

# Pacemaker Remote Quick Start

This document guides you through the setup of a High Availability cluster with a remote node or a guest node, managed by Pacemaker and `pacemaker_remote`. *Remote* in `pacemaker_remote` does not refer to physical distance, but to the special status of nodes that do not run the complete cluster stack and thus are not regular members of the cluster.

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# 1 Conceptual overview and terminology

A regular cluster can contain up to 32 nodes. With the `pacemaker_remote` service, High Availability clusters can be extended to include additional nodes beyond this limit.

The `pacemaker_remote` service can be operated as a physical node (called remote node) or as a virtual node (called guest node). Unlike normal cluster nodes, both remote and guest nodes are managed by the cluster as resources. As such, they are not bound to the 32 node limitation of the cluster stack. However, from the resource management point of view, they behave as regular cluster nodes.

Remote nodes do not need to have the full cluster stack installed, as they only run the `pacemaker_remote` service. The service acts as a proxy, allowing the cluster stack on the “regular” cluster nodes to connect to the service. Thus, the node that runs the `pacemaker_remote` service is effectively integrated into the cluster as a remote node (see [Terminology](#)).

## TERMINOLOGY

### Cluster node

A node that runs the complete cluster stack.

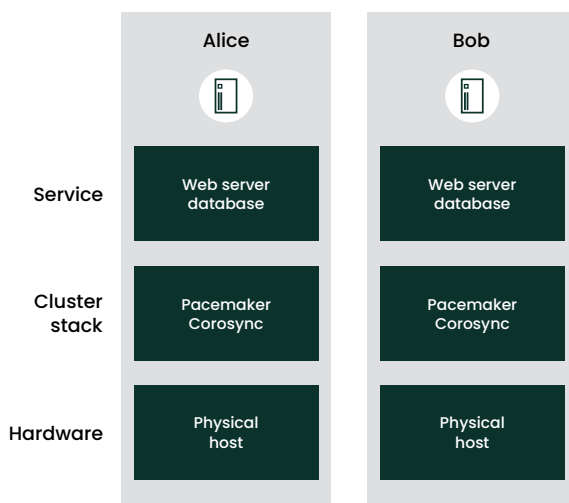


FIGURE 1: REGULAR CLUSTER STACK (TWO-NODE CLUSTER)

A regular cluster node may perform the following tasks:

- Run cluster resources.
- Run all command line tools, such as `crm`, `crm_mon`.

- Execute fencing actions.
- Count toward cluster quorum.
- Serve as the cluster's designated coordinator (DC).

### Pacemaker remote ( `systemd` service: `pacemaker_remote` )

A service daemon that makes it possible to use a node as a Pacemaker node without deploying the full cluster stack. `pacemaker_remote` is the name of the `systemd` service. However, the name of the daemon is `pacemaker-remoted` (with a trailing `d` after its name).

### Remote node

A physical machine that runs the `pacemaker_remote` daemon. A special resource (`ocf:pacemaker:remote`) needs to run on one of the cluster nodes to manage communication between the cluster node and the remote node (see [Section 3, "Use case 1: setting up a cluster with remote nodes"](#)).

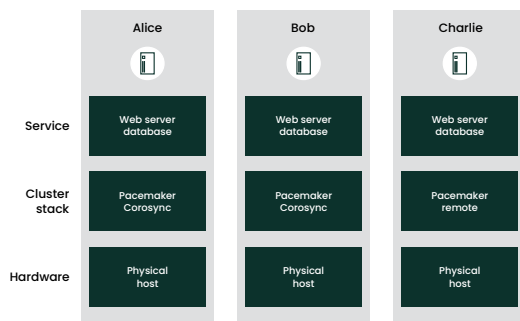


FIGURE 2: CLUSTER WITH ONE REMOTE NODE

### Guest node

A virtual machine that runs the `pacemaker_remote` daemon. A guest node is created using a resource agent such as `ocf:pacemaker:VirtualDomain` with the `remote-node` meta attribute (see [Section 4, "Use case 2: setting up a cluster with guest nodes"](#)).

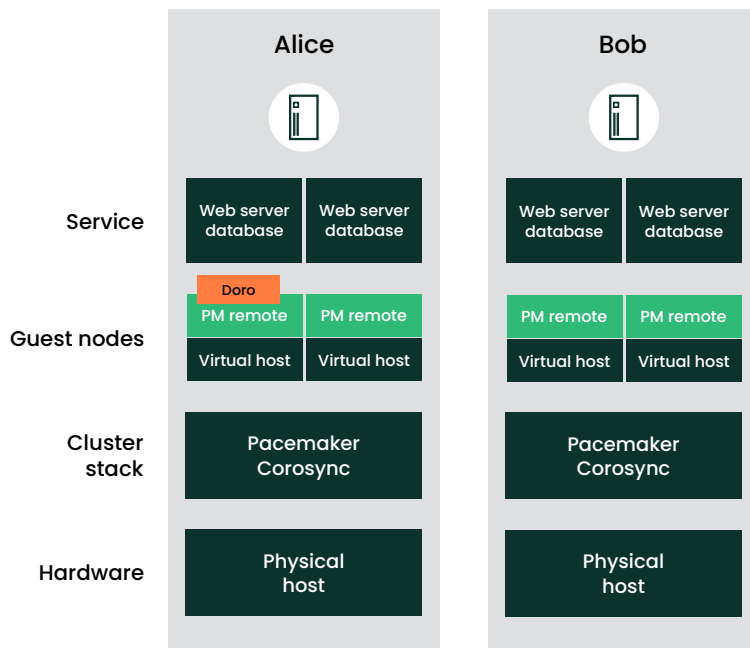


FIGURE 3: CLUSTER WITH GUEST NODES

For a physical machine that contains several guest nodes, the process is as follows:

1. On the cluster node, virtual machines are launched by Pacemaker.
2. The cluster connects to the `pacemaker_remote` service of the virtual machines.
3. The virtual machines are integrated into the cluster by `pacemaker_remote`.

It is important to distinguish between several roles that a virtual machine can take in the High Availability cluster:

- A virtual machine can run a full cluster stack. In this case, the virtual machine is a regular cluster node and is not itself managed by the cluster.
- A virtual machine can be managed by the cluster as a resource, without the cluster being aware of the services that run inside the virtual machine. In this case, the virtual machine is opaque to the cluster.
- A virtual machine can be a cluster resource and run `pacemaker_remote`, which allows the cluster to manage services inside the virtual machine. In this case, the virtual machine is a guest node and is transparent to the cluster.

Remote nodes and guest nodes can run cluster resources and most command line tools. However, they have the following limitations:

- They cannot execute fencing actions.
- They do not affect quorum.
- They cannot serve as Designated Coordinator (DC).

## 2 Usage scenario

The procedures in this document describe the process of setting up a minimal cluster with the following characteristics:

- Two cluster nodes running SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability 12 GA or higher. In this guide, their host names are alice and bob.
- Depending on the setup you choose, the cluster will have one of the following nodes:
  - One remote node running pacemaker\_remote (the remote node is named charlie in this document).Or:
  - One guest node running pacemaker\_remote (the guest node is named doro in this document).
- Pacemaker to manage guest nodes and remote nodes.
- Failover of resources from one node to the other if the active host breaks down (active/passive setup).

## 3 Use case 1: setting up a cluster with remote nodes

In the following example setup, a remote node charlie is used.

1. *Section 3.1, "Preparing the cluster nodes and the remote node"*
2. *Section 3.2, "Configuring an authentication key"*
3. *Section 3.3, "Configuring the remote node"*
4. *Section 3.4, "Integrating the remote node into the cluster"*

## 3.1 Preparing the cluster nodes and the remote node

To prepare the cluster nodes and remote node, proceed as follows:

1. Install and set up a basic two-node cluster as described in *Article "Installation and Setup Quick Start"*. This leads to a two-node cluster with two physical hosts, alice and bob.
2. On a physical host (charlie) that you want to use as remote node, install SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP6 and add SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability 15 SP6 as extension. However, do not install the High Availability installation pattern, because the remote node needs only individual packages (see [Section 3.3](#)).
3. On all cluster nodes, check /etc/hosts and add an entry for charlie.

## 3.2 Configuring an authentication key

On the cluster node alice proceed as follows:

1. Create a specific authentication key for the pacemaker\_remote service:

```
# dd if=/dev/urandom of=/etc/pacemaker/authkey bs=4k count=1
```

The key for the pacemaker\_remote service is different from the cluster authentication key that you create in the YaST cluster module.

2. Synchronize the authentication key among all cluster nodes and your future remote node with scp:

```
# scp -r -p /etc/pacemaker/ bob:/etc
# scp -r -p /etc/pacemaker/ charlie:/etc
```

The key needs to be kept synchronized all the time.

## 3.3 Configuring the remote node

The following procedure configures the physical host charlie as a remote node:

1. On charlie, proceed as follows:
  - a. In the firewall settings, open the TCP port 3121 for pacemaker\_remote.

b. Install the `pacemaker-remote` and `crmsh` packages:

```
# zypper in pacemaker-remote crmsh
```

c. Enable and start the `pacemaker_remote` service on `charlie`:

```
# systemctl enable pacemaker_remote
# systemctl start pacemaker_remote
```

2. On `alice` or `bob`, verify the host connection to the remote node by using `ssh`:

```
# ssh -p 3121 charlie
```

This SSH connection fails, but *how* it fails shows if the setup is working:

#### Working setup

```
ssh_exchange_identification: read: Connection reset by peer.
```

#### Broken setup

```
ssh: connect to host charlie port 3121: No route to host
ssh: connect to host charlie port 3121: Connection refused
```

If you see either of those two messages, the setup does not work. Use the `-v` option for `ssh` and execute the command again to see debugging messages. This can be helpful to find connection, authentication, or configuration problems. Multiple `-v` options increase the verbosity.

If needed, add more remote nodes and configure them as described above.

## 3.4 Integrating the remote node into the cluster

To integrate the remote node into the cluster, proceed as follows:

1. Make sure the cluster services are already started on all the cluster nodes. If not, run the following command to start the cluster services on all nodes:

```
# crm cluster start --all
```

2. On node `alice`, create a `ocf:pacemaker:remote` primitive:

```
# crm configure
crm(live)configure# primitive charlie ocf:pacemaker:remote \
    params server=charlie reconnect_interval=15m \
    op monitor interval=30s
crm(live)configure# commit
crm(live)configure# quit
```

3. Check the status of the cluster with the command `crm status`. It should contain a running cluster with nodes that are all accessible:

```
# crm status
[...]
Online: [ alice bob ]
RemoteOnline: [ charlie ]

Full list of resources:
charlie (ocf:pacemaker:remote): Started alice
[...]
```

### 3.5 Starting resources on the remote node

After the remote node is integrated into the cluster, you can start resources on the remote node in the same way as on any cluster node.



#### Warning: Restrictions regarding groups and constraints

Never involve a remote node connection resource in a resource group, colocation constraint, or order constraint. This may lead to unexpected behavior on cluster transitions.

**Fencing remote nodes.** Remote nodes are fenced in the same way as cluster nodes. Configure fencing resources for use with remote nodes in the same way as with cluster nodes.

Remote nodes do not take part in initiating a fencing action. Only cluster nodes can execute a fencing operation against another node.

## 4 Use case 2: setting up a cluster with guest nodes

In the following example setup, KVM is used for setting up the virtual guest node (`doro`).



1. [Section 4.1, “Preparing the cluster nodes and the guest node”](#)
2. [Section 4.2, “Configuring an authentication key”](#)
3. [Section 4.3, “Configuring the guest node”](#)
4. [Section 4.4, “Integrating a guest node into the cluster”](#)

## 4.1 Preparing the cluster nodes and the guest node

To prepare the cluster nodes and guest node, proceed as follows:

1. Install and set up a basic two-node cluster as described in the *Article “Installation and Setup Quick Start”*. This leads to a two-node cluster with two physical hosts, alice and bob.
2. Create a KVM guest on alice. For details, see the [Virtualization Guide for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP6 \(https://documentation.suse.com/sles-15/html/SLES-all/cha-kvm-inst.html\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sles-15/html/SLES-all/cha-kvm-inst.html).
3. On the KVM guest (doro) that you want to use as guest node, install SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP6 and add SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability 15 SP6 as extension. However, do not install the High Availability installation pattern, because the remote node needs only individual packages (see [Section 4.3](#)).
4. On all cluster nodes, check /etc/hosts and add an entry for doro.

## 4.2 Configuring an authentication key

On the cluster node alice proceed as follows:

1. Create a specific authentication key for the pacemaker\_remote service:

```
# mkdir -p --mode=0755 /etc/pacemaker
# dd if=/dev/urandom of=/etc/pacemaker/authkey bs=4k count=1
```

The key for the pacemaker\_remote service is different from the cluster authentication key that you create in the YaST cluster module.

2. Synchronize the authentication key among all cluster nodes and your guest node with scp:

```
# scp -r -p /etc/pacemaker/ bob:/etc
```

```
# scp -p /etc/pacemaker/ doro:/etc
```

The key needs to be kept synchronized all the time.

## 4.3 Configuring the guest node

The following procedure configures `doro` as a guest node on your cluster node `alice`:

1. On `doro`, proceed as follows:

a. In the firewall settings, open the TCP port 3121 for `pacemaker_remote`.

b. Install the `pacemaker-remote` and `crmsh` packages:

```
# zypper in pacemaker-remote crmsh
```

c. Enable and start the `pacemaker_remote` service on `alice`:

```
# systemctl enable pacemaker_remote
# systemctl start pacemaker_remote
```

2. On `alice` or `bob`, verify the host connection to the guest by running `ssh`:

```
# ssh -p 3121 doro
```

This SSH connection fails, but *how* it fails shows if the setup is working:

### Working setup

```
ssh_exchange_identification: read: Connection reset by peer.
```

### Broken setup

```
ssh: connect to host doro port 3121: No route to host
ssh: connect to host doro port 3121: Connection refused
```

If you see either of those two messages, the setup does not work. Use the `-v` option for `ssh` and execute the command again to see debugging messages. This can be helpful to find connection, authentication, or configuration problems. Multiple `-v` options increase the verbosity.

If needed, add more guest nodes and configure them as described above.

3. Shut down the guest node and proceed with [Section 4.4, "Integrating a guest node into the cluster"](#).

## 4.4 Integrating a guest node into the cluster

To integrate the guest node into the cluster, proceed as follows:

1. Make sure the cluster services are already started on all the cluster nodes. If not, run the following command to start the cluster services on all nodes:

```
# crm cluster start --all
```

2. Dump the XML configuration of the KVM guest that you need in the next step:

```
# virsh list --all
Id      Name      State
-----
-       doro      shut off
# virsh dumpxml doro > /etc/pacemaker/doro.xml
```

3. On node `alice`, create a `VirtualDomain` resource to launch the virtual machine. Use the dumped configuration from [Step 2](#):

```
# crm configure
crm(live)configure# primitive vm-doro ocf:heartbeat:VirtualDomain \
  params hypervisor="qemu:///system" \
         config="/etc/pacemaker/doro.xml" \
         meta remote-node=doro
```

Pacemaker automatically monitors `pacemaker_remote` connections for failure, so it is not necessary to create a recurring monitor on the `VirtualDomain` resource.



### Tip: Enabling live migration

To enable live migration of the resource, set the meta attribute `allow-migrate` to `true`. The default is `false`.

4. Check the status of the cluster with the command `crm status`. It should contain a running cluster with nodes that are all accessible.

## 4.5 Testing the setup

To demonstrate how resources are executed, use a dummy resource. It serves for testing purposes only.

1. Create a dummy resource:

```
# crm configure primitive fake1 ocf:pacemaker:Dummy
```

2. Check the cluster status with the `crm status` command. You should see something like the following:

```
# crm status
[...]
Online: [ alice bob ]
GuestOnline: [ doro@alice ]

Full list of resources:
vm-doro (ocf:heartbeat:VirtualDomain): Started alice
fake1      (ocf:pacemaker:Dummy): Started bob
```

3. To move the Dummy primitive to the guest node (`doro`), use the following command:

```
# crm resource move fake1 doro
```

The status changes to this:

```
# crm status
[...]
Online: [ alice bob ]
GuestOnline: [ doro@alice ]

Full list of resources:
vm-doro (ocf:heartbeat:VirtualDomain): Started alice
fake1      (ocf:pacemaker:Dummy): Started doro
```

4. To test whether fencing works, kill the `pacemaker-remoted` daemon on `doro`:

```
# kill -9 $(pidof pacemaker-remoted)
```

5. After a few seconds, check the status of the cluster again. It should look like this:

```
# crm status
[...]
Online: [ alice bob ]
```

```
Full list of resources:
vm-doro (ocf::heartbeat:VirtualDomain): Started alice
fake1      (ocf:pacemaker:Dummy): Stopped

Failed Actions:
* doro_monitor_30000 on alice 'unknown error' (1): call=8, status=Error,
  exitreason='none',
  last-rc-change='Tue Jul 18 13:11:51 2017', queued=0ms, exec=0ms
```

## 5 Upgrading the cluster and pacemaker\_remote nodes

Find comprehensive information on different scenarios and supported upgrade paths at *Book "Administration Guide", Chapter 29 "Upgrading your cluster and updating software packages"*. For detailed information about any changes and new features of the product you are upgrading to, refer to its release notes. They are available from <https://www.suse.com/releasenotes/>.

## 6 For more information

More documentation for this product is available at <https://documentation.suse.com/sle-ha-15/>. For further configuration and administration tasks, see the comprehensive *Administration Guide* (<https://documentation.suse.com/sle-ha-15/html/SLE-HA-all/book-sleha-guide.html>).

Upstream documentation is available from <https://www.clusterlabs.org/pacemaker/doc/>. See the document *Pacemaker Remote—Scaling High Availability Clusters*.

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