

Identifying Operating Systems

WHAT?

The article describes how you can identify SUSE products and changes coming with the last release of SUSE Linux.

WHY?

You want to review your system configuration and scripts to match the new values.

EFFORT

It takes about 5 minutes to read the article.

GOAL

You will know the new values and attributes that identify SUSE products.

REQUIREMENTS

- Installed product of the SUSE Linux family.

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1 Why identify an operating system?

As software developers and system administrators, you often manage several versions of the same product or even several products. Operations on each version or product may require a different configuration, therefore, it is crucial to easily identify the system.

Proper system identification can help you with automation, ensuring compatibility, troubleshooting, and so on.

2 The `/etc/os-release` content

For operating system identification, use a text-based file `/etc/os-release`. The file contains product key attributes like name and version. Viewing and interpreting the content can help you with automation, ensuring compatibility, troubleshooting, and so on.



Note: Different content for SUSE Linux 16.0 and SUSE Linux Micro 6.2

With SUSE Linux 16.0 and SUSE Linux Micro 6.2 the content of the `/etc/os-release` is changed to the values described in the following sections. However, the values are compatible with previous releases.

The `/etc/os-release` file contains two types of attributes: common attributes and product-specific attributes. Each type is described further.

2.1 Common attributes

The common attributes have the same values for all SUSE Linux products.

TABLE 1: COMMON ATTRIBUTES

Attribute	Meaning	Value
<code>NAME</code>	Full name of the distribution	SLES

Attribute	Meaning	Value
<u>PRETTY_NAME</u>	A prettified name that is displayed to the user	SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0
<u>VERSION</u>	A complete version	16.0
<u>VERSION_ID</u>	A version number. This is the recommended attribute for identifying the operating system.	16.0
<u>ID</u>	Short identification of the distribution. This is the recommended attribute for identifying the operating system.	sles
<u>ID_LIKE</u>	A list of similar distributions	suse opensuse
<u>CPE_NAME</u>	Common Platform Enumeration	cpe:/o:suse:sles:16:16.0

2.2 Product-specific attributes

The product-specific attributes differ for each SUSE product. The file `/etc/os-release` contains the following product-specific attributes:

TABLE 2: PRODUCT-SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTES

Attribute	Meaning	Value for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server	Value for SLES-for SAP	Value for SUSE Linux Micro
<u>VARIANT</u>	The specific flavor of the product. This is a newly introduced attribute.	Enterprise Server	Enterprise Server for SAP applications	Micro
<u>VARIANT_ID</u>	A short machine readable name	server	server-sap	transactional

Attribute	Meaning	Value for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server	Value for SLES-for SAP	Value for SUSE Linux Micro
	that can be used to identify a particular product in scripts. This is a newly introduced attribute.			
<u>SUSE_SUP-PORT_PRODUCT</u>	The official SUSE product name. This is a newly introduced attribute.	SUSE Linux Enterprise Server	SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for SAP applications	SUSE Linux Micro
<u>SUSE_SUP-PORT_PRODUC-T_VERSION</u>	The official SUSE product version. This is a newly introduced attribute.	16.0	16.0	6.2

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