# SUSE Manager 4.3

# **Common Workflows**

March 15 2024





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# Common workflows overview

Updated: 2024-03-15

The SUSE Manager Common Workflows Guide covers most commonly used workflows you need to install, manage, and configure your clients with SUSE Manager.

Each workflow in this book has a clear goal, and provides detailed steps to achieve that goal.

It is designed to help you better understand both routine and advanced tasks, by explaining what you are achieving in each step, and the various options available to you along the way.

Each routine will be decribed as Workflow.

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## Chapter 1. Client onboarding

SUSE Manager is all about managing client systems. So one of the first things you need to do is onboard some clients. This workflow shows you how to set up your SUSE Manager Server to manage a new client, set up the software channels you need, and bootstrap the client using an activation key.

#### 1.1. Use case

This workflow shows you how to onboard a client to your SUSE Manager Server.

The client must be running a supported Linux operating system. For a list of supported client systems, see Installation-and-upgrade > Client-requirements.

This is one of the first tasks you need to do when you set up SUSE Manager for the first time, and you will probably have to do it many more times as you use the product.

#### 1.2. Outcome

When you have completed this workflow, your client is onboarded, and it can be seen in the systems list of the SUSE Manager Web UI. You can then use SUSE Manager to manage the client.

## 1.3. Preparation

Before you start, you should already have:

- SUSE Manager Server installed, that you can access using the Web UI.
- Client machine with an operating system installed, which you can access across the network that your SUSE Manager Server is on, using SSH.
- Appropriate subscriptions from http://scc.suse.com for the products you are using.

This workflow uses a SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP2 operating system. You can use other Linux operating systems, but some of the steps might be different. For more information on onboarding other clients, see Client-configuration > Registration-methods.

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## 1.4. Step-by-step workflow instructions

# Procedure: Configure a fully qualified domain name (FQDN) on your client

1. On the client, at the command prompt, show the current hostname:

#### hostname -f

This command will probably return an error, or show something like localhost.

2. Set a new hostname. Your new hostname should have a subdomain name and thus include at least two periods. In this example, we are using client1.suma.example

#### hostnamectl set-hostname clientl.suma.example

3. Check that your change was successful:

#### hostnamectl

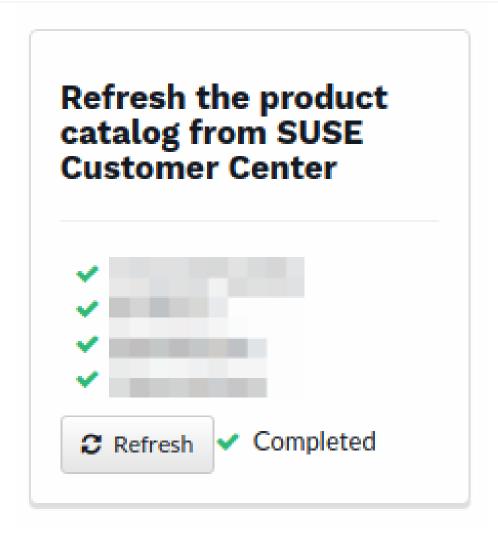
- 4. Open YaST and navigate to **Network Services** > **Hostnames**. Edit the hostname to match the one you just set, and click [ **OK** ].
- 5. In YaST, navigate to **System > Network Settings** and go to the Hostname/DNS tab. In the Static hostname field, type your new hostmame.
- 6. Check that the change was successful:

#### hostname -f

This command should return your new FQDN.

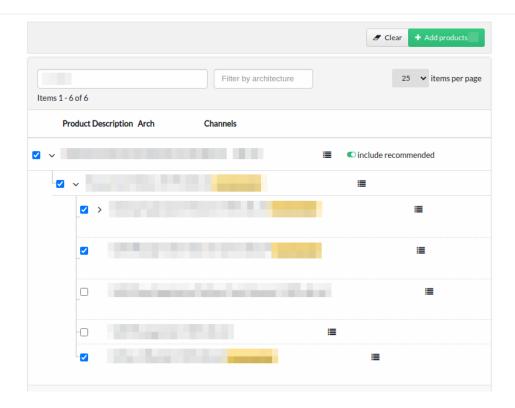
## Procedure: Prepare software channels on the SUSE Manager Server

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Admin > Setup Wizard.
- 2. In the Organization Credentials tab, ensure you have entered your SUSE Customer Center credentials, and are correctly authenticated.
- 3. In the Products tab, ensure that the product catalog is fully updated:



4. Use the product search bar to find the channels you need for your client operating system.

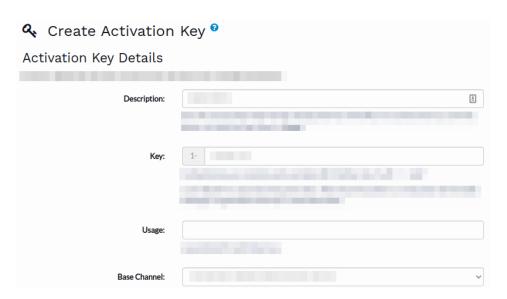
Check the channels you want to install, and click [ Add products ]:



5. Wait for the product channels to fully synchronize. Depending on the products you have chosen, this could take a long time.

#### Procedure: Create an activation key

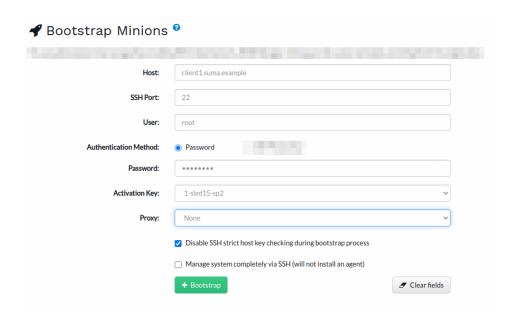
- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Systems > Activation Keys, and click [ Create Key ].
- 2. Give your activation key a name, and select the base channel that matches the client you want to onboard. This should be the product you just enabled:



3. Check the child channels to include, and any add-on system types you want clients registered with this key to have. Click [Create Activation Key].

## Procedure: Bootstrap the client

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Systems > Bootstrapping.
- 2. Type the hostname and provide authentication credentials for the client you want to onboard, and select the activation key. Click [ Bootstrap ]:



3. Navigate to Systems > System List to manage your new client.

## 1.5. Related topics

- For more information about supported clients and client features, see Client-configuration > Supported-features.
- For more information about different onboarding methods, and instructions for clients running various operating systems, see Client-configuration Registration-methods.
- For more information about general client concepts, see Client-configuration > Channels.

## Chapter 2. Configuration Management

You can use configuration files and channels to manage configuration for your clients, rather than configuring each client manually. This workflow shows you how to use the SUSE Manager Web UI to create a centrally managed configuration file, assign it to a Salt client, and apply the configuration.

#### 2.1. Use case

If you are managing a lot of clients, you probably do not want to manually apply configuration settings to each of them in turn. Configuration channels are used to organize configuration files. You can subscribe clients to configuration channels, and deploy configuration files as required.

#### 2.2. Outcome

When you have completed this workflow, you will have a configuration channel containing a configuration file, have assigned clients to the channel, and applied the configuration successfully.

## 2.3. Preparation

Before you start, you should already have:

- SUSE Manager Server installed, that you can access using the Web UI.
- At least one Salt client registered to your server.
- Appropriate subscriptions from http://scc.suse.com for the products you are using.

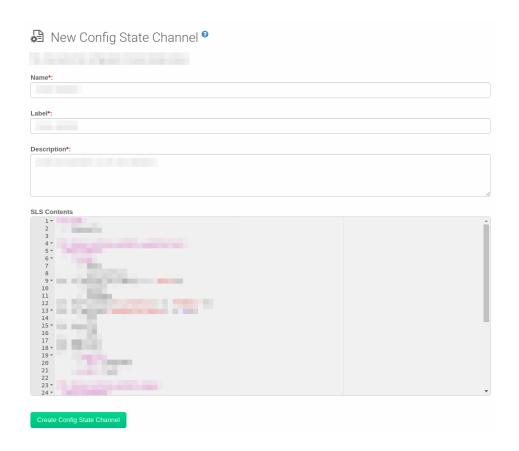
This workflow uses a centrally managed configuration file and a Salt state. You can also use locally managed configuration files, traditional clients, and different methods, to get more flexibility in how you manage configuration in your environment. For more information about the different ways to manage configuration, see Client-configuration > Configuration-management.

## 2.4. Step-by-step workflow instructions

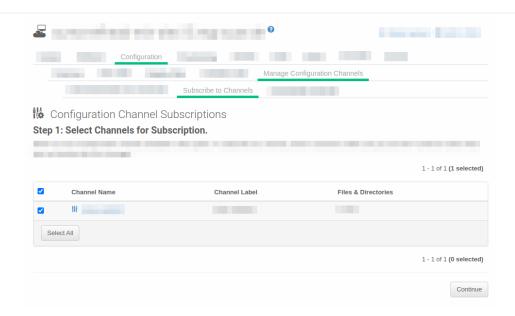
## Procedure: Create a new configuration channel and file

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Configuration > Channels and click [Create State Channel].

 Type a name, label, and description for your configuration file, and type the contents of your configuration file. An example that you can copy is at the end of this section. . Click [Create Config State Channel]



- 3. Procedure: Assign clients to the configuration channel
- 4. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Systems > Systems List and select the client you want to assign to your configuration channel.
- 5. Navigate to the Configuration tab. In the guimenu:Configuration Overview section, click [ Subscribe to channels].
- 6. Check the configuration channel you created earlier, and click [Continue].



7. If you have more than one configuration channel, you can rank them in order of importance, or click [ Update Channel Rankings ] to finish.

## Procedure: Apply the configuration to your client

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Systems > Systems List and select the client you want to assign to your configuration channel.
- 2. Navigate to the Configuration tab. In the guimenu:Configuration Actions section, click [ Deploy all managed config files ].

## 2.5. Example

## 2.5.1. SLS State for Keeping Clients Updated

```
include:
 - channels
int_keep_system_up2date_updatestack:
 pkg.latest:
  - pkgs:
   - salt
   - salt-minion
{%- if grains.os_family == 'Suse'%}
   - zypper
   - libzypp
{%- elif grains['os_family'] == 'RedHat' %}
{%- if grains['osmajorrelease'] >= 8 %}
{%- else %}
   - yum
{%- endif %}
{%- endif %}
  - require:
   - sls: channels
  - order: last
int_keep_system_up2date_pkgs:
 pkg.uptodate:
  - require:
   - sls: channels
   - pkg: int_keep_system_up2date_updatestack
  - order: last
int_reboot_if_needed:
 cmd.run:
  - name: shutdown -r +5
{%- if grains['os_family'] == 'RedHat' and grains['osmajorrelease'] >= 8 %}
  - onlyif: 'dnf -q needs-restarting -r; [ $? -eq 1 ]'
{%- elif grains['os_family'] == 'RedHat' and grains['osmajorrelease'] <= 7 %}
  - onlyif: 'needs-restarting -r; [ $? -eq 1 ]'
{%- elif grains['os_family'] == 'Debian' %}
  - onlyif:
   - test -e /var/run/reboot-required
{%- else %}
  - onlyif: 'zypper ps -s; [ $? -eq 102 ]'
{%- endif %}
```

## 2.6. Related topics

• For more information about configuration management, see Client-configuration >

## Configuration-management.

• For more information about SLS files, see: https://docs.saltproject.io/en/latest/topics/tutorials/starting\_states.html.

# Chapter 3. Content Lifecycle Management

If you are managing a lot of clients and you need to apply customized packages to them, you can use content lifecycle management (CLM) to manage your packages. CLM allows you to customize and test packages before updating production clients. It is also useful if you need to apply updates during a limited maintenance window.

#### 3.1. Use case

Content lifecycle management allows you to select software channels as sources, adjust them as required for your environment, and thoroughly test them before installing onto your production clients. You can use CLM to manage your software channels from development, through testing, and rolling the changes out to your clients.

#### 3.2. Outcome

When you have completed this workflow, you will have a content lifecycle project set up. You will have created a basic CLM project, and promoted it through its lifecycle.

## 3.3. Preparations

Before you start, you should already have:

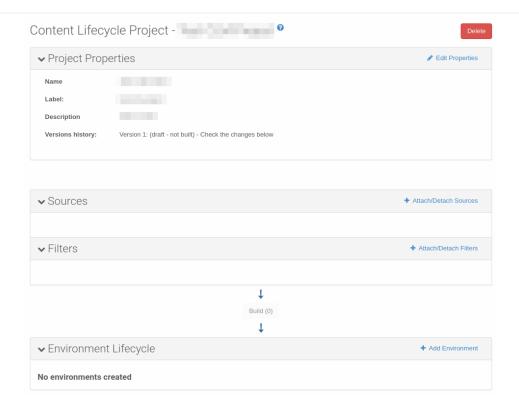
- SUSE Manager Server installed, which you can access using the Web UI.
- Client machine with an operating system installed, which you can access across the network that your SUSE Manager Server is on, using SSH.
- Appropriate subscriptions from http://scc.suse.com for the products you are using.

## 3.4. Step-by-step workflow instructions

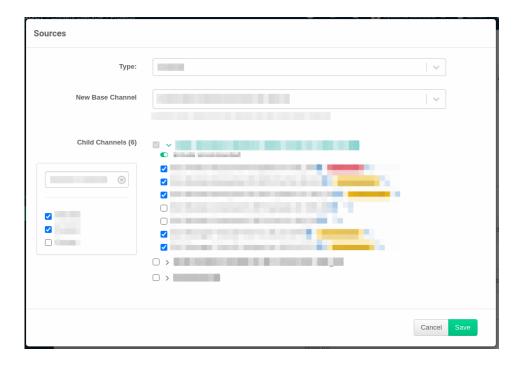
## Procedure: Create a new CLM project

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Content Lifecycle > Projects, and click [Create Project]. Type a name, label, and description for your project, and click [Create].

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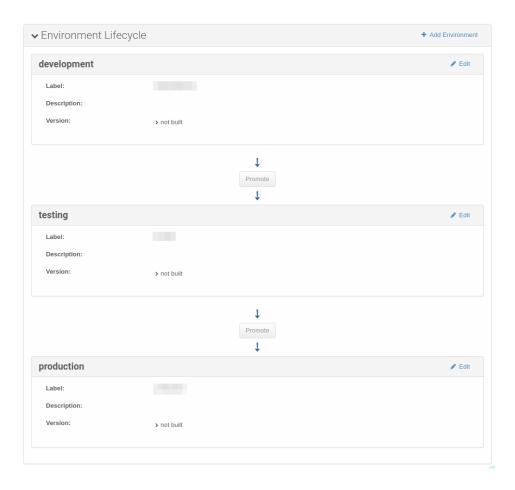


2. In the Sources section, click [Attach/Detach Sources]. Select the source type, and select a base channel for your project. The available child channels for the selected base channel are displayed, including information on whether the channel is mandatory or recommended. Check the child channels you require, and click [Save] to return to the project page.

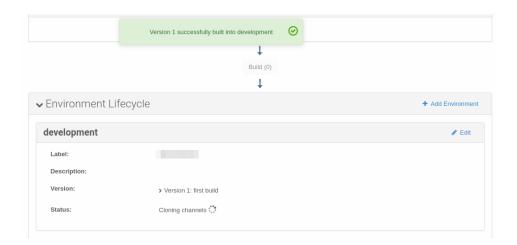


3. Leave the Filters section blank for now, we will not be using them in this example. You can add filters later on if you need to.

4. In the Environment Lifecycle section, create three environments: production, testing, and development. Click [Add Environment] and complete the name and label for each. For the production environment, leave the Insert before field blank. For the testing environment, in the Insert before field, select production. For the development environment, in the Insert before field, select testing.

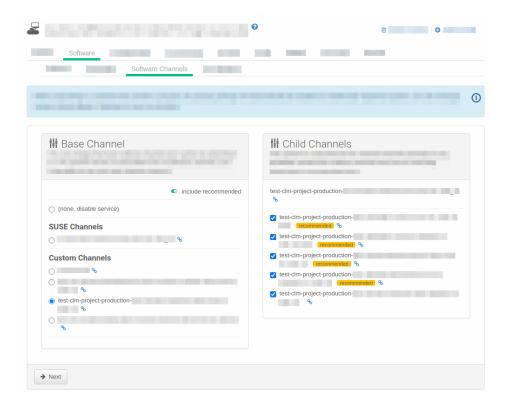


5. Click [ Build ] to build version 1 of your project:



## **Procedure: Assign clients**

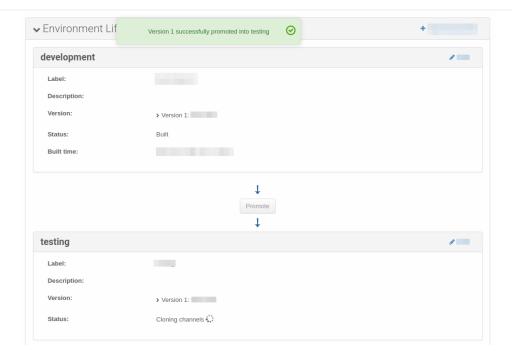
- 1. Navigate to Systems > System List, select the client to assign, and go to the Software > Software Channels tab.
- 2. In the Base Channel section, select the CLM project and environment you want to assign the client to. For example, if you want this client to receive updates from your CLM only when packages are in the production environment, assign the base channel <CLM\_Project\_Name>-production-<Channel\_Name>. Alternatively, you could use this client as a way to test if your CLM packages are working as expected before you promote them to development, so you assign the base channel <CLM\_Project\_Name>-testing-<Channel\_Name>.



3. Click [ Next ] to assign the client.

#### **Procedure: Promote Environments**

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, navigate to Content Lifecycle > Projects, and select the project you want to work with.
- 2. In the Environment Lifecycle section, locate the environment to promote to its successor, and click [ Promote ]. You can monitor build progress in the Environment Lifecycle section.



## 3.5. Related topics

- For more information about CLM, including information about how to use filters, see Administration • Content-lifecycle.
- For CLM examples, see Administration > Content-lifecycle-examples.

# Chapter 4. In-place upgrade of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with SUSE Manager

This workflow shows how to automatically complete the task of in-place SUSE Linux Enterprise Server instances upgrade with SUSE Manager Server.

The workflow is applicable for both Salt and Traditional clients.

#### 4.1. Use case

In-place migration is benefitial when:

- migrating large number of the older SUSE Linux Enterprise Server is time-consuming
- you are looking for a way to automate migrations

#### 4.2. Outcome

Successful completion of this workflow results in consistent, supportable outcomes.

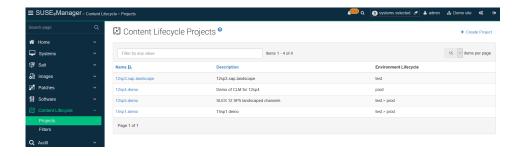
## 4.3. Step-by-step preparation instructions



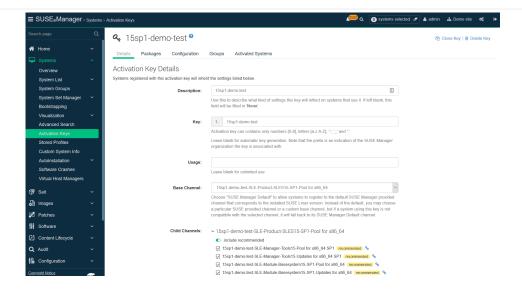
This workflow is complex and time-consuming. Make sure that adequate testing is done before deploying the procedure in live environment.

## Procedure: Prepare the SUSE Manager Server for Provisioning

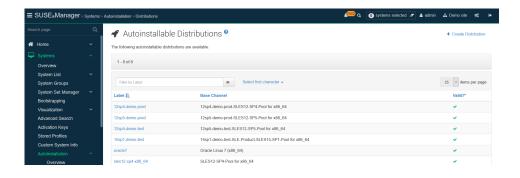
 Create a SUSE Manager Content Lifecycle Management project for your distribution. Choose a short-but-descriptive prefix in the name, including all source channel modules. Add Filters as needed. Add at least one Environment.



2. Create an Activation Key that includes the filtered project channels.



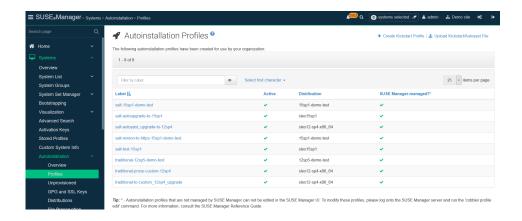
- 3. (Optional) Create a bootstrap script. The profile will not need it, because it is managed in the AutoYaST.
- 4. Create a /var/spacewalk/iso directory, and for SLES 15 SP2 and following, copy the Full iso (>10 GB) there. Create a mount point for it, such as /opt/install/15sp3 and mount the ISO there. Ensure this path gets re-mounted at boot time.
- 5. Create an Autoinstallation Distribution in SUSE Manager for each base channel to which you will migrate.
  - a. In the Distribution, reference the specific Base Channel to match the base to which you might migrate, for example the base channel of your CLM project Environment Lifecycle.
  - b. Label the Distribution something that references your specific Base Channel.
  - c. Set the Installer Generation to match your specific version of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (12, 15, etc.).
  - d. The kernel options will be automatically populated when you click Create Autoinstallable Distribution.
- 6. You may create more Distributions depending on the Base Channel you need to assign, and you can re-use the same Tree Path for the boot media if required.



- 7. Click on Profiles, and upload Kickstart/AutoYaST file for each target SUSE Linux Enterprise Server distribution, service pack and channels you wish to migrate to.
  - a. This profile will be associated with the activation key and autoinstallation distribution created above.
  - b. Cut-and-paste a Profile template as the basis for what you upload, assign it the Autoinstall tree you created as a Distribution above.
  - c. Do not put anything in the Virtualizaton Type box, and click [Create].
- 8. Once created, your profile will now have some new fields on this Details page. In the Kernel Options line on this Details page, put in

#### autoupgrade=1 insecure=1 useonlinerepo

9. This will tell your profile to treat its install as an upgrade, and allow http access to the SUSE Manager Server to obtain installer updates without needing to go to SUSE Customer Center.



10. Click the variables tab in your Autoinstallation Profile to specify CLM prefix, Activation Key, Distribution tree, and Organization:



Sample Variables:

- o registration\_key=1-15sp1-demo-test
- org=1
- channel prefix=15sp1-demo-test
- o distrotree=15sp1-demo-test

Edit the AutoYaST profile itself in a tool where you can use cut-and-paste for the channels in your profile. Use variables in your profiles where possible.

Published profiles can be used as a starting point.



For profile files, see https://github.com/SUSE/manager-build-profiles.

The profiles follow AutoYaST XML guidelines, and for an in-place upgrade there are several important sections:

#### Add-ons - the repositories used in the upgrade

Be sure to include all (and only) the relevant modules (both Pool and Updates) to be used in the migration. In migration, it is recommended to add all available modules, as the location of certain packages changes with new major versions.

After finishing the preparation, proceed with the actual migration depending on the type of your client.

For Salt clients, go to Migration of Salt clients.

For Traditional clients, go to Migration of Traditional clients.

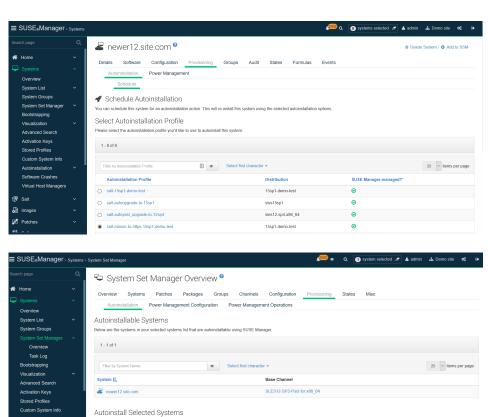
## 4.4. Migration of Salt clients

#### **Procedure: Migrating Salt clients**

- Prior to migration, be sure to check Software → Non-Compliant. This will show any orphaned packages on your system - those SUSE Manager does not find in any assigned channel. Make sure this list is very small or empty, and that you can account for all the packages there.
   Delete any that are unnecessary.
- 2. Before provisioning, issue the following Remote Command to the systems you wish to upgrade to remove the existing SUSE Manager channels during the upgrade process:

#### rm -rf /etc/zypp/repos.d/susemanager\*

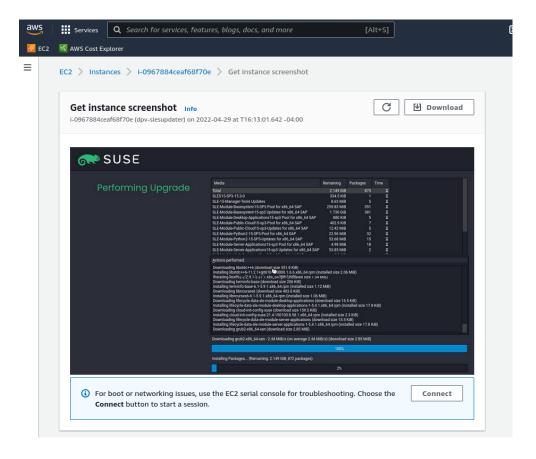
3. Assign your Autoinstallation Profile in System Details → Provisioning for one system, or in the Provisioning tab in SSM for as many systems as you need. SUSE Manager provisioning then auto-assigns a Reactivation Key to this system, that is referenced in the provisioning process. If you need to perform the upgrade through a particular SUSE Manager Proxy you will need to group just those systems together in SSM.

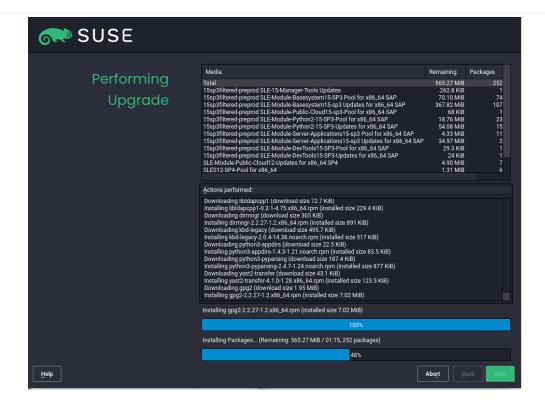


Autoinstallable Type:

SUSE Manager creates the proper entry in /etc/grub.d/ for the reinstallation, and boots the selected systems to that entry. The Profile you created above will be used to drive automated upgrade, following which your system will use the reactivation key (one time), associating the upgraded system with the previous SUSE Manager profile.

The Session Status screen in SUSE Manager will not be updated real-time for Salt clients. Instead, watch the target system console to track progress. If you are updating an instance on a hyperscaler like AWS you may be able to get screenshots of the console.





If your profile is clean, it should complete an in-place migration in about 30 minutes - depending on the speed of your network, client, and the number of required packages in the migration.

## 4.5. Migration of Traditional clients

## **Procedure: Migrating Traditional clients**

- Assign your Autoinstallation Profile in System Details → Provisioning for one system, or in the Provisioning tab in SSM for as many systems as you need. If your system is able to use PXE, it can be completely automated from here.
- 2. If your system is not able to use PXE, you can create an ISO to install with Cobbler commands using the SUSE Manager server CLI. Copy the ISO file output to the machine you wish to migrate and boot from it. View all the profiles with this:

#### cobbler profile list

3. Output will look something like:

#### 15sp1-demo-test:1:Demosite

4. Then build the ISO file with this command:

# cobbler buildiso --iso=/tmp/15spl-demo-test.iso --profiles=15spl-demo-test:1:Demosite



The --iso= section is the output of the buildiso command, and needs full path.

5. Copy this ISO to the virtualization environment where your system can use it as boot media.

## Chapter 5. Removing channel

#### 5.1. Use case

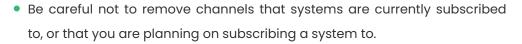
This workflow shows how to manually remove SUSE provided channels from SUSE Manager and to clean up end-of-life products, to reclaim space or for other purposes.

## 5.2. Step-by-step instructions

Manual channel removal consists of Preparing to remove a channel and Removing channel.

## 5.2.1. Preparing to remove a channel

Before removing a channel, you must identify the label for the channel to be removed. It can be done with Web UI or on the command line.





If there are systems that are currently subscribed to a channel that you
want to delete, do not remove the channel until those systems are
upgraded or unsubscribed.

## 5.2.1.1. Identifying Channel labels

## Procedure: Identifying channel labels using Web UI

1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, in the sidebar navigate to Software > Channel List > All.

- 2. This page displays the Channel Name. If you select the link for a channel name, you will see the field for Channel Label.
- 3. Identify the channel, and child channels, to be removed.

## Procedure: Identifying channel labels using the command line

1. You can get a list of channels by running the following command:

spacewalk-remove-channel-l

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## 5.2.1.2. Verify channel system subscriptions

#### Procedure: Verifying channel system subscriptions using Web UI

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, in the sidebar navigate to Software > Channel List > All.
- 2. Locate Systems column on the right.
- 3. Check the Systems column for the channel, or any child channels, that you want to remove.

### Procedure: Verify channel system subscriptions using the command line

1. Run the following command:

spacecmd -- softwarechannel\_listsystems < Channel Label>

## 5.2.2. Removing channel

A channel, with its metadata, can be removed in the SUMA command line by using the spacewalk-remove-channel command. This command does not remove the packages themselves from the filesystem.

Removing packages from the filesystem is described in [cleaning-up-channel-packages].

## 5.2.2.1. Removing an individual channel

## Procedure: Removing an individual channel using the command line

1. To remove an individual channel run the following command:

spacewalk-remove-channel-c channel-label

2. To remove multiple channels at the same time, use -c flag for each channel, followed by the channel-label. For example:

spacewalk-remove-channel-c channel-label1 -c channel-label2

## 5.2.2.2. Removing a parent and all its child channels

## Procedure: Removing a parent and all its child channels

1. It is also possible to remove a parent channel with all of its child channels, like this:

spacewalk-remove-channel -a sles12-sp5-pool-x86\_64

## 5.2.2.3. Remove packages from the database via the Web UI

#### Procedure: Remove packages from the database via the Web UI

- 1. After removing the channel, you need to delete the packages from the database via the Web UI.
- 2. In the SUSE Manager Web UI navigate to SUSEManager > Software > Manage > Packages.
- 3. Select Package in no channel, and delete the packages.

## 5.2.2.4. Clean the packages from the filesystem

#### Procedure: Clean the packages from the filesystem

1. The following command checks for anything that is still showing in the filesystem, but not in the SUMA database and then removes it.

# spacewalk-data-fsck -r -S -C -O



The final cleanup command can take several minutes, or even hours to complete.

## 5.3. Related topics

• For more information about deleting channels, see Delete channels.

## Chapter 6. Service Pack Upgrade via Web Ul

If you want to migrate the registered SUSE Linux Enterprise client's service pack (SP) to a newer version, it can be done either on the command line or via Web UI.

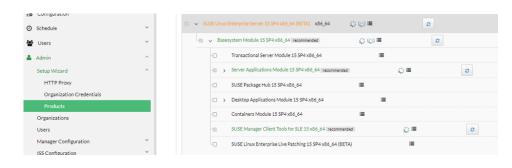
This document describes and illustrates in detail the migration using the Web UI.



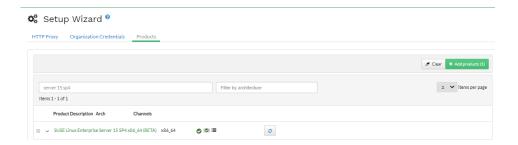
SP versions used are not reflective of the actual latest versions available. They are used for illustration purposes only.

#### Procedure: Migrating service pack to a newer version using Web UI

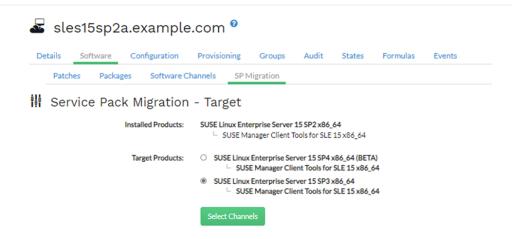
- 1. Log in to SUSE Manager Web UI and navigate to Admin > Products and search for "SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP5 x86\_64 (BETA)"
- 2. Select the recommended channels.



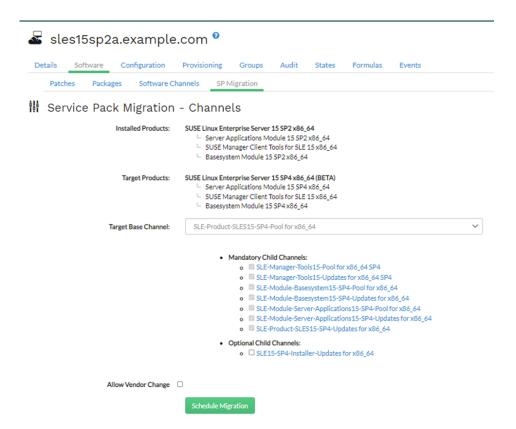
3. Click [ Add Products ].



4. Navigate to **Systems > registered client > Software > SP Migration**. You will see two targets, SP4 and SP5.

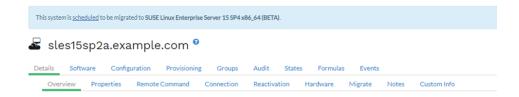


5. Select SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP5 x86\_64 (BETA). This will expand further as shown below.



- Select Target Base Channel as SLE-Product-SLES15-SP5-Pool for x86\_64 and keep Allow Vendor Change unchecked.
- 7. Click [Schedule Migration] and it will highlight message It is better to do a dry run first so continuing with dry run first.
- 8. Click [Dry-run] and check the status of the simulation in Events > History. You should see a return code 0 meaning successful.
- 9. Now you may click [Schedule Migration] to actually migrate the server. Following message

will get highlighted on top of the screen in SUSE Manager Web UI.



- 10. When the migration is complete, check the status in Events > History.
- 11. On the client side also you can verify it by running:

```
cat /etc/os-release
```

12. The output will look similar to:

```
NAME="SLES"

VERSION="15-SP5"

VERSION_ID="15.5"

PRETTY_NAME="SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP5"

ID="sles"

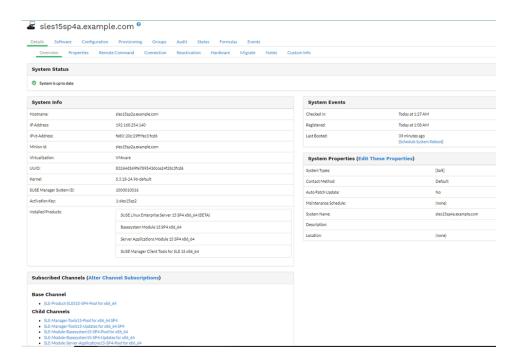
ID_LIKE="suse"

ANSI_COLOR="0;32"

CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:suse:sles:15:sp5"

DOCUMENTATION_URL="https://documentation.suse.com/"
```

13. On the SUSE Manager Web UI side, you can verify the successfully completed migration by going to Systems > registered client > Detail.



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