

# Gathering System Information for Support

## WHAT?

The article gives instructions on how to gather information that can be passed to the SUSE support.

## WHY?

You want to know how to properly gather information about your system if there is a problem with the system.

## EFFORT

It takes up to 15 minutes of reading time.

## GOAL

You will learn how to create an archive of information about your system that can provide details about problems in your system to the SUSE support.

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# 1 Why collect system information and logs?

The **supportconfig** command-line tool collects and organizes detailed system information and logs in a way that helps to reduce service request resolution times.

Private system information can be disclosed during the process of collecting information from the tool. If this is a concern, you can remove the private data from the log files. There are other options to exclude more sensitive data. **supportconfig** data is used only for diagnostic purposes and is confidential. For more information on data privacy, refer to <http://www.suse.com/company/policies/privacy/>.

## 2 The **supportconfig** tool

The tool creates a tar ball in the `/var/log` directory. Attach the log file tar ball to your service request or if you cannot, email it to the engineer. For more detailed information on working with SUSE Technical Support, see <https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/>.

If problems occur, use the **supportconfig** command-line tool to collect and organize system information and logs. This helps reduce the time needed to resolve service requests. The collected data includes details such as the current kernel version, hardware, installed packages, partition setup and more, and is automatically attached to your service request.

The command-line tool is provided by the package `supportutils`, which is installed by default. If the package is not installed, install it with:

```
> sudo zypper install supportutils
```

The **supportconfig** tool can integrate plug-ins that run automatically each time the command is executed. Which plug-ins are available on your system, depends on the installed packages. The plug-ins are stored in the `/usr/lib/supportconfig/plugins/` directory.

The **supportconfig** tool creates a TAR archive with detailed system information that you can hand over to Global Technical Support.

### 3 Collecting system information with **supportconfig**

To create a TAR archive with detailed system information that you can hand over to Global Technical Support, follow the procedure:

1. Run **supportconfig** as **root**. Usually, it is enough to run this tool without any options. For common options, refer to [Section 3.1, “Common \*\*supportconfig\*\* options”](#).

```
# supportconfig

Support Utilities - Supportconfig
      Script Version: 3.1.11-46.2
      Library Version: 3.1.11-29.6
      Script Date: 2022 10 18

[...]
Gathering system information
Data Directory:  /var/log/scc_d251_180201_1525 ❶

Basic Server Health Check...           Done ❷
RPM Database...                         Done ❷
Basic Environment...                   Done ❷
System Modules...                       Done ❷
[...]
File System List...                     Skipped ❸
[...]
Command History...                      Excluded ❹
[...]
Supportconfig Plugins:                  1 ❺
  Plugin: pstree...                      Done
[...]
Creating Tar Ball

==[ DONE ]=====
Log file tar ball: /var/log/scc_d251_180201_1525.txz ❻
Log file size:      732K
Log file md5sum:    bf23e0e15e9382c49f92cbce46000d8b
=====
```

The command output is described below this procedure.

2. Wait for the tool to complete the operation.

3. The default archive location is `/var/log`, with the file name format being `sc-c_HOST_DATE_TIME.tar.xz`. For the archive content description, refer to [Section 4, “Overview of the archive content”](#).

- ❶ The temporary data directory to store the results. This directory is archived as a tar file, see ❹.
- ❷ The feature was enabled (either by default or selected manually) and executed successfully. The result is stored in a file (see [Table 1, “Comparison of features and file names in the TAR archive”](#)).
- ❸ The feature was skipped because certain files of one or more RPM packages were changed.
- ❹ The feature was excluded because it was deselected via the `-x` option.
- ❺ The script found one plug-in and executes the plug-in `pstree`. The plug-in was found in the directory `/usr/lib/supportconfig/plugins/`. See the man page for details.
- ❻ The tar file name of the archive, compressed with `xz` by default.

### 3.1 Common `supportconfig` options

Usually, it is sufficient to run `supportconfig` without any options. However, you may need to use the following options:

`-E MAIL`

To provide the contact e-mail.

`-N NAME`

To provide your name.

`-O COMPANY`

To provide your company name.

`-P PHONE`

To provide your phone number.

`-i KEYWORDS`

To specify keywords that limit the features to check. `KEYWORDS` is a comma-separated list of case-sensitive keywords.

This option is particularly useful if you have already localized a problem that relates to a specific area or feature set only. For example, you have detected problems with LVM and want to test a recent change that you introduced to the LVM configuration. In this case, it makes sense to gather the minimum **supportconfig** information around LVM only:

```
# supportconfig -i LVM
```

**-F**

To list all keywords that you can use to limit the features to check.

**-m**

To reduce the amount of the information being gathered.

**-l**

To collect already rotated log files. This is especially useful in high-logging environments or after a kernel crash when syslog rotates the log files after a reboot.

Use **supportconfig -helpcommand** to get a list of all the options.

## 4 Overview of the archive content

The TAR archive contains all the results from the features. Depending on what you have selected (all or only a small set), the archive can contain more or fewer files. The set of features can be limited using the **-i** option (see [Section 3.1, “Common supportconfig options”](#)).

To list the contents of an **xz** compressed tar file:

```
# tar -tJf /var/log/NAME_OF_TAR_FILE.txz
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/basic-environment.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/basic-health-check.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/boot.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/bpf.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/cimom.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/crash.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/dbus.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/dhcp.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/dns.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/docker.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/email.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/env.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/etc.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-autofs.txt
```

```
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-btrfs.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-diskio.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-gfs2.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-iscsi.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/fs-softraid.txt
scc_localhost.localdomain_250618_1154/ha.txt
```

[...]

The following file names are always available inside the TAR archive:

#### MINIMUM FILES IN ARCHIVE

##### basic-environment.txt

Contains the date when this script was executed and system information like version of the distribution, hypervisor information, and more.

##### basic-health-check.txt

Contains basic health checks, such as uptime, virtual memory statistics, free memory and hard disk, checks for zombie processes, and more.

##### hardware.txt

Contains basic hardware checks like information about the CPU architecture, a list of all connected devices, interrupts, I/O ports, kernel boot messages, and more.

##### messages.txt

Contains log messages from the system journal.

##### rpm.txt

Contains a list of all installed RPM packages, their names and versions and where they come from.

##### summary.xml

Contains information in XML format, such as distribution, version and product-specific fragments.

##### supportconfig.txt

Contains information about the **supportconfig** script itself.

##### y2log.txt

Contains YaST-specific information like specific packages, configuration files and log files.

The following table lists some of the available features and their file names.

TABLE 1: COMPARISON OF FEATURES AND FILE NAMES IN THE TAR ARCHIVE

Feature	File name
<u>AUDIT</u>	<u>security-audit.txt</u>
<u>AUTOFS</u>	<u>fs-autofs.txt</u>
<u>BOOT</u>	<u>boot.txt</u>
<u>BTRFS</u>	<u>fs-btrfs.txt</u>
<u>DAEMONS</u>	<u>systemd.txt</u>
<u>CIMOM</u>	<u>cimom.txt</u>
<u>CRASH</u>	<u>crash.txt</u>
<u>DHCP</u>	<u>dhcp.txt</u>
<u>DISK</u>	<u>fs-diskio.txt</u>
<u>DNS</u>	<u>dns.txt</u>
<u>DOCKER</u>	<u>docker.txt</u>
<u>ENV</u>	<u>env.txt</u>
<u>ETC</u>	<u>etc.txt</u>
<u>ISCSI</u>	<u>fs-iscsi.txt</u>
<u>LDAP</u>	<u>ldap.txt</u>
<u>LIVEPATCH</u>	<u>kernel-livepatch.txt</u>
<u>LVM</u>	<u>lvm.txt</u>
<u>MEM</u>	<u>memory.txt</u>
<u>MOD</u>	<u>modules.txt</u>
<u>MPIO</u>	<u>mpio.txt</u>
<u>NET</u>	<u>network-*.txt</u>
<u>NFS</u>	<u>nfs.txt</u>
<u>NTP</u>	<u>ntp.txt</u>

<b>Feature</b>	<b>File name</b>
<u>OCFS2</u>	<u>ocfs2.txt</u>
<u>PAM</u>	<u>pam.txt</u>
<u>PODMAN</u>	<u>podman-root.txt</u>
<u>PRINT</u>	<u>print.txt</u>
<u>PROC</u>	<u>proc.txt</u>
<u>SAR</u>	<u>sar.txt</u>
<u>SLERT</u>	<u>slert.txt</u>
<u>SLP</u>	<u>slp.txt</u>
<u>SMT</u>	<u>smt.txt</u>
<u>SMART</u>	<u>fs-smartmon.txt</u>
<u>SMB</u>	<u>samba.txt</u>
<u>SRAID</u>	<u>fs-softraid.txt</u>
<u>SSH</u>	<u>ssh.txt</u>
<u>SSSD</u>	<u>sssd.txt</u>
<u>SYSCONFIG</u>	<u>sysconfig.txt</u>
<u>SYSFS</u>	<u>sysfs.txt</u>
<u>TRANSACTIONAL</u>	<u>transactional-update.txt</u>
<u>TUNED</u>	<u>tuned.txt</u>
<u>UDEV</u>	<u>udev.txt</u>
<u>UP</u>	<u>updates.txt</u>
<u>WEB</u>	<u>web.txt</u>

## 5 Submitting information to Global Technical Support

After you have created the archive using the **supportconfig** tool, you can submit the archive to SUSE.

### 5.1 Creating a service request number

Before handing over the **supportconfig** data to Global Technical Support, you need to generate a service request number first. You will need it to upload the archive to support.

To create a service request, go to <https://scc.suse.com/support/requests> and follow the instructions on the screen. Write down the service request number.



#### Note: Privacy statement

SUSE treats system reports as confidential data. For details about our privacy commitment, see <https://www.suse.com/company/policies/privacy/>.

### 5.2 Uploading targets

After having created a service request number, you can upload your **supportconfig** archives to Global Technical Support. In the examples below, *12345678901* serves as a placeholder for your service request number. Replace the placeholder with the service request number you created in *Section 5.1, "Creating a service request number"*.

The following procedures assume that you have already created a **supportconfig** archive but have not uploaded it yet.

#### PROCEDURE 1: SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO SUPPORT ON SERVERS WITH INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

1. Run the **supportconfig** tool as follows:

- a. To use the default upload target <https://support-ftp.us.suse.com/incoming/upload.php?file={tarball}>, run:

```
> sudo supportconfig -ur 12345678901
```

- b. For the FTPS upload target <https://support-ftp.us.suse.com>, use the following command:

```
> sudo supportconfig -ar 12345678901
```

To use a different upload target, for example, for the EMEA area, use the `-U` followed by the particular URL, either <https://support-ftp.emea.suse.com/incoming/upload.php?file={tarball}> or <https://support-ftp.emea.suse.com/incoming/>:

```
> sudo supportconfig -r 12345678901 -U https://support-ftp.emea.suse.com/incoming
```

2. After the TAR archive arrives in the incoming directory of our FTP server, it becomes automatically attached to your service request.

If the servers do not provide Internet connectivity, follow the steps below:

#### PROCEDURE 2: SUBMITTING INFORMATION TO SUPPORT ON SERVERS WITHOUT INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

1. Run the following:

```
> sudo supportconfig -r 12345678901
```

2. Manually upload the `/var/log/scc_SR12345678901*.txz` archive to one of our servers. The selection of a server depends on your location in the world:

- North America: HTTPS <https://support-ftp.us.suse.com/incoming/upload.php?file={tarball}>, FTPS <https://support-ftp.us.suse.com/incoming/>
- EMEA, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa: FTP <https://support-ftp.emea.suse.com/incoming/upload.php?file={tarball}>, FTPS <https://support-ftp.emea.suse.com/incoming/>

3. After the TAR archive arrives in the incoming directory of our FTP server, it becomes automatically attached to your service request.

## 6 More information

The SUSE Technical Support Handbook provides detailed information on how to work with SUSE technical support. Below are links to key sections, but you may also find it helpful to review the full handbook.

- Types of support and what is technical support (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/what-is-technical-support/>) ↗
- What is supported (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/what-is-supported/>) ↗
- Severity Types (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/severity-types/>) ↗
- How to effectively work with support (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/how-to-effectively-work-with-support/>) ↗
- Additional support options (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/additional-support-options/>) ↗
- Support policies (<https://www.suse.com/support/handbook/support-self-help/>) ↗

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