the **Virtual Host Managers** page, select the new VHM.
6. On the **Properties** page, click **[Refresh Data]** to inventory the new VHM.

To see which objects and resources have been inventoried, navigate to **Systems > System List > Virtual Systems**.

Instances running on the Azure public cloud will report this UUID to SUSE Manager Server:

```
13f56399-bd52-4150-9748-7190aae1ff21
```

VHM and Amazon Web Services

You can use a SUSE Manager VHM to gather instances from Amazon Web Services (AWS).

The VHM allows SUSE Manager to obtain and report information about your clusters. For more information on VHMs, see **[Client-configuration > Vhm >]**.

Create an Amazon EC2 VHM

The Virtual Host Manager (VHM) runs on the SUSE Manager Server.

Ensure you have installed the `virtual-host-gatherer-libcloud` package on the SUSE Manager Server.

Procedure: Creating an Amazon EC2 VHM

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Click [**Create**] and select **Amazon EC2** from the drop-down menu.
3. In the **Add an Amazon EC2 Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - In the **Access Key ID** field, type the access key ID provided by Amazon.
 - In the **Secret Access Key** field, type the secret access key associated with the Amazon instance.
 - In the **Region** field, type the region to use.
 - In the **Zone** field, type the zone your VM is located in. This is required for subscription matching to work.
4. Click [**Create**] to save your changes and create the VHM.
5. On the **Virtual Host Managers** page, select the new VHM.
6. On the **Properties** page, click [**Refresh Data**] to inventory the new VHM.

To see which objects and resources have been inventoried, navigate to **Systems > System List > Virtual Systems**.

Instances running on the Amazon public cloud will report this UUID to SUSE Manager Server:

```
i-1234567890abcdef0
```

VHM and Google Compute Engine

You can use a SUSE Manager VHM to gather instances from Google Compute Engine (GCE).

The VHM allows SUSE Manager to obtain and report information about your virtual machines. For more information on VHMs, see [**Client-configuration > Vhm >**].

Create a GCE VHM

The Virtual Host Manager (VHM) runs on the SUSE Manager Server.

To run a VHM, your SUSE Manager Server will need to have port 443 open, in order to access the clients.

Ensure you have installed the `virtual-host-gatherer-libcloud` package on the SUSE Manager Server.

Before you begin, log in to the GCE panel, and download a certificate file. Store this file locally on your SUSE Manager Server, and take note of the path.

Procedure: Creating a GCE VHM

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Click **[Create]** and select **Google Compute Engine** from the drop-down menu.
3. In the **Add a Google Compute Engine Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - In the **Service Account Email** field, type the email address associated with your Google account.
 - In the **Cert Path** field, type the path to the certificate downloaded from the GCE panel.
 - In the **Project ID** field, type the project ID used by the GCE instance.
 - In the **Zone** field, type the zone your VM is located in. This is required for subscription matching to work.
4. Click **[Create]** to save your changes and create the VHM.
5. On the **Virtual Host Managers** page, select the new VHM.
6. On the **Properties** page, click **[Refresh Data]** to inventory the new VHM.

To see which objects and resources have been inventoried, navigate to **Systems > System List > Virtual Systems**.

Instances running on the Google public cloud will report this UUID to SUSE Manager Server:

```
152986662232938449
```

VHM and Kubernetes

You can use a SUSE Manager VHM to manage Kubernetes clusters.

The VHM allows SUSE Manager to obtain and report information about your clusters. For more information on VHMs, see [**Client-configuration > Vhm >**].

To use SUSE Manager with Kubernetes, you will need to have your SUSE Manager Server configured for container management, with all required channels present, and a registered container build host available.

You will also require:

- At least one Kubernetes or SUSE CaaS Platform cluster available on your network.
- The **virtual-host-gatherer-kubernetes** package installed on the SUSE Manager Server.

- Kubernetes version 1.5.0 or higher, or SUSE CaaS Platform.
- Docker version 1.12 or higher on the container build host.

Create a Kubernetes VHM

Kubernetes clusters are registered with SUSE Manager as a VHM.

You will need a `kubeconfig` file to register and authorize your Kubernetes cluster. You can get a `kubeconfig` file using the Kubernetes command line tool `kubectl`. If you are using SUSE CaaS Platform, you can download the file from the Velum interface.

Procedure: Creating a Kubernetes VHM

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Click **[Create]** and select **Kubernetes Cluster**.
3. In the **Add a Kubernetes Virtual Host Manager** section, use these parameters:
 - In the **Label** field, type a custom name for your VHM.
 - Select the `kubeconfig` file that contains the required data for the Kubernetes cluster.
4. In the **context** field, select the appropriate context for the cluster. This is specified in the `kubeconfig` file.
5. Click **[Create]**.

Procedure: Viewing the Nodes in a Cluster

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Virtual Host Managers**.
2. Select the Kubernetes cluster.
3. Refresh the node data by clicking **[Schedule refresh data]**.

The node data can take a few moments to update. You might need to refresh your browser window to see the updated information.

Any connection or authentication problems are logged to `gatherer.log`.



Node data is not refreshed during registration. You will need to manually refresh the data to see it.

Retrieve Image Runtime Data

You can view runtime data about Kubernetes images in the SUSE Manager Web UI, by navigating to **Images > Image List**.

The image list table contains three columns:

- **Revision:**

A sequence number that increments on every rebuild for images built by SUSE Manager, or on every import for externally built images.

- **Runtime:**

Overall status of the running instances for each image in registered clusters.

- **Instances:**

Number of instances running this image across all the clusters registered in SUSE Manager. You can see a breakdown of numbers by clicking the pop-up icon next to the number.

The **Runtime** column displays one of these status messages:

- **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. You might need to redeploy the image.

- **No information:**

The checksum of the instance image does not match the image data contained in SUSE Manager. You might need to redeploy the image.

Procedure: Building an Image

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Images > Stores**.
2. Click **[Create]** to create an image store.
3. Navigate to **Images > Profiles**.
4. Click **[Create]** to create an image profile. You will need to use a dockerfile that is suitable to deploy to Kubernetes.
5. Navigate to **Images > Build** to build an image with the new profile.
6. Deploy the image into one of the registered Kubernetes clusters. You can do this with the **kubect1** tool.

The updated data should now be available in the image list at **Images > Image List**.

Procedure: Importing a Previously Deployed Image

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Images > Image Stores**.

2. Add the registry that owns the image you want to import, if it is not already there.
3. Navigate to **Images > Image List** and click **[Import]**.
4. Complete the fields, select the image store you created, and click **[Import]**.

The imported image should now be available in the image list at **Images > Image List**.

Procedure: Rebuilding a Previously Deployed Image

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Images > Image List**, locate the row that contains the image you want to rebuild, and click **[Details]**.
2. Navigate to the **Build Status** section, and click **[Rebuild]**. The rebuild can take some time to complete.

When the rebuild has successfully completed, the runtime status of the image is updated in the image list at **Images > Image List**. This shows that the instances are running a previous build of the image.



You can only rebuild images if they were originally built with SUSE Manager.
You cannot rebuild imported images.

Procedure: Retrieving Additional Runtime Data

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Images > Image List**, locate the row that contains the running instance, and click **[Details]**.
2. Navigate to the **Overview** tab. In the **Image Info** section, there is data in the **Runtime** and **Instances** fields.
3. Navigate to the **Runtime** tab. This section contains a information about the Kubernetes pods running this image in all the registered clusters. The information in this section includes:
 - Pod name.
 - Namespace which the pod resides in.
 - The runtime status of the container in the specific pod.

Permissions and Certificates



You can only use **kubeconfig** files with SUSE Manager if they contain all embedded certificate data.

The API calls from SUSE Manager are:

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

The minimum recommended permissions for SUSE Manager are:

- 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"]
```

If `/pods` returns a 403 response, 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/>.

Software Channels

Channels are a method of grouping software packages. In SUSE Manager, channels are divided into base channels and child channels. Organizing channels in this way ensures that only compatible packages are installed on each system.

A base channel consists of packages built for a specific operating system type, version, and architecture. For example, all of the packages in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 for the `x86_64` architecture make up a base channel. The list of packages in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 for the `s390x` architecture make up a different base channel. A system must be subscribed to only one base channel, which is assigned automatically during registration based on the SUSE Linux Enterprise release and system architecture. For paid channels provided by a vendor, you must have an associated subscription.

A child channel is associated with a specific base channel and provides only packages that are compatible with that base channel. A system can be subscribed to multiple child channels of its base channel. When a system has been assigned to a base channel, it is only possible for that system to install the related child channels. For example, if a system has been assigned to the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 `x86_64` base channel, they will only be able to install or update packages compatible with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 `x86_64`.

In the SUSE Manager Web UI you can browse your available channels by navigating to **Software > Channel List > All**. You can modify or create new channels by navigating to **Software > Manage > Channels**.

Custom Channels

If you require packages that are not provided by the standard SUSE Manager base channels, you can create custom channels. SUSE Manager Administrators and Channel Administrators have channel management authority, which gives them the ability to create and manage their own custom channels.

For more on creating custom channels, see [**Administration > Custom-channels >**].

Creating the SUSE Manager Tools Repository

A tools repository contains packages for installing Salt on clients, as well as the required packages for registering Salt or traditional clients during bootstrapping. You can create a tools repository on the SUSE Manager Server.

When you have created the tools repository, the packages in the repository will be installed during client registration.

Preparing to Create a Tools Repository

Before you create the tools repository, ensure client is fully synchronized with your vendor channel.

There are two ways to check if a channel has finished synchronizing:

- In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Admin > Setup Wizard** and select the **SUSE Products** tab. This dialog displays a completion bar for each product when they are being synchronized.
- You can also check the synchronization log file at the command prompt. Use the **cat** or **tail -f** command to view the `/var/log/rhn/reposync/channel-label.log` file. If you use this method, remember that base channels can contain multiple child channels. Each of the child channels will generate its own log during the synchronization progress. You will need to check all the base and child channel log files to be sure that the synchronization is complete.

Generate a Tools Repository

Procedure: Generating the Tools Repository for SUSE Linux Enterprise

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, list the available bootstrap repositories:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo -l
```

2. Create the bootstrap repository, using the appropriate repository name as the product label:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo -c SLE-version-x86_64
```

The client tools repository is located in `/srv/www/htdocs/pub/repositories/`.

Procedure: Specify a Bootstrap Repository

If you have mirrored more than one SUSE Linux Enterprise 15 Product (for example, SLES and SLES for SAP), you can specify the one you are actually interested in.

1. Check what bootstrap repositories you have available:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo -c SLE-15-x86_64 --with-custom-channel  
Multiple options for parent channel found. Please use option  
--with-parent-channel <label> and choose one of:  
- sle-product-sles15-pool-x86_64  
- sle-product-sles_sap15-pool-x86_64  
- sle-product-sled15-pool-x86_64
```

2. Specify the appropriate repository:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo -c SLE-15-x86_64 --with-parent-channel sle-product-sled15-  
pool-x86_64
```

Contact Methods

There are a number of ways that the SUSE Manager Server can communicate with clients. Which one you use depends on your network architecture.

The SUSE Manager daemon (`rhnsd`) runs on traditional client systems and periodically connects with SUSE Manager to check for new updates and notifications. It does not apply to Salt clients.

Push via SSH and Push via Salt SSH are used in environments where clients cannot reach the SUSE Manager Server directly. In this environment, clients are located in a firewall-protected zone called a DMZ. No system within the DMZ is authorized to open a connection to the internal network, including the SUSE Manager Server.

OSAD is an alternative contact method between SUSE Manager and its clients. OSAD allows registered client systems to execute scheduled actions immediately.

SUSE Manager Daemon (rhnsd)

The SUSE Manager daemon (`rhnsd`) runs on traditional client systems and periodically connects with SUSE Manager to check for new updates and notifications. It does not apply to Salt clients.

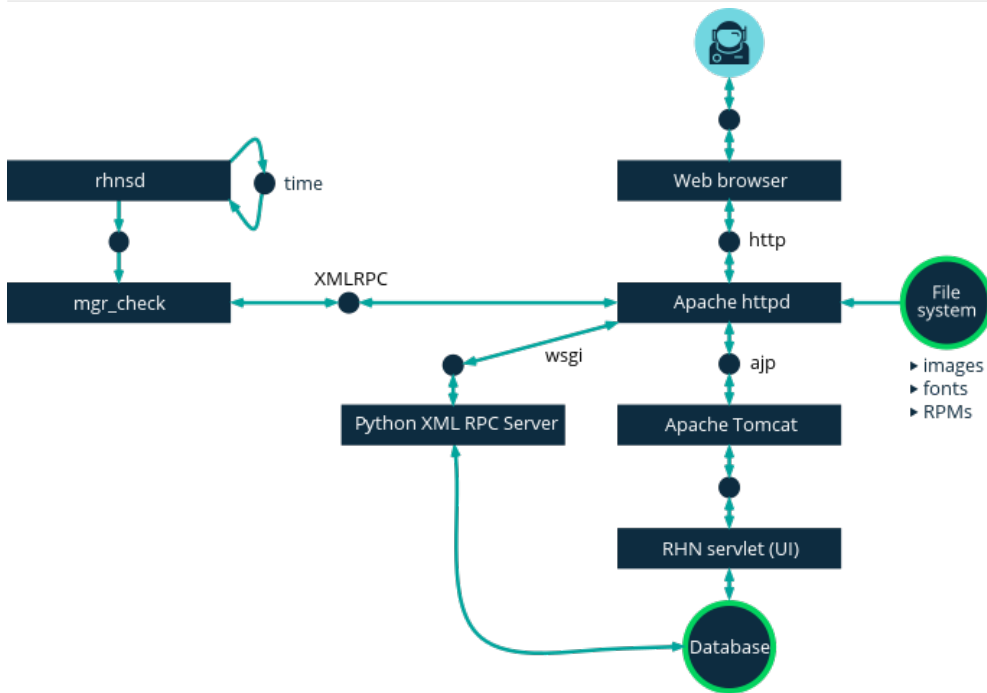
It is only used on SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server 6, as these systems do not use systemd. On later operating systems, a systemd timer (`rhnsd.timer`) is used and controlled by `rhnsd.service`.

Start the daemon with `/etc/init.d/rhnsd`.

By default, it will check every four hours for new actions. This means it can take some time for clients to execute scheduled actions.

To check for updates, `rhnsd` runs the external `mgr_check` program located in `/usr/sbin/`. This is a small application that establishes the network connection to SUSE Manager. The SUSE Manager daemon does not listen on any network ports or talk to the network directly. All network activity is performed by the `mgr_check` utility.

This figure provides an overview of the default `rhnsd` process path. All items left of the `Python XMLRPC server` block represent processes running on a SUSE Manager client.



Configure rhnsd

The `rhnsd` initialization script has a configuration file on the client system at `/etc/sysconfig/rhn/rhnsd`.

An important parameter for the daemon is its check-in frequency. The default interval time is four hours (240 minutes). The minimum allowed time interval is one hour (60 minutes). If you set the interval below one hour, it will change back to the default of 4 hours (240 minutes).

If you modify the `rhnsd` configuration file, execute this command as root to restart the daemon and pick up your changes:

```
/etc/init.d/rhnsd restart
```

To see the status of `rhnsd`, use this command as root:

```
/etc/init.d/rhnsd status
```

On SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 and later, the default time interval is set in `/etc/systemd/system/timers.target.wants/rhnsd.timer`, in this section:

```
[Timer]
OnCalendar=00/4:00
RandomizedDelaySec=30min
```

You can create an overriding drop-in file for `rhnsd.timer` using `systemctl`:

```
systemctl edit rhnsd.timer
```

For example, if you want configure a two hour time interval:

```
[Timer]
OnCalendar=00/2:00
```

The file will be saved as [/etc/systemd/system/rhnsd.timer.d/override.conf](#).

For more information about system timers, see the [systemd.timer](#) and [systemctl](#) manpages.

Push via SSH

Push via SSH is used in environments where traditional clients cannot reach the SUSE Manager Server directly. In this environment, clients are located in a firewall-protected zone called a DMZ. No system within the DMZ is authorized to open a connection to the internal network, including the SUSE Manager Server.

The Push via SSH method creates an encrypted tunnel from the SUSE Manager Server on the internal network to the clients located on the DMZ. After all actions and events are executed, the tunnel is closed.

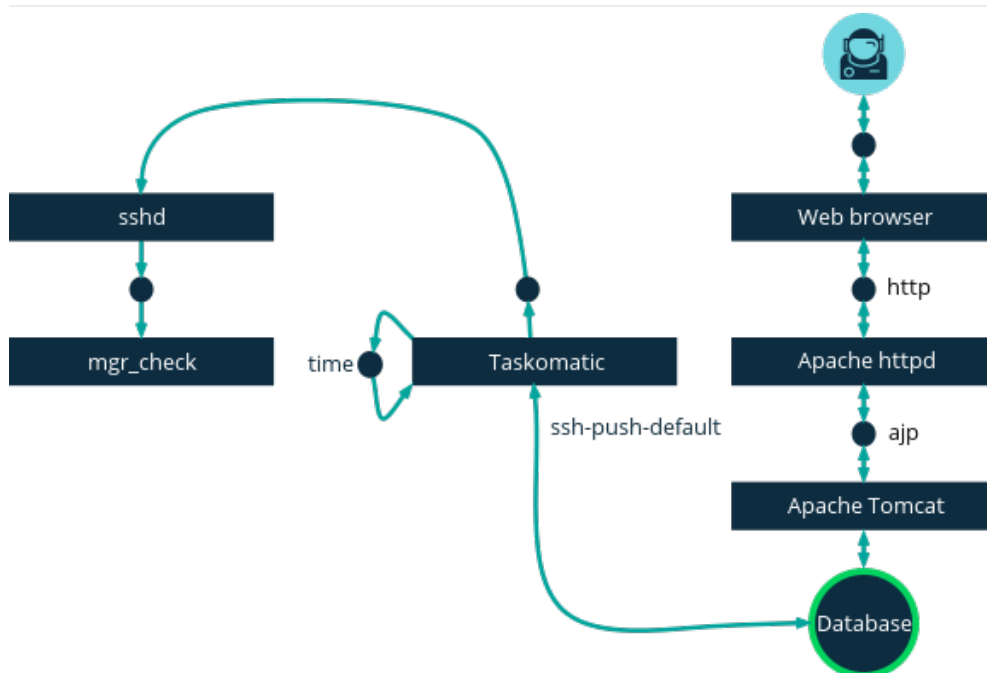
The server uses SSH to contact the clients at regular intervals, checking in and performing scheduled actions and events.

This contact method works for traditional clients only. For Salt clients, use Push via Salt SSH.



Re-installing systems using the provisioning model is not currently supported on clients managed with push via SSH.

This image demonstrates the push via SSH process path. All items left of the [Taskomatic](#) block represent processes running on a SUSE Manager client.



For tunneling connections via SSH, two available port numbers are required, one for tunneling HTTP and the second for tunneling via HTTPS (HTTP is only necessary during the registration process). The port numbers used by default are **1232** and **1233**. To overwrite these, you can add two custom port numbers greater than 1024 to `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf`:

```
ssh_push_port_http = high_port_1
ssh_push_port_https = high_port_2
```

If you would like your clients to be contacted using their hostnames instead of an IP address, set this option:

```
ssh_push_use_hostname = true
```

It is also possible to adjust the number of threads to use for opening client connections in parallel. By default two parallel threads are used. Set `taskomatic.ssh_push_workers` in `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf`:

```
taskomatic.ssh_push_workers = number
```

For security reasons, you might want to use `sudo` with SSH, to access the system as an unprivileged user instead of as root.

Procedure: Configuring Unprivileged SSH Access

1. Ensure you have the latest `spacewalk-taskomatic` and `spacewalk-certs-tools` packages installed on the SUSE Manager Server.
2. On each client system, create an appropriate unprivileged user.

3. On each client system, open the `/etc/sudoers` file and comment out these lines:

```
#Defaults targetpw # ask for the password of the target user i.e. root
#ALL ALL=(ALL) ALL # WARNING! Only use this together with 'Defaults targetpw'!
```

4. On each client system, in the `User privilege specification` section, add these lines:

```
<user> ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:/usr/sbin/mgr_check
<user> ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:/home/<user>/enable.sh
<user> ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:/home/<user>/bootstrap.sh
```

5. On each client system, in the `/home/user/.bashrc` file, add these lines:

```
PATH=$PATH:/usr/sbin
export PATH
```

6. On the SUSE Manager Server, in the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file, add or amend this line to include the unprivileged username:

```
ssh_push_sudo_user = <user>
```

Because clients are in the DMZ and cannot reach the server, you need to use the `mgr-ssh-push-init` tool to register them with the SUSE Manager Server.

To use the tool, you will need the client hostname or IP address, and the path to a valid bootstrap script on the SUSE Manager Server. For more information about bootstrapping, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >**].

The bootstrap script will need to have an activation key associated with it that is configured for Push via SSH. For more information on activation keys, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].

Before you begin, you need to ensure that you have specified which ports to use for SSH tunneling. If you have registered clients before changing the port numbers, they will need to be registered again.



Clients that are managed with Push via SSH cannot reach the server directly.
When you use the `mgr-ssh-push-init` tool, the `rhnsd` daemon is disabled.

Procedure: Registering Clients with Push via SSH

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, execute this command:

```
# mgr-ssh-push-init --client <client> --register \
/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap_script --tunnel
```

OPTIONAL: You can remove the `--tunnel` option, if you do not want to use tunneling.

2. Verify that the SSH connection is active:

```
# ssh -i /root/.ssh/id_susemanager -R <high_port>:<susemanager>:443 \
<client> zypper ref
```

Example: API Access to Push via SSH

You can use the API to manage which contact method to use. This example Python code sets the contact method to `ssh-push`.

Valid values are:

- `default` (pull)
- `ssh-push`
- `ssh-push-tunnel`

```
client = xmlrpclib.Server(SUMA_HOST + "/rpc/api", verbose=0)
key = client.auth.login(SUMA_LOGIN, SUMA_PASSWORD)
client.system.setDetails(key, 1000012345, {'contact_method' : 'ssh-push'})
```

If you have a client that has already been registered, and you want to migrate it to use Push via SSH, some extra steps are required. You can use the `mgr-ssh-push-init` tool to set up your client.

Procedure: Migrating Registered Systems to Push via SSH

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, set up the client:

```
# mgr-ssh-push-init --client <client> \
/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap_script --tunnel
```

2. Using the SUSE Manager Web UI, change the client's contact method to `ssh-push` or `ssh-push-tunnel`.
3. OPTIONAL: If you need to edit an existing activation key, you can do so with this command:

```
client.activationkey.setDetails(key, '1-mykey', {'contact_method' : 'ssh-push'})
```

You can also use Push via SSH for clients that connect using a SUSE Manager Proxy. Ensure your proxy is updated before you begin.

Procedure: Registering Clients with Push via SSH to a Proxy

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Proxy, as root, set up the client:

```
# mgr-ssh-push-init --client <client> \
/srv/www/htdocs/pub/bootstrap/bootstrap_script --tunnel
```

- At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, copy the SSH key to the proxy:

```
mgr-ssh-push-init --client <proxy>
```

Push via Salt SSH

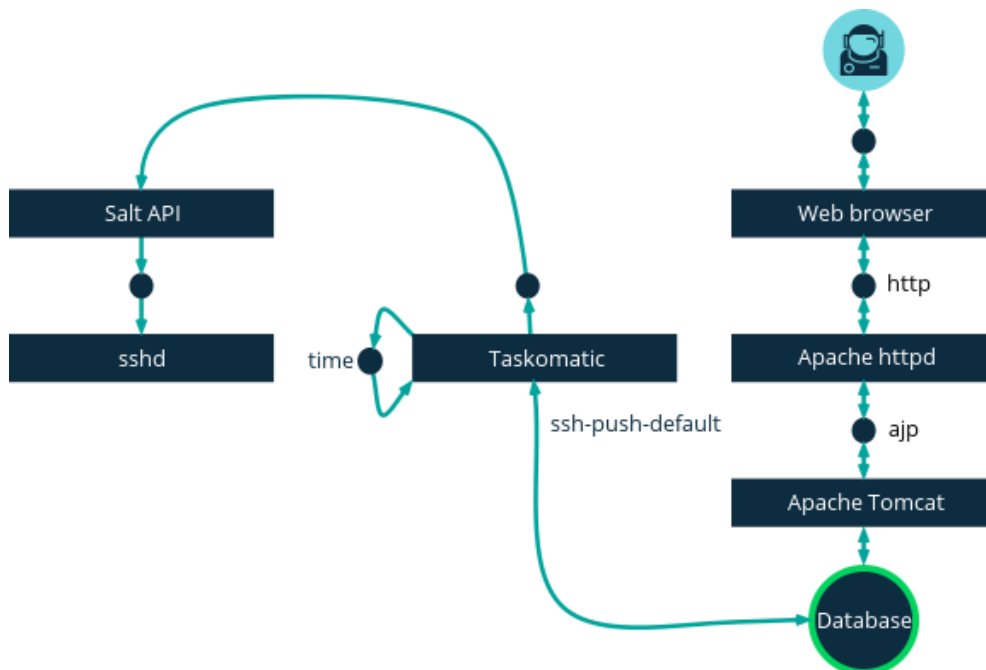
Push via Salt SSH is used in environments where Salt clients cannot reach the SUSE Manager Server directly. In this environment, clients are located in a firewall-protected zone called a DMZ. No system within the DMZ is authorized to open a connection to the internal network, including the SUSE Manager Server.

The Push via Salt SSH method creates an encrypted tunnel from the SUSE Manager Server on the internal network to the clients located on the DMZ. After all actions and events are executed, the tunnel is closed.

The server uses the `salt-ssh` tool to contact the clients at regular intervals, checking in and performing scheduled actions and events. For more information about Salt SSH, see [[Salt > Salt-ssh >](#)].

This contact method works for Salt clients only. For traditional clients, use Push via SSH.

This image demonstrates the Push via Salt SSH process path. All items left of the **Taskomatic** block represent processes running on a SUSE Manager client.



To use Push via Salt SSH, you must have the SSH daemon running on the client, and reachable by the

salt-api daemon running on the SUSE Manager Server. Additionally, Python must be available on the remote system, and be a version supported by Salt.



Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5, CentOS 5, and earlier are not supported, as they use unsupported versions of Python.

Procedure: Registering Clients with Push via Salt SSH

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems > Bootstrapping** and complete the appropriate fields.
2. Select an activation key with the Push via SSH contact method configured. For more information about activation keys, see [**Client-configuration > Clients-and-activation-keys >**].
3. Check the **Manage system completely via SSH** checkbox.
4. Click [**Bootstrap**] to begin registration.
5. Confirm that the system has been registered correctly by navigating to **Systems > Overview**.

When you are configuring Push via Salt SSH, you can modify parameters that are used when a system is registered, including the host, activation key, and password. The password is used only for bootstrapping, it is not saved anywhere. All future SSH sessions are authorized via a key/certificate pair. These parameters are configured in **Systems > Bootstrapping**.

You can also configure persistent parameters that are used system-wide, including the sudo user. For more information on configuring the sudo user, see the Push via SSH section in this chapter.

The Push via Salt SSH feature uses taskomatic to execute scheduled actions using **salt-ssh**. The taskomatic job periodically checks for scheduled actions and executes them. Unlike Push via SSH on traditional clients, the Push via Salt SSH feature executes a complete **salt-ssh** call based on the scheduled action.

By default, twenty Salt SSH actions can be executed at a time. You can increase the number of actions that can be executed in parallel, by adding these lines to your configuration file, and adjusting the value of **parallel_threads** upwards. We recommend you keep the number of parallel actions low, to avoid problems:

```
taskomatic.com.redhat.rhn.taskomatic.task.SSHMinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads = <number>
org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount = <value of parallel_threads + 20>
```

This will adjust the number of actions that can run in parallel on any one client and the total number of worker threads used by taskomatic. If actions needs to be run on multiple clients, actions will always be executed sequentially on each client.

If the clients are connected through a SUSE Manager Proxy, you will need to adjust the **MaxSessions** settings on the proxy. In this case, set the number of parallel connections to be three times the total number of clients.

Future Features

There are some features that are not yet supported on Push via Salt SSH. These features will not work on Salt SSH clients:

- OpenSCAP auditing
- Beacons, resulting in:
 - Installing a package on a system using **zypper** will not invoke the package refresh.
 - Virtual Host functions (for example, a host to guests) will not work if the virtual host system is Salt SSH-based.

For more information about Salt SSH, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/ssh/>.

OSAD

OSAD is an alternative contact method between SUSE Manager and its clients. By default, SUSE Manager uses **rhnsd**, which contacts the server every four hours to execute scheduled actions. OSAD allows registered client systems to execute scheduled actions immediately.



Use OSAD in addition to **rhnsd**. If you disable **rhnsd** your client will be shown as not checking in after 24 hours.

OSAD has several distinct components:

- The **osa-dispatcher** service runs on the server, and uses database checks to determine if clients need to be pinged, or if actions need to be executed.
- The **osad** service runs on the client. It responds to pings from **osa-dispatcher** and runs **mgr_check** to execute actions when directed to do so.
- The **jabberd** service is a daemon that uses the **XMPP** protocol for communication between the client and the server. The **jabberd** service also handles authentication.
- The **mgr_check** tool runs on the client to execute actions. It is triggered by communication from the **osa-dispatcher** service.

The **osa-dispatcher** periodically runs a query to check when clients last showed network activity. If it finds a client that has not shown activity recently, it will use **jabberd** to ping all **osad** instances running on all clients registered with your SUSE Manager server. The **osad** instances respond to the ping using **jabberd**, which is running in the background on the server. When the **osa-dispatcher** receives the response, it marks the client as online. If the **osa-dispatcher** fails to receive a response within a certain period of time, it marks the client as offline.

When you schedule actions on an OSAD-enabled system, the task will be carried out immediately. The **osa-dispatcher** periodically checks clients for actions that need to be executed. If an outstanding action is found, it uses **jabberd** to execute **mgr_check** on the client, which will then execute the action.

OSAD clients use the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) of the server to communicate with the **osa-dispatcher** service.

SSL is required for **osad** communication. If SSL certificates are not available, the daemon on your client systems will fail to connect. Make sure your firewall rules are set to allow the required ports. For more information, see [\[tab.install.ports.server\]](#).

Procedure: Enabling OSAD

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, start the **osa-dispatcher** service:

```
systemctl start osa-dispatcher
```

2. On each client, install the **mgr-osad** package from the **Tools** child channel. The **mgr-osad** package should be installed on clients only. If you install the **mgr-osad** package on your SUSE Manager Server, it will conflict with the **osa-dispatcher** package.
3. On each client, as root, start the **osad** service:

```
systemctl start osad
```

Because **osad** and **osa-dispatcher** are run as services, you can use standard commands to manage them, including **stop**, **restart**, and **status**.

Each OSAD component is configured using local configuration files. We recommend you keep the default configuration parameters for all OSAD components.

Component	Location	Path to Configuration File
osa-dispatcher	Server	/etc/rhn/rhn.conf Section: OSA configuration
osad	Client	/etc/sysconfig/rhn/osad.conf
osad log file	Client	/var/log/osad
jabberd log file	Both	/var/log/messages

Troubleshooting OSAD

If your OSAD clients cannot connect to the server, or if the **jabberd** service takes a lot of time responding to port 5552, it could be because you have exceeded the open file count.

Every client needs one always-open TCP connection to the server, which consumes a single file handler. If the number of file handlers currently open exceeds the maximum number of files that **jabberd** is allowed to use, **jabberd** will queue the requests, and refuse connections.

To resolve this issue, you can increase the file limits for `jabberd` by editing the `/etc/security/limits.conf` configuration file and adding these lines:

```
jabber soft nfile 5100
jabber hard nfile 6000
```

Calculate the limits required for your environment by adding 100 to the number of clients for the soft limit, and 1000 to the current number of clients for the hard limit.

In the example above, we have assumed 500 current clients, so the soft limit is 5100, and the hard limit is 6000.

You will also need to update the `max_fds` parameter in the `/etc/jabberd/c2s.xml` file with your chosen hard limit:

```
<max_fds>6000</max_fds>
```

Using the System Set Manager

System Set Manager (SSM) is used to administrate groups of systems, rather than performing actions on one system at a time. It works for both Salt and traditional clients.

For a complete list of the tasks that you can perform with the SSM, see [**Reference** > **Systems** >].

Setting up System Set Manager

You need to select which systems or system group you want to work with before you can use SSM to perform operations.

You can access SSM in three different ways:

- Navigate to **Systems** > **System List**, select systems you want to work with, and navigate to **Systems** > **System Set Manager**.
- Navigate to **Systems** > **System Groups**, and click [**Use in SSM**] for the system group you want to work with.
- Navigate to **Systems** > **System Groups**, select the group you want to work with, and click [**Work with Group**].

Using System Set Manager

The details you see in SSM might differ slightly from the details available in other parts of the SUSE Manager Web UI. If you are looking at the details of a single system in the Web UI, then you will only be able to see the latest available versions of package updates. When you look at package updates in SSM, all available versions will be shown. This is intended to make it easier for system administrators to manage package versions, and choose to upgrade to packages that might not be the latest version.

Troubleshooting Clients

Bare Metal Systems

If a bare metal system on the network is not automatically added to the **Systems** list, check these things first:

- You must have the **pxe-default-image** package installed.
- File paths and parameters must be configured correctly. Check that the **vmlinux0** and **initrd0.img** files, which are provided by **pxe-default-image**, are in the locations specified in the **rhn.conf** configuration file.
- Ensure the networking equipment connecting the bare metal system to the SUSE Manager server is working correctly, and that you can reach the SUSE Manager server IP address from the server.
- The bare metal system to be provisioned must have PXE booting enabled in the boot sequence, and must not be attempting to boot an operating system.
- The DHCP server must be responding to DHCP requests during boot. Check the PXE boot messages to ensure that:
 - the DHCP server is assigning the expected IP address
 - the DHCP server is assigning the the SUSE Manager server IP address as **next-server** for booting.
- Ensure Cobbler is running, and that the Discovery feature is enabled.

If you see a blue Cobbler menu shortly after booting, discovery has started. If it does not complete successfully, temporarily disable automatic shutdown in order to help diagnose the problem. To disable automatic shutdown:

1. Select **pxe-default-profile** in the Cobbler menu with the arrow keys, and press the Tab key before the timer expires.
2. Add the kernel boot parameter **spacewalk-finally=running** using the integrated editor, and press Enter to continue booting.
3. Enter a shell with the username **root** and password **linux** to continue debugging.



Duplicate profiles

Due to a technical limitation, it is not possible to reliably distinguish a new bare metal system from a system that has previously been discovered. Therefore, we recommended that you do not power on bare metal systems multiple times, as this will result in duplicate profiles.

Bootstrap Repository for End-of-Life Products

When supported products are synchronized, bootstrap repositories are automatically created and regenerated on the SUSE Manager Server. When a product reaches end-of-life and becomes unsupported, bootstrap repositories must be created manually if you want to continue using the product.

For more information about bootstrap repositories, see [**Client-configuration > Registration-bootstrap >**].

Procedure: Creating Bootstrap Repositories for End-Of-Life Products

1. At the command prompt on the SUSE Manager Server, as root, list the available unsupported bootstrap repositories with the **--force** option, for example:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo --list --force
1. SLE-11-SP4-x86_64
2. SLE-12-SP2-x86_64
3. SLE-12-SP3-x86_64
```

2. Create the bootstrap repository, using the appropriate repository name as the product label:

```
mgr-create-bootstrap-repo --create SLE-12-SP2-x86_64 --force
```

If you do not want to create bootstrap repositories manually, you can check whether LTSS is available for the product and bootstrap repository you need.

Cloned Salt Clients

If you have used your hypervisor clone utility, and attempted to register the cloned Salt client, you might get this error:

```
We're sorry, but the system could not be found.
```

This is caused by the new, cloned, system having the same machine ID as an existing, registered, system. You can adjust this manually to correct the error and register the cloned system successfully.

For more information and instructions, see [**Administration > Tshoot-registerclones >**].

Mounting /tmp with noexec

Salt runs remote commands from **/tmp** on the client's filesystem. Therefore you must not mount **/tmp** with the **noexec** option.

SSL errors

On SLES 11 systems, clients can sometimes have SSL errors which make some operations unusable, including package management and bootstrapping. In this case, you will see an error like this:

```
Repository 'SLES11-SP4-SUSE-Manager-Tools x86_64' is invalid.  
[!] Valid metadata not found at specified URL(s)  
Please check if the URIs defined for this repository are pointing to a valid repository.  
Skipping repository 'SLES11-SP4-SUSE-Manager-Tools x86_64' because of the above error.  
Download (curl) error for 'www.example.com':  
Error code: Unrecognized error  
Error message: error:1409442E:SSL routines:SSL3_READ_BYTES:tlsv1 alert protocol version
```

This occurs because Apache requires TLS v1.2, but older versions of SLES do not support this version of the TLS protocol. To fix this error, you need to force Apache to accept a greater range of protocol versions. Open the `/etc/apache2/ssl-global.conf` configuration file, locate the `SSLProtocol` line, and update it to read:

```
SSLProtocol all -SSLv2 -SSLv3
```

This will need to be done manually on the server, and with a Salt state on the Proxy. Restart the `apache` service on each system after making the changes.

Adding Additional FQDNS for Proxies

You have clients connecting through a SUSE Manager proxy. Although these clients may appear in the Web UI you are unable to see that they are connected through a proxy. If this is the case you could be using a FQDN to connect to the proxy that is unknown to SUSE Manager. To correct this behaviour, specify any additional FQDNS in your minion config on the proxy as grains.

```
grains:  
  susemanager:  
    custom_fqdns:  
      - name.one  
      - name.two
```

Unresolved directive in nav-client-config-guide.adoc - include::modules/administration/pages/autoyast-example.adoc[leveloffset=+1]

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