

# SUSE® Manager 3

April 2016

## What is SUSE® Manager?

SUSE Manager is a single, centralized systems management solution that delivers best-in-class capabilities for comprehensively managing SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems. SUSE Manager provides automated and cost-effective software management, system provisioning and monitoring capabilities that enable you to easily manage your Linux server deployments across physical, virtual and cloud environments. As a result, you can decrease total cost of ownership while improving compliance and service quality.

## What's new in SUSE Manager 3?

SUSE Manager 3 introduces a new approach to configuration management with the integration of Salt from SaltStack. This makes it even more suitable for large and very large data center environments where scalability, performance and high availability are extremely important. It delivers best-in-class open source infrastructure management for Linux data center environments, with new enhancements focused on:

- Improved configuration management
- Easier subscription management
- Enhanced monitoring

SUSE Manager 3 offers seamless update path from Manager 2.1 and Red Hat Satellite 5.x, retaining all user data, while providing a whole new experience for real time systems management.

## What is Salt?

Salt is an increasingly popular execution, orchestration and configuration management framework that is scalable and easy to extend with existing plug-ins for Docker and OpenStack. Salt provides a very scalable, fast and secure way to efficiently collect system status information about installed packages and configuration files in real time for all your systems.

It enables you to deploy tens of thousands of systems without compromising speed or security. With real-time configuration and monitoring, the time to patch hundreds or even thousands of servers in large environments is significantly reduced. It can also automate and orchestrate cloud deployments and Docker containers.

## What are the key differences between SUSE Manager 2.1 and SUSE Manager 3?

- SUSE Manager 3 has been redesigned with the integration of SALT that has the ability to manage configurations over time, allowing configuration drift to be tracked and managed. SUSE Manager 2.1 provided configuration management based on static configurations.
- SUSE Manager 3 includes a new and fully featured subscription management tool providing detailed insights into usage of SUSE products and can create reports for physical as well as virtual machines and cloud instances, assign subscriptions, and identify over or under utilization.
- SUSE Manager 3 now provides enhanced monitoring capabilities using the Nagios-compatible Icinga monitoring server. Monitoring integration with Icinga enables additional reporting capabilities and provides easy-to-use monitoring solutions and flexibility to add-on management functions. Customers also have the flexibility to use existing in-house monitoring solutions with SUSE Manager, improving control and management of IT assets.
- SUSE Manager 3 maintains full compatibility with SUSE Manager 2.1.

## Does SUSE Manager 3 still provide support for Puppet and CFEngine?

Yes. Whilst Salt is integrated into SUSE Manager 3, Puppet and CFEngine will continue to be supported.

## What are the components of the SUSE Manager solution?

SUSE Manager delivers complete lifecycle management and monitoring for Linux servers.

- **SUSE Manager Server:** *SUSE Manager server provides the web-based user interface and connection to SUSE Customer Center. It is provided as a software appliance. SUSE Manager Server captures and maintains server data and provides comprehensive lifecycle management functionality via the user interface and a rich API for automation. You deploy SUSE Manager server behind your company firewall. SUSE Manager Server subscriptions are available:*
  - For environments with up to 50 managed instances
  - For environments with more than 50 managed instances
- **SUSE Manager Proxy Server:** *The proxy server lowers bandwidth needs and provides faster local updates for Linux environments with more than 300 servers or deployments across dispersed geographical locations.*

For managed systems we provide a lifecycle management subscription. This subscription delivers functionality for updating servers as well as advanced server management capabilities that increase your Linux environment's scalability and enhance your IT staff's productivity. It enables you to deploy, configure and redeploy Linux systems from a single, centralized console.

A SUSE Manager installation consists of at least one SUSE Manager Server and the SUSE Manager Lifecycle Management entitlement for each managed system that has an active SUSE Linux Enterprise subscription.

## What are the key functionalities?

SUSE Manager provides complete control and visibility into your IT resources and lifecycles from asset management to redeployment. Through its automated and effective

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- 1 *Support for Red Hat Enterprise Server requires SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support*
  - 2 *Only on request; requires SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support*

management, SUSE Manager keeps your data center secure and compliant.

SUSE Manager key functionalities are:

- **Asset Management**—*Inventory your systems and use unattended bare-metal provisioning.*
- **Provisioning**—*Streamline your operating system (OS) provisioning.*
- **Software Package Management**—*Customize your package management and enable integration with third-party management tools.*
- **Patch Management**—*Automate your updates and patches.*
- **Configuration Management**—*Leverage centralized configuration management.*
- **Redeployment**—*Re-deploy on the same hardware with no physical interaction needed.*
- **Health Monitoring**—*Monitor the health of your systems.*
- **Compliance and Security**—*Identify security vulnerabilities and keep your systems compliant.*

## What are the benefits of using SUSE Manager?

With SUSE Manager, you can comprehensively manage your Linux servers across physical, virtual and cloud environments while improving your data center's efficiency.

- **Automated management to increase productivity and reduce costs:** *SUSE Manager provides a unified Linux management infrastructure by standardizing and automating server patching and management. SUSE Manager helps IT professionals perform management and provisioning tasks faster and with fewer errors, which improves IT staff productivity while reducing server downtime. Administrators can also identify server performance issues earlier, thus reducing disruption to services and limiting business impact. As a result, SUSE Manager reduces the cost of Linux management and allows you to manage Linux systems in a more standardized fashion.*
- **Reduced complexity and optimized IT operation:** *SUSE Manager allows IT professionals to manage various Linux distributions (SUSE Linux Enterprise, Red Hat Enterprise Linux<sup>1</sup> and CentOS<sup>2</sup>), different hardware platforms (from x86,*

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Power to mainframe) and various deployment environments (physical, virtual and cloud) from a single, centralized console using the same automated functionality. As a result, SUSE Manager ensures the same service quality and availability for Linux workloads independently of the number of servers, distributions, architectures and deployment types. This allows companies to optimize and expand their IT operations, gain agility and achieve a positive ROI. Microsoft Windows customers with Linux environments can use SUSE Manager Management Pack for Microsoft System Center, an add-on to Microsoft Systems Center that allows administrators to manage Windows and Linux servers from one console.

- **Simplified compliance and better change control:** SUSE Manager allows administrators to automate operating system tracking and auditing processes. IT organizations can establish and enforce server configurations by tracking server changes, thus ensuring consistency across the data center. SUSE Manager automatically confirms that servers have the latest security updates, checks system-security configuration settings and examines systems for signs of compromise. With these capabilities you can easily conduct hardware and software inventories to quickly comply with audits. It also improves service quality: by helping you perform management and provisioning tasks faster and with fewer errors, SUSE Manager reduces server downtime. You can also identify server performance issues earlier, reducing service disruption and limiting adverse business impacts. SUSE Manager helps your IT department maximize your systems' reliability, availability and performance.
- **Eases migration from Red Hat Enterprise Linux to SUSE Linux Enterprise:** If you are a Red Hat Enterprise Linux customer who wants to reduce your cost of ownership and obtain higher quality support, you can now use SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support and benefit from a systems management product that seamlessly manages both Linux distributions. SUSE Manager enables you to manage existing Red Hat servers while migrating to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. If you have Red Hat Network Satellite, you can transition to SUSE Manager through one simple process. And because the SUSE Manager user interface (UI) is similar to Red Hat Network Satellite's UI, you won't need to retrain your IT staff.

## Why should I choose SUSE Manager over other options?

When you choose SUSE Manager, you get the most advanced systems management solution for enterprise Linux environments. You also get:

- **The only systems management solution tightly integrated with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server:** Unlike other Linux management solutions, SUSE Manager is tightly integrated with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, ensuring consistent management across systems by exposing functionality that behaves exactly the same on the managed server and the management console. SUSE Manager enables you to effectively manage SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and all product extensions across physical, virtual and cloud deployments. SUSE Manager also manages SUSE Linux Enterprise Server-based appliances and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z.
- **The most efficient solution for managing Linux environments:** SUSE Manager delivers best-in-class Linux server management capabilities enhanced by the inclusion of unique SUSE Linux Enterprise capabilities. SUSE Manager eases initial setup for new servers with AutoYaST to reduce your deployment time and effort. SUSE Manager is available as both a SUSE Manager server or a SUSE Manager proxy server.
- **The ability to manage both SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and Red Hat Enterprise Linux:** SUSE Manager is the only Linux server management solution built to manage both SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and Red Hat Enterprise Linux. SUSE Manager maintains compatibility with Spacewalk and provides a similar feature set and user experience to those available with Red Hat Network Satellite. In combination with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support, SUSE Manager delivers the same management capabilities for Red Hat Enterprise Linux as it does for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server while offering a simple and straightforward migration from Red Hat Network Satellite.

## What versions of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and Red Hat Enterprise Linux does SUSE Manager support?

Currently, SUSE Manager supports workloads running on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 SP3 and SP4, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 and SP4, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 and 12 SP, and the latest versions of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5, 6 and 7.

## How do you deploy SUSE Manager, and what are the system requirements?

SUSE provides SUSE Manager server and proxy server as software appliances for easy installation on physical hardware or as virtual appliances on a range of hypervisors. You can deploy both servers on all virtualization platforms supported by SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 Service Pack 1

SUSE Manager is available with a built-in PostgreSQL database, but can also leverage existing Oracle 11g databases to store all data related to managed Linux servers.

Server requirements:

Hardware	Required/Recommended
CPU	Multi-core 64-bit CPU (x86_64)
RAM	<b>Required:</b> 16 GB minimum for base installation <b>Recommended:</b> 32 GB minimum for production server
Free Disk Space	<b>Required:</b> 100 GB minimum for base installation <b>Additionally:</b> At least 130 GB for repository data

## Where can I purchase SUSE Manager?

You can purchase SUSE Manager directly from SUSE or from one of our resellers and solution providers.

To buy directly from SUSE, please visit: [www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/how-to-buy/](http://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/how-to-buy/)

To buy via a reseller or solution provider, please search: [www.suse.com/company/novell\\_redirect.html?url=http://www.novell.com/partnerlocator/](http://www.suse.com/company/novell_redirect.html?url=http://www.novell.com/partnerlocator/)

## Where do I get more information about SUSE Manager and other SUSE Enterprise Linux Server products?

For more information about SUSE Manager, visit: [www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/](http://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/)

For more information about SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, visit: [www.suse.com/products/server/](http://www.suse.com/products/server/)

For more information about SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with Expanded Support, visit: [www.suse.com/products/expandedsupport/](http://www.suse.com/products/expandedsupport/)

For more information about all the modular extensions for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, visit [www.suse.com](http://www.suse.com) and navigate to “Products & Services” and then to “Extensions.”

For more information about the SUSE Linux Enterprise platform, visit: [www.suse.com/solutions/platform.html](http://www.suse.com/solutions/platform.html)

For more information about support and services for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, visit: [www.suse.com/support/?ref=h](http://www.suse.com/support/?ref=h)

[www.suse.com](http://www.suse.com)



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