

Getting Started with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware

Product Overview

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) for VMware is an enterprise Linux operating system based on the industry proven SUSE Linux Enterprise Server that VMware offers to qualified VMware vSphere™ customers, together with subscription to patches and updates, at no cost. Customers can also streamline their support experience by purchasing technical support directly delivered by VMware Global Support Services.

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware is a highly reliable, interoperable and manageable server operating system built to power mission-critical workloads in virtual environments and optimized to run on VMware vSphere. With this affordable application foundation, companies can cost-effectively deliver core business services, enable secure networks, simplify heterogeneous infrastructure, and maximize efficiency and value. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware carries the same independent software vendor (ISV) application certifications of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server.

For more information about SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware, visit www.vmware.com/go/slesforvmware.

Installing SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware

1. Download the ISO image at www.vmware.com/go/slesforvmware/download (Note: will redirect to a SUSE site).
2. Copy the ISO image to shared or local storage that you can access for ISO based installation from VMware vCenter™ Server.
3. Create a virtual machine with the ISO image connected. Depending on which version you are installing, select “Linux SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 (32-bit)” or “Linux SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 (64-bit)” as the guest operating system of your new virtual machine.
4. Turn on the virtual machine and follow the installation process.
5. During the installation process, you will need to use your activation code from VMware to activate the software. This code ensures you receive all updates and patches, and also allows you to sign up for streamlined access to maintenance and support from VMware.
6. Configure your SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware as you would for a physical system. If you are unsure about a configuration option, use the default settings.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDED CONFIGURATIONS

To run SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware, you need to run vSphere 4.0 Update 2 or later.

Minimum Linux server system requirements for installation:

- Local Installation: 512MB RAM
- Secure shell (SSH)-based network installation using graphical interface: 512MB RAM
- Virtual network computing (VNC)-based network installation using FTP: 512MB RAM

Minimum Linux server system requirements for operation:

- 512MB RAM (identical to installation)
- 750MB hard disk space for software
- 750MB hard disk space for user data

Recommended configuration:

- 512MB to 4GB RAM, at least 256MB per CPU
- 4GB hard-disk space

Supported processor platforms:

- x86 (32- and 64-bit)

For more details about system requirements and specifications, visit <http://www.novell.com/products/server/techspecs.html>.

Activating the Subscription to Patches and Updates

1. Verify your entitlement to SLES for VMware free subscription to patches and updates by visiting the Complementary Product Eligibility Portal at www.vmware.com/go/slesforvmware/check (log in using your VMware account user name and password).
 - In order to verify your entitlement you will be asked to submit the vSphere license keys for the vSphere hosts where you plan to deploy SLES for VMware. The entitlement check will verify that the vSphere licenses you submitted correspond to qualified active vSphere SnS contracts.
 - If entitled, you will receive a SLES for VMware activation code (one per qualified vSphere license key) that will allow you to turn on the patch stream for SLES for VMware.
2. Register your activation code at www.vmware.com/go/slesforvmware/activate.
 - If you are already a SUSE customer with a SUSE account, you can log in using your existing SUSE user name and passwords.
 - If you don't have a SUSE account, follow the link on the page a create one first, then log in and register your activation code.
3. **Download** SLES for VMware .iso file.
4. You now have all you need to create your first virtual machine. Note that you can run as many SLES for VMware virtual machines as you want, per qualified vSphere license.

Installation and Virtual Machine Creation

- **Download the ISO image** from SUSE
- Copy the ISO image to VMware storage or local storage that you can access for ISO-based installation from VMware vCenter Server.
- Create a virtual machine with the ISO image connected (depending on which version you are installing, select "Linux SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 (32-bit)" or "Linux SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 (64-bit)" as the guest operating system of your new virtual machine.
- Turn on the virtual machine and follow the installation workflow
- In the installation workflow, use your activation code from VMware to activate. Using this code ensures you receive all updates and patches and allows you to sign up for streamlined access to maintenance and support from VMware.
- Configure your SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware as you would for a physical system. If unsure about a configuration option, use the default setting.

For questions, contact [VMware Support](#).

How to Get Support for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware

By choosing to deploy SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware in your vSphere environment, you now have the unique opportunity to obtain technical support for enterprise Linux directly from VMware Global Support Services.

To purchase VMware technical support of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware, please visit the VMware Store www.vmware.com/go/slesforvmware/buysupport or call a VMware representative at 1-877-4-VMWARE (Outside of North America, dial 1-650-427-5000).

VMware Tools

To get the best integration with VMware vSphere and other solutions, install the VMware Tools (using the VMware vCenter Server interface). The VMware Tools repository is available at <http://packages.vmware.com/tools/esx/index.html>.

Configuration and Settings

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware is designed to deliver ideal performance on VMware vSphere right out of the box with minimal setup and configuration. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware run on vSphere (version 4.0 Update 2 and above) results in a highly suitable combination for accurate timekeeping of your workloads. Follow these best practices below to obtain optimal results:

- **SCSI adapter** – For best results, using the VMware Paravirtual SCSI adapter is recommended.
- **Network** – For best performance, using of the VMXNET 3 network driver is recommended.
- **CD-ROM** – Make sure that the "connect at power on" status of the CD-ROM is unchecked.

SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extensions

The SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension is supported with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware. The SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability configuration used on a physical server can be used on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for VMware. In addition, the SBD (Split-Brain Detector) agent as a fencing mechanism is supported. SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension must be purchased separately from SUSE.