

SUSE Linux Enterprise Application Compatibility Policy Statement

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Independent Software Vendor (ISV) Policy

The SUSE policy for user-space application compatibility across **SUSE Linux Enterprise** releases is:

- 1) Application compatibility is maintained across service pack updates without any additional work by the ISV.
- 2) Application compatibility across one single major release update – for example SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 to 12 – is usually provided through compatibility libraries if necessary.
- 3) Application compatibility is generally assured across a range of supported operating environments including physical, virtual and cloud.

Additional details of the policy are:

SUSE Linux Enterprise keeps the user-space Application Binary Interface (ABI) for libraries stable across all service packs of a major release.

Thus, an application that the ISV certifies as supported on SUSE Linux Enterprise can maintain its certification status throughout the SUSE maintenance and support lifecycle of a major version release. Applications do not need to be rebuilt for specific service packs, and ISVs do not need to re-certify. For example, an application that is built, certified and supported for SLES 12 SP1 will run without modification or recompilation on SLES 12 SP3 and does not need to be re-certified.

ISVs can get full benefit from their application certifications and expect broad application compatibility across physical, virtual and cloud environments. SUSE Linux Enterprise is engineered to be the "perfect guest," delivering broad compatibility across a wide variety of hypervisors.

SUSE provides a selection of compatibility libraries to facilitate ABI compatibility between major release versions of SUSE Linux Enterprise. These compatibility libraries are targeted to support the runtime environment needed by applications built on a single previous major release version. For example, applications built with the SLE 11 SDK on SLES 11 are expected to run with the compatibility libraries provided in SLES 12. However, ISVs need to test and re-certify their applications on the new major release.

Third-party applications that include Linux kernel modules or use kernel interfaces may need to be rebuilt for each kernel change. The kernel ABI is subject to change from one service pack release to the next. Applications including a Linux kernel module or utilizing other Linux kernel interfaces need to be tested and re-certified for every service pack release.

Resources:

SUSE ISV Partner Program - <http://www.suse.com/partners/isv/>

SUSE Ready Certification Programs – <http://www.suse.com/partners/suse-ready>

SUSE Virtualization Solutions - https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles-12/book_virt/data/book_virt.html