

SUSE Manager 4.3

Specialized Guides

September 15 2023



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Specialized Guides Overview

Updated: 2023-09-15

This book contains a list of special topics and functionalities of SUSE Manager.

It is designed to introduce basic, routine or some advanced tasks, by explaining what you are achieving in each step, and the various options available to you along the way.

You can read specialized guides for:

- [Salt Guide](#)
- [Large Deployments Guide](#)
- [Quick Start: Public Cloud](#)
- [Quick Start: SAP](#)

Chapter 1. Salt Guide Overview

Updated: 2023-09-15

Salt is a remote execution engine, configuration management and orchestration system used by SUSE Manager to manage clients.

In SUSE Manager, the Salt master runs on the SUSE Manager Server, allowing you to register and manage Salt clients.

This book is designed to be a primer for using Salt with SUSE Manager.

For more information about Salt, see the Salt documentation at <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/contents.html>.

The current version of Salt in SUSE Manager is 3006.0.



Throughout the SUSE Manager documentation, we use the term **Salt clients** to refer to Salt machines that are connected to and controlled by the Salt master on the SUSE Manager Server. This is to clearly differentiate them from traditional clients. In other documentation, and in some internal references, Salt clients are sometimes referred to as Salt **minions** instead. This is a difference in terminology only.

1.1. Terminology

Beacon

Beacons allow you to use the Salt event system to monitor non-Salt processes. Clients can use beacons to connect to various system processes for constant monitoring. When a monitored activity occurs, an event is sent on the Salt event bus that can then trigger a reactor.



To use beacons on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Salt clients, install the `python-pyinotify` package. For Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems, install the `python-inotify` package.

For more information on beacons, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/beacons/>

Broker

The Salt broker allows clients to pass commands to each other. The broker acts like a switch, therefore peer communication will only work for clients on the same network, or connected to the same proxy.

For more information on Salt and peer communication, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/peer.html>.

Environment

SUSE Manager implements Salt with a single environment. Multiple Salt environments are not supported.

Formulas

Formulas are collections of Salt States that contain generic parameter fields. Formulas are used within SUSE Manager to assist with configuring Salt clients. Some formulas have extensive configuration options, and use forms to help organize them in the SUSE Manager Web UI.

For more information about formulas, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

Grains

Grains provide information about the hardware of a client. This includes the operating system, IP addresses, network interfaces, and memory. When you run a Salt command any modules and functions are run locally from the system being called.

For more information on grains, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/grains/>.

Highstate

This term is used when you apply all outstanding states to all targeted clients at the same time. The highstate must be applied when doing changes to systems, including enabling and disabling formulas.

Key Fingerprints

Key fingerprints are exchanged between the SUSE Manager Server and Salt clients to verify the identity of the server and the client. This prevents Salt clients from connecting to the wrong server. You can see the fingerprints of your Salt clients by navigating to **Salt › Keys**.

Master

The Salt master issues commands to its attached clients. In SUSE Manager, the Salt master must be the SUSE Manager Server.

Minions

Salt clients that are connected to and controlled by the Salt master on the SUSE Manager Server. In SUSE Manager, these are referred to as Salt clients, in order to clearly differentiate them from traditional clients. This is a difference in terminology only.

Modules

Functions within Salt are stored in modules. Salt modules are stored on clients and the SUSE Manager Server within the `/usr/lib/python*/site-packages/salt/` directory. There are many types of Salt modules, including state and execution modules. You can write your own Salt modules using Python.

For a complete list of available Salt modules, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/index.html>.

Pillars

Pillars are created on the SUSE Manager Server. They contain information about a client or group of clients. Pillars allow you to send confidential information to a targeted client or group of clients. Pillars are useful for sensitive data, configuration of clients, variables, and any arbitrary data.

For more information on pillars, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/pillar.html>.

States

States are configuration templates. They allow you to describe what each of your systems should look like, including the applications and services that are installed and running. States are applied to the target client. This automates the process of bringing a large number of systems into a known state, and then maintaining them.



Do not update the **salt** package using states. Update all other system packages using states. You can then update the **salt** package from the SUSE Manager Web UI as a separate step.

For more information on states, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/>

[tutorials/starting_states.html](https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/glossary.html).

For more Salt terminology, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/glossary.html>.

1.2. Salt Command

Salt commands have three main components: target, function, and arguments. The calls are constructed in this format:

```
salt 'target' <function> [arguments]
```

The target defines the client, or group of clients, on which to run the function.

The function is the particular task to be run.

Arguments provide any extra data required by the function.

1.2.1. Salt Targets

Salt command targets allow you to specify a client or group of clients. There are several different targets you can use.

General Targeting

List available grains on all clients:

```
salt '*' grains.ls
```

Target a specific client:

```
salt 'web1.example.com' test.ping
```

Glob Targeting

Target all clients using a particular domain:

```
salt '*example.com' test.ping
```

Target all clients using a particular label:

```
salt 'label*' test.ping
```

List Targeting

Specify a flat list of clients, using their IDs:

```
salt -L 'client_ID1, client_ID2, client_ID3' test.ping
```

Regular Expression Targeting

You can also define targets with PCRE-compliant regular expressions:

```
salt -E '(?!web)' test.ping
```

IP Address Targeting

List available client IP addresses:

```
salt '*' network.ip_addrs
```

Target a specific client IP address:

```
salt -S '172.31.60.74' test.ping
```

Target all clients on a subnet:

```
salt -S 172.31.0.0/16 test.ping
```

For more on targeting, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/targeting/>.

1.2.2. Salt Execution Modules

When you have specified a target, provide the module and function to execute on the target.

Find which modules can be executed on the target:

```
salt '*' sys.doc
```

For a full list of callable modules, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/modules/all/index.html>.

1.2.3. Salt Function Arguments

Functions accept arguments for any extra data.

For example, the `pkg.install` function requires an argument specifying which package to install:

```
salt '*' pkg.install yast2
```

You can provide more than one argument to a function, with spaces between them. For example:

```
salt '*' cmd.run 'echo "Hello: $FIRST_NAME"' env='{FIRST_NAME: "John"}'
```

1.3. Often Used Salt Commands

This section contains the most commonly used Salt commands. For a complete list of available Salt commands, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/cli/index.html>.

`salt-run`

Display all clients that are running:

```
salt-run manage.up
```

Display all clients that are not running:

```
salt-run manage.down
```

Display the current status of all Salt clients:

```
salt-run manage.status
```

Check the version of Salt running on the SUSE Manager Server and active clients:

```
salt-run manage.versions
```

`salt-cp`

Copy a file to a client or set of clients:

```
salt-cp '*' foo.conf /root
```

salt-key -l

List public keys:

```
salt-key -l all
```

salt-key -a my-minion

Accept pending key for a minion:

```
salt-key -a my-minion
```

salt-key -A

Accept all pending keys:

```
salt-key -A
```

salt grains

List all available grains:

```
salt '*' grains.ls
```

List collected grain system data:

```
salt '*' grains.items
```

1.4. Salt States and Pillars

States are configuration templates. They allow you to describe what each of your systems should look like, including the applications and services that are installed and running. Salt state files are referred to as SLS (SaLt State) files.

States are applied to the target systems by matching relevant state data to clients. The state data comes from SUSE Manager in the form of package and custom states.

You can target clients at three specific levels of hierarchy and priority: individual clients, system groups, and organization. Individual clients have priority over groups, and groups have priority over the organization.

For example:

- The Organization requires that version 1 is installed. All clients are part of the same Organization.
- Group A requires that version 2 is installed. Client1, Client2, and Client3 are part of Group A.
- Group B requires any version installed. Client4 is part of Group B.

Leading to these possible scenarios:

- Client1 wants package removed, package is removed (Client Level)
- Client2 wants version 2, gets version 2 (Client Level)
- Client3 wants any version, gets version 2 (Group Level)
- Client4 wants any version, gets version 1 (Organization Level)

For more information on Salt states, see <https://docs.saltproject.io/en/latest/topics/states/>.

You can create custom Salt states with SUSE Manager. For more information, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

1.4.1. Group States

Pillar data can be used to perform bulk actions, like applying all assigned states to clients within the group. This section contains some examples of bulk actions that you can take using group states.

To perform these actions, you will need to determine the ID of the group that you want to manipulate. You can determine the Group ID by using the **spacecmd** command:

```
spacecmd group_details
```

These examples use an example Group ID of **GID**.

To apply all states assigned to the group:

```
salt -l 'group_ids:GID' state.apply custom.group_GID
```

To apply any state (whether or not it is assigned to the group):

```
salt -l 'group_ids:GID' state.apply ~state~
```

To apply a custom state:

```
salt -l 'group_ids:2130' state.apply manager_org_1.`customstate`
```

Apply the highstate to all clients in the group:

```
salt -l 'group_ids:GID' state.apply
```

1.4.2. Salt Pillars

SUSE Manager exposes a small amount of internal data as pillars which can be used with custom states. Pillars are created on the SUSE Manager Server, and contain information about a client or group of clients. For custom information in pillars, see [Client-configuration › Custom-info](#). Pillars are useful for sensitive data, configuration of clients, variables, and any arbitrary data.

Pillars are managed either automatically by SUSE Manager, or manually by the user.

To avoid hard-coding organization IDs within SUSE Linux Enterprise Server files, a pillar entry is added for each organization:

```
org-files-dir: relative_path_to_files
```

The specified file is available for all clients which belong to the organization.

This is an example of a pillar located at `/etc/motd`:

```
file.managed:
- source: salt://{{ pillar['org-files-dir'] }}/motd
- user: root
- group: root
- mode: 644
```

For more information on Salt pillars, see <https://docs.saltproject.io/en/latest/topics/pillar/>.

1.4.3. Download Endpoint

By default, SUSE Manager assumes that the download endpoint to use is the FQDN of the SUSE Manager Server or Proxy. However, there are some cases where you might like to use a different FQDN as the download endpoint. The most common example is if you need to use load

balancing, caching proxies, or in environments with complicated networking requirements.

To change the package download endpoint, you can manually adjust three Salt pillars: * `pkg_download_point_protocol`, defaults to `https`. * `pkg_download_point_host`, defaults to the FQDN of the SUSE Manager Server (or Proxy, if in use). * `pkg_download_point_port`, defaults to `443`.

If you do not adjust these pillars directly, SUSE Manager will fall back to the default values.

Procedure: Changing the Package Download Endpoint Pillar

1. Navigate to `/srv/pillar/` and create a file called `top.sls` with these contents:

```
base:
  '*':
    - pkg_download_points
```

This example directs Salt to look at the `pkg_download_points.sls` file to determine the base URL to use. You can adjust this file to target different clients or groups, depending on your environment.

2. Remain in `/srv/pillar/` and create a file called `pkg_download_points.sls` with the base URLs you want to use. For example:

```
pkg_download_point_protocol: http
pkg_download_point_host: example.com
pkg_download_point_port: 444
```

3. OPTIONAL: If you want to use external pillars, for example Group IDs, open the master configuration file and set the `ext_pillar_first` parameter to `true`. You can then use Group IDs to set conditional values, for example:

```
{% if pillar['group_ids'] is defined and 8 in pillar['group_ids'] %}
  pkg_download_point_protocol: http
  pkg_download_point_host: example.com
  pkg_download_point_port: 444
{% else %}
  pkg_download_point_protocol: ftp
  pkg_download_point_host: example.com
  pkg_download_point_port: 445
{% - endif %}
```

4. OPTIONAL: You can also use grains to set conditional values, for example:

```
{% if grains['fqdn'] == 'client1.example.com' %}
  pkg_download_point: example1.com
{% elif grains['fqdn'] == 'client2.example.com' %}
  pkg_download_point: example2.com
{% else %}
  pkg_download_point: example.com
{% endif %}
```

1.5. GPG Encrypted Pillars

Salt has support to transparently decrypt GPG-encrypted Pillar data built-in. The decryption happens on the Salt Master.

1.5.1. Generate GPG keyring for Salt Master

The GPG keyring can be specified in `/etc/salt/master` or in its own file under `/etc/salt/master.d/`, for example `/etc/salt/master.d/gpg-pillar.conf`.

Always create a separate keyring for the Salt Master.

Procedure: Generating key pair

1. On the Salt Master create GPG home directory and restrict its permissions:

```
mkdir /etc/salt/gpgkeys
chmod 700 /etc/salt/gpgkeys
```

2. Generate a key pair interactively.



The password must be empty.

```
gpg --gen-key --homedir /etc/salt/gpgkeys
```

3. Salt does not run with root permissions on SUSE Linux Enterprise and openSUSE distributions.

```
chown -R salt:salt /etc/salt/gpgkeys
```

4. Configure Salt Master to use the new GPG home directory


```
echo 'gpg_keydir: /etc/salt/gpgkeys' >/etc/salt/master.d/gpg-pillar.conf
systemctl reload-or-restart salt-master
```

1.5.2. Use GPG for encrypting Pillar secrets

Salt GPG renderer decrypts GPG encrypted contents that are ASCII-armored. To use the GPG renderer in a Pillar YAML file, change

```
#!yaml
```

to

```
#!yaml|gpg
```

Encrypting pillar secrets can be done anywhere as long as the GPG and the public key generated in [Procedure: Generating key pair](#) are available.

In this example, "SUMA Salt Master" is the GPG key's UID created earlier.

```
echo 't0ps3cr3t' | gpg --armor --batch --encrypt --recipient "SUMA Salt Master"
```

When the GPG encrypted contents are created and available as ASCII-armored output, this output can be used as a multi-line string in a pillar YAML file:

```
#!yaml|gpg

secret:
  my-secret: |
    -----BEGIN PGP MESSAGE-----

    hQEMA3OrmRaWrqgqAQf/ej8xV+nO3HVbQRCEJgCmt5ZjnogT++HHeFzXymfrISgT
    XySyAqplZB2N6MjZXtupO2sCmG6fzqtmnW+vRsZhQG8PAqzRtAekFuVbXzgkigBk
    338yOdyItVBtMONnkHFQ+7EPItfJnWLCVrJII42vGFLZf2AD1xhbjewCcoaK82J4
    f8u9U/dxgV0N6na28WG5m6YU5ReuICa37PXHuqA/0XZI65DY63xaMPMDHZEilwkU
    GXU7OsiLIdO0/sSTIAwo5i99kVt/ka6DCGDuxTNpLrauNLOKUbtcwcvavtNZGwdQ
    yI9zWVx8qerWE0aO3M7zVDJftv77faV2ENiqzaadvJHAZynW4GW7rSuPIRXFzIB
    DOAmzdRulJwiLC9R2BKu3x+avReQb6xoz7eF7WthC0H0dz4mYakwPIVZ5yqYa/+G
    83i951rqAGI=
    =g+ji
    -----END PGP MESSAGE-----
```

When the pillar is assigned to a system with **top.sls**, the GPG encrypted pillar data is available in a decrypted format.



The client's in-memory cache is only updated on startup or when running execution module functions that trigger a cache refresh such as `saltutil.refresh_pillar`, `pillar.items`, or `state.apply`.

```
suma-sles15spl.tf.local:
-----
my-secret:
  t0p s3cr3t!
```

1.5.3. Export the GPG key

To export the GPG key, use the command:

```
gpg --export 'SUMA Salt Master' --homedir /etc/salt/gpgkeys --output suma-salt-master.gpg
```

Here 'SUMA Salt Master' is the name used during key generation.

The `suma-salt-master.gpg` public key can be freely shared.

1.6. Custom Salt States

You can create your own custom Salt states with SUSE Manager as centrally managed configuration channels. Custom states are stored as Salt state files on the SUSE Manager Server with a `.sls` extension.

1.6.1. Create a New Custom Salt Channel

You can use the SUSE Manager Web UI to create and edit custom Salt state files. You must create a state channel first, with an initial state named `init.sls`. The `init.sls` file is used to reference all other state files within the channel. The custom states that you create using the Web UI are stored on the SUSE Manager Server in the `/srv/susemanager/salt/<organization>/` directory.

After the channel is created with an `init.sls` file, you can write additional state files in the Web UI. Alternatively, you can upload existing state files to use within your state channel, or import them from other channels or clients.

Procedure: Creating a Custom Salt Channel and Initial State

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Configuration › Channels**.
2. Click [**Create State Channel**].
3. In the **Name** field, type a name for your state.
4. In the **Label** field, type a label. Use alphanumeric characters, hyphens, and underscores. Do not use spaces.
5. In the **Description** field, type a short description of the configuration your state performs.
6. In the **SLS Contents** field, type the contents of your **init.sls** state. If you want to reference file templates in this configuration channel, ensure your file starts by specifying the source of the managed file, using this syntax:

```
file.managed:
- source: salt://<org_name>/<channel_name>/etc/<ID>/<filename>
```

Example custom state files are given later in this section.
 . Click btn:[Update Channel] to save your state.

Procedure: Adding Additional Files to a Custom State Channel

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Configuration › Channels**. . Click the name of the channel you want to add files to.
2. To create a new file, click btn:**Create configuration file** and type the contents of the file.
3. To upload an existing file, click [**Upload Configuration Files**] and select the file to upload.
4. To copy an existing file, click [**Import a File from Another Channel or System**] and select the file to copy.

Procedure: Editing a Custom Salt State

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Configuration › Channels**.
2. Click [**View/Edit <filename>.sls File**].
3. Make your changes to the file.
4. Click [**Update Configuration File**] to save your state.

You can also manage revisions, compare the state to others in your organization, and download

the `.sls` file from this dialog.

Procedure: Assigning a Client to a Custom Salt State

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Configuration › Channels**.
2. Click the name of the state you want to assign a client to.
3. Navigate to the **Systems › Target Systems** tab.
4. Check the clients you want to assign.
5. Click [**Subscribe systems**].

For more information about Salt state modules, see <https://docs.saltproject.io/en/latest/ref/states/all/index.html>.

1.6.2. Example Custom State Files

This section contains some example custom state files. Use these as a basis for writing your own custom states.

Listing 1. Example: Manage a File

```
my_config_change_id:
  file.managed:
    - name: /etc/my.conf
    - source: salt://example_org/example_channel/etc/my.conf
    - user: root
    - group: root
    - mode: 644
    - template: jinja
```

Listing 2. Example: Package Management

```
my_pkg_id:
  pkg.installed:
    - refresh: True
    - pkgs:
      - glibc
      - kernel-default
      - hello: 1.0-42
```

Listing 3. Example: Remote Command

```
ip_forward-on:
  cmd.run:
    - name: echo "1" > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward
    - onlyif:
      - test `cat /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward` -eq 0
```

Listing 4. Example: Service Management

```
time_service_id:
  service.running:
    - name: chronyd
    - enable: True
```

1.6.3. Custom State to Trust a GPG Key

By default, operating systems trust only their own GPG keys when they are installed, and do not trust keys provided by third party packages. The clients can be successfully bootstrapped without the GPG key being trusted. However, you cannot install new third party packages or update them until the keys are trusted.

Salt clients are set to trust SUSE tools channels GPG keys when they are bootstrapped. For all other clients and channels, you need to manually trust third party GPG keys.

If you are bootstrapping Salt clients from the SUSE Manager Web UI, you can use a custom Salt state to trust the GPG key.

Procedure: Trusting a GPG Key With a Custom Salt State

1. Locate the key that you need to trust. Ensure you have the correct key, and that you also have the fingerprint used to verify the key. This information is available from the vendor or, in some cases, from a key server.
2. Copy the key to a file location where the client can access it. We recommend saving it in the `/srv/www/htdocs/pub/` directory, where all SUSE public keys are also saved.
3. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Configuration › Channels**.
4. Click **[Create State Channel]**.
5. In the **Name** field, type a name for your state. For example, **GPG Key Trusts**.
6. In the **Label** field, type a label. For example, **GPG_Key_Trusts**.

7. In the **Description** field, type a short description of the configuration your state performs. For example, **Trusts GPG Keys for CentOS**.
8. In the **SLS Contents** field, create a state to retrieve the appropriate key from the SUSE Manager Server and trust it on the client. The exact contents of your state varies depending on your client operating system. For example:

```
rpm_trust_gpg_key:
  cmd.run:
    - name: rpm --import https://{ salt['pillar.get']('mgr_server') }/pub/<third-party-gpg>.key
    - unless: rpm -q gpg-pubkey-<key_id>

deb_trust_gpg_key:
  mgrcompat.module_run:
    - name: pkg.add_repo_key
    - path: https://{ salt['pillar.get']('mgr_server') }/pub/<third-party-gpg>.key
```

Alternatively, you can add GPG keys to a configuration channel, using a managed file to deploy them directly on the client.

In this case, you would use a local path to the key, rather than a URL.

- . Click btn:[Update Channel] to save your state.
- . Navigate to menu:Configuration[Channels] and click the name of the state you want to assign a client to.
- . Navigate to the menu:Systems[Target Systems] tab and check the clients you want to assign.
- . Click btn:[Subscribe systems].

When the configuration file is next run on the client, the GPG key is trusted.

Alternatively, you can manage your GPG keys from your own repository hosted on an external file management system.

1.6.4. Apply a custom state at highstate

To apply a custom state at highstate create a mapping in `/srv/salt/top.sls`. This short example maps the **test** state to the system group 12:

```
# /srv/salt/top.sls
base:
  'group_ids:12':
    - match: pillar
    - test
```

1.7. Salt File Locations and Structure

There are several ways to set up the Salt file structure. This section describes how Salt is supported and set up as part of SUSE Manager Server. The main configuration file is `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf`.



Do not edit the `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf` configuration file. This file belongs to the `spacewalk-setup` package and is marked as `%config`. When SUSE updates the `spacewalk-setup` package, the `susemanager.conf` file is overwritten, and any customization is lost. Instead, add your own configuration file to the `/etc/salt/master.d/` directory. This prevents the update process from deleting your settings from the main `susemanager.conf` configuration file.

Some settings from `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf` that can help with finding configuration options:

```
# Configure different file roots. Custom salt states should only be placed in
# /srv/salt.
# Users should not touch other directories listed here.
file_roots:
  base:
    - /usr/share/susemanager/salt
    - /usr/share/salt-formulas/states
    - /usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states
    - /srv/susemanager/salt
    - /srv/salt

# Configure different pillar roots. Custom pillar data should only be placed
# in /srv/pillar.
# Users should not touch other directories listed here.
pillar_roots:
  base:
    - /srv/pillar
```

When you are working with `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf`, be aware that:

- Files listed are searched in the order they appear
- The first matching file found is called

The SUSE Manager Server reads Salt state data from five root directories:

/usr/share/susemanager/salt

This directory is shipped and updated with SUSE Manager and includes certificate setup and common state logic to be applied to packages and channels.



Do not edit or add custom Salt data to this directory.

/usr/share/salt-formulas/states

/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states

These directories are shipped and updated with SUSE Manager or additional extensions. They include states for Salt formulas.



Do not edit or add custom Salt data to this directory.

/srv/susemanager/salt

This directory is generated by SUSE Manager, based on assigned channels and packages for clients, groups, and organizations. This directory will be overwritten and regenerated. It is the Salt equivalent of the SUSE Manager database.



Do not edit or add custom Salt data to this directory.

Within this directory, each organization has a sub-directory.

Listing 5. Example: SLS File Directory Structure

```

❏❏❏ manager_org_<org id>
❏ ❏❏❏ files
❏ ❏ ... files needed by states (uploaded by users)...
❏ ❏❏❏ state.sls
    ... other SLS files (created by users)...
For example:
❏❏❏ manager_org_TESTING
❏ ❏❏❏ files
❏ ❏ ❏❏❏ motd    # user created
❏ ❏ ... other files needed by states ...
❏ ❏❏❏ motd.sls  # user created
    ... other SLS files ...

```

/srv/salt

This directory is used for custom state data, modules, and related data. SUSE Manager does not operate or use this directory directly. The state data in this directory is used by the client highstate, and is merged with the total state result generated by SUSE Manager. Use this

directory for custom Salt data.

The SUSE Manager Server reads Salt pillar data from two root directories:

`/usr/share/susemanager/pillar`

This directory is generated by SUSE Manager. It is shipped and updated together with SUSE Manager.



Do not edit or add custom Salt data to this directory.

`/srv/pillar`

By default, SUSE Manager does not operate or use this directory directly. The custom pillar data in this directory is merged with the pillar result created by SUSE Manager. Use this directory for custom Salt pillar data.



You can use the **gitfs** fileserver backend to serve Salt data from git repositories.
For more information, see [Specialized-guides › Salt](#).

1.8. The gitfs Fileserver Backend

In SUSE Manager, **pygit2** is the supported Python interface to git. When **pygit2** is installed the **gitfs** fileserver backend is available and it is a supported feature.

Configuration options are set in the `/etc/salt/master` file, or in a separate configuration file in the `/etc/salt/master.d/` directory. The basic settings are:

`fileserver_backend`

List of fileserver backends that the Salt master checks for files in the order they are defined.
Options:

- **roots**: Files local on the Salt master (SUSE Manager Server). **roots** is required to keep the product running. You can only enable **gitfs** optionally. Additionally, SUSE strongly recommends to prefer **roots** (local files) over **gitfs**. The standard backend.
- **gitfs**: Files stored in one or more git repositories. The repositories are defined with **gitfs_remotes**.

Example:

```
fileserver_backend:
```

- roots
- git

gitfs_remotes

List of git repositories. `git://`, `https://`, `file://`, or `ssh://` URLs can be configured. For SSH remotes, a scp-like syntax is also supported; for example: `gitlab@gitlab.example.com:universe/setup.git`. Then you can also specify options for credentials, file locations, or branches such as `pubkey`, `privkey`, `root`, `base`.

Example:

```
gitfs_remotes:
- https://example.com/myformulas/formula.git
- gitlab@gitlab.example.com:universe/setup.git:
- pubkey: /var/lib/salt/.ssh/id_rsa_gitlab.pub
- privkey: /var/lib/salt/.ssh/id_rsa_gitlab
- root: srv/salt
- base: master
```

ext_pillar

List of external pillar interfaces. Salt can also serve pillar data from one or more git repositories. For syntax and options, also see the `gitfs_remotes` setting.

Example:

```
ext_pillar:
- git:
- master gitlab@gitlab.example.com:universe/setup.git:
- root: srv/pillar
- pubkey: /var/lib/salt/.ssh/id_rsa_gitlab.pub
- privkey: /var/lib/salt/.ssh/id_rsa_gitlab
```

For more information, see:

- <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/gitfs.html>
- <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/configuration/master.html>

1.9. Install Using Yomi

Yomi (yet one more installer) is an installer for SUSE and openSUSE operating systems. Yomi is

designed as a Salt state, and can be used for installing SUSE operating systems on new systems.

In SUSE Manager, Yomi can be used as part of provisioning new clients, as an alternative to AutoYaST.

Yomi consists of two components:

- The Yomi formula, which contains the Salt states and modules required to perform the installation.
- The operating system image, which includes the pre-configured **salt-minion** service.

Both components can be used independently of SUSE Manager, or integrated with it. This section describes how to use it with SUSE Manager.

- For more information about using Yomi independently, see <https://github.com/openSUSE/yomi>.
- For build assets, see <https://build.opensuse.org/project/show/systemsmanagement:yomi>.

To use Yomi for installing a client operating system, follow this process:

- Install the **yomi-formula** package.
- Prepare the Salt pillar for the new installation.
- Boot the new client using the PXE boot image for Yomi.



To use Yomi with SUSE Manager, ensure you have enough available memory. To boot from USB or DVD image, you need at least 512 MB. To boot from a PXE server, you need at least 2 GB.

1.9.1. Install the Yomi Formula

Before you begin, you need to install the Yomi formula, which is available as a package in SUSE Manager.

The **yomi-formula** package contains the Salt states and modules that describe the Yomi state, and the formulas with forms to create the pillar. It also contains documentation about the different sections of the pillar, and some examples about how to parameterize installations based on openSUSE or SUSE Linux Enterprise.

The formula package performs these actions:

- Adds a new configuration file called **yomi-formula.conf** in the **/etc/salt/master.d/** directory. This configuration file defines the Python module and Salt states required by Yomi.
- Installs the Yomi Salt states in the **/usr/share/salt-formulas/states/** directory.
- Provides some example configuration files in the **/usr/share/yomi/** directory.
- Installs the required forms and sub-forms in the **/usr/share/salt-formulas/metadata/** directory.
- Provides some pillar examples in the **/usr/share/yomi/pillar/** directory.

Procedure: Installing the Yomi Formula

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, install the **yomi-formula** package:

```
zypper in yomi-formula
```

2. Restart services:

```
systemctl restart salt-master.service
```

For more information about the Yomi formula, see [Specialized-guides › Salt](#).

1.9.2. Install the PXE Image

To provision a new client, you need an operating system image to boot from. You can use any image that contains a **salt-minion** service enabled, together with a minimal set of tools that are required during the installation, for example **parted** or **btrfsutils**.

Yomi provides an already prepared image, based on openSUSE Tumbleweed, openSUSE Leap (for Uyuni), or SLE (for SUSE Manager). For SUSE Manager, the image is packaged as an RPM. This is done in a similar way to how **pxe-default-image** is distributed.

The package installs a standard PXE OEM image generated by Kiwi, the initial kernel and initrd in the **/srv/pxe-yomi-image/** directory, and the second stage kernel, initrd and image in the **/srv/pxe-yomi-image/image** directory.

Procedure: Installing the PXE Image

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, install the **pxe-yomi-image** service:

```
zypper in pxe-yomi-image-sle15
```

When you have the package installed, you can register Yomi in Cobbler.

1.9.3. Register Yomi in Cobbler

SUSE Manager uses Cobbler to manage the PXE boot service, so you will need to register the image in Cobbler.

Procedure: Registering the Yomi Image in Cobbler

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, create a directory for the Yomi image:

```
mkdir /srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-image
```

2. Define a distribution in Cobbler, including the path to install the second stage kernel and initrd, the location of the full image, and any further kernel options. Adjust this command to include the correct version of the product, and the TFTP server address:

```
cobbler distro add \
  --name=pxe-yomi-image \
  --kernel=/srv/pxe-yomi-image/linux \
  --initrd=/srv/pxe-yomi-image/initrd \
  --boot-files='/srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-image/image.initrd=/srv/pxe-yomi-
-image/image/pxe-yomi-image-sle15.x86_64-1.0.0.initrd /srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-
image/image.kernel=/srv/pxe-yomi-image/image/pxe-yomi-image-sle15.x86_64-
1.0.0.kernel /srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-image/image.md5=/srv/pxe-yomi-
image/image/pxe-yomi-image-sle15.x86_64-1.0.0.md5 /srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-
image/image.config.bootoptions=/srv/pxe-yomi-image/image/pxe-yomi-image-
sle15-x86_64-1.0.0.config.bootoptions /srv/tftpboot/pxe-yomi-
image/image.xz=/srv/pxe-yomi-image/image/pxe-yomi-image-sle15.x86_64-
1.0.0.xz' \
  --kernel-options='rd.kiwi.install.pxe rd.kiwi.install.image=tftp://<server-
address>/pxe-yomi-image/image.xz rd.kiwi.ramdisk ramdisk_size=2097152
net.ifnames=1'
```

By default, the **salt-minion** service in **pxe-yomi-image** is configured to find the Salt master under the **salt** address. If the DNS server is not able to resolve this address, you need to adjust the

kernel-options parameter from the Cobbler command that register the distribution, and add a new kernel command line of **ym.master=master_address**. This will override the default configuration for the **salt-minion**.

Procedure: Registering the Yomi Profile in Cobbler

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, define a profile in Cobbler based on the image.

```
cobbler profile add \  
  --name pxe-yomi-profile \  
  --distro=pxe-yomi-image
```

2. OPTIONAL: Create a system in Cobbler. If you know the MAC address for the new client to be provisioned, you can have it boot directly from the Yomi image.

```
cobbler system add \  
  --name=yomi \  
  --mac=00:11:22:33:44:55 \  
  --profile=pxe-yomi-profile
```

3. When the new node has been provisioned, remove the temporary Cobbler system:

```
cobbler system remove --name=yomi
```

1.9.4. Example Salt Pillar Preparation

The parameters of the new installation are defined with a Salt pillar. The pillar includes parameters that the Yomi state requires during the installation, including the partitions, file systems, repositories, packages installed, and services enabled.

The pillar is defined using the formulas with forms. In this example, we prepare the pillar for a minimal openSUSE Tumbleweed installation. You can find examples for SUSE Linux Enterprise in the example directory **/usr/share/yomi/pillar/**.

To begin, boot the client that you want to provision using the Yomi PXE boot image, using the Cobbler procedures described earlier in this section.

When the **salt-minion** service is running on the new client, accept the key by navigating to **Salt › Keys**. When the key is accepted, you can view and manage the client by navigating to **Systems ›**

Overview. Navigate to the **Formulas** tab, and add all the Yomi Installer formulas to the client. When you have added all the formulas, complete the forms and sub-forms. This section outlines each form and provides example settings for a minimal installation. For a detailed explanation of every option, see [Specialized-guides › Salt](#).

Yomi

The Yomi form contains some general configuration options. For example, the keyboard language and layout, the locale information, and the option to perform a full reset of the system after provisioning.

For this example, set the **Reboot** parameter to **yes**.

Yomi Storage

This sub-form provides information about the devices, partitioning, file system (including the Btrfs subvolumes, for example), and LVM and RAID configuration.

For this example, we assume that the new client has a single device named **/dev/sda**, and that it belongs to a non-UEFI system. In this case, we have only three partitions: one for the boot loader, one for swap and one for the system. We also expect to have an ext4 file system for the root directory.

Device 1:

- Device: **/dev/sda**
- Label: GPT
- Initial Gap: 1 MB

Create three partitions:

- Partition 1:
 - Partition Number: 1
 - Partition Size: 1 MB
 - Partition Type: boot
- Partition 2:
 - Partition Number: 2
 - Partition Size: 1024 MB

- Partition Type: swap
- Partition 3:
 - Partition Number: 3
 - Partition Size: rest
 - Partition Type: linux

Create two file systems:

- Filesystem 1:
 - Partition: /dev/sda2
 - Filesystem: swap
- Filesystem 2:
 - Partition: /dev/sda3
 - Filesystem: ext4
 - Mountpoint: /

Yomi Bootloader

This sub-form provides details required for GRUB.

Set these parameters:

- Device: /dev/sda
- Theme: selected

The **Kernel** parameter can be used for the GRUB **append** section.

Yomi Software

This form provides the different repositories and packages to install. You can also register the product in this form, using SUSEConnect, and install the different modules after registering.

For this example we are going to install a very minimal openSUSE Tumbleweed distribution, using publicly available repositories. For production deployments, you will need to provide a local repository.

Add a new repository: * Repository Name: repo-oss * Repository URL: <http://download.opensuse.org/tumbleweed/repo/oss/>

Add these packages: `* pattern:enhanced_base * glibc-locale * kernel-default`

You can also add patterns and products, together with packages, by using the correct prefix.

Yomi Services

By default Yomi is installed with the **salt-minion** service, but you must enable it.

Add a new enabled service:

- Service 1:
 - Service: salt-minion

Yomi Users

This form sets out the system users. In this example, we have a single root user. To provide a password, you must use the hashed version of the password, not the plain text. This behavior is set to be changed in future versions of Yomi.

- User 1:
 - Username: root
 - Password Hash: \$1\$wYJUgpm5\$RXMMeASDc035eXNbYWF10

1.9.5. Monitor the Installation

You can monitor the installation as it progresses, using the **monitor** tool from Yomi. You can continue monitoring as the highstate is applied to the new client. To use the tool, you will need to have enabled **Events** in the Yomi formula, and have the **salt-api** service activated.

For more information about the **salt-api** service, and how to use the **monitor** tool, see <https://github.com/openSUSE/yomi>.

1.10. Configuration Modules

Salt uses execution and state modules to define, apply, and orchestrate configuration of your devices. SUSE Manager provides a set of modules called Uyuni configuration modules, that you can use to configure both SUSE Manager and Uyuni Servers.

You can use the Uyuni configuration modules directly or using SLS files. They are especially useful if you have multiple SUSE Manager Servers, for example in Hub installations, but they are

also useful for smaller installations.

For more information about using Hub, see [Specialized-guides › Large-deployments](#).

You can use Uyuni configuration modules to configure:

- Organizations
- Users
- User permissions
- System groups
- Activation Keys

For more information about Salt execution modules, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/modules.html>.

For more information about Salt state modules, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/starting_states.html.

1.10.1. Install Configuration Modules

The Uyuni configuration modules are available in the **uyuni-config-modules** package. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, use this command:

```
zypper in uyuni-config-modules
```

This package also installs detailed API descriptions, indications on pillar settings, and examples. When you have installed the package, navigate to `/usr/share/doc/packages/uyuni-config-modules/`.

1.11. Salt Formulas

Formulas are collections of Salt States that contain generic parameter fields. Formulas allow for reliable reproduction of a specific configuration. Some formulas are supplied by SUSE, or you can install formulas from RPM packages or an external git repository.

Formulas work best for large, non-trivial, configurations. For smaller tasks, use a state rather than a formula. Formulas and states both act as a kind of configuration documentation. When you have written and stored the configuration, they provide a snapshot of your infrastructure.

Formula data can be managed using the XMLRPC API.

You can use the SUSE Manager Web UI to apply SUSE Manager formulas. The most commonly used formulas are documented in this section.

Alternatively, you can use pre-written formulas as a starting point for your own custom formulas. Pre-written formulas are available from <https://github.com/saltstack-formulas>.

For more information on custom formulas, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

1.11.1. Formulas Provided by SUSE Manager

Some formulas are installed by default with SUSE Manager. Other official formulas can be installed as RPM packages. When the formula is installed, you can activate them using the SUSE Manager Web UI.

For information about writing custom formulas, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

1.11.1.1. Install Formulas with Zypper

Formulas are provided in the SUSE Manager pool software channel.



If a formula uses the same name as an existing Salt state, the two names will collide, and could result in the formula being used instead of the state. Always check states and formulas to avoid name clashes.

Procedure: Installing Formulas with Zypper

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, search for available formulas:

```
zypper se --type package formula
```

2. Get more information about a formula:

```
zypper info <formula_name>
```

3. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, install the formula:

```
zypper in <formula_name>
```

1.11.1.2. Activate Formulas from the Web UI

Formulas provided by SUSE Manager, or formulas that you have installed, can be activated using the SUSE Manager Web UI.

Procedure: Activate Formulas from the Web UI

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems › List**, select the client you want to activate the formula for.
2. Navigate to the **Systems › Formulas** tab, and check the formula you want to activate.
3. Click [**Save**].
4. Navigate to the new subtab for the formula, and configure the formula as required.
5. Apply the highstate.

1.11.2. Bind Formula

The Bind formula is used to configure the Domain Name System (DNS) on the branch server. POS terminals will use the DNS on the branch server for name resolution of Saltboot specific hostnames.

When you are configuring the Bind formula for a branch server with a dedicated internal network, check that you are using the same fully qualified domain name (FQDN) on both the external and internal branch networks. If the FQDN does not match on both networks, the branch server will not be recognized as a proxy server.



The following procedure outlines a standard configuration with two zones. Adjust it to suit your own environment.

Zone 1 is a regular domain zone. Its main purpose is to resolve Saltboot hostnames such as TFTP, FTP, or Salt. It can also resolve the terminal names if configured.

Zone 2 is the reverse zone of Zone 1. Its main purpose is to resolve IP addresses back to hostnames. Zone 2 is primarily needed for the correct determination of the FQDNs of the branch.

Procedure: Configuring Bind with Two Zones

1. Check the **Bind** formula, click **Save**, and navigate to the **Formulas › Bind** tab.
2. In the **Config** section, select **Include Forwarders**.

3. In the **Configured Zones** section, use these parameters for Zone 1:
 - In the **Name** field, enter the domain name of your branch network (for example: **branch1.example.com**).
 - In the **Type** field, select **master**.
4. Click **Add item** to add a second zone, and set these parameters for Zone 2:
 - In the **Name** field, use the reverse zone for the configured IP range (for example: **com.example.branch1**).
 - In the **Type** field, select **master**.
5. In the **Available Zones** section, use these parameters for Zone 1:
 - In the **Name** field, enter the domain name of your branch network (for example: **branch1.example.org**).
 - In the **File** field, type the name of your configuration file.
6. In the **Start of Authority (SOA)** section, use these parameters for Zone 1:
 - In the **Nameserver (NS)** field, use the FQDN of the branch server (for example: **branchserver.branch1.example.org**).
 - In the **Contact** field, use the email address for the domain administrator.
 - Keep all other fields as their default values.
7. In the **Records** section, in subsection **A**, use these parameters to set up an A record for Zone 1:
 - In the **Hostname** field, use the hostname of the branch server (for example: **branchserver**).
 - In the **IP** field, use the IP address of the branch server (for example, **192.168.1.5**).
8. In the **Records** section, subsection **NS**, use these parameters to set up an NS record for Zone 1:
 - In the input box, use the hostname of the branch server (for example: **branchserver**).
9. In the **Records** section, subsection **CNAME**, use these parameters to set up CNAME records for Zone 1:
 - In the **Key** field, enter **tftp**, and in the **Value** field, type the hostname of the branch server (for example: **branchserver**).
 - Click **Add Item**. In the **Key** field, enter **ftp**, and in the **Value** field, type the hostname of the branch server.
 - Click **Add Item**. In the **Key** field, enter **dns**, and in the **Value** field, type the hostname of the

branch server.

- Click **Add Item**. In the **Key** field, enter **dhcp**, and in the **Value** field, type the hostname of the branch server.
- Click **Add Item**. In the **Key** field, enter **salt**, and in the **Value** field, type the FQDN of the branch server (for example: **branchserver.branch1.example.org**).

10. Set up Zone 2 using the same parameters as for Zone 1, but ensure you use the reverse details:

- The same SOA section as Zone 1.
- Empty A and CNAME records.
- Additionally, configure in Zone 2:
 - **Generate Reverse** field by the network IP address set in branch server network formula (for example, **192.168.1.5/24**).
 - **For Zones** should specify the domain name of your branch network (for example, **branch1.example.org**).

11. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

12. Apply the highstate.



Reverse name resolution on terminals might not work for networks that are inside one of these IPv4 private address ranges:

- 10.0.0.0/8
- 172.16.0.0/12
- 192.168.0.0/16

If you encounter this problem, go to the **Options** section of the Bind formula, and click [**Add item**]:

- In the **Options** field, enter **empty-zones-enable**.
- In the **Value** field, select **No**.

1.11.3. Branch Network Formula

The Branch Network formula is used to configure the networking services required by the branch server, including DHCP, DNS, TFTP, PXE, and FTP.

1.11.3.1. Set Up a Branch Server Networking

The branch server can be configured to use networking in many different ways. The most common ways provide either a dedicated or shared LAN for terminals.

1.11.3.1.1. Set Up a Branch Server with a Dedicated LAN

In this configuration, the branch server requires at least two network interfaces: one acts as a WAN to communicate with the SUSE Manager server, and the other one acts as an isolated LAN to communicate with terminals.

This configuration allows for the branch server to provide DHCP, DNS, TFTP, PXE, and FTP services to terminals. These services can be configured with Salt formulas in the SUSE Manager Web UI.

Procedure: Setting Up a Branch Server with a Dedicated LAN

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. In the **Branch Network** section, set these parameters:
 - Keep **Dedicated NIC** checked.
 - In the **NIC** field, enter the name of the network device that is connected to the internal LAN.
 - In the **IP** field, enter the static IP address to be assigned to the branch server on the internal LAN.
 - In the **Netmask** field, enter the network mask of the internal LAN.
3. Check **Enable Route** if you want the branch server to route traffic from internal LAN to WAN.
 - Check **Enable NAT** if you want the branch server to convert addresses from internal LAN to WAN.
 - Select the **bind** DNS forwarder mode.
 - Check **DNS forwarder fallback** if you want to rely on an external DNS if the branch DNS fails.
 - Specify the working directory, and the directory owner and group.

1.11.3.1.2. Set up a Branch Server with a Shared Network

In this configuration, the branch server has only one network interface card, which is used to

connect to the SUSE Manager server as well as the terminals.

This configuration allows for the branch server to provide DNS, TFTP, PXE, and FTP services to terminals. These services can be configured with Salt formulas in the SUSE Manager Web UI. Optionally, the branch server can also provide DHCP services in this configuration.



If DHCP services are not provided by the branch server, ensure that your external DHCP configuration is set correctly:

- The **next-server** option must point to the branch server for PXE boot to work.
- The **filename** option must correctly identify the network boot program (by default, this is `/boot/pxelinux`).
- The **domain-name-servers** option must point to the branch server for correct host name resolution.

Procedure: Setting Up a Branch Server with a Shared Network

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. In the **Branch Network** section, set these parameters:
 - Keep **Dedicated NIC** unchecked.
 - Enable services on the branch server's firewall. Ensure you include DNS, TFTP, and FTP services.
 - Select the **bind** DNS forwarder mode.
 - Check DNS forwarder fallback if you want to rely on an external DNS if the branch DNS fails.
 - Specify the working directory, and the directory owner and group.

1.11.3.2. Set up Branch Server Terminal Naming

In this configuration it is required to fill at least **Branch Identification**. This identifies Branch Server in Retail subsystem and is also used to better organize terminals with their respective branch servers.

Procedure: Setting up a Branch Server Identification

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the

Formulas tab.

2. In the **Terminal Naming** section, enter the **Branch Identification** string.
3. Click [**Save**] to save your changes.
4. Apply the highstate.

It is also possible to set various options about terminal naming, for more information about terminal naming see **Retail › Retail-terminal-names**.

1.11.4. DHCPd Formula

The DHCPd formula is used to configure the DHCP service on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring DHCP

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
2. Check the **Dhcpd** formula, and click [**Save**].
3. Navigate to the **Formulas › Dhcpcd** tab, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Domain Name** field, enter the domain name for the branch server (for example: **branch1.example.com**).
 - In the **Domain Name Server** field, enter either the IP address or resolvable FQDN of the branch DNS server (for example: **192.168.1.5**).
 - In the **Listen Interfaces** field, enter the name of the network interface used to connect to the local branch network (for example: **eth1**).
4. Navigate to the **Network Configuration (subnet)** section, and use these parameters for Network1:
 - In the **Network IP** field, enter the IP address of the branch server network (for example: **192.168.1.0**).
 - In the **Netmask** field, enter the network mask of the branch server network (for example: **255.255.255.0**).
 - In the **Domain Name** field, enter the domain name for the branch server network (for example: **branch1.example.com**).
5. In the **Dynamic IP Range** section, use these parameters to configure the IP range to be served by the DHCP service:

- In the first input box, set the lower bound of the IP range (for example: 192.168.1.51).
 - In the second input box, set the upper bound of the IP range (for example: 192.168.1.151).
6. In the **Broadcast Address** field, enter the broadcast IP address for the branch network (for example: 192.168.1.255).
 7. In the **Routers** field, enter the IP address to be used by routers in the branch server network (for example: 192.168.1.5).
 8. In the **Next Server** field, enter the hostname or IP address of the branch server (for example: 192.168.1.5).
 9. In the **Filename** field, if you are booting a client using PXE, type the path to the PXE bootloader. There is usually no need to change the default value of `/boot/pxelinux.0`.
 10. In the **Filename Efi** field, if you are booting a UEFI client using PXE, type the path to the PXE bootloader. There is usually no need to change the default value of `/boot/shim.efi`.
 11. In the **Filename Http** field, if you are booting a UEFI client using HTTP, type `http://branchserver/saltboot/boot/shim.efi`.
 12. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.
 13. Apply the highstate.

1.11.5. Image Synchronization Formula

The Image Synchronization formula is used to configure when OS images are synchronized to the branch server, and to specify which images to synchronize.

If this formula is not enabled, synchronization must be started manually, and all images will be synchronized.

Procedure: Configuring Image Synchronization

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
2. Check the **Image Synchronize** formula, and click [**Save**].
3. Navigate to the Formulas › Image Synchronize tab, and set these parameters:
 - Check the **Include Image Synchronization in Highstate** field to have image synchronization occur every time highstate is applied. This ensures that you do not have to perform image synchronization manually, however it requires a high bandwidth

environment.

- In the **Synchronize only the listed images** field, click [**Add item**] to add the images you want to have synchronized automatically. Alternatively, you can leave this list blank to have all images synchronized.

4. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

5. Apply the highstate.



The Image Synchronization state does not delete cached images. If you are running out of disk space, check the size of the Salt client cache directory, and delete it if required. By default, the directory is located at `/var/cache/salt/minion`.

1.11.6. Monitoring Formula

The monitoring services in SUSE Manager are configured using formulas with forms. The package is installed by default, and contains these formulas:

- Grafana
- Prometheus
- Prometheus Exporters

For more information about using monitoring, see [Administration › Monitoring](#).

1.11.6.1. Grafana

Procedure: Configuring the Grafana Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Grafana** tab, and set these parameters in the **Grafana** section:

- Check the **Enabled** box to enable Grafana visualizations.



Initial admin password is used on the first run only, and Grafana UI prompts to change it. This field cannot be used to change the Grafana password. For more information on how to change the password, see [Administration › Monitoring](#).

2. For each Prometheus data source you want to use, in the **Datasources › Prometheus** section, click [**+**], and set these parameters:

- In the **Datasource name** field, type a name to identify the data source.
 - In the **Prometheus URL** field, type the used protocol, the location of the Prometheus server, and append port **9090**. For example, **<http://example.com:9090>**. In case TLS encryption is enabled in Prometheus formula make sure to use **https** protocol and FQDN.
 - In the fields **Prometheus server username** and **Prometheus server password**, enter basic authentication credentials for Prometheus server matching the ones in Prometheus formula.
3. In the **Dashboards** section, check the dashboards you want to use:
- **Uyuni server dashboard**
 - **Uyuni clients dashboard**
 - **PostgreSQL dashboard**
 - **Apache HTTPD dashboard**
 - **Kubernetes cluster dashboard**
 - **Kubernetes etcd dashboard**
 - **Kubernetes namespaces dashboard**
4. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

1.11.6.2. Prometheus

Procedure: Configuring the Prometheus Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Prometheus** tab, and set these parameters in the **Prometheus** section:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable Prometheus monitoring.
 - In the **Scrape interval** field, type the frequency of data scraping, in seconds. For example, **15** will scrape data every fifteen seconds.
 - In the **Evaluation interval** field, type the frequency of rules evaluation, in seconds. For example, **15** will evaluate alerting and aggregation rules every fifteen seconds.
2. In the **TLS** section, set these parameters:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the secure configuration on Prometheus server.
 - In the **Server Certificate** field, type the path to the TLS server certificate.

- In the **Server Key** field, type the path to the TLS server key.
 - In the **User** field, type the user name for Prometheus server.
 - In the **Password Hash** field, type the password for Prometheus server hashed with bcrypt.
3. In the **Uyuni Server** section, set these parameters:
- Check the **Enabled** box to enable monitoring on this server.
 - Check the **Autodiscover clients** box to enable Prometheus to automatically find and monitor new clients when they are added to the server.
 - In the **Username** field, type the user name of the Prometheus account on the server.
 - In the **Password** field, type the password of the Prometheus account on the server.
 - In the **Targets TLS** section, set these parameters:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the secure configuration for auto-discovered targets.
 - In the **CA Certificate** field, type the path to the Certificate Authority certificate.
 - In the **Client Certificate** field, type the path to the TLS client certificate for authentication.
 - In the **Client Key** field, type the path to the TLS client key for authentication.
4. In the **Alerting** section, set these parameters:
- Check the **Enable local Alertmanager service** box to enable the alert manager service.
 - Check the **Use local Alertmanager** box to use the local alert manager service.
5. For each alert manager you want to use, in the **Alerting › Alertmanagers** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
- In the **IP Address:Port** field, type the location of the alert manager target, including the port number.
6. To use a rule file, in the **Alerting › Rule Files** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
- In the **Rule Files** field, type the location of the rule file you want to use.
7. To add a custom scrape configuration, in the **User defined scrape configurations** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
- In the **Job name** field, type a unique job name for your configuration.
 - In the **Files** field, type the location pattern of file service discovery files you want to use.

For more information, see the upstream documentation https://prometheus.io/docs/prometheus/latest/configuration/configuration/#file_sd_config.

8. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.



The formula does not generate and deploy the TLS certificates and keys. Ensure the files are present on the Salt client and readable for the user **prometheus** before applying the highstate. For more information about generating client and server certificates, see **Administration › Monitoring**.

1.11.6.3. Prometheus Exporters

Procedure: Configuring the Prometheus Exporters Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Prometheus Exporters** tab, and set these parameters in the **Node Exporter** section:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the node exporter.
 - In the **Arguments** field, type any customized arguments for this exporter. For example, `--web.listen-address=":9100"`.
2. In the **Apache Exporter** section:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the Apache exporter.
 - In the **Arguments** field, type any customized arguments for this exporter. For example, `--telemetry.address=":9117"`.
3. In the **Postgres Exporter** section:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the PostgreSQL exporter.
 - In the **Data source Name** field, type the name of the data source to use.
 - In the **Arguments** field, type any customized arguments for this exporter. For example, `--web.listen-address=":9187"`.
4. In the **TLS** section:
 - Check the **Enabled** box to enable the secure configuration.
 - In the **CA Certificate** field, type the path to the Certificate Authority certificate.
 - In the **Server Certificate** field, type the path to the TLS server certificate.
 - In the **Server Key** field, type the path to the TLS server key.

- Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

1.11.6.3.1. File-based service discovery

It is possible to define monitored targets using file-based service discovery provided in the Prometheus formula. This is a basic example demonstrating the usage:

```
[
  {
    "targets": [ "<client1>:9100", "<client2>:9100" ],
    "labels": {
      "role": "<suma-client>",
      "job": "<suma-refclient>"
    }
  },
  {
    "targets": [ "<server>:80" ],
    "labels": {
      "role": "<suma-server>",
      "job": "<suma-refhost>",
      "__metrics_path__": "/rhn/metrics"
    }
  }
]
```

For more information, see <https://prometheus.io/docs/guides/file-sd/>.

1.11.6.3.2. TLS certificates and keys

The formula does not generate and deploy the TLS certificates and keys. Ensure the files are present on the Salt client and readable for the user **prometheus** before applying the highstate. For more information about generating client and server certificates, see **Administration › Monitoring**.

1.11.6.4. Activate Forms

When you have completed and saved all the forms, apply the highstate.

For more information about using monitoring, see **Administration › Monitoring**.

1.11.7. PXE Formula

The PXE formula is used to configure PXE booting on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring PXE Booting

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. Select the **Pxe** formula, and click **Save**.
3. Navigate to the **Formulas › Pxe** tab, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Kernel Filename** field, keep the default value.
 - In the **Initrd Filename** field, keep the default value.
 - If the terminals connecting to this branch server are running ARM64 architecture, check the **Enable ARM64 UEFI boot** box. Leave unchecked for x86-64.
 - In the **Kernel Filename for ARM64** field, keep the default value.
 - In the **Initrd Filename for ARM64** field, keep the default value.
 - In the **Kernel Command Line Parameters** field, keep the default value. For more information about possible values, see [Saltboot Kernel Command Line Parameters](#).
 - In the **PXE root directory** field, enter the path to the Saltboot directory (for example, `/srv/saltboot`).
4. Click **Save Formula** to save your configuration.
5. Apply the highstate.

1.11.7.1. Saltboot Kernel Command Line Parameters

Saltboot supports common kernel parameters and Saltboot-specific kernel parameters. All the parameters can be entered in the **Kernel Command Line Parameters** field of the PXE formula.

kiwidebug=1

Starts a shell on tty2 during boot and enables debug logging in Salt.



Do not use this parameter in a production environment as it creates a major security hole. This parameter should be used only in a development environment for debug purposes.

MASTER

Overrides auto-detection of the Salt master. For example:

```
MASTER=myproxy.domain.com
```

SALT_TIMEOUT

Overrides the local boot fallback timeout if the Salt master does not apply the Saltboot state within this timeout (default: 60 seconds). For example:

```
SALT_TIMEOUT=300
```

DISABLE_HOSTNAME_ID

If the terminal has a hostname assigned by DHCP, it is by default used as a minion ID. Setting this option to 1 disables this mechanism, and SMBios information will be used as a minion ID.

DISABLE_UNIQUE_SUFFIX

Setting this option to 1 disables adding random generated suffix to terminal minion ID.

If you set this parameter make sure your terminal has either a unique hostname provided by DHCP and DNS, or the terminal hardware comes with a unique serial number stored in its SMBios memory. Otherwise there is a risk of terminal minion ID duplicity, and bootstrapping the minion will fail.

The following parameters (**MINION_ID_PREFIX**, **salt_device**, **root**) are usually autoconfigured and should be used only in specific conditions such as debugging or development:

MINION_ID_PREFIX

Branch ID set in the Branch Network formula form.

salt_device

Device that contains the Salt configuration.

root

Device that contains the already deployed root file system. Used for falling back to local boot.

1.11.8. Saltboot Formula

The Saltboot formula is used to configure disk images and partitioning for the selected hardware

type.



The Saltboot formula is meant to be used as a group formula. Enable and configure Saltboot formula for hardware type groups.



To apply changes to a terminal, terminal needs to be restarted. Applying highstate does not have any effect on running terminals.

Procedure: Configuring the Hardware Type Group with Saltboot

1. Open the details page for your new hardware type group, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. Select the Saltboot formula and click **[Save]**.
3. Navigate to the **Formulas › Saltboot** tab.
4. In the **Disk 1** section, set these parameters:
 - In the **Disk symbolic ID** field, enter a custom name for the disk (for example, **disk1**).
 - In the **Device type** field, select **DISK**.
 - In the **Disk device** field, select the device that corresponds to the device name on the target machine or asterisk *, see [Disk Selection in Saltboot Formula](#).
 - In the **RAID level** field, leave it empty.
 - In the **Disk Label** field, select **gpt**.
5. In the **Partition** section, set these parameters for **Partition 1**:
 - In the **Partition symbolic ID** field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, **p1**).
 - In the **Partition size** use value 500.
 - In the **Device mount point** use **/boot/efi**.
 - In the **Filesystem format** use **vfat**.
 - In the **OS Image to deploy** field, leave it empty.
 - In the **Partition encryption password** field, leave it empty.
 - In the **Partition flags** use **boot**.
6. In the **Partition** section, set these parameters for **Partition 2**:
 - In the **Partition symbolic ID** field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, **p2**).
 - In the **Partition size** field, specify a size for the partition in Mebibytes (MiB).

- In the **Device mount point** field, select a location to mount the partition (for example, **/data**).
- In the **Filesystem format** field, select your preferred format (for example, **xfs**).
- In the **OS Image to deploy** field, leave it empty.
- In the **Partition encryption password** field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
- In the **Partition flags** field, leave it empty.

7. In the **Partition** section, set these parameters for **Partition 3**:

- In the **Partition symbolic ID** field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, **p3**).
- In the **Partition size** field, specify a size for the partition in Mebibytes (MiB).
- In the **Device mount point** field, leave it empty.
- In the **Filesystem format** field, select **swap**.
- In the **OS Image to deploy** field, leave it empty.
- In the **Partition encryption password** field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
- In the **Partition flags** field, select **swap**.

8. In the **Partition** section, set these parameters for **Partition 4**:

- In the **Partition symbolic ID** field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, **p4**).
- In the **Partition size** field, leave it empty. This will ensure the partition uses up all remaining space.
- In the **Device mount point** field, select **/**.
- In the **Filesystem format** field, leave it empty.
- In the **OS Image to deploy** field, enter the name of the image to deploy.
- In the **Image version** field, leave it empty. This will ensure you use the latest available version.
- In the **Partition encryption password** field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
- In the **Partition flags** field, leave it empty.

9. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

1.11.8.1. Special Partition Types

The Saltboot formula helps you with setting up special partition types.



For terminal to be able to boot locally, either **BIOS grub** or **EFI** partition must be configured.

1.11.8.1.1. BIOS grub Partition

A BIOS grub partition is needed for local booting from a **GPT** disk on non-EFI machines. For more information, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/BIOS_boot_partition.

In the formula, enter the following options:

```
Partition Symbolic ID: p1
Partition Size (MiB): 50
Partition Flags: bios_grub
```

Leave the other fields empty.

1.11.8.1.2. EFI Partition

An EFI partition is needed for local booting on EFI machines, **Partition Table Type** must be **GPT**. For more information, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EFI_system_partition.

In the formula, enter the following options:

```
Partition Symbolic ID: p1
Partition Size (MiB): 500
Device Mount Point: /boot/efi
Filesystem Format: vfat
Partition Flags: boot
```

Leave the other fields empty.

1.11.8.2. Disk Selection in Saltboot Formula

When there is only one disk present on target hardware (including USB drives), use an asterisk ***** to automatically select the disk device.

When there are multiple disks, use an asterisk ***** in the device path. In this example, SATA disks are

differentiated from USB disks:

```
/dev/disk/by-path/*-ata-1
/dev/disk/by-path/*usb*
```

If the entered value does not contain `/`, the entered value is automatically prepended by `/dev/disk/by-path/`. For example, `*usb*` is the same as `/dev/disk/by-path/*usb*`.

If you prefer to select specific devices, you can this format in the disk device field:

- symbolic names (for example: `/dev/sda`)
- by-path (for example: `/dev/disk/by-path/..`)
- by-id (for example: `/dev/disk/by-id/...`)

To see a list of available devices from the command prompt, press `Esc` while waiting for key approval.

1.11.8.3. Troubleshooting the Saltboot Formula

msdos Disklabel Limitations

On the **msdos** disk label, you can create a maximum of four primary partitions. Extended partitions are not supported. If you need more than four partitions, use the **GPT** disk label instead.

For more information on troubleshooting problems with the Saltboot formula, see [Administration › Troubleshooting](#).

1.11.9. TFTPd Formula

The TFTPd formula is used to configure the TFTP service on the SUSE Manager for Retail branch server.

Procedure: Configuring TFTP

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. Select the **Tftpd** formula, and click `[Save]`.
3. Navigate to the **Formulas › Tftpd** tab, and set these parameters:

- In the **Internal Network Address** field, enter the IP address of the branch server (for example: 192.168.1.5).
 - In the **TFTP Base Directory** field, enter the path to the Saltboot directory (for example, /srv/saltboot).
 - In the **Run TFTP Under User** field, enter **saltboot**.
4. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.
 5. Apply the highstate.

1.11.10. VsFTPD Formula

The VsFTPD formula is used to configure the FTP service on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring VsFTPD

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the **Formulas** tab.
2. Select the **Vsftpd** formula, and click [**Save**].
3. Navigate to the **Formulas › Vsftpd** tab, and set these parameters:
 - In the **FTP server directory** field, enter **/srv/saltboot**.
 - In the **Internal Network Address** field, enter the IP address of the branch server (for example: 192.168.1.5).
 - All other fields can retain their default values.
4. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.
5. Apply the highstate.

1.11.11. Yomi Formula

The Yomi (yet one more installer) installer for SUSE and openSUSE operating systems is configured using formulas with forms.

The **yomi-formula** package provides these formulas:

- Yomi
- Yomi Storage

- Yomi Bootloader
- Yomi Software
- Yomi Services
- Yomi Users

Procedure: Install the Yomi Formulas with Forms

1. On the SUSE Manager Server, at the command prompt, as root, install the **yomi-formula** package:

```
zypper in yomi-formula
```

2. Restart services:

```
systemctl restart salt-master.service
```

When the formula package is installed, you need to install the PXE Yomi image on the client, boot the client you want to provision, and enable the Yomi formulas on the client. For more information on preparing Yomi clients for provisioning, see [Specialized-guides › Salt](#).

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi** tab, and set these parameters in the **General Configuration** section:
 - Check the **Events** box to allow monitoring.
 - In the **Reboot** field, select **yes** to instruct the client to reboot after installation.
 - Check the **Snapper** box if you are using the btrfs file system on the client.
 - In the **Locale** field, select the region and encoding for systemd to use on the client. For example: **en_US.utf8** for US English and UTF-8.
 - In the **Keymap** field, select the appropriate keyboard layout. For example: **us** for a US keyboard layout.
 - In the **Timezone** field, select the timezone for the client to use. For example: **America/New_York** for EST.
 - In the **Hostname** field, enter the hostname for the client to use. Leave this blank if you are using DHCP to provide the hostname.

- In the **Machine Id** field, enter a machine identification number for the client. Leave this blank to have systemd generate one automatically.
- In the **Target** field, enter a systemd target unit.

2. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Storage Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi Storage** tab, and set these parameters in the **Partitions › Config** section:
 - In the **Labels** field, select the default partition table type to use.
 - In the **Initial Gap** field, select the default amount of space to leave before the first partition. For example: **1 MB**, or use **0** to leave no space between partitions.
2. For each device that you want to configure, in the **Partitions › Devices** section, click [**+**], and set these parameters:
 - In the **Device** field, type the mount point for the device. For example, **/dev/sda**.
 - In the **Label** field, select the partition table type to use, if it is different from the default label you selected.
 - In the **Initial Gap** field, select the amount of space to leave before the first partition, if it is different from the default space you specified.
3. For each partition that you want to create, in the **Partitions › Devices › Partitions** section, click [**+**], and set these parameters:
 - In the **Partition Number** field, enter a number for the partition. The number you enter here is appended to the device name to identify the partition. For example, partition number 1 on device **/dev/sda** can be identified as **/dev/sda1**.
 - In the **Partition Name** field, enter a name for the partition. Leave this blank if you have entered a partition number in the previous field.
 - In the **Partition Size** field, enter a size for the partition. For example: **500 MB**. Use **rest** to use all the remaining free space.
4. For each file system that you want to create, in the **Filesystems** section, click [**+**], and set these parameters:
 - In the **Partition** field, select the partition to create the file system on. For example, **/dev/sda1**.

- In the **Filesystem** field, select the file system type to create.
 - In the **Mountpoint** field, type the mount point for the file system. For example: `/` for root.
5. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.



If you want to use LVM or RAID on your devices, click [+] in the appropriate sections, and complete the details for your environment.

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Bootloader Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi Bootloader** tab, and set these parameters in the **Bootloader** section:
 - In the **Device** field, type the path for the bootloader. For example, `/dev/sda`.
 - In the **Timeout** field, select the number of seconds grub will wait before booting the default menu entry.
 - In the **Kernel** field, type any additional kernel parameters you want to use. Any kernel parameters you add here will be appended to the `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT` line during boot.
 - In the **Terminal** field, type the terminal to use for both terminal input and output.
 - In the **Serial Command** field, type parameters for using the serial port. Use this only if you are using the serial console as the default terminal.
 - In the **Gfxmode** field, type the resolution to use for the graphical terminal. Use this only if you are using the graphical console as the default terminal.
 - Check the **Theme** box to use GRUB2 default branding package.
 - Check the **Disable OS Prober** box to disable using the OS prober to discover other installed operating systems.
2. Click [**Save Formula**] to save your configuration.

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Software Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi Software** tab, and set these parameters in the **Software › Configuration** section:
 - Check the **Minimal** box to use a minimal installation, which only installs packages listed as **Required**.
2. For each repository that you want to add, in the **Software › Repositories** section, click [+],

and set these parameters:

- In the **Repository Name** field, type a name for the repository.
 - In the **Repository URL** field, type the location of the repository.
3. To add packages from each repository, in the **Software › Packages** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Software › Packages** field, type the names of the packages to install, or type a pattern to search for the appropriate packages. For example, **pattern:enhanced_base glibc-locale**, or **kernel-default**.
 4. In the **Software › Image** section, set these parameters:
 - In the **Image URL** field, type the location of the operating system ISO image to use.
 - In the **Md5** field, type the MD5 hash to use to verify the ISO.
 5. In the **SUSEConnect › Config** section, set these parameters:
 - In the **Registration Code** field, type the registration code for the client you are installing. You can obtain this code from SUSE Customer Center.
 - In the **Email** field, type the administrator email address to use.
 - In the **Url** field, type the address of the registration server to use. For example, use **<https://scc.suse.com>**, to register with SUSE Customer Center.
 - In the **Version** field, type the version of the product you are registering.
 6. For each product that you want to register, in the **SUSEConnect › Products** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Product** field, type each product you want to register. For example, **<product_name>/1.1/x86**, for version 1.1 with x86 architecture.
 - In the **SUSEConnect › Packages** field, type the names of the packages to install, or type a pattern to search for the appropriate packages. For example, **pattern:enhanced_base glibc-locale**, or **kernel-default**.
 7. Click **[Save Formula]** to save your configuration.

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Services Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi Services** tab, and set these parameters:
 - Check the **Install salt-minion** box to install and configure the client as a Salt client.

2. For each service you want to enable, in the **Services › Enabled** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Service** field, type the name of the service to enable. For example, **salt-minion**.
3. For each service you want to disable, in the **Services › Disabled** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Service** field, type the name of the service to disable.
4. Click **[Save Formula]** to save your configuration.

Procedure: Configuring the Yomi Users Formula

1. Navigate to the **Formulas › Yomi Users** tab.
2. For each user you want to create, in the **Users** section, click **[+]**, and set these parameters:
 - In the **Username** field, type the name of the new user.
 - In the **Password Hash** field, type the hashed version of the password to use.
3. To add a certificate for each user, in the **Users › Certificates** section, click **[+]**, and add the certificate to the **Certificate** field.
4. Click **[Save Formula]** to save your configuration.

When you have completed and saved all the forms, apply the highstate.

For more information about using Yomi, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

1.11.12. Custom Salt Formulas

You can also write your own custom formulas, and make them available to your clients in the SUSE Manager Web UI. This section contains information about writing custom formulas, including formulas with forms.

For information about the formulas provided by SUSE Manager, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

1.11.12.1. File Structure Overview

RPM-based formulas must be placed in a specific directory structure to ensure that they work correctly. A formula contains two separate directories: **states**, and **metadata**. Folders in these directories need to have exactly matching names.

The formula states directory contains anything necessary for a Salt state to work independently. This includes `.sls` files, a `map.jinja` file and any other required files. This directory should only be modified by RPMs and should not be edited manually. For example, the `locale-formula` states directory is located in:

```
/usr/share/salt-formulas/states/locale/
```

To create formulas with forms, the metadata directory contains a `form.yml` file. The `form.yml` file defines the forms for SUSE Manager. The metadata directory also contains an optional `metadata.yml` file that contains additional information about a formula. For example, the `locale-formula` metadata directory is located in:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/locale/
```

If you have a custom formula that is not in an RPM, it must be in a state directory configured as a Salt file root. Custom state formula data must be in:

```
/srv/salt/<custom-formula-name>/
```

Custom metadata information must be in:

```
/srv/formula_metadata/<custom-formula-name>/
```

All custom folders must contain a `form.yml` file. These files are detected as form recipes and are applied to groups and systems from the Web UI:

```
/srv/formula_metadata/<custom-formula-name>/form.yml
```



The Salt formula directory changed in SUSE Manager 4.0. The old directory location, `/usr/share/susemanager/formulas`, will continue to work for some time. You should ensure that you update to the new directory location, `/usr/share/salt-formulas/` as soon as possible.

1.11.12.2. Define Formula with Forms Data

SUSE Manager requires a file called `form.yml`, to describe how formula data should look within the Web UI. The `form.yml` file is used by SUSE Manager to generate the desired formula with forms, with values editable by a user.

The file contains a list of editable attributes that start with a **\$** sign. These attributes are used to determine how to display the formula in the SUSE Manager Web UI.

For example, the **form.yml** that is included with the **locale-formula** is in:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/locale/form.yml
```

Part of that file looks like this:

```
timezone:
  $type: group

name:
  $type: select
  $values: ["CET",
            "Etc/Zulu"
          ]
  $default: CET

hardware_clock_set_to_utc:
  $type: boolean
  $default: True
...
```

All values that start with a **\$** sign are annotations used to display the UI that users interact with. These annotations are not part of pillar data itself and are handled as metadata.

This section lists the available attributes:

\$type

The most important attribute is the **\$type** attribute. It defines the type of the pillar value and the form-field that is generated. The supported types are:

- **text**
- **password**
- **number**
- **url**
- **email**
- **date**

- **time**
- **datetime**
- **boolean**
- **color**
- **select**
- **group**
- **edit-group**
- **namespace**
- **hidden-group** (obsolete, renamed to **namespace**)



The **text** attribute is the default and does not need to be specified explicitly.

Many of these values are self-explanatory:

- The **text** type generates a simple text field
- The **password** type generates a password field
- The **color** type generates a color picker

The **group**, **edit-group**, and **namespace** (formerly **hidden-group**) types do not generate an editable field and are used to structure form and pillar data. All these types support nesting.

The **group** and **namespace** types differ slightly. The **group** type generates a visible border with a heading. The **namespace** type shows nothing visually, and is only used to structure pillar data.

The **edit-group** type allows you to structure and restrict editable fields in a more flexible way. The **edit-group** type is a collection of items of the same kind. Collections can have these four shapes:

- List of primitive items
- List of dictionaries
- Dictionary of primitive items
- Dictionary of dictionaries

The size of each collection is variable. Users can add or remove elements.

For example, **edit-group** supports the **\$minItems** and **\$maxItems** attributes, which simplifies

complex and repeatable input structures. These, and also **itemName**, are optional.

\$default

Allows you to specify a default value to be displayed. This default value will be used if no other value is entered. In an **edit-group** it allows you to create initial members of the group and populate them with specified data.

\$optional

This type is a Boolean attribute. If it is **true** and the field is empty in the form, then this field will not be generated in the formula data and the generated dictionary will not contain the field name key. If it is **false** and the field is empty, the formula data will contain a **<field name>: null** entry.

\$ifEmpty

This type is used if the field is empty. This usually occurs because the user did not provide a value. The **ifEmpty** type can only be used when **\$optional** is **false** or not defined. If **\$optional** is **true**, then **\$ifEmpty** is ignored. In this example, the **DP2** string would be used if the user leaves the field empty:

```
displayName:
  $type: string
  $ifEmpty: DP2
```

\$name

Allows you to specify the name of a value that is shown in the form. If this value is not set, the pillar name is used and capitalized without underscores and dashes. Reference it in the same section with **\${name}**.

\$help and **\$placeholder**

These attributes are used to give a user a better understanding of what the value should be. The **\$help** type defines the message a user sees when hovering over a field. The **\$placeholder** type displays a gray placeholder text in the field.

Use **\$placeholder** only with text fields like text, password, email or date fields. Do not add a placeholder if you also use **\$default**, as it will hide the placeholder.

\$key

Applicable only if the **edit-group** has the shape of a dictionary. When the pillar data is a dictionary, the **\$key** attribute determines the key of an entry in the dictionary.

For example:

```
user_passwords:
  $type: edit-group
  $minItems: 1
  $prototype:
    $key:
      $type: text
    $type: text
  $default:
    alice: secret-password
    bob: you-shall-not-pass
```

Pillar:

```
user_passwords:
  alice:
    secret-password
  bob:
    you-shall-not-pass
```

\$minItems and \$maxItems

In an **edit-group**, **\$minItems** and **\$maxItems** specifies the lowest and highest numbers for the group.

\$itemName

In an **edit-group**, **\$itemName** defines a template for the name to be used for the members of the group.

\$prototype

In an **edit-group**, **\$prototype** is mandatory and defines the default pre-filled values for newly added members in the group.

\$scope

Specifies a hierarchy level at which a value may be edited. Possible values are **system**, **group**, and **readonly**.

The default value is **\$scope: system**, allows values to be edited at group and system levels. A value can be entered for each system but if no value is entered the system will fall back to the group default.

The **\$scope: group** option makes a value editable only for a group. On the system level you will be able to see the value, but not edit it.

The **\$scope: readonly** option makes a field read-only. It can be used to show data to the user, but will not allow them to edit it. This option should be used in combination with the **\$default** attribute.

\$visibleIf



Deprecated in favor of **\$visible**.

Allows you to show a field or group if a simple condition is met. An example condition is:

```
some_group#another_group#my_checkbox == true
```

The left part of the condition is the path to another value, and groups are separated by **#** signs. The middle section of the condition should be either **==** for a value to be equal or **!=** for values that should be not equal. The last field in the statement can be any value which a field should have or not have.

The field with this attribute associated with it will be shown only when the condition is met. In this example the field will be shown only if **my_checkbox** is checked. The ability to use conditional statements is not limited to check boxes. It may also be used to check values of select-fields, text-fields, and similar.

A check box should be structured like this:

```
some_group:
  $type: group

another_group:
  $type: group

  my_checkbox:
    $type: boolean
```

Relative paths can be specified using prefix dots. One dot indicates a sibling, two dots indicate a parent, and so on. This is mostly useful for **edit-group**.

```
some_group:
  $type: group

  another_group:
```

```

$type: group

my_checkbox:
  $type: boolean

my_text:
  $visiblelf: .my_checkbox == true

yet_another_group:
  $type: group

my_text2:
  $visiblelf: ..another_group#my_checkbox == true

```

If you use multiple groups with the attribute, you can allow a users to select an option and show a completely different form, dependent upon the selected value.

Values from hidden fields can be merged into the pillar data and sent to the client. A formula must check the condition again and use the appropriate data. For example:

```

show_option:
  $type: checkbox
some_text:
  $visiblelf: .show_option == true

```

```

{% if pillar.show_option %}
do_something:
  with: {{ pillar.some_text }}
{% endif %}

```

\$values

Can only be used together with **\$type** Use to specify the different options in the select-field. **\$values** must be a list of possible values to select. For example:

```

select_something:
  $type: select
  $values: ["option1", "option2"]

```

Or:

```

select_something:
  $type: select
  $values:

```

- option1
- option2

\$visible

Allows you to show a field or group if a condition is met. You must use the [jexl](#) expression language to write the condition.

Example structure:

```
some_group:
  $type: group

another_group:
  $type: group

my_checkbox:
  $type: boolean
```

An example condition is:

```
formValues.some_group.another_group.my_checkbox == true
```

The field with this attribute will only show if the condition is met. In this example, the field will show only if **my_checkbox** is checked. You can also choose other elements for the conditional statement, such as select fields or text fields.

If you use multiple groups with the attribute, users can select an option that will show a completely different form, depending on the selected value.

Values from hidden fields can be merged into the pillar data and sent to the client. A formula must check the condition again and use the appropriate data. For example:

```
show_option:
  $type: checkbox
some_text:
  $visible: this.parent.value.show_option == true
```

```
{% if pillar.show_option %}
do_something:
  with: {{ pillar.some_text }}
{% endif %}
```

\$disabled

Allows you to disable a field or group if a condition is met. You must use the [jexl](#) expression language to write the condition.

If specified at group level it will disable all fields in that group.

\$required

Fields with this attribute are mandatory. Supports using the [jexl](#) expression language.

\$match

Allows using a regular expression to validate the content of a text field.

It supports the regular expression features existing in JavaScript.

Example:

```
hardware:
  $type: text
  $name: Hardware Type and Address
  $placeholder: Enter hardware-type hardware-address (for example, "ethernet
AA:BB:CC:DD:EE:FF")
  $help: Hardware Identifier - prefix is mandatory
  $match: "\\w+ [A-Z]{2}:[A-Z]{2}:[A-Z]{2}:[A-Z]{2}:[A-Z]{2}:[A-Z]{2}"
```

1.11.12.2.1. Expression language

You must use the [jexl](#) expression language to write conditions.

Given a structure like this:

```
some_group:
  $type: group

another_group:
  $type: group

  my_checkbox:
    $type: boolean
```

An example condition is:

```
formValues.some_group.another_group.my_checkbox == true
```

Absolute paths must begin with **formValues**.

Specify relative paths using **this.parent.value** to define the value of the parent.

You can also refer to the parent of the parent, with **this.parent.parent.value**. This is mostly useful for **edit-group** elements.

Example for relative paths:

```
some_group:
  $type: group

another_group:
  $type: group

my_checkbox:
  $type: boolean

my_text:
  $visible: this.parent.value.my_checkbox

yet_another_group:
  $type: group

my_text2:
  $visible: this.parent.parent.value.another_group.my_checkbox
```

Listing 6. Example: Basic edit-group

```
partitions:
  $name: "Hard Disk Partitions"
  $type: "edit-group"
  $minItems: 1
  $maxItems: 4
  $itemName: "Partition ${name}"
  $prototype:
    name:
      $default: "New partition"
    mountpoint:
      $default: "/var"
    size:
      $type: "number"
      $name: "Size in GB"
  $default:
    - name: "Boot"
      mountpoint: "/boot"
```

```
- name: "Root"
  mountpoint: "/"
  size: 5000
```

Click **[Add]** to fill the form with the default values.

The formula is called **hd-partitions** and will appear as **Hd Partitions** in the Web UI.

To remove the definition of a partition click the minus symbol in the title line of an inner group.

When you are finished, click **[Save Formula]**.

Listing 7. Example: Nested edit-group

```
users:
  $name: "Users"
  $type: edit-group
  $minItems: 2
```

```

$maxItems: 5
$prototype:
  name:
    $default: "username"
  password:
    $type: password
  groups:
    $type: edit-group
    $minItems: 1
    $prototype:
      group_name:
        $type: text
$default:
  - name: "root"
    groups:
      - group_name: "users"
      - group_name: "admins"
  - name: "admin"
    groups:
      - group_name: "users"

```

1.11.12.3. Writing Salt Formulas

Salt formulas are pre-written Salt states. You can use Jinja to configure formulas with pillar data.

Basic Jinja syntax is:

```
pillar.some.value
```

When you are sure a pillar exists, use this syntax:

```
salt['pillar.get']('some:value', 'default value')
```

You can also replace the **pillar** value with **grains**. For example, **grains.some.value**.

Using data this way makes the formula configurable. In this example, a specified package is installed in the **package_name** pillar:

```

install_a_package:
  pkg.installed:
    - name: {{ pillar.package_name }}

```

You can also use more complex constructs such as **if/else** and **for-loops** to provide greater

functionality:

```
{% if pillar.installSomething %}
something:
  pkg.installed
{% else %}
anotherPackage:
  pkg.installed
{% endif %}
```

Another example:

```
{% for service in pillar.services %}
start_{{ service }}:
  service.running:
    - name: {{ service }}
{% endfor %}
```

Jinja also provides other helpful functions. For example, you can iterate over a dictionary:

```
{% for key, value in some_dictionary.items() %}
do_something_with_{{ key }}: {{ value }}
{% endfor %}
```

You can have Salt manage your files (for example, configuration files for a program), and change them with pillar data.

In this example, Salt copies the file `salt-file_roots/my_state/files/my_program.conf` on the server to `/etc/my_program/my_program.conf` on the client and template it with Jinja:

```
/etc/my_program/my_program.conf:
file.managed:
  - source: salt://my_state/files/my_program.conf
  - template: jinja
```

This example allows you to use Jinja in the file, like the previous example for states:

```
some_config_option = {{ pillar.config_option_a }}
```


1.11.12.4. Separate Data

Separating data from a state can increase flexibility and make it easier to re-use. You can do this by writing values into a separate file named **map.jinja**. This file must be within the same directory as the state files.

This example sets **data** to a dictionary with different values, depending on which system the state runs on. It will also merge data with the pillar using the **some.pillar.data** value so you can access **some.pillar.data.value** by using **data.value**.

You can choose to override defined values from pillars. For example, by overriding **some.pillar.data.package** in this example:

```
{% set data = salt['grains.filter_by']({
  'Suse': {
    'package': 'packageA',
    'service': 'serviceA'
  },
  'RedHat': {
    'package': 'package_a',
    'service': 'service_a'
  }
}, merge=salt['pillar.get']('some:pillar:data')) %}
```

When you have created a map file, you can maintain compatibility with multiple system types while accessing deep pillar data in a simpler way.

Now you can import and use **data** in any file. For example:

```
{% from "some_folder/map.jinja" import data with context %}

install_package_a:
  pkg.installed:
    - name: {{ data.package }}
```

You can define multiple variables by copying the **{% set ...%}** statement with different values and then merge it with other pillars. For example:

```
{% set server = salt['grains.filter_by']({
  'Suse': {
    'package': 'my-server-pkg'
  }
}, merge=salt['pillar.get']('myFormula:server')) %}
```

```
{% set client = salt['grains.filter_by']({
  'Suse': {
    'package': 'my-client-pkg'
  }
}, merge=salt['pillar.get']('myFormula:client')) %}
```

To import multiple variables, separate them with a comma. For example:

```
{% from "map.jinja" import server, client with context %}
```

For more information about conventions to use when writing formulas, see <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/development/conventions/formulas.html>.

1.11.12.5. Generated Pillar Data

Pillar data is generated by SUSE Manager when events occur like generating the highstate. You can use an external pillar script to generate pillar data for packages and group IDs, and include all pillar data for a system:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/modules/pillar/suma_minion.py
```

The process is executed like this:

1. The `suma_minion.py` script starts and finds all formulas for a system by checking the `group_formulas.json` and `server_formulas.json` files.
2. The script loads the values for each formula (groups and from the system) and merges them with the highstate. By default, if no values are found, a group overrides a system if `$scope: group`.
3. The script also includes a list of formulas applied to the system in a pillar named `formulas`.

This structure makes it possible to include states. In this example, the top file is specifically generated by the `mgr_master_tops.py` script. The top file includes a state called `formulas` for each system. This includes the `formulas.sls` file located in `/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states` or `/usr/share/salt-formulas/states/`. The content looks similar to this:

```
include: {{ pillar["formulas"] }}
```

This pillar includes all formulas that are specified in the pillar data generated from the external

pillar script.

Formulas should be created directly after SUSE Manager is installed. If you encounter any problems with formulas check these things first:

- The external pillar script (`suma_minion.py`) must include formula data.
- Data is saved to `/srv/susemanager/formula_data` and the `pillar` and `group_pillar` sub-directories. These directories should be automatically generated by the server.
- Formulas must be included for every client listed in the top file. Currently this process is initiated by the `mgr_master_tops.py` script which includes the `formulas.sls` file located in `/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states/` or `/usr/share/salt-formulas/states/`. This directory must be a salt file root. File roots are configured on the salt-master (SUSE Manager) located at `/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf`.

1.12. Salt SSH

Salt SSH allows Salt commands and states to be issued directly over SSH. SSH connections are created on demand, when the server executes an action on a client.

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

1.12.1. SSH Connection Methods

In SUSE Manager there are two SSH connection methods, `ssh-push` and `ssh-push-tunnel`. In both methods the server initiates an SSH connection to the client to execute a Salt call.

In the `ssh-push` method, the package manager works as normal, and the HTTP or HTTPS connection is directly created.

In the `ssh-push-tunnel` method, the server creates an HTTP or HTTPS connection through an SSH tunnel. The HTTP connection initiated by the package manager is redirected through the tunnel using `/etc/hosts` aliasing. Use this method for in-place firewall environments that block HTTP or HTTPS connections between server and client.

1.12.2. Salt SSH Integration

As with all Salt calls, SUSE Manager invokes `salt-ssh` via the `salt-api`.

Salt SSH relies on a roster to obtain details such as hostname, ports, and the SSH parameters of a

client. SUSE Manager keeps these details in the database and makes them available to Salt SSH by using the **uyuni** roster module, or by generating a temporary roster file on bootstrapping new clients with the Web UI. The location of the temporary roster file is supplied to Salt SSH using the **roster-file** option. For the registered clients **roster** set to **uyuni** is used instead to get the roster from the database with **uyuni** salt roster module.



It is not recommended to run **salt-ssh** as **root** user. This can cause permission issues the next time SUSE Manager tries to use Salt SSH. Use **mgr-salt-ssh**, which changes the effective user to **salt** and avoids file permission issues. If you want to use **mgr-salt-ssh** with a user other than **root**, the user should have the permission to change effective user to **salt**.

mgr-salt-ssh uses **roster** set to **uyuni** by default, if neither **roster** nor **roster-file** specified in the command line. It helps to call Salt commands to the registered Salt SSH clients with no roster file generation.

1.12.3. Authentication

Salt SSH supports both password and key authentication. SUSE Manager uses both methods:

Password authentication is used only when bootstrapping. During the bootstrap step the key of the server is not authorized on the client and therefore a password must be used for a connection to be made. The password is used transiently in a temporary roster file used for bootstrapping and the roster file is removed on finishing processing the event. This password is not stored.

All other common Salt calls use key authentication. During the bootstrap step the SSH key of the server is authorized on the client and added to the client **/.ssh/authorized_keys** file. Subsequent calls no longer require a password.

1.12.4. User Account

The user for Salt SSH calls made by SUSE Manager is taken from the **ssh_push_sudo_user** setting. By default, the user is **root**.



If bootstrapping with default settings fail, check whether the client allows root login with ssh.

If the value of **ssh_push_sudo_user** is not **root**, then the **--sudo** options of **salt-ssh** are used. For this user you must configure the **NOPASSWD** option in the **sudoers** file. At least, set the python

binary with the version number; for example:

```
<USER> ALL=(ALL) NOPASSWD:/usr/bin/python3.6
```

1.12.5. HTTP Redirection

The **ssh-push-tunnel** method requires traffic to be redirected through an SSH tunnel. This allows traffic to bypass firewalls blocking a direct connection between the client and the server.

This is achieved by using port 1233 in the repository URL:

```
https://suma-server:1233/repourl...
```

You can alias the suma-server hostname to **localhost** in **/etc/hosts**:

```
127.0.0.1    localhost  suma-server
```

The server creates a reverse SSH tunnel that connects **localhost:1233** on the client to **suma-server:443**:

```
ssh ... -R 1233:suma-server:443
```

This means that the package manager will actually connect to **localhost:1233**, which is then forwarded to **suma-server:443** by the SSH tunnel.

The package manager can contact the server only if the tunnel is open, which occurs only when the server executes an action on the client.

Manual package manager operations that require server connectivity are not possible in this case.

1.12.6. Call Sequence

Salt SSH calls run in this sequence:

1. Set **roster** parameter to **uyuni** for registered clients or prepare the Salt roster on bootstrapping for the call
 - a. Create remote port forwarding option if the contact method is **ssh-push-tunnel**

- b. Compute the **ProxyCommand** if the client is connected through a proxy
 - c. Create Roster content
2. Create a temporary roster file (only in case of bootstrapping new client)
3. Execute a synchronous **salt-ssh** call using the API
4. Remove the temporary roster file (only in case of bootstrapping new client)

The roster content contains:

- **hostname**
- **user**
- **port**
- **remote_port_forwards**: The remote port forwarding SSH option
- **ssh_options**: Other ssh options:
 - **ProxyCommand**: If the client connects through a proxy
- **timeout**: defaults to 180 seconds
- **minion_opts**:
 - **master**: Set to the minion ID if the contact method is **ssh-push-tunnel**
- **ssh_pre_flight**: The path to the shell script executed on the client before running any Salt command
- **ssh_pre_flight_args**: The list of arguments to call the pre flight script on the client

1.12.7. Bootstrap Sequence

This section describes the sequence of events when clients are registered to a Salt master. While bootstrapping is a type of Salt SSH call, the sequence differs slightly from regular SSH calls.

Bootstrapping uses Salt SSH for communication between the master and the client. This happens for both regular and SSH clients.

1. For a regular Salt client, generate and pre-authorize the Salt key of the client.
2. For an SSH client, if a proxy was selected, retrieve the SSH public key of the proxy using the **mgrutil.chain_ssh_cmd** runner. The runner copies the public key of the proxy to the server using SSH. If needed, it can chain multiple SSH commands to reach the proxy across multiple

hops.

3. Generate pillar data for bootstrap. The pillar data is compiled and stored on the Salt master, and retrieved by the client.
4. Generate the roster for bootstrapping into a temporary file on the client. You can use the roster by passing it to the Salt API, with this command:

```
mgr-salt-ssh --roster-file=<temporary_bootstrap_roster> minion state.apply
certs,<bootstrap_state>
```

For **bootstrap_state**, use **bootstrap** for regular clients or **ssh_bootstrap** for SSH clients.

The way the client retrieves the pillar data depends on the contact method you have chosen for your client:

- If you are using the **ssh-push-tunnel** contact method, ensure you have completed the remote port forwarding option.
- If the client connects through a proxy, ensure you have completed the **ProxyCommand** option. This depends on your proxy configuration, including how many proxies you need to connect through.

Pillar data contains:

- **mgr_server**: The hostname of the Salt master
- **mgr_origin_server**: The hostname of the SUSE Manager Server
- **minion_id**: The hostname of the client to bootstrap
- **contact_method**: The connection type
- **mgr_sudo_user**: The user for **salt-ssh**
- **activation_key**: If selected
- **minion_pub**: The pre-authorized public client key
- **minion_pem**: The pre-authorized private client key
- **proxy_pub_key**: The public SSH key that was retrieved from the proxy if the target is an SSH client and a proxy was selected

The roster content contains:

- hostname
- user
- password
- port
- remote_port_forwards: the remote port forwarding SSH option
- ssh_options: other SSH options:
 - ProxyCommand if the client connects through a proxy
- timeout: defaults to 180 seconds
- ssh_pre_flight: The path to the pre flight shell script (default: /usr/share/susemanager/salt-ssh/preflight.sh)
- ssh_pre_flight_args: The list of arguments to call the pre flight script on the client

This image provides an overview of the Salt SSH bootstrap process.

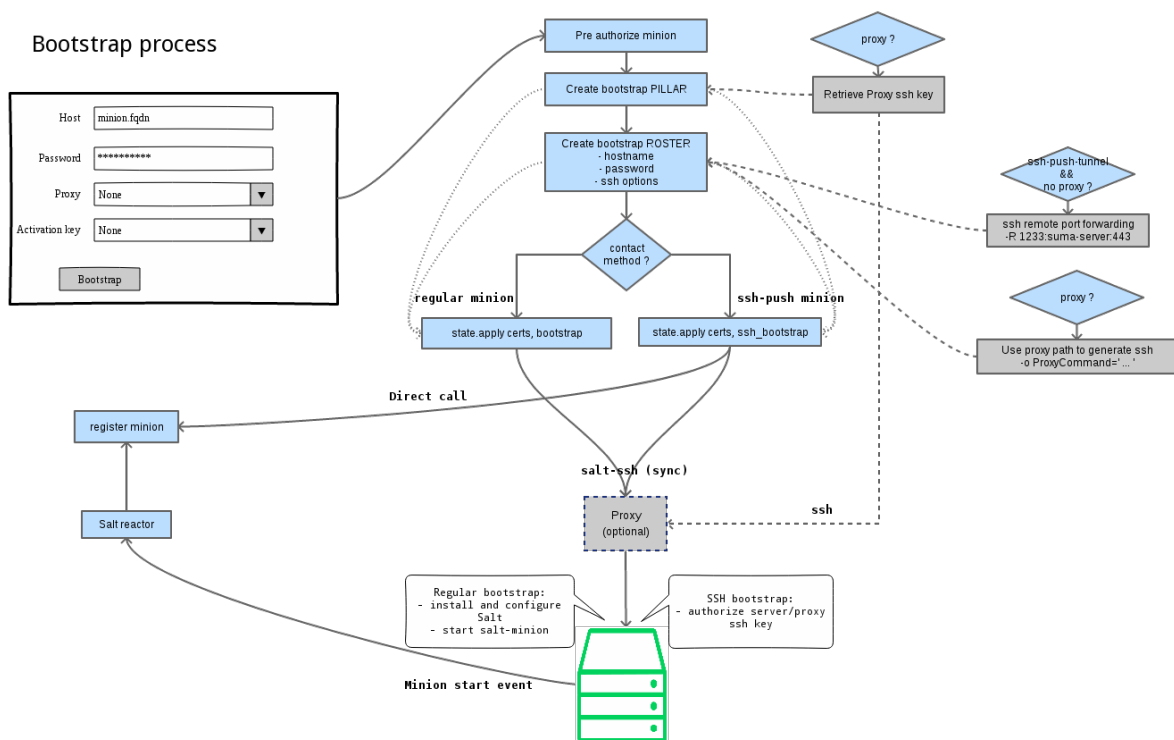
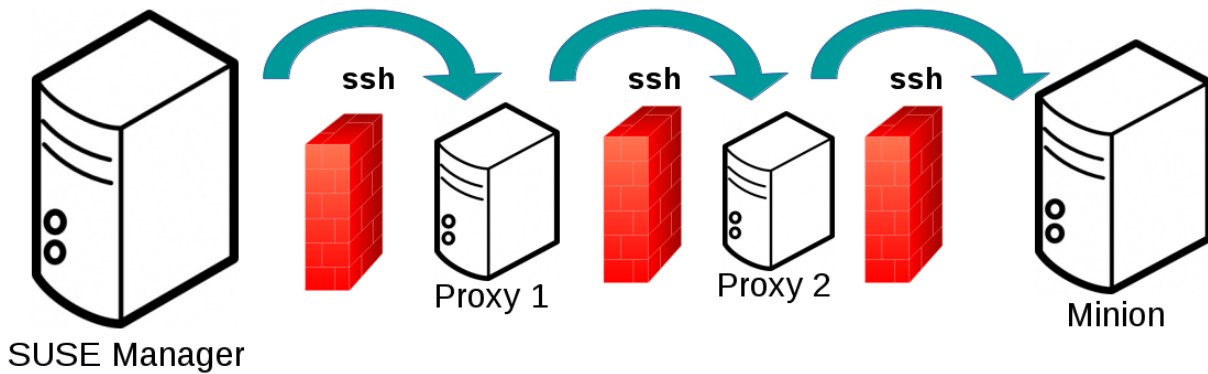


Figure 1. Salt SSH Bootstrap Process

1.12.8. Proxy Support

Salt SSH works with SUSE Manager Proxy by chaining the SSH connection from one server or proxy

to the next. This is also known as a multi-hop or multi-gateway SSH connection.

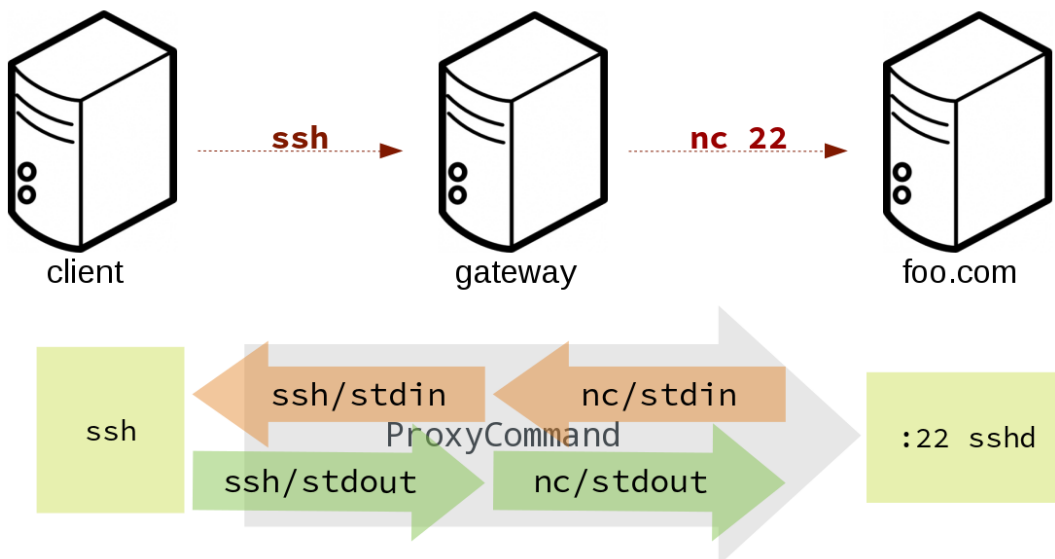


SUSE Manager uses **ProxyCommand** to redirect SSH connections through proxies. This option invokes an arbitrary command that is expected to connect to the SSH port on the target host. The SSH process uses standard input and output of the command to communicate with the remote SSH daemon.

ProxyCommand replaces a TCP/IP connection. It does not perform any authorization or encryption. Its role is simply to create a byte stream to the remote SSH daemon port.

This image depicts a client connecting to a server that is behind a gateway. In this example **netcat** is used to pipe port 22 of the target host into the SSH standard input/output:

```
ssh -o ProxyCommand=<stdio/stdout to remote port> ...
ssh -o ProxyCommand='ssh gateway nc foo.com 22' root@foo.com
```



The Salt SSH calls run in this sequence when a proxy is in use:

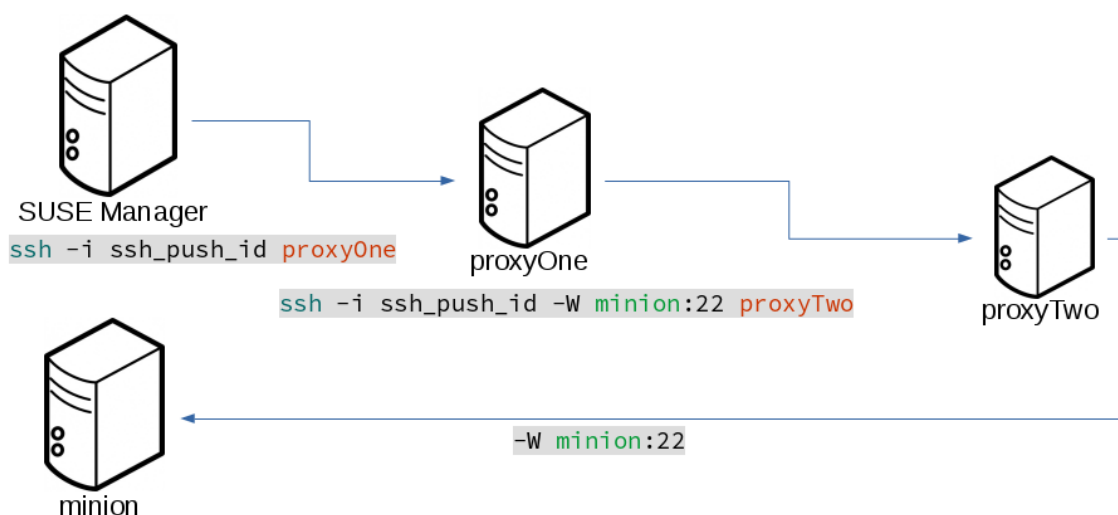
1. SUSE Manager initiates the SSH connection.
2. ProxyCommand uses SSH to create a connection from the server to the client through the proxies.

This example uses **ProxyCommand** with two proxies and the **ssh-push** method:

```
# Connect the server to the first proxy:
/usr/bin/ssh -i /srv/susemanager/salt/salt_ssh/mgr_ssh_id -o
StrictHostKeyChecking=no -o User=mgrshtunnel proxy1

# Connect the first proxy to the second, and forward standard input/output on the client
to client:22 using the `-W` option:
/usr/bin/ssh -i /var/lib/spacewalk/mgrshtunnel/.ssh/id_susemanager_ssh_push -o
StrictHostKeyChecking=no -o User=mgrshtunnel -W client:22 proxy2
```

```
ssh -i salt_ssh_id -o ProxyCommand='ssh -i ssh_push_id proxyOne ssh -i
ssh_push_id proxyTwo -W minion:22' root@minion <cmd>
```



This example uses **ProxyCommand** with two proxies and the **ssh-push-tunnel** method:

```
# Connect the server to the first proxy:
/usr/bin/ssh -i /srv/susemanager/salt/salt_ssh/mgr_ssh_id -o User=mgrshtunnel
proxy1

# Connect the first proxy to the second:
/usr/bin/ssh -i /home/mgrshtunnel/.ssh/id_susemanager_ssh_push -o
User=mgrshtunnel proxy2

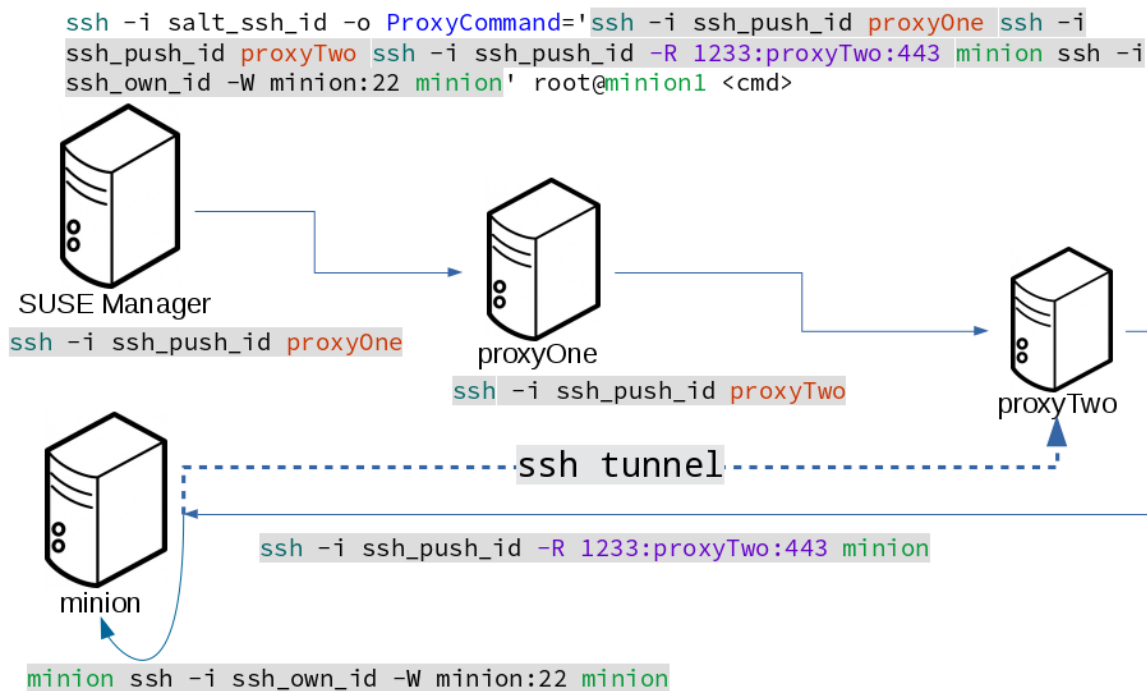
# Connect the second proxy to the client and open an reverse tunnel (-R 1233:proxy2:443)
from the client to the HTTPS port on the second proxy:
/usr/bin/ssh -i /home/mgrshtunnel/.ssh/id_susemanager_ssh_push -o User=root -R
```

1233:proxy2:443 client

Connect the client to itself and forward the standard input/output of the server to the SSH port of the client (-W client:22).

This is equivalent to ``ssh ... proxy2 netcat client 22`` and is needed because SSH does not allow both the reverse tunnel (-R 1233:proxy2:443) and the standard input/output forward (-W client:22) in the same command.

`/usr/bin/ssh -i /root/.ssh/mgr_own_id -W client:22 -o User=root client`



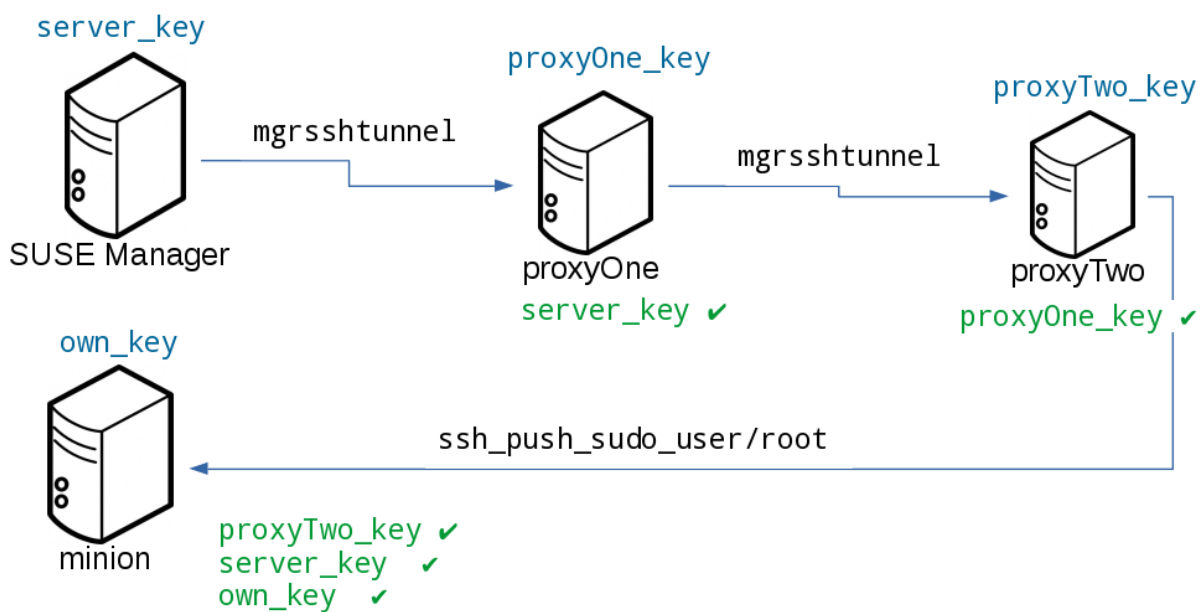
1.12.9. Users and SSH Key Management

To connect to a proxy, the parent server or proxy uses a specific user called **mgrshtunnel**. When **mgrshtunnel** connects, the SSH configuration of the proxy will force the execution of `/usr/sbin/mgr-proxy-ssh-force-cmd`. This is a simple shell script that allows only the execution of `scp`, `ssh`, or `cat` commands.

The connection to the proxy or client is authorized using SSH keys in this sequence:

1. The server connects to the client and to the first proxy using the key in ``/srv/susemanager/salt/salt_ssh/mgr_ssh_id``.
2. Each proxy has its own key pair in ``/home/mgrshtunnel/.ssh/id_susemanager_ssh_push``.
3. Each proxy authorizes the key of the parent proxy or server.

4. The client authorizes its own key.

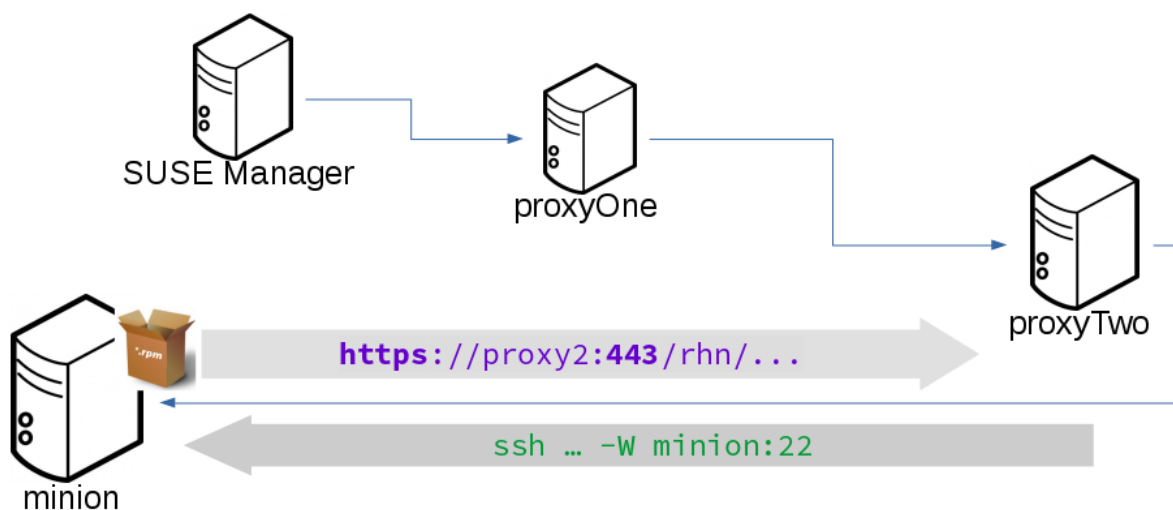


1.12.10. Repository Access with a Proxy

When SUSE Manager connects to a repository using a proxy, it can use either **ssh-push** or **ssh-push-tunnel**.

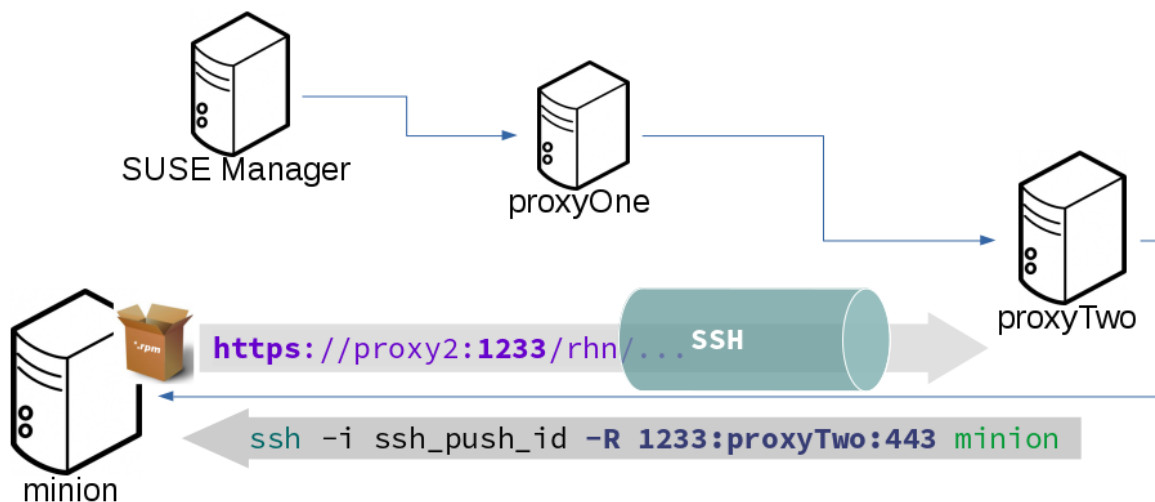
In both methods the client connects to the proxy to retrieve package and repository information.

In the **ssh-push** method, the package manager connects directly to the proxy using HTTP or HTTPS. This works in cases where there is no firewall between the client and the proxy that blocks HTTP connections initiated by the client.



In the **ssh-push-tunnel** method, the HTTP connection to the proxy is redirected through a reverse

SSH tunnel.



1.12.11. Proxy Setup

When the **spacewalk-proxy** package is installed on the proxy, the **mgrsshtunnel** user is created.

The initial configuration with **configure-proxy.sh** occurs using this sequence:

1. An SSH key pair is generated, or an existing keypair is imported.
2. The SSH key of the parent server or proxy is retrieved to authorize it on the proxy.
3. The **ssh** daemon on the proxy is configured to restrict the **mgrsshtunnel** user. This is done by the **mgr-proxy-ssh-push-init** script, which is called from **configure-proxy.sh**. It does not have to be manually invoked.

The parent key is retrieved by calling an HTTPS endpoint on the parent server or proxy. The first endpoint tried is **https://\$PARENT/pub/id_susemanager_ssh_push.pub**. If the parent is a proxy then this will return the public SSH key of the proxy.

If a 404 error is received from that endpoint, then the parent is assumed to be a server not a proxy, and **https://\$PARENT/rhn/manager/download/saltssh/pubkey** is tried instead.

If an SSH key exists at **/srv/susemanager/salt/salt_ssh/mgr_ssh_id.pub** on the server it is returned.

If the public key does not exist because **salt-ssh** has not been invoked yet, a key will be generated by calling the **mgrutil.ssh_keygen** runner.



Salt SSH generates a keypair the first time it is invoked with `/srv/susemanager/salt/salt_ssh/mgr_ssh_id`. The sequence in this section is needed if a proxy is configured before Salt SSH was invoked for the first time.

1.13. Salt Rate Limiting

Salt is able to run commands in parallel on a large number of clients. This can potentially create large amounts of load on your infrastructure. You can use these rate-limiting parameters to control the load in your environment.

These parameters are all configured in the `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf` configuration file.



Salt commands that are executed from the command line are not subject to these parameters.

1.13.1. Batching

There are two parameters that control how actions are sent to clients, one for the batch size, and one for the delay.

When the SUSE Manager Server sends a batch of actions to the target clients, it will send it to the number of clients determined in the batch size parameter. After the specified delay period, commands will be sent to the next batch of clients. The number of clients in each subsequent batch is equal to the number of clients that have completed in the previous batch.

Choosing a lower batch size will reduce system load and parallelism, but might reduce overall performance for processing actions.

The batch size parameter sets the maximum number of clients that can execute a single action at the same time. Adjust the `java.salt_batch_size` parameter. Defaults to 200.

Increasing the delay increases the chance that multiple clients will have completed before the next action is issued (more clients are grouped together in subsequent batches), resulting in fewer overall commands, and reducing load.

The batch delay parameter sets the amount of time, in seconds, to wait after a command from the previous batch is processed before beginning to process the command on the next client. Adjust the `java.salt_batch_delay` parameter. Defaults to 1.0 seconds.

1.13.2. Disabling the Salt Mine

In older versions, SUSE Manager used a tool called Salt mine to check client availability. The Salt mine would cause clients to contact the server every hour, which created significant load. With the introduction of a more efficient mechanism in SUSE Manager 3.2, the Salt mine is no longer required. Instead, the SUSE Manager Server uses Taskomatic to ping only the clients that appear to have been offline for twelve hours or more, with all clients being contacted at least once in every twenty four hour period by default. You can adjust this by changing the `web.system_checkin_threshold` parameter in `rhn.conf`. The value is expressed in days, and the default value is 1.

Newly registered Salt clients will have the Salt mine disabled by default. If the Salt mine is running on your system, you can reduce load by disabling it. This is especially effective if you have a large number of clients.

Disable the Salt mine by running this command on the server:

```
salt '*' state.sls util.mgr_mine_config_clean_up
```

This will restart the clients and generate some Salt events to be processed by the server. If you have a large number of clients, handling these events could create excessive load. To avoid this, you can execute the command in batch mode with this command:

```
salt --batch-size 50 '*' state.sls util.mgr_mine_config_clean_up
```

You will need to wait for this command to finish executing. Do not end the process with `Ctrl + C`.

1.14. Scaling Minions (Large Scale Deployments)

SUSE Manager is designed by default to work on small and medium scale installations. For installations with more than 1000 clients per SUSE Manager Server, adequate hardware sizing and parameter tuning must be performed.

For more information on managing large scale deployments, see [Specialized-guides › Large-deployments](#).

Chapter 2. Large Deployments Guide

Overview

Updated: 2023-09-15

SUSE Manager is designed by default to work on small and medium scale installations. For installations with more than 1000 clients per SUSE Manager Server, adequate hardware sizing and parameter tuning must be performed.

There is no hard maximum number of supported systems. Many factors can affect how many clients can reliably be used in a particular installation. Factors can include which features are used, and how the hardware and systems are configured.



Large installations require standard Salt clients. These instructions cannot be used in environments using traditional clients or Salt SSH minions.

There are two main ways to manage large scale deployments. You can manage them with a single SUSE Manager Server, or you can use multiple servers in a hub. Both methods are described in this book.

With large scale environments one should also consider the usage of SUSE Manager Proxies. Sizing and location of the Proxies will depend on the deployment topology. For more information see [Installation-and-upgrade › Install-proxy](#).

Additionally, if you are operating within a Retail environment, you can use SUSE Manager for Retail to manage large deployments of point-of-service terminals. There is an introduction to SUSE Manager for Retail in this book.

Tuning and monitoring large scale deployments can differ from smaller installations. This book contains guidance for both tuning and monitoring within larger installations.

2.1. Hardware Requirements

Not all problems can be solved with better hardware, but choosing the right hardware is an absolute necessity for large scale deployments.

The minimum requirements for the SUSE Manager Server are:

- Eight or more recent x86-64 CPU cores.

- 32 GiB RAM. For installations with thousands of clients, use 64 GB or more.
- Fast I/O storage devices, such as locally attached SSDs. For PostgreSQL data directories, we recommend locally attached RAID-0 SSDs.

If the SUSE Manager Server is virtualized, enable the **elevator=none** kernel command line option, for the best input/output performance. You can check the current status with **cat /sys/block/<DEVICE>/queue/scheduler**. This command will display a list of available schedulers with the currently active one in brackets. To change the scheduler before a reboot, use **echo none > /sys/block/<DEVICE>/queue/scheduler**.

The minimum requirements for the SUSE Manager Proxy are:

- One SUSE Manager Proxy per 500–1000 clients, depending on available network bandwidth.
- Two or more recent x86–64 CPU cores.
- 16 GB RAM, and sufficient storage for caching.

Clients should never be directly attached to the SUSE Manager Server in production systems.

In large scale installations, the SUSE Manager Proxy is used primarily as a local cache for content between the server and clients. Using proxies in this way can substantially reduce download time for clients, and decrease Server egress bandwidth use.

The number of clients per proxy will affect the download time. Always take network structure and available bandwidth into account.

We recommend you estimate the download time of typical usage to determine how many clients to connect to each proxy. To do this, you will need to estimate the number of package upgrades required in every patch cycle. You can use this formula to calculate the download time:

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

For example, the total time needed to transfer 400 MB of upgrades through a physical link speed of 1 GB/s to 3000 clients:

$$400 \text{ MB} * 3000 / 119 \text{ MB/s} / 60 = 169 \text{ min}$$

2.2. Using a Single Server to Manage Large Scale Deployments

This section discusses how to set up a single SUSE Manager Server to manage a large number of clients. It contains some recommendations for hardware and networking, and an overview of the tuning parameters that you need to consider in a large scale deployment.

2.2.1. Operation Recommendations

This section contains a range of recommendations for large scale deployments.



Always start small and scale up gradually. Monitor the server as you scale to identify problems early.

2.2.1.1. Salt Client Onboarding Rate

The rate at which SUSE Manager can onboard clients is limited and depends on hardware resources. Onboarding clients at a faster rate than SUSE Manager is configured for will build up a backlog of unprocessed keys. This slows down the process and can potentially exhaust resources. We recommend that you limit the acceptance key rate programmatically. A safe starting point would be to onboard a client every 15 seconds. You can do that with this command:

```
for k in $(salt-key -l un|grep -v Unaccepted); do salt-key -y -a $k; sleep 15; done
```

2.2.1.2. Salt Clients and the RNG

All communication to and from Salt clients is encrypted. During client onboarding, Salt uses asymmetric cryptography, which requires available entropy from the Random Number Generator (RNG) facility in the kernel. If sufficient entropy is not available from the RNG, it will significantly slow down communications. This is especially true in virtualized environments. Ensure enough entropy is present, or change the virtualization host options.

You can check the amount of available entropy with the `cat /proc/sys/kernel/random/entropy_avail`. It should never be below 100–200.

2.2.1.3. Clients Running with Unaccepted Salt Keys

Idle clients which have not been onboarded, that is clients running with unaccepted Salt keys, consume more resources than idle clients that have been onboarded. Generally, this consumes

about an extra 2.5 Kb/s of inbound network bandwidth per client. For example, 1000 idle clients will consume about 2.5 Mb/s extra. This consumption will reduce almost to zero when onboarding has been completed for all clients. Limit the number of non-onboarded clients for optimal performance.

2.2.1.4. Disabling the Salt Mine

In older versions, SUSE Manager used a tool called Salt mine to check client availability. The Salt mine would cause clients to contact the server every hour, which created significant load. With the introduction of a more efficient mechanism in SUSE Manager 3.2, the Salt mine is no longer required. Instead, the SUSE Manager Server uses Taskomatic to ping only the clients that appear to have been offline for twelve hours or more, with all clients being contacted at least once in every twenty four hour period by default. You can adjust this by changing the `web.system_checkin_threshold` parameter in `rhn.conf`. The value is expressed in days, and the default value is 1.

Newly registered Salt clients will have the Salt mine disabled by default. If the Salt mine is running on your system, you can reduce load by disabling it. This is especially effective if you have a large number of clients.

Disable the Salt mine by running this command on the server:

```
salt '*' state.sls util.mgr_mine_config_clean_up
```

This will restart the clients and generate some Salt events to be processed by the server. If you have a large number of clients, handling these events could create excessive load. To avoid this, you can execute the command in batch mode with this command:

```
salt --batch-size 50 '*' state.sls util.mgr_mine_config_clean_up
```

You will need to wait for this command to finish executing. Do not end the process with `Ctrl + C`.

2.2.1.5. Disable Unnecessary Taskomatic jobs

To minimize wasted resources, you can disable non-essential or unused Taskomatic jobs.

You can see the list of Taskomatic jobs in the SUSE Manager Web UI, at **Admin › Task Schedules**.

To disable a job, click the name of the job you want to disable, select **Disable Schedule**, and click

[Update Schedule].

To delete a job, click the name of the job you want to delete, and click **[Delete Schedule]**.

We recommend disabling these jobs:

- Daily comparison of configuration files: **compare-configs-default**
- Hourly synchronization of Cobbler files: **cobbler-sync-default**
- Daily gatherer and subscription matcher: **gatherer-matcher-default**

Do not attempt to disable any other jobs, as it could prevent SUSE Manager from functioning correctly.

2.2.1.6. Swap and Monitoring

It is especially important in large scale deployments that you keep your SUSE Manager Server constantly monitored and backed up.

Swap space use can have significant impacts on performance. If significant non-transient swap usage is detected, you can increase the available hardware RAM.

You can also consider tuning the Server to consume less memory. For more information on tuning, see **Specialized-guides › Salt**.

2.2.1.7. AES Key Rotation

Communications from the Salt Master to clients is encrypted with a single AES key. The key is rotated when:

- The **salt-master** process is restarted, or
- Any minion key is deleted (for example, when a client is deleted from SUSE Manager)

After the AES key has been rotated, all clients must re-authenticate to the master. By default, this happens next time a client receives a message. If you have a large number of clients (several thousands), this can cause a high CPU load on the SUSE Manager Server. If the CPU load is excessive, we recommend that you delete keys in batches, and in off-peak hours if possible, to avoid overloading the server.

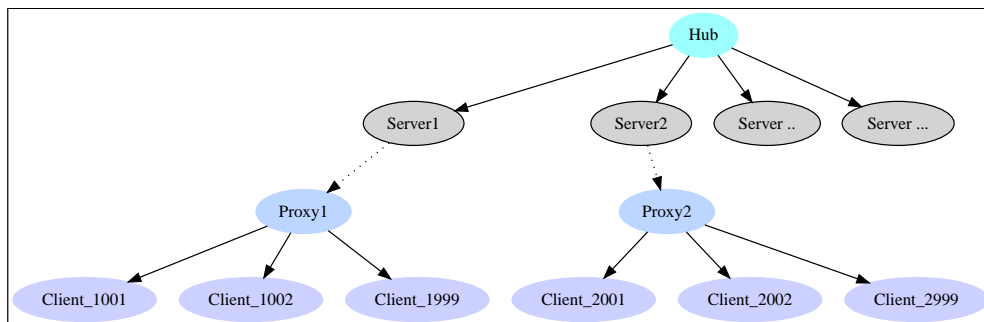
For more information, see:

- https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/intro_scale.html#too-many-minions-re-authing
- <https://docs.saltstack.com/en/getstarted/system/communication.html>

2.3. Using Multiple Servers to Manage Large Scale Deployments

If you need to manage a large number of clients, in most cases you can do so with a single SUSE Manager Server, tuned appropriately. However, if you need to manage tens of thousands of clients, you might find it easier to use multiple SUSE Manager Servers, in a hub, to manage them.

SUSE Manager Hub helps you manage very large deployments. The typical Hub topology looks like this:



2.3.1. Hub Requirements

To set up a Hub installation, you require:

- One central SUSE Manager Server, which acts as the Hub Server.
- One or more additional SUSE Manager Servers, registered to the Hub as Salt clients. This document refers to these as peripheral servers.
- Any number of clients registered to the peripheral servers.
- Ensure the Hub Server and all peripheral servers are running SUSE Manager 4.1 or higher.



The Hub Server must not have clients registered to it. Clients should only be registered to the peripheral servers.

2.3.1.1. Peripheral Servers

Peripheral servers must be registered to the Hub Server as Salt clients. When you register the

peripheral servers, assign them the appropriate **SUSE Manager Server** software channel as their base channel. Additionally, they must be registered to the Hub Server directly, do not use a proxy.

For more information about registering clients, see [Client-configuration › Registration-webui](#).

You need credentials to access the XMLRPC APIs on each server, including the Hub Server.

2.3.2. Hub Installation

Before you begin, you need to install the **hub-xmlrpc-api** package, and configure the Hub Server to use the API.

Procedure: Installing and Configuring the Hub XMLRPC API

1. On the Hub Server, or on a host that has access to all peripheral servers' XMLRPC APIs, install the **hub-xmlrpc-api** package. The package is available in the SUSE Manager 4.3 repositories.
2. OPTIONAL: Set the Hub XMLRPC API service to start automatically at boot time, and start it immediately:

```
sudo systemctl enable hub-xmlrpc-api.service
sudo systemctl start hub-xmlrpc-api.service
```

3. OPTIONAL: Check that these parameters in the `/etc/hub/hub.conf` configuration file are correct:
 - **HUB_API_URL**: URL to the Hub Server XMLRPC API endpoint. Use the default value if you are installing **hub-xmlrpc-api** on the Hub Server.
 - **HUB_CONNECT_TIMEOUT**: the maximum number of seconds to wait for a response when connecting to a Server. Use the default value in most cases.
 - **HUB_REQUEST_TIMEOUT**: the maximum number of seconds to wait for a response when calling a Server method. Use the default value in most cases.
 - **HUB_CONNECT_USING_SSL**: use HTTPS instead of HTTP for communicating with peripheral Servers. Recommended for a secure environment.
4. Restart services to pick up configuration changes.



To use HTTPS to connect to peripheral Servers, you must set the **HUB_CONNECT_USING_SSL** parameter to **true**, and ensure that the SSL certificates for all the peripheral Servers are installed on the machine where

the **hub-xmlrpc-api** service runs. Do this by copying the **RHN-ORG-TRUSTED-SSL-CERT** certificate file from each peripheral Server's <http://<server-url>/pub/> directory to **/etc/pki/trust/anchors/**, and run **update-ca-certificates**.

2.3.3. Using the Hub API

Make sure the **hub-xmlrpc-api** service is started:

```
systemctl start hub-xmlrpc-api
```

Once it is running, connect to the service at port 2830 using any XMLRPC-compliant client libraries.

For examples, see [Specialized-guides › Large-deployments](#).

Logs are saved in **/var/log/hub/hub-xmlrpc-api.log**. Logs are rotated weekly, or when the log file size reaches the specified limit. By default, the log file size limit is 10 MB.

2.3.4. Hub XMLRPC API Namespaces

The Hub XMLRPC API operates in a similar way to the SUSE Manager API. For SUSE Manager API documentation, see <https://documentation.suse.com/suma>.

The Hub XMLRPC API exposes the same methods that are available from the server's XMLRPC API, with a few differences in parameter and return types. Additionally, the Hub XMLRPC API supports some Hub-specific end points which are not available in the SUSE Manager API.

The Hub XMLRPC API supports three different namespaces:

- The **hub** namespace is used to target the Hub XMLRPC API Server. It supports Hub-specific XMLRPC endpoints which are primarily related to authentication.
- The **unicast** namespace is used to target a single server registered in the hub. It redirects any call transparently to one specific server and returns any value as if the server's XMLRPC API endpoint was used directly.
- The **multicast** namespace is used to target multiple peripheral servers registered in the hub. It redirects any call transparently to all the specified servers and returns the results in the form of a **map**.
- If you do not specify a namespace, all calls are transparently redirected to the underlying

SUSE Manager Server XMLRPC API of the Hub Server. This allows you to call all available methods on the SUSE Manager Server XMLRPC API.

Methods called without specifying any of the above namespaces will be forwarded to the normal XMLRPC API of the hub. This is the API exposed on ports 80 and 443.

Some important considerations for hub namespaces:

- Individual server IDs can be obtained using `client.hub.listServerIds(hubSessionKey)`.
- The **unicast** namespace assumes all methods receive **hubSessionKey** and **serverId** as their first two parameters, then any other parameter as specified by the regular Server API.

```
client.unicast.[namespace].[methodName](hubSessionKey, serverId, param1, param2)
```

- The **hubSessionKey** can be obtained using different authentication methods. For more information, see [Specialized-guides › Large-deployments](#).
- The **multicast** namespace assumes all methods receive **hubSessionKey**, a list of **ServerId** values, then lists of per-server parameters as specified by the regular server XMLRPC API. The return value is a **map**, with **Successful** and **Failed** entries for each server involved in the call.

```
client.multicast.[namespace].[methodName](hubSessionKey, [serverId1, serverId2], [param1_s1, param1_s2], [param2_s1, param2_s2])
```

2.3.5. Hub XMLRPC API Authentication Modes

The Hub XMLRPC API supports three different authentication modes:

- Manual mode (default): API credentials must be explicitly provided for each server.
- Relay mode: the credentials used to authenticate with the Hub are also used to authenticate to each server. You must provide a list of servers to connect to.
- Auto-connect mode: credentials are reused for each server, and any peripheral server you have access to is automatically connected.

2.3.5.1. Authentication Examples

This section provides examples of each authentication method.

Example: Manual Authentication

In manual mode, credentials have to be explicitly provided for each peripheral server before you can connect to it.

A typical workflow for manual authentication is:

1. Credentials for the Hub are passed to the **login** method, and a session key for the Hub is returned (**hubSessionKey**).
2. Using the session key from the previous step, SUSE Manager Server IDs are obtained for all the peripheral servers attached to the Hub via the **hub.listServerIds** method.
3. Credentials for each peripheral server are provided to the **attachToServers** method. This performs authentication against each server's XMLRPC API endpoint.
4. A **multicast** call is performed on a set of servers. This is defined by **serverIds**, which contains the IDs of the servers to target. In the background, **system.list_system** is called on each server's XMLRPC API.
5. Hub aggregates the results and returns the response in the form of a **map**. The map has two entries:
 - **Successful**: list of responses for those peripheral servers where the call succeeded.
 - **Failed**: list of responses for those peripheral servers where the call failed.



If you want to call a method on just one SUSE Manager Server, then Hub API also provides a **unicast** namespace. In this case, the response will be a single value and not a map, in the same way as if you called that SUSE Manager server's API directly.

Listing 8. Example Python Script for Manual Authentication:

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import xmlrpc.client

HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL = "<HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL>"
HUB_USERNAME = "<USERNAME>"
HUB_PASSWORD = "<PASSWORD>"

client = xmlrpc.client.ServerProxy(HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL, verbose=0)

hubSessionKey = client.hub.login(HUB_USERNAME, HUB_PASSWORD)

# Get the server IDs
```

```

serverIds = client.hub.listServerIds(hubSessionKey)

# For simplicity, this example assumes you are using the same username and password
# here, as on the hub server.
# However, in most cases, every server has its own individual credentials.
usernames = [HUB_USERNAME for s in serverIds]
passwords = [HUB_PASSWORD for s in serverIds]

# Each server uses the credentials set above, client.hub.attachToServers needs
# them passed as lists with as many elements as there are servers.
client.hub.attachToServers(hubSessionKey, serverIds, usernames, passwords)

# Perform the operation
systemsPerServer = client.multicast.system.list_systems(hubSessionKey, serverIds)
successfulResponses = systemsPerServer["Successful"]["Responses"]
failedResponses = systemsPerServer["Failed"]["Responses"]

for system in successfulResponses:
    print(system)

# Log out
client.hub.logout(hubSessionKey)

```

Example: Relay Authentication

In relay authentication mode, the credentials used to sign in to the Hub API are also used to sign in into the APIs of the peripheral servers the user wants to work with. In this authentication mode, it is assumed that the same credentials are valid for every server, and that they correspond to a user with appropriate permissions.

After signing in, you must call the **attachToServers** method. This method defines the servers to target in all subsequent calls.

A typical workflow for relay authentication is:

1. Credentials for the Hub are passed to the **loginWithAuthRelayMode** method, and a session key for the Hub is returned (**hubSessionKey**).
2. Using the session key from the previous step, SUSE Manager Server IDs are obtained for all the peripheral servers attached to the Hub via the **hub.listServerIds** method
3. A call to **attachToServers** is made, and the same credentials used to sign in to the Hub are passed to each server. This performs authentication against each server's XMLRPC API endpoint.
4. A **multicast** call is performed on a set of servers. This is defined by **serverIds**, which contains

the IDs of the servers to target. In the background, `system.list_system` is called on each server's XMLRPC API.

5. Hub aggregates the results and returns the response in the form of a **map**. The map has two entries:

- **Successful**: list of responses for those peripheral servers where the call succeeded.
- **Failed**: list of responses for those peripheral servers the call failed.

Listing 9. Example Python Script for Relay Authentication:

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import xmlrpc.client

HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL = "<HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL>"
HUB_USERNAME = "<USERNAME>"
HUB_PASSWORD = "<PASSWORD>"

client = xmlrpc.client.ServerProxy(HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL, verbose=0)

hubSessionKey = client.hub.loginWithAuthRelayMode(HUB_USERNAME, HUB_PASSWORD)

# Get the server IDs
serverIds = client.hub.listServerIds(hubSessionKey)

# Authenticate those servers(same credentials will be used as of hub to authenticate)
client.hub.attachToServers(hubSessionKey, serverIds)

# Perform the needed operation
systemsPerServer = client.multicast.system.list_systems(hubSessionKey, serverIds)
successfulResponses = systemsPerServer["Successful"]["Responses"]
failedResponses = systemsPerServer["Failed"]["Responses"]

for system in successfulResponses:
    print(system)

# Log out
client.hub.logout(hubSessionKey)
```

Example: Auto-Connect Authentication

Auto-connect mode is similar to relay mode, it uses the Hub credentials to sign in in to all peripheral servers. However, there is no need to use the `attachToServers` method, as auto-connect mode connects to all available peripheral servers. This occurs at the same time as you sign in to the Hub.

A typical workflow for auto-connect authentication is:

1. Credentials for the Hub are passed to the `loginWithAutoconnectMode` method, and a session key for the Hub is returned (`hubSessionKey`).
2. A **multicast** call is performed on a set of servers. This is defined by `serverIds`, which contains the IDs of the servers to target. In the background, `system.list_system` is called on each server's XMLRPC API.
3. Hub aggregates the results and returns the response in the form of a **map**. The map has two entries:
 - **Successful**: list of responses for those peripheral servers where the call succeeded.
 - **Failed**: list of responses for those peripheral servers where the call failed.

Listing 10. Example Python Script for Auto-Connect Authentication:

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import xmlrpc.client

HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL = "<HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL>"
HUB_USERNAME = "<USERNAME>"
HUB_PASSWORD = "<PASSWORD>"

client = xmlrpc.client.ServerProxy(HUB_XMLRPC_API_URL, verbose=0)

loginResponse = client.hub.loginWithAutoconnectMode(HUB_USERNAME, HUB_PASSWORD)
hubSessionKey = loginResponse["SessionKey"]

# Get the server IDs
serverIds = client.hub.listServerIds(hubSessionKey)

# Perform the needed operation
systemsPerServer = client.multicast.system.list_systems(hubSessionKey, serverIds)
successfulResponses = systemsPerServer["Successful"]["Responses"]
failedResponses = systemsPerServer["Failed"]["Responses"]

for system in successfulResponses:
    print(system)

# Log out
client.hub.logout(hubSessionKey)
```

2.3.6. Hub Reporting

The Hub prepares and provides content for multiple peripheral SUSE Manager Servers. The goal of the reporting feature is to get data from these Servers back and have combined reporting data available on the Hub. The data is made available for external Reporting Tools.

2.3.6.1. Architecture

The main database is a PostgresDB in the SUSE Manager Hub system. It stores all the information collected from all the servers, and aggregates them. Every peripheral Server has its own reporting database where the information is collected for that system. In summary:

- the DB in SUSE Manager Hub stores, collects and eventually aggregates data coming from all the DBs of the peripheral Servers,
- the DB in SUSE Manager Hub stores also its own data from the systems directly connected and managed by the Hub,
- the DB in peripheral SUSE Manager Server stores its own data,
- the reporting tool can be connected either to the Hub or to any SUSE Manager Server.

2.3.6.2. Setup

The reporting database and schema are set up by default using the local PostgreSQL server. The reporting database is a separate database accessible via the network.



As a requirement we expect all server certificates are signed by the same Root Certificate Authority (CA). The whole SUSE Manager Hub environment should be using only one Root CA.

2.3.6.2.1. Create a DB user for the reporting

Before connecting an external Reporting Tools to the Database, a user with read-only permission should be created. For doing that, it is possible to use **uyuni-setup-reportdb-user**.

```
usage: uyuni-setup-reportdb-user [options]
```

```
options:
```

```
--help
    show this help message and exit
--non-interactive
    Switches to non-interactive mode
--dbuser=DBUSER
    Report DB User
--dbpassword=DBPASSWORD
    Report DB Password
--add
    Add the new user
--delete
```

```

Delete the user
--modify
Set a new password

```

2.3.6.3. Database Schema

The schema exports the most important tables from the main SUSE Manager Database as a de-normalized variant containing only data which are relevant for a report.

Ready-to-use reports are provided as views, aggregating data over multiple tables.

Every table gets an extra id column (**mgm_id**) specifying the SUSE Manager server which provided the data. On a single SUSE Manager Server this column has the standard value 1 which represent **localhost**. On the SUSE Manager Hub it is replaced with the real server id the managed server has in the hub database.

Another common additional field is **synced_date**, which represents the time when the data were exported from the main SUSE Manager Server database.

Schema documentation can be found on the Left Navigation Bar → **Help › Report Database Schema**.

2.3.6.4. Data Generation and Update

SUSE Manager uses taskomatic jobs to generate the data for the reporting database and to get the data from the peripheral servers to the hub.

To generate and update the data on a peripheral server, the responsible schedule is called **update-reporting-default**. It is executed by default daily at midnight.

On the SUSE Manager Hub there is a second schedule which is important. To fetch the reporting data from all registered peripheral servers, the task with the name **update-reporting-hub-default** is executed daily at 1:30 AM.

All times are in the local timezone of the server. If the peripheral servers are in different timezones, it is recommended to align all the schedules. Make sure that all reporting data are gathered at a specific point in time, and **update-reporting-hub-default** is running when all peripheral servers have actually finished their local jobs.

2.3.6.4.1. Tuning Reporting Jobs

2.3.6.4.2. report_db_batch_size

Description	The maximum number of rows fetched and written from one database to the other in one shot.
Tune when	Out of memory errors or on processing speed problems.
Value default	2000
Value recommendation	500 - 5000
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>report_db_batch_size = 4000</code>
After changing	Check memory usage . Monitor memory usage closely before and after the change.

2.3.6.4.3. report_db_hub_workers

Description	The maximum number of workers requesting data from peripheral servers on a hub at the same point in time.
Tune when	The number of peripheral servers increases significantly (more than 100), or a faster synchronization is required.
Value default	2
Value recommendation	2 - 10
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>report_db_hub_workers = 5</code>
After changing	Check memory usage . Monitor memory and cpu usage of the hub closely before and after the change. Also monitor the load, cpu and memory usage of the reporting database of the hub.

Notes	All the data collected from the peripheral server must be written into the hub reporting database. Tuning that database could increase the performance as well.
-------	---

2.4. Managing Large Scale Deployments in a Retail Environment

SUSE Manager for Retail 4.3 is an open source infrastructure management solution, optimized and tailored specifically for the retail industry. It uses the same technology as SUSE Manager, but is customized to address the needs of retail organizations.

SUSE Manager for Retail is designed for use in retail situations where customers can use point-of-service terminals to purchase or exchange goods, take part in promotions, or collect loyalty points. In addition to retail installations, it can also be used for novel purposes, such as maintaining student computers in an educational environment, or self-service kiosks in banks or hospitals.

SUSE Manager for Retail is intended for use in installations that include servers, workstations, point-of-service terminals, and other devices. It allows administrators to install, configure, and update the software on their servers, and manage the deployment and provisioning of point-of-service machines.

Point-of-Service (POS) terminals can come in many different formats, such as point-of-sale terminals, kiosks, digital scales, self-service systems, and reverse-vending systems. Every terminal, however, is provided by a vendor, who set basic information about the device in the firmware. SUSE Manager for Retail accesses this vendor information to determine how best to work with the terminal in use.

In most cases, different terminals will require a different operating system (OS) image to ensure they work correctly. For example, an information kiosk has a high-resolution touchscreen, where a cashier terminal might only have a very basic display. While both of these terminals require similar processing and network functionality, they will require different OS images. The OS images ensure that the different display mechanisms work correctly.

For more information about setting up and using SUSE Manager for Retail, see [Retail › Retail-overview](#).

2.5. Tuning Large Scale Deployments

SUSE Manager is designed by default to work on small and medium scale installations. For installations with more than 1000 clients per SUSE Manager Server, adequate hardware sizing and parameter tuning must be performed.



The instructions in this section can have severe and catastrophic performance impacts when improperly used. In some cases, they can cause SUSE Manager to completely cease functioning. Always test changes before implementing them in a production environment. During implementation, take care when changing parameters. Monitor performance before and after each change, and revert any steps that do not produce the expected result.



We strongly recommend that you contact SUSE Consulting for assistance with tuning.

SUSE will not provide support for catastrophic failure when these advanced parameters are modified without consultation.



Tuning is not required on installations of fewer than 1000 clients. Do not perform these instructions on small or medium scale installations.

2.5.1. The Tuning Process

Any SUSE Manager installation is subject to a number of design and infrastructure constraints that, for the purposes of tuning, we call environmental variables. Environmental variables can include the total number of clients, the number of different operating systems under management, and the number of software channels.

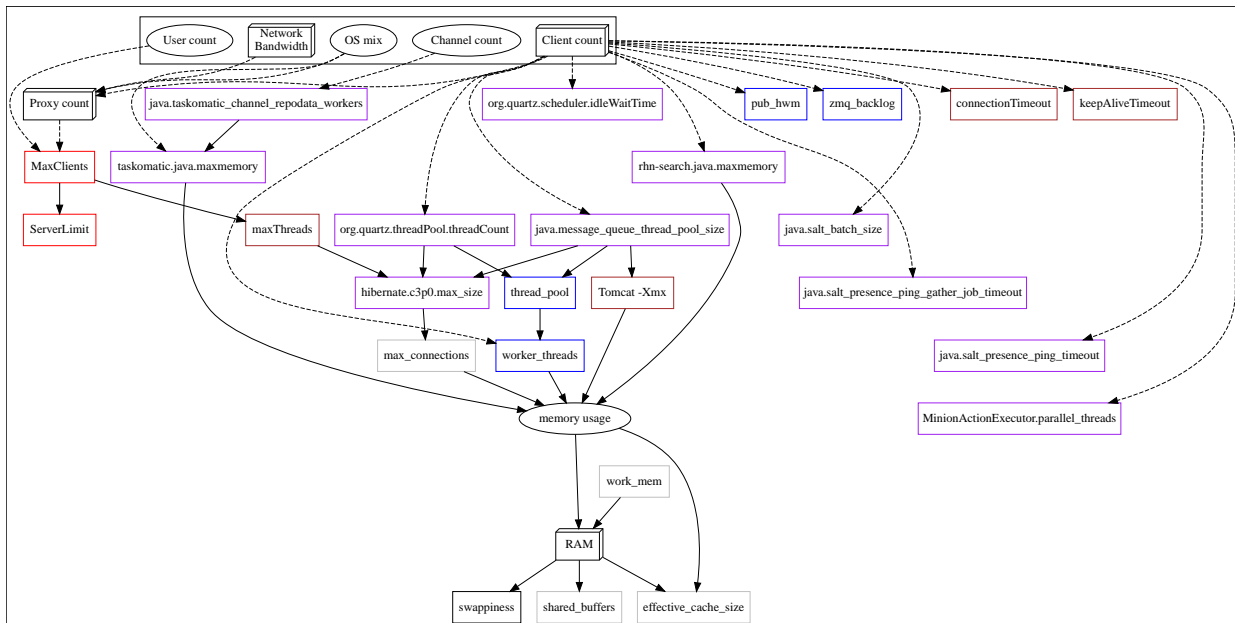
Environmental variables influence, either directly or indirectly, the value of most configuration parameters. During the tuning process, the configuration parameters are manipulated to improve system performance.

Before you begin tuning, you will need to estimate the best setting for each environment variable, and adjust the configuration parameters to suit.

To help you with the estimation process, we have provided you with a dependency graph. Locate the environmental variables on the dependency graph to determine how they will influence other variables and parameters.

Environmental variables are represented by graph nodes in a rectangle at the top of the dependency graph. Each node is connected to the relevant parameters that might need tuning. Consult the relevant sections in this document for more information about recommended values.

Tuning one parameter might require tuning other parameters, or changing hardware, or the infrastructure. When you change a parameter, follow the arrows from that node on the graph to determine what other parameters might need adjustment. Continue through each parameter until you have visited all nodes on the graph.



Key to the Dependency Graph

- 3D boxes are hardware design variables or constraints
- Oval-shaped boxes are software or system design variables or constraints
- Rectangle-shaped boxes are configurable parameters, color-coded by configuration file:
 - Red: Apache **httpd** configuration files
 - Blue: Salt configuration files
 - Brown: Tomcat configuration files
 - Grey: PostgreSQL configuration files
 - Purple: `/etc/rhn/rhn.conf`
- Dashed connecting lines indicate a variable or constraint that might require a change to another parameter
- Solid connecting lines indicate that changing a configuration parameter requires checking

another one to prevent issues

After the initial tuning has been completed, you will need to consider tuning again in these cases:

- If your tuning inputs change significantly
- If special conditions arise that require a certain parameter to be changed. For example, if specific warnings appear in a log file.
- If performance is not satisfactory

To re-tune your installation, you will need to use the dependency graph again. Start from the node where significant change has happened.

2.5.2. Environmental Variables

This section contains information about environmental variables (inputs to the tuning process).

Network Bandwidth

A measure of the typically available egress bandwidth from the SUSE Manager Server host to the clients or SUSE Manager Proxy hosts. This should take into account network hardware and topology as well as possible capacity limits on switches, routers, and other network equipment between the server and clients.

Channel count

The number of expected channels to manage. Includes any vendor-provided, third-party, and cloned or staged channels.

Client count

The total number of actual or expected clients. It is important to tune any parameters in advance of a client count increase, whenever possible.

OS mix

The number of distinct operating system versions that managed clients have installed. This is ordered by family (SUSE Linux Enterprise, openSUSE, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, or Ubuntu based). Storage and computing requirements are different in each case.

User count

The expected maximum amount of concurrent users interacting with the Web UI plus the number of programs simultaneously using the XMLRPC API. Includes `spacecmd`, `spacewalk-`

`clone-by-date`, and similar.

2.5.3. Parameters

This section contains information about the available parameters.

2.5.3.1. MaxClients

Description	The maximum number of HTTP requests served simultaneously by Apache httpd. Proxies, Web UI, and XMLRPC API clients each consume one. Requests exceeding the parameter will be queued and might result in timeouts.
Tune when	User count and proxy count increase significantly and this line appears in <code>/var/log/apache2/error_log: [...]</code> <code>[mpm_prefork:error] [pid ...] AH00161: server reached MaxRequestWorkers setting, consider raising the MaxRequestWorkers setting.</code>
Value default	150
Value recommendation	150–500
Location	<code>/etc/apache2/server-tuning.conf</code> , in the <code>prefork.c</code> section
Example	<code>MaxClients = 200</code>
After changing	Immediately change <code>ServerLimit</code> and check <code>maxThreads</code> for possible adjustment.
Notes	This parameter was renamed to <code>MaxRequestWorkers</code> , both names are valid.
More information	https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/en/mod/mpm_common.html#maxrequestworkers

2.5.3.2. ServerLimit

Description	The number of Apache httpd processes serving HTTP requests simultaneously. The number must equal MaxClients .
Tune when	MaxClients changes
Value default	150
Value recommendation	The same value as MaxClients
Location	<code>/etc/apache2/server-tuning.conf</code> , in the <code>prefork.c</code> section
Example	<code>ServerLimit = 200</code>
More information	https://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.4/en/mod/mpm_common.html#serverlimit

2.5.3.3. maxThreads

Description	The number of Tomcat threads dedicated to serving HTTP requests
Tune when	MaxClients changes. maxThreads must always be equal or greater than MaxClients
Value default	150
Value recommendation	The same value as MaxClients
Location	<code>/etc/tomcat/server.xml</code>
Example	<code><Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" URIEncoding="UTF-8" address="127.0.0.1" maxThreads="200" connectionTimeout="20000"/></code>
More information	https://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-9.0-doc/config/http.html

2.5.3.4. connectionTimeout

Description	The number of milliseconds before a non-responding AJP connection is forcibly closed.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly and AH00992 , AH00877 , and AH01030 errors appear in Apache error logs during a load peak.
Value default	900000
Value recommendation	20000-3600000
Location	<code>/etc/tomcat/server.xml</code>
Example	<code><Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" URIEncoding="UTF-8" address="127.0.0.1" maxThreads="200" connectionTimeout="1000000" keepAliveTimeout="300000"/></code>
More information	https://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-9.0-doc/config/http.html

2.5.3.5. keepAliveTimeout

Description	The number of milliseconds without data exchange from the JVM before a non-responding AJP connection is forcibly closed.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly and AH00992 , AH00877 , and AH01030 errors appear in Apache error logs during a load peak.
Value default	300000
Value recommendation	20000-600000
Location	<code>/etc/tomcat/server.xml</code>

Example	<pre><Connector port="8009" protocol="AJP/1.3" redirectPort="8443" URIEncoding="UTF-8" address="127.0.0.1" maxThreads="200" connectionTimeout="1000000" keepAliveTimeout="400000"/></pre>
More information	https://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-9.0-doc/config/http.html

2.5.3.6. Tomcat's -Xmx

Description	The maximum amount of memory Tomcat can use
Tune when	<code>java.message_queue_thread_pool_size</code> is increased or <code>OutOfMemoryException</code> errors appear in <code>/var/log/rhn/rhn_web_ui.log</code>
Value default	1 GiB
Value recommendation	4-8 GiB
Location	<code>/etc/tomcat/conf.d/tomcat_java_opts.conf</code>
Example	<code>JAVA_OPTS="... -Xmx8G ..."</code>
After changing	Check memory usage
More information	https://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/technotes/tools/windows/java.html

2.5.3.7. `java.message_queue_thread_pool_size`

Description	The maximum number of threads in Tomcat dedicated to asynchronous operations
Tune when	Client count increases significantly
Value default	5
Value recommendation	50 - 150

Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>java.message_queue_thread_pool_size = 50</code>
After changing	Check <code>hibernate.c3p0.max_size</code> , as each thread consumes a PostgreSQL connection, starvation might happen if the allocated connection pool is insufficient. Check <code>thread_pool</code> , as each thread might perform Salt API calls, starvation might happen if the allocated Salt thread pool is insufficient. Check Tomcat's <code>-Xmx</code> , as each thread consumes memory, <code>OutOfMemoryException</code> might be raised if insufficient.
Notes	Incoming Salt events are handled in separate thread pool, see <code>java.salt_event_thread_pool_size</code>
More information	<code>man rhn.conf</code>

2.5.3.8. `java.salt_batch_size`

Description	The maximum number of minions concurrently executing a scheduled action.
Tune when	Client count reaches several thousands and actions are not executed quickly enough.
Value default	200
Value recommendation	200–500
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>java.salt_batch_size = 300</code>
After changing	Check memory usage . Monitor memory usage closely before and after the change.
More information	Specialized-guides › Salt

2.5.3.9. java.salt_event_thread_pool_size

Description	The maximum number of threads in Tomcat dedicated to handling of incoming Salt events.
Tune when	The number of queued Salt events grows. Typically, this can happen during onboarding of large number of minions with higher value of java.salt_presence_ping_timeout . The number of events can be queried by echo "select count(*) from susesaltevent;" spacewalk-sql --select-mode-direct -
Value default	8
Value recommendation	20-100
Location	/etc/rhn/rhn.conf
Example	java.salt_event_thread_pool_size = 50
After changing	Check the length of Salt event queue. Check hibernate.c3p0.max_size , as each thread consumes a PostgreSQL connection, starvation might happen if the allocated connection pool is insufficient. Check thread_pool , as each thread might perform Salt API calls, starvation might happen if the allocated Salt thread pool is insufficient. Check Tomcat's -Xmx , as each thread consumes memory, OutOfMemoryException might be raised if insufficient.
More information	man rhn.conf

2.5.3.10. java.salt_presence_ping_timeout

Description	Before any action is executed on a client, a presence ping is executed to make sure the client is reachable. This parameter sets the amount of time before a second command (find_job) is sent to the client to verify its presence. Having many clients typically means some will respond faster than others, so this timeout could be raised to accommodate for the slower ones.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly, or some clients are responding correctly but too slowly, and SUSE Manager excludes them from calls. This line appears in <code>/var/log/rhn/rhn_web_ui.log: "Got no result for <COMMAND> on minion <MINION_ID> (minion did not respond in time)"</code>
Value default	4 seconds
Value recommendation	4-400 seconds
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>java.salt_presence_ping_timeout = 40</code>
After changing	Large <code>java.salt_presence_ping_timeout</code> value can reduce overall throughput. This can be compensated by increasing <code>java.salt_event_thread_pool_size</code>
More information	Specialized-guides › Salt

2.5.3.11. java.salt_presence_ping_gather_job_timeout

Description	<p>Before any action is executed on a client, a presence ping is executed to make sure the client is reachable. After</p> <p><code>java.salt_presence_ping_timeout</code> seconds have elapsed without a response, a second command (<code>find_job</code>) is sent to the client for a final check. This parameter sets the number of seconds after the second command after which the client is definitely considered offline. Having many clients typically means some will respond faster than others, so this timeout could be raised to accommodate for the slower ones.</p>
Tune when	<p><code>Client count</code> increases significantly, or some clients are responding correctly but too slowly, and SUSE Manager excludes them from calls. This line appears in</p> <p><code>/var/log/rhn/rhn_web_ui.log: "Got no result for <COMMAND> on minion <MINION_ID> (minion did not respond in time)"</code></p>
Value default	1 second
Value recommendation	1-100 seconds
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>java.salt_presence_ping_gather_job_timeout = 10</code>
More information	Specialized-guides › Salt

2.5.3.12. `java.taskomatic_channel_repodata_workers`

Description	Whenever content is changed in a software channel, its metadata needs to be recomputed before clients can use it. Channel-altering operations include the addition of a patch, the removal of a package or a repository synchronization run. This parameter specifies the maximum number of Taskomatic threads that SUSE Manager will use to recompute the channel metadata. Channel metadata computation is both CPU-bound and memory-heavy, so raising this parameter and operating on many channels simultaneously could cause Taskomatic to consume significant resources, but channels will be available to clients sooner.
Tune when	<code>Channel count</code> increases significantly (more than 50), or more concurrent operations on channels are expected.
Value default	2
Value recommendation	2-10
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>java.taskomatic_channel_repodata_workers = 4</code>
After changing	Check <code>taskomatic.java.maxmemory</code> for adjustment, as every new thread will consume memory
More information	<code>man rhn.conf</code>

2.5.3.13. `taskomatic.java.maxmemory`

Description	The maximum amount of memory Taskomatic can use. Generation of metadata, especially for some OSs, can be memory-intensive, so this parameter might need raising depending on the managed OS mix .
Tune when	<code>java.taskomatic_channel_repodata_workers</code> increases, OSs are added to SUSE Manager (particularly Red Hat Enterprise Linux or Ubuntu), or <code>OutOfMemoryException</code> errors appear in <code>/var/log/rhn/rhn_taskomatic_daemon.log</code> .
Value default	4096 MiB
Value recommendation	4096-16384 MiB
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>taskomatic.java.maxmemory = 8192</code>
After changing	Check memory usage .
More information	<code>man rhn.conf</code>

2.5.3.14. `org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount`

Description	The number of Taskomatic worker threads. Increasing this value allows Taskomatic to serve more clients in parallel.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly
Value default	20
Value recommendation	20-200
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount = 100</code>
After changing	Check <code>hibernate.c3p0.max_size</code> and <code>thread_pool</code> for adjustment

More information	http://www.quartz-scheduler.org/documentation/2.4.0-SNAPSHOT/configuration.html
------------------	---

2.5.3.15. `org.quartz.scheduler.idleWaitTime`

Description	Cycle time for Taskomatic. Decreasing this value lowers the latency of Taskomatic.
Tune when	<code>Client count</code> is in the thousands.
Value default	5000 ms
Value recommendation	1000–5000 ms
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>org.quartz.scheduler.idleWaitTime = 1000</code>
More information	http://www.quartz-scheduler.org/documentation/2.4.0-SNAPSHOT/configuration.html

2.5.3.16. `MinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads`

Description	Number of Taskomatic threads dedicated to sending commands to Salt clients as a result of actions being executed.
Tune when	<code>Client count</code> is in the thousands.
Value default	1
Value recommendation	1–10
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>taskomatic.com.redhat.rhn.taskomatic.task.MinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads = 10</code>

2.5.3.17. SSHMinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads

Description	Number of Taskomatic threads dedicated to sending commands to Salt SSH clients as a result of actions being executed.
Tune when	Client count is in the hundreds.
Value default	20
Value recommendation	20–100
Location	/etc/rhn/rhn.conf
Example	taskomatic.com.redhat.rhn.taskomatic.task.SSHMinionActionExecutor.parallel_threads = 40

2.5.3.18. hibernate.c3p0.max_size

Description	Maximum number of PostgreSQL connections simultaneously available to both Tomcat and Taskomatic. If any of those components requires more concurrent connections, their requests will be queued.
Tune when	java.message_queue_thread_pool_size or maxThreads increase significantly, or when org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount has changed significantly. Each thread consumes one connection in Taskomatic and Tomcat, having more threads than connections might result in starving.
Value default	20
Value recommendation	100 to 200, higher than the maximum of java.message_queue_thread_pool_size + maxThreads and org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount
Location	/etc/rhn/rhn.conf

Example	<code>hibernate.c3p0.max_size = 100</code>
After changing	Check <code>max_connections</code> for adjustment.
More information	https://www.mchange.com/projects/c3p0/#maxPoolSize

2.5.3.19. `rhn-search.java.maxmemory`

Description	The maximum amount of memory that the <code>rhn-search</code> service can use.
Tune when	<code>Client count</code> increases significantly, and <code>OutOfMemoryException</code> errors appear in <code>journalctl -u rhn-search</code> .
Value default	512 MiB
Value recommendation	512-4096 MiB
Location	<code>/etc/rhn/rhn.conf</code>
Example	<code>rhn-search.java.maxmemory = 4096</code>
After changing	Check <code>memory usage</code> .

2.5.3.20. `shared_buffers`

Description	The amount of memory reserved for PostgreSQL shared buffers, which contain caches of database tables and index data.
Tune when	RAM changes
Value default	25% of total RAM
Value recommendation	25-40% of total RAM
Location	<code>/var/lib/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf</code>
Example	<code>shared_buffers = 8192MB</code>
After changing	Check <code>memory usage</code> .

More information	https://www.postgresql.org/docs/10/runtime-config-resource.html#GUC-SHARED-BUFFERS
------------------	---

2.5.3.21. max_connections

Description	Maximum number of PostgreSQL connections available to applications. More connections allow for more concurrent threads/workers in various components (in particular Tomcat and Taskomatic), which generally improves performance. However, each connection consumes resources, in particular work_mem megabytes per sort operation per connection.
Tune when	hibernate.c3p0.max_size changes significantly, as that parameter determines the maximum number of connections available to Tomcat and Taskomatic
Value default	400
Value recommendation	$2 * \text{hibernate.c3p0.max_size} + \text{apache MaxClients} + 70$, if less than 1000
Location	<code>/var/lib/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf</code>
Example	<code>max_connections = 250</code>
After changing	Check memory usage . Monitor memory usage closely before and after the change.
More information	https://www.postgresql.org/docs/10/runtime-config-connection.html#GUC-MAX-CONNECTIONS

2.5.3.22. work_mem

Description	The amount of memory allocated by PostgreSQL every time a connection needs to do a sort or hash operation. Every connection (as specified by max_connections) might make use of an amount of memory equal to a multiple of work_mem .
Tune when	Database operations are slow because of excessive temporary file disk I/O. To test if that is happening, add log_temp_files = 5120 to /var/lib/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf , restart PostgreSQL, and monitor the PostgreSQL log files. If you see lines containing LOG: temporary file : try raising this parameter's value to help reduce disk I/O and speed up database operations.
Value recommendation	2-20 MB
Location	/var/lib/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf
Example	work_mem = 10MB
After changing	check if the SUSE Manager Server might need additional RAM.
More information	https://www.postgresql.org/docs/10/runtime-config-resource.html#GUC-WORK-MEM

2.5.3.23. effective_cache_size

Description	Estimation of the total memory available to PostgreSQL for caching. It is the explicitly reserved memory (shared_buffers) plus any memory used by the kernel as cache/buffer.
Tune when	Hardware RAM or memory usage increase significantly

Value recommendation	Start with 75% of total RAM. For finer settings, use shared_buffers + free memory + buffer/cache memory. Free and buffer/cache can be determined via the free -m command (free and buff/cache in the output respectively)
Location	<code>/var/lib/pgsql/data/postgresql.conf</code>
Example	<code>effective_cache_size = 24GB</code>
After changing	Check memory usage
Notes	This is an estimation for the query planner, not an allocation.
More information	https://www.postgresql.org/docs/10/runtime-config-query.html#GUC-EFFECTIVE-CACHE-SIZE

2.5.3.24. thread_pool

Description	The number of worker threads serving Salt API HTTP requests. A higher number can improve parallelism of SUSE Manager Server-initiated Salt operations, but will consume more memory.
Tune when	<code>java.message_queue_thread_pool_size</code> or <code>org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount</code> are changed. Starvation can occur when there are more Tomcat or Taskomatic threads making simultaneous Salt API calls than there are Salt API worker threads.
Value default	100
Value recommendation	100–500, but should be higher than the sum of <code>java.message_queue_thread_pool_size</code> and <code>org.quartz.threadPool.threadCount</code>

Location	<code>/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf</code> , in the <code>rest_cherrypy</code> section.
Example	<code>thread_pool: 100</code>
After changing	Check <code>worker_threads</code> for adjustment.
More information	https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/netapi/all/salt.netapi.rest_cherrypy.html#performance-tuning

2.5.3.25. `worker_threads`

Description	The number of salt-master worker threads that process commands and replies from minions and the Salt API. Increasing this value, assuming sufficient resources are available, allows Salt to process more data in parallel from minions without timing out, but will consume significantly more RAM (typically about 70 MiB per thread).
Tune when	<code>Client count</code> increases significantly, <code>thread_pool</code> increases significantly, or <code>SaltReqTimeoutError</code> or <code>Message timed out</code> errors appear in <code>/var/log/salt/master</code> .
Value default	8
Value recommendation	8-200
Location	<code>/etc/salt/master.d/tuning.conf</code>
Example	<code>worker_threads: 50</code>
After changing	Check <code>memory usage</code> . Monitor memory usage closely before and after the change.
More information	https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/configuration/master.html#worker-threads

2.5.3.26. pub_hwm

Description	The maximum number of outstanding messages sent by salt-master . If more than this number of messages need to be sent concurrently, communication with clients slows down, potentially resulting in timeout errors during load peaks.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly and Salt request timed out. The master is not responding. errors appear when pinging minions during a load peak.
Value default	1000
Value recommendation	10000-100000
Location	/etc/salt/master.d/tuning.conf
Example	pub_hwm: 10000
More information	https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/configuration/master.html#pub-hwm , https://zeromq.org/socket-api/#high-water-mark

2.5.3.27. zmq_backlog

Description	The maximum number of allowed client connections that have started but not concluded the opening process. If more than this number of clients connects in a very short time frame, connections are dropped and clients experience a delay re-connecting.
Tune when	Client count increases significantly and very many clients reconnect in a short time frame, TCP connections to the salt-master process get dropped by the kernel.

Value default	1000
Value recommendation	1000–5000
Location	<code>/etc/salt/master.d/tuning.conf</code>
Example	<code>zmq_backlog: 2000</code>
More information	https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/configuration/master.html#zmq-backlog , http://api.zeromq.org/3-0:zmq-getsockopt (ZMQ_BACKLOG)

2.5.3.28. swappiness

Description	How aggressively the kernel moves unused data from memory to the swap partition. Setting a lower parameter typically reduces swap usage and results in better performance, especially when RAM memory is abundant.
Tune when	RAM increases, or swap is used when RAM memory is sufficient.
Value default	60
Value recommendation	1–60. For 128 GB of RAM, 10 is expected to give good results.
Location	<code>/etc/sysctl.conf</code>
Example	<code>vm.swappiness = 20</code>
More information	https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP3/html/SLES-all/cha-tuning-memory.html#cha-tuning-memory-vm

2.5.3.29. Memory Usage

Adjusting some of the parameters listed in this section can result in a higher amount of RAM being used by various components. It is important that the amount of hardware RAM is adequate

after any significant change.

To determine how RAM is being used, you will need to check each process that consumes it.

Operating system

Stop all SUSE Manager services and inspect the output of **free -h**.

Java-based components

This includes Taskomatic, Tomcat, and **rhn-search**. These services support a configurable memory cap.

The SUSE Manager Server

Depends on many factors and can only be estimated. Measure PostgreSQL reserved memory by checking **shared_buffers**, permanently. You can also multiply **work_mem** and **max_connections**, and multiply by three for a worst case estimate of per-query RAM. You will also need to check the operating system buffers and caches, which are used by PostgreSQL to host copies of database data. These often automatically occupy any available RAM.

It is important that the SUSE Manager Server has sufficient RAM to accommodate all of these processes, especially OS buffers and caches, to have reasonable PostgreSQL performance. We recommend you keep several gigabytes available at all times, and add more as the database size on disk increases.

Whenever the expected amount of memory available for OS buffers and caches changes, update the **effective_cache_size** parameter to have PostgreSQL use it correctly. You can calculate the total available by finding the total RAM available, less the expected memory usage.

To get a live breakdown of the memory used by services on the SUSE Manager Server, use this command:

```
pidstat -p ALL -r --human 1 60 | tee pidstat-memory.log
```

This command will save a copy of displayed data in the **pidstat-memory.log** file for later analysis.

2.6. Monitoring Large Scale Deployments

You can monitor your SUSE Manager environment using Prometheus and Grafana. SUSE Manager Server and Proxy are able to provide self-health metrics. You can also install and manage a number of Prometheus exporters on Salt clients.

Prometheus and Grafana packages are included in the SUSE Manager Client Tools for SUSE Linux Enterprise 12, SUSE Linux Enterprise 15, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7, Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8 and openSUSE 15.x.

You need to install Prometheus and Grafana on a machine separate from the SUSE Manager Server. We recommend you use a managed Salt client as your monitoring server.

For more information on monitoring, see [Administration › Monitoring](#).

Chapter 3. Quick Start: Public Cloud overview

Updated: 2023-09-15

This guide shows you the fastest way to get SUSE Manager up and running in a public cloud using on-demand or BYOS services. Additionally, it assumes that you are installing the SUSE Manager Server on a single cloud instance. It has been tested on Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, and Google Cloud Engine.

For more information on using SUSE Manager, see the official SUSE Manager documentation at <https://documentation.suse.com/suma>.

3.1. Setting up

This guide shows you the fastest way to get SUSE Manager up and running in a public cloud using on-demand or BYOS services. We have tested using SUSE Manager on Amazon EC2, Google Compute Engine, and Microsoft Azure, but these procedures should work with other public cloud providers as well, with some variation.

There are three main methods of using SUSE Manager on a public cloud service.

Bring your own subscription (BYOS)

Most public cloud providers make a BYOS image of SUSE Manager available. This means you do not need to install SUSE Manager, just set up the server. You will need to have SUSE product entitlements before you begin, and there are some additional setup steps required. The public cloud documentation in the SUSE Manager documentation suite assumes you are using this method.

Virtual machine on public cloud

In this method, you subscribe to a public cloud service, and install SUSE Manager in a virtual machine, using the Unified Installer. You will need to have SUSE product entitlements before you begin. You can do this by following all the same instructions as you would for any local SUSE Manager installation.

On-demand SUSE Linux Enterprise Server pay as you go (PAYG) image

Most public cloud providers make SUSE Linux Enterprise Server available as a BYOS image. This means that SUSE Linux Enterprise Server is pre-installed, and you can install SUSE Manager on top, using the Unified Installer. You can do this by following all the same

instructions as you would for any local SUSE Manager installation. You will need to have SUSE product entitlements before you begin. Be careful with this method, because you might end up requiring additional product entitlements that could drive up your costs.

If you are using the BYOS method, start by logging in to your chosen public cloud provider, and launching a SUSE Manager instance. Depending on the public cloud you are using, you can usually locate the SUSE Manager Server BYOS images by searching for **suse manager**. In EC2, you need to search within the Community AMIs. In GCE and Azure, search the marketplace.

Select a public cloud instance type that meets the hardware and networking requirements in **Installation-and-upgrade › Pubcloud-requirements**.

When you have your virtual machine ready, and the BYOS image installed, you need to set up SUSE Manager. This is done in the same way as a local installation, using YaST. When you have completed SUSE Manager setup, you need to activate the public cloud module. You can then complete setup in the SUSE Manager Web UI. For more information about setting up, see **Installation-and-upgrade › Pubcloud-setup**.

3.2. Register clients

When you have your SUSE Manager Server set up, you are ready to start registering clients.

For instructions on registering clients on a public cloud, see **Client-configuration › Clients-pubcloud**.

For instructions on connecting Pay-as-you-go instances, see **Installation-and-upgrade › Connect-payg**.

3.2.1. More information

For more SUSE Manager product documentation, see <https://documentation.suse.com/suma>.

To raise an issue or propose a change to the documentation, use the links under the **Resources** menu on the documentation site.

Chapter 4. Quick Start: SAP Overview

Updated: 2023-09-15

This guide shows you how to use SUSE Manager to install and configure an SAP cluster. It guides you through setting up a single SUSE Manager Server, preparing your client systems, and configuring the cluster using formulas.

- For more information about SAP, see the SAP documentation at <https://documentation.suse.com/sles-sap>.
- For more information about SUSE Manager, see the SUSE Manager documentation at <https://documentation.suse.com/suma>.

4.1. Prepare Server

Before you start you need to install the SUSE Manager Server. The method for installing the SUSE Manager Server varies depending on your hardware and environment.

SUSE Manager is installed using the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 Unified Installer. During the installation process, when you are prompted for which product to install, select SUSE Manager Server. The server does not need to have the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 with SAP product installed. For more information about installing the SUSE Manager Server, see **Installation-and-upgrade › Install-server-unified**.

When the SUSE Manager Server is installed, set it up by running the **yast2 susemanager_setup** command from the command prompt. The setup script prompts you to complete additional details about your server, and give you the URL to use to access the Web UI. For more information about setup, see **Installation-and-upgrade › Server-setup**.

You need to do some configuration to set up the SUSE Manager Web UI. In your browser, navigate to the URL of the server, and configure your administration access to the Web UI. For more information about setting up the Web UI, see **Installation-and-upgrade › Webui-setup**.

Now you can use the Web UI to prepare software channels and activation keys for your clients.

On the SUSE Manager Server, add the appropriate SAP channels: From the Web UI, add **SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 for SAP**.

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

Web UI. Add the new channel to your activation key.

To check if a channel has finished synchronizing navigate to **Admin › Setup Wizard** and select the **Products** tab. This dialog displays a completion bar for each product when they are being synchronized.



Software channels can be very large. The initial channel synchronization can sometimes take up to several 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.

4.2. Preparing Clients

Your SAP cluster requires several client systems. Prepare your clients on physical or virtual hardware, and ensure you have SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 for SAP installation media ready. You cannot create an SAP cluster without the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server SAP extension, as it provides tooling specific to SAP.

One of the key features of SAP is high availability of the cluster. Every component within an SAP cluster has redundancy and failover protection. When you are preparing your clients, ensure you have enough hardware and infrastructure to allow for this. For more information about hardware requirements, see <https://documentation.suse.com/sles-sap/15-SP2/html/SLES-SAP-quick/cha-plan.html#sec-hardware>.

For more information about the clients you need to set up for an SAP cluster, see <https://documentation.suse.com/sbp/all>.

4.2.1. Register Clients to the SUSE Customer Center

Each client within your SAP cluster must be registered with the SUSE Customer Center. To obtain your registration code, navigate to <https://scc.suse.com/login> in your web browser. Log in to your SCC account, or follow the prompts to create a new account. Click the **[Subscriptions]** tab to see the registration code. When you install SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 for SAP the Unified Installer prompts you for the code.

For more information about registering SUSE Manager with SUSE Customer Center, see **Installation-and-upgrade › General-requirements**.

4.2.2. Configure the Clients for Clustering

Every client system must have all the other client systems listed in their `/etc/hosts` file. Open the `/etc/hosts` file on each client, and add the hostname for each of the other clients.

4.2.3. Create a Shared Storage Device

Each of the clients needs to be able to access a shared disk. The shared disk can be physical hardware connected by ethernet, or you can set up a virtual disk and access it with iSCSI.

If you use a virtual disk, consider hosting it on a separate system. Do not use a client machine to host the shared storage disk.

4.2.4. Download the SAP Installation Software

Download the SAP installation media and save a copy on each client. The software that you require differs depending on your environment. For example, if you are using HANA, you need the SAP HANA platform. If you are using Netweaver, you need different packages. These software packages are provided by SAP, not by SUSE.

Ensure you have saved the installation software in the same file system location on each client. Alternatively, save it to a shared NFS drive.

4.2.5. Configure Clients to Use Latest `module.run`

Each client needs to be configured to use the latest version of `module.run`. On each of the client machines, open the `/etc/salt/minion` configuration file and add or edit this line:

```
use_superseded:  
- module.run
```

Restart the `salt-minion` process to enable the changes:

```
systemctl restart salt-minion
```

4.2.6. Install Additional Disks for HANA

For the clients that are going to run the HANA database, you require an additional storage device. This device is used to store files required by HANA, which are located in the `/hana/` directory.

We recommend that this storage device be at least 20 GB. For some installations, you might require more, and it is possible to use multiple disks to provide this storage. For comprehensive hardware requirements, see <https://documentation.suse.com/sbp/all>.

4.2.7. Register Clients to the Server

First of all, make sure you have an activation key that is associated with the **SLE-Product-SLES_SAP15** base channel. For more information about activation keys, see [Client-configuration › Activation-keys](#).

In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems › Bootstrapping**. Fill in the appropriate details, and make sure you check the **Manage System Completely via SSH** checkbox. In the **Activation Key** field, select the SLES for SAP activation key.

For more information about registering, see [Client-configuration › Registration-webui](#).

4.3. Configure Clients

SUSE Manager uses formulas with forms to configure your SAP clients. There are two formulas that you need to use:

- **Hana** to configure the HANA database
- **Cluster** to configure the clients into a cluster

The formulas are provided by packages that you can download with your package manager. You need to install the formulas on the SUSE Manager Server. When you have installed the package, you can use the SUSE Manager Web UI to enable and configure the formulas. As you go through the formula configuration process, provide details of the clients that contain your SAP cluster, to set them up appropriately.

To install the formulas on the SUSE Manager Server, use your package manager to install these packages:

- **saphanabootstrap-formula**
- **sapnwbootstrap-formula**
- **drbd-formula**
- **habootstrap-formula**

- salt-shaptools



The order that you enable and configure the formulas is important. You must enable, configure, and apply the HANA formula first. Then you can enable, configure, and apply the cluster formula. If you perform these steps in the wrong order, your SAP installation fails.

4.3.1. Enable and Configure the HANA Formula

In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems › System List** and click the client to use as the primary client in the cluster.

Navigate to the **Formulas** tab, locate the **Sap Hana Deployment** heading, and check the **Saphanabootstrap** formula in the list. Click **[Save]** and apply the highstate to activate the formula.

When the formula is activated, navigate to the **Formulas › Hana** tab, and complete the details in the form.

Make sure you check **Install required packages** to install everything you need on the client. In the **Nodes** sections, type the hostname of the client to install the HANA database, and provide details for the installation.

Complete the remaining details according to your environment, click **[Save]**, and apply the highstate. When the highstate is complete, you can go on to apply the cluster formula.

test-client ? Delete System

Details Software Configuration Provisioning Groups Audit States **Formulas** Events

Configuration Saphanabootstrap Formula

On this page you can configure Salt Formulas to automatically install and configure software.

← Prev Next → Save Formula Clear values

Saphanabootstrap Formula

SAP HANA deployment formula

^ **HANA**

HANA

Install required packages: ☒ ?

^ **Nodes** +

Nodes

^

Hostname to install HANA: ?

HANA system identifier (SID): ?

HANA instance number: ?

SAP user password: ?

HANA scenario type: ?

Install HANA: ☒ ?

^ **Install new HANA instance**

Install new HANA instance

Downloaded HANA software path: ?

Machine root user: ?

Machine root password: ?

4.3.2. Enable and Configure the Cluster Formula

In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to **Systems › System List** and click the client to use as the primary client in the cluster.

Navigate to the **Formulas** tab, locate the **Cluster** heading, and check the **Habootstrap** formula in the list. Click **[Save]** and apply the highstate to activate the formula.

Formulas



Choose formulas:

<input type="checkbox"/>	General System Configuration	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bind	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dhcpd	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Locale	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	System Lock	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tftpd	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vsftpd	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clustering	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caasp Management Node	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caasp Management Settings	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Security Configuration	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cpu Mitigations	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drbd Deployment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Drbd Formula	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Grafana	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prometheus	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prometheus Exporters	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cluster	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Habootstrap Formula	i
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sap Hana Deployment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Saphanabootstrap Formula	i
<input type="checkbox"/>	Virtualization	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Virtualization Host	i

When the formula is activated, navigate to the **Formulas › Cluster** tab, and complete the details in the form.

Make sure you check **Install required packages** to install everything you need on the client. Give your cluster a name, and specify the hostname of the primary client in the cluster.

Complete the remaining details according to your environment, click **[Save]**, and apply the highstate.

 test-client 

[Delete System](#)

[Details](#) [Software](#) [Configuration](#) [Provisioning](#) [Groups](#) [Audit](#) [States](#) [Formulas](#) [Events](#)

[Configuration](#) [Hbootstrap Formula](#) [Saphanbootstrap Formula](#)

On this page you can configure Salt Formulas to automatically install and configure software.

← Prev

Next →

Save Formula

Clear values

Saphanbootstrap Formula

SAP HANA deployment formula

^ HANA

HANA

Install required packages: ☒

?

^ Nodes

Nodes

+

^

Hostname to install HANA:

?

HANA system identifier (SID):

?

HANA instance number:

?

SAP user password:

?

HANA scenario type:

?

Install HANA: ☒

?

^ Install new HANA instance

Install new HANA instance

Downloaded HANA software path:

?

Machine root user:

?

Machine root password:

?

Use configuration file: ☐

?

SAP admin password (<sid>adm):

?

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