

SUSE OEM Identification

SUSE Linux Enterprise 12 and 15

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When SUSE Linux Enterprise family products are being bundled with a system or integrated into a solution by an OEM, the system or solution needs to clearly state its OEM status. This document provides guidance how to identify a SUSE Linux Enterprise-based OEM system.

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1 About SUSE

SUSE is a global leader in innovative, reliable and secure enterprise-grade open source solutions, relied upon by more than 60% of the Fortune 500 to power their mission-critical workloads. The company specializes in Business-critical Linux, Enterprise Container Management and Edge solutions, and collaborates with partners and communities to empower customers to innovate everywhere – from the data center, to the cloud, to the edge and beyond.

2 Background

Success for today's original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) depends on the ability to respond quickly to constantly changing customer demands while keeping costs low and efficiency high. Customized and optimized solutions give you a competitive advantage and will help you meet future demands more easily. This results in reduced total capital costs for you, and lower costs of ownership for the end user.

SUSE helps OEM partners bring efficient, scalable and highly customized solutions to market faster. While concentrating on their core competency, they can build products using best-of-breed components. We offer a unique combination of reliable, open and flexible SUSE Linux Enterprise-based products, our award-winning tools, and our world-wide support and maintenance. Together, these components enable OEMs to deliver rock-solid Linux systems while focusing on their own core business.

3 Challenge

Products based on SUSE Linux Enterprise support more than 7,000 software applications and the widest range of hardware platforms and architectures in the industry. Partnering with SUSE enables OEMs to build and deliver solutions that help customers reduce costs, manage complexity, and mitigate risk. However, when SUSE Linux Enterprise family products are being bundled with a system or integrated into a solution by an OEM, the system or solution needs to clearly state the OEM status to customers, users and any compliance team. An important reason for this is that the terms and conditions of an OEM license agreement usually quite differ from a common end user license agreement (EULA).

4 Proposed solution

To clearly mark a system as containing an OEM version of a SUSE Linux Enterprise family product, follow the instructions detailed below.

4.1 Modification of `/etc/os-release`

The file `/etc/os-release` is part of the `*-release` package for each product of the SUSE Linux Enterprise family. It is used to identify the respective product.

OEMs may choose to completely rebrand a SUSE Linux Enterprise product. In that case, all pointers to SUSE Linux Enterprise will be removed. End users or customers using an OEM system will not be able to easily identify the system to be based on SUSE Linux Enterprise. For that, the OEM will generate an OEM-specific `*-release` package and adjust the contents to the OEM appliance.

However, if the OEM however does not rebrand SUSE Linux Enterprise when integrating it into the OEM solution, the file `/etc/os-release` shall be amended. For more information, read the `/etc/os-release` definition at <https://www.freedesktop.org/software/systemd/man/os-release.html>.

The definition of `/etc/os-release` does not cover OEM identification. However, custom values can be added when correctly prefixed.

We suggest OEMs to introduce

```
SUSE_OEM_NAME ... clear identifier for the OEM solution / appliance
```

as a mandatory field. In addition, the OEM may choose to embed additional information such as the customer support URL or the bug tracking system using parameters such as

```
SUSE_OEM_SUPPORT_URL ... OEM support URL
SUSE_OEM_BUG_REPORT_URL ... OEM bug entry system
```

4.1.1 Example identifier

Example of an unmodified SUSE Linux Enterprise system:

```
NAME="SLES"
VERSION="15-SP3"
```

```
VERSION_ID="15.3"
PRETTY_NAME="SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP3"
ID="sles"
ID_LIKE="suse"
ANSI_COLOR="0;32"
CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:suse:sles:15:sp3"
DOCUMENTATION_URL="https://documentation.suse.com/"
```

Recommendation for an OEM/appliance system based on SUSE Linux Enterprise:

```
NAME="SLES"
VERSION="15-SP3"
VERSION_ID="15.3"
PRETTY_NAME="SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP3"
ID="sles"
ID_LIKE="suse"
ANSI_COLOR="0;32"
CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:suse:sles:15:sp3"
DOCUMENTATION_URL="https://documentation.suse.com/"
SUSE_OEM_SUPPORT_URL="https://www.oem.com/support/"
SUSE_OEM_BUG_REPORT_URL="https://bugzilla.oem.com/"
```

4.2 Modification of `/etc/issue`

The file `/etc/issue` is used to provide a banner to a system on login. As the default on SUSE Linux Enterprise, `/etc/issue` identifies the version, architecture, kernel and currently running network configuration of the respective product.

4.2.1 Example banner

Below find an example for a common text banner being displayed on the login screen:

```
Welcome to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP3 (x86_64) - Kernel \r (\l).

eth0: \4{eth0} \6{eth0}
```

OEMs shall adjust `/etc/issue` to identify the OEM solution instead of SUSE Linux Enterprise. Find an example of a modified banner below:

```
Welcome to OEM Appliance 1.0 (x86_64) - Kernel \r (\l).

eth0: \4{eth0} \6{eth0}
```

4.3 Completely rebranded systems

In addition to the above suggested changes, an OEM can decide to completely rebrand a SUSE Linux Enterprise system. In this case, the OEM needs to create an individual `*-release` package including the required files. The `*-release` package from the respective product provided by SUSE may be used as a template.

It is important for the OEM to make sure **no** SUSE originated files can be found in `/etc/products.d/` that would identify the system as a SUSE Linux Enterprise system. Instead, the information contained in the file needs to come from the OEM and explicitly identify the OEM system.

5 Conclusion

Following the recommendations provided in this document, OEMs can easily tag appliances or systems bundled with a SUSE Linux Enterprise-based product as being OEM versions. In addition to the identification as OEM system, this also helps customers find out quickly what operating system version is running on their devices.

6 Forward-looking statements

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