Package Lifecycles on SUSE Linux 15

This article outlines the lifecycle policies and support timelines for software components in SUSE Linux 15 that do not align with standard Service Pack releases. While SUSE Linux 15 provides a 13-year general lifecycle, selected runtime environments, languages and tools—such as Java, Python, Node.js, Go and Rust—follow independent maintenance schedules or receive regular updates within released Service Packs. Use this guide to track support end dates, maintain security compliance and plan application lifecycles across SUSE Linux 15 Service Packs.

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1 Specific component lifecycles on SUSE Linux 15

Some packages and components shipped with SUSE Linux 15 have support lifecycles that do not align with the product's general Service Pack timelines.

This article covers the complete SUSE Linux 15 code stream, from 15 GA (also known as SP0) through 15 SP7.

While SUSE Linux 15 features a comprehensive 13-year lifecycle, certain high-velocity packages are maintained independently.

Components like Java or Python follow distinct lifecycles, whereas tools like Go, Rust, Node.js and GCC receive regular updates within existing Service Packs to align with security standards and upstream releases.

For general SUSE support guidelines, see the SUSE Product Lifecycle Page (https://www.suse.com/lifecycle/).

2 Java lifecycle support

Java is not supported in Reactive LTSS and Extreme LTSS offerings. IBM Java 8 is available again in the Legacy Module of SUSE Linux 15 SP7. SUSE does not support IBM Java. To get support, you must have a support contract with IBM.

TABLE 1: JAVA LIFECYCLE SUPPORT ON SUSE LINUX 15

Name (Package)	Version	Module availability	Support end	Note
IBM Java (`java-1_8_0-ibm`)	1.8.0	SP0–SP7 (Legacy Module)	December 2030	SUSE gives no support. IBM makes free public updates available until 2030.
OpenJDK (`java-1_8_0-openjdk`)	1.8.0	SP0–SP7 (Legacy Module)	December 2026	Aligned with SUSE Linux 15 SP4 LTSS end.
OpenJDK (`ja-`	11	SP1–SP5 (Basesystem),	December 2027	Aligned with SUSE Linux 15 SP5 LTSS end.

Name (Package)	Version	Module availability	Support end	Note
`va-11-openjdk`)		SP6–SP7 (Legacy)		
OpenJDK (`java-17-openjdk`)	17	SP4–SP5 (Basesystem), SP6–SP7 (Legacy)	December 2027	Aligned with SUSE Linux 15 SP5 LTSS end.
OpenJDK (`java-21-openjdk`)	21	SP6–SP7 (Basesystem)	July 2034	Aligned with SUSE Linux 15 SP7 LTSS end.
OpenJDK (`java-25-openjdk`)	25	SP7 (Basesystem)	October 2033	Aligned with the OpenJDK 25 support end in SUSE Linux 16.

3 Python lifecycle support

Python 2.7 was deprecated in SUSE Linux 15 SP0 and removed in SP4. Its general support ended on December 31, 2023.

Python 3.6 is the default system interpreter. It remains fully supported across all Service Packs through the end of the LTSS phase in July 2034. The entire lifetime of the SUSE Linux 15 family ends in 2037.

Recent Python versions—3.9 in SP3, 3.10 in SP4, 3.11 in SP5, 3.12 in SP6 and 3.13 in SP7 (with a potential future update to 3.15)—are provided via the `Python 3 Module`. Only the default system interpreter and the latest shipped interpreter are supported simultaneously per Service Pack. These recent interpreters are exempt from Reactive LTSS.

4 Node.js lifecycle support

Before the LTSS phase, up to three upstream major versions of `nodejs` are supported concurrently per Service Pack. During the LTSS phase, only the latest available version is supported.

TABLE 2: NODE.JS SUPPORT DATES ACROSS SUSE LINUX 15

Version	Upstream EOL	Inclusion in SUSE Linux 15	SUSE EOL
22.x	April 2026	SP7 GA	End of 2027
24.x	April 2027	End of 2025	End of 2028
26.x	April 2028	End of 2026	End of 2029
28.x	April 2029	End of 2027	End of 2030
30.x	April 2030	End of 2028	July 2031 (General Support end)
32.x	April 2031	End of 2029	July 2031 (General Support end)
34.x	April 2032	End of 2030	July 2034 (LTSS end)

5 Go lifecycle support

On SUSE Linux 15, Go is updated inside released Service Packs rather than only at Service Pack boundaries.

Release cycle

Releases are kept in sync with upstream, which nominally occurs every 6 months in February and August.

Version support

SUSE maintains versions N and N-1, mirroring the upstream support policy. Minor releases are made available shortly after the upstream release.

Parallel installation

Different versions are parallel installable and undergo automated testing. The `go` metapackage always points to the latest `go1.x` package.

Support phases

Go is supported across both the General Support and the LTSS phases.

When building applications, you have two options regarding versions:

- To build with the latest recommended version, let the application depend on `BuildRequires: golang(API) >= go1.23`.
- To control the timing of build changes, pin the application to a specific `go1.x` package using `BuildRequires: golang(API) == go1.23`.

In both cases, you must use the major version of `go1.x` specified in the application's `go.mod` file, as the Go compiler requires this as a minimum version.

Alongside the regular `go1.xx` packages, SUSE ships a parallel `go1.xx-openssl` variant that enables FIPS-compliant Go applications. Two `-openssl` versions are supported at any time, but they follow their own release cycle, shifted by a few weeks from the regular packages. Keep two `-openssl` versions available when you depend on them.

6 Rust lifecycle support

On SUSE Linux 15, Rust is updated inside released Service Packs rather than only at Service Pack boundaries.

Release cycle

Releases are kept in sync with upstream, which occurs every 6 weeks.

Version support

SUSE maintains versions N and N-1.

Upgrade window

A 6-week window is provided to perform upgrades and find any potential issues.

Parallel installation

Both supported versions are available in parallel in the Development Tools Module and undergo automated testing.

Support phases

Rust is supported across both the General Support and the LTSS phases. Versions N and N-1 are maintained in the LTSS streams as well, starting with SUSE Linux 15 SP3 LTSS. A single source package per Rust version is shared across all Service Packs.

7 Database lifecycle support

MariaDB

MariaDB is upgraded to the latest stable LTS release with each Service Pack (10.6 in SP4/SP5, 10.11 in SP6, 11.8 LTS in SP7). Older Service Packs receive security backports. MariaDB 11.8 LTS is supported until SP7 LTSS ends (December 2034).

PostgreSQL

TABLE 3: POSTGRESQL VERSION SUPPORT ON SUSE LINUX 15

Service Pack	PostgreSQL 14	PostgreSQL 15	PostgreSQL 16	PostgreSQL 17
SUSE Linux 15 SP4	Default	—	—	—
SUSE Linux 15 SP5	Legacy Module	Default	Maintenance update	Maintenance update
SUSE Linux 15 SP6	—	Legacy Module	Default	Maintenance update
SUSE Linux 15 SP7	—	Legacy Module	Legacy Module	Default

Redis and Valkey

Redis was shipped up to SUSE Linux 15 SP6 (Redis 6.2 in SP4/SP5, 7.2 in SP6). Redis is removed starting in SP7 and replaced with Valkey 8.0.x (which is downward-compatible). Valkey minor versions can be updated in SUSE Linux 15 SP7.

8 Web and scripting lifecycle support

PHP

Each Service Pack defines a default PHP major version (7.2 in SP0/SP1, 7.4 in SP2/SP3, 8.0 in SP4/SP5, 8.2 in SP6, 8.4 in SP7). Older versions move to the Legacy Module. PHP patch updates are released reactively for CVEs and bug fixes.

Apache Tomcat

Tomcat 11 is available starting in SUSE Linux 15 SP6. It features a 1-year initial commitment with a goal of a 6-month support overlap with the next major version.

9 Toolchain lifecycle support

System compiler (GCC 7.5.0)

GCC 7.5.0 remains static and is supported across all SUSE Linux 15 Service Packs until July 2034.

Application compiler (GCC 13, 14, 15)

The application compiler in the Development Tools Module is updated yearly to the next major version. When a new major GCC version is introduced, the previous version remains supported for an overlap of 6 months.

glibc, binutils and gdb

The `binutils` and `gdb` packages are upgraded to the latest upstream releases in active Service Packs to address security CVEs. The `glibc` package is updated only occasionally when reasons accumulate (such as glibc 2.31 in SP3 and 2.38 in SP6).

10 Base Container Images (BCI) support

OS base container images (such as `bci-base`, `bci-minimal`, `bci-micro`, `bci-init` and `bci-busybox`) are supported and updated throughout the entire lifetime of the Service Pack.

This support extends through both the General Support phase and the LTSS phase of the respective Service Pack.

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