

# SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3

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May 2013

Storage Administration Guide



# ***Storage Administration Guide***

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# About This Guide

This guide provides information about how to manage storage devices on a SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 Support Pack 3 (SP3) server.

## Audience

This guide is intended for system administrators.

## Feedback

We want to hear your comments and suggestions about this manual and the other documentation included with this product. Please use the User Comments feature at the bottom of each page of the online documentation, or go to [www.novell.com/documentation/feedback.html](http://www.novell.com/documentation/feedback.html) and enter your comments there.

## Documentation Updates

For the most recent version of the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 Storage Administration Guide*, visit the SUSE Documentation Web site for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 [<http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11>].

## Additional Documentation

For information about partitioning and managing devices, see “Advanced Disk Setup” [[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/cha\\_advdisk.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/cha_advdisk.html)] in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 Deployment Guide* [[https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/book\\_sle\\_deployment.html](https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/book_sle_deployment.html)].



# Overview of File Systems in Linux

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server ships with a number of different file systems from which to choose, including Btrfs, Ext3, Ext2, ReiserFS, and XFS. Each file system has its own advantages and disadvantages.

Professional high-performance setups might require a highly available storage systems. To meet the requirements of high-performance clustering scenarios, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server includes OCFS2 (Oracle Cluster File System 2) and the Distributed Replicated Block Device (DRBD) in the SLES High-Availability Storage Infrastructure (HASI) release. These advanced storage systems are not covered in this guide. For information, see the *SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 SP3 High Availability Extension Guide* [[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sle\\_ha/book\\_sleha/data/book\\_sleha.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sle_ha/book_sleha/data/book_sleha.html)].

- Section 1.1, “Terminology” (page 2)
- Section 1.2, “Major File Systems in Linux” (page 2)
- Section 1.3, “Other Supported File Systems” (page 17)
- Section 1.4, “Large File Support in Linux” (page 18)
- Section 1.5, “Linux Kernel Storage Limitations” (page 20)
- Section 1.6, “Managing Devices with the YaST Partitioner” (page 21)
- Section 1.7, “Additional Information” (page 21)

# 1.1 Terminology

## metadata

A data structure that is internal to the file system. It assures that all of the on-disk data is properly organized and accessible. Essentially, it is “data about the data.” Almost every file system has its own structure of metadata, which is on reason that the file systems show different performance characteristics. It is extremely important to maintain metadata intact, because otherwise all data on the file system could become inaccessible.

## inode

A data structure on a file system that contains various information about a file, including size, number of links, pointers to the disk blocks where the file contents are actually stored, and date and time of creation, modification, and access.

## journal

In the context of a file system, a journal is an on-disk structure containing a type of log in which the file system stores what it is about to change in the file system’s metadata. Journaling greatly reduces the recovery time of a file system because it has no need for the lengthy search process that checks the entire file system at system startup. Instead, only the journal is replayed.

# 1.2 Major File Systems in Linux

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server offers a variety of file systems from which to choose. This section contains an overview of how these file systems work and which advantages they offer.

It is very important to remember that no file system best suits all kinds of applications. Each file system has its particular strengths and weaknesses, which must be taken into account. In addition, even the most sophisticated file system cannot replace a reasonable backup strategy.

The terms *data integrity* and *data consistency*, when used in this section, do not refer to the consistency of the user space data (the data your application writes to its files). Whether this data is consistent must be controlled by the application itself.

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## IMPORTANT

Unless stated otherwise in this section, all the steps required to set up or change partitions and file systems can be performed by using YaST.

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- Section 1.2.1, “Btrfs” (page 3)
- Section 1.2.2, “Ext2” (page 7)
- Section 1.2.3, “Ext3” (page 8)
- Section 1.2.4, “ReiserFS” (page 14)
- Section 1.2.5, “XFS” (page 15)
- Section 1.2.6, “File System Feature Comparison” (page 17)

## 1.2.1 Btrfs

Btrfs is a copy-on-write (COW) file system developed by Chris Mason. It is based on COW-friendly B-trees developed by Ohad Rodeh. Btrfs is a logging-style file system. Instead of journaling the block changes, it writes them in a new location, then links the change in. Until the last write, the new changes are not committed.

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## IMPORTANT

Because Btrfs is capable of storing snapshots of the file system, it is advisable to reserve twice the amount of disk space than the standard storage proposal. This is done automatically by the YaST Partitioner in the Btrfs storage proposal for the root file system.

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Btrfs provides fault tolerance, repair, and easy management features, such as the following:

- Writable snapshots that allow you to easily roll back your system if needed after applying updates, or to back up files.
- Multiple device support that allows you to grow or shrink the file system. The feature is planned to be available in a future release of the YaST Partitioner.

- Compression to efficiently use storage space.

Use Btrfs commands to set up transparent compression. The feature is planned to be available in a future release of the YaST Partitioner.

- Different RAID levels for metadata and user data.
- Different checksums for metadata and user data to improve error detection.
- Integration with Linux Logical Volume Manager (LVM) storage objects.
- Integration with the YaST Partitioner and AutoYaST on SUSE Linux.
- Offline migration from existing Ext2, Ext3, and Ext4 file systems.

## Bootloader Support

Bootloader support for `/boot` on Btrfs is planned to be available beginning in SUSE Linux Enterprise 12.

## Btrfs Subvolumes

Btrfs creates a default subvolume in its assigned pool of space. It allows you to create additional subvolumes that act as individual file systems within the same pool of space. The number of subvolumes is limited only by the space allocated to the pool.

If Btrfs is used for the root (`/`) file system, the YaST Partitioner automatically prepares the Btrfs file system for use with Btrfs subvolumes. You can cover any subdirectory as a subvolume. For example, Table 1.1, “Default Subvolume Handling for Btrfs in YaST” (page 4) identifies the subdirectories that we recommend you treat as subvolumes because they contain files that you should not snapshot for the reasons given:

**Table 1.1:** *Default Subvolume Handling for Btrfs in YaST*

Path	Reason to Cover as a Subvolume
<code>/opt</code>	Contains third-party add-on application software packages.



<b>Path</b>	<b>Reason to Cover as a Subvolume</b>
/srv	Contains http and ftp files.
/tmp	Contains temporary files.
/var/crash	Contains memory dumps of crashed kernels.
/var/log	Contains system and applications' log files, which should never be rolled back.
/var/run	Contains run-time variable data.
/var/spool	Contains data that is awaiting processing by a program, user, or administrator, such as news, mail, and printer queues.
/var/tmp	Contains temporary files or directories that are preserved between system reboots.

After the installation, you can add or remove Btrfs subvolumes by using the YaST Expert Partitioner. For information, see “Managing Btrfs Subvolumes using YaST” [[https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/sec\\_yast2\\_i\\_y2\\_part\\_expert.html#yast2\\_btrfs\\_yast](https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/sec_yast2_i_y2_part_expert.html#yast2_btrfs_yast)] in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 Deployment Guide* [[https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/book\\_sle\\_deployment.html](https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/book_sle_deployment.html)].

## Snapshots for the Root File System

Btrfs provides writable snapshots with the SUSE Snapper infrastructure that allow you to easily roll back your system if needed after applying updates, or to back up files. Snapper allows you to create and delete snapshots, and to compare snapshots and revert the differences between them. If Btrfs is used for the root (/) file system, YaST automatically enables snapshots for the root file system.

For information about Snapper and its integration in ZYpp (snapper-zypp-plugin) and YaST (yast2-snapper), see “Snapshots/Rollback with Snapper”

[[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_admin/data/cha\\_snapper.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_admin/data/cha_snapper.html)] in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 Administration Guide* [[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_admin/data/book\\_sle\\_admin.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_admin/data/book_sle_admin.html)].

For information about the SUSE Snapper project, see the Snapper Portal wiki at OpenSUSE.org [<http://en.opensuse.org/Portal:Snapper>].

## Online Check and Repair Functionality

The `scrub` check and repair functionality is available as part of the Btrfs command line tools. It verifies the integrity of data and metadata, assuming the tree structures is fine. You can run `scrub` periodically on a mounted file system; it runs as a background process during normal operation.

## RAID and Multipath Support

You can create Btrfs on Multiple Devices (MD) and Device Mapper (DM) storage configurations by using the YaST Partitioner.

## Migration from Ext File Systems to Btrfs

You can migrate data volumes from existing Ext file systems (Ext2, Ext3, or Ext4) to the Btrfs file system. The conversion process occurs offline and in place on the device. The file system needs least 15% of available free space on the device.

To convert the Ext file system to Btrfs, take the file system offline, then enter:

```
btrfs-convert <device>
```

To roll back the migration to the original Ext file system, take the file system offline, then enter:

```
btrfs-convert -r <device>
```

---

### IMPORTANT

When rolling back to the original Ext file system, all data will be lost that you added after the conversion to Btrfs. That is, only the original data is converted back to the Ext file system.

---

# Btrfs Administration

Btrfs is integrated in the YaST Partitioner and AutoYaST. It is available during the installation to allow you to set up a solution for the root file system. You can use the YaST Partitioner after the install to view and manage Btrfs volumes.

Btrfs administration tools are provided in the `btrfsprogs` package. For information about using Btrfs commands, see the `btrfs(8)`, `btrfsck(8)`, `mkfs.btrfs(8)`, and `btrfsctl(8)` man pages. For information about Btrfs features, see the *Btrfs wiki* [<http://btrfs.wiki.kernel.org>].

The `fsck.btrfs(8)` tool will soon be available in the SUSE Linux Enterprise update repositories.

## 1.2.2 Ext2

The origins of Ext2 go back to the early days of Linux history. Its predecessor, the Extended File System, was implemented in April 1992 and integrated in Linux 0.96c. The Extended File System underwent a number of modifications and, as Ext2, became the most popular Linux file system for years. With the creation of journaling file systems and their short recovery times, Ext2 became less important.

A brief summary of Ext2's strengths might help understand why it was—and in some areas still is—the favorite Linux file system of many Linux users.

- Section 1.2.2.1, “Solidity and Speed” (page 7)
- Section 1.2.2.2, “Easy Upgradability” (page 8)

### 1.2.2.1 Solidity and Speed

Being quite an “old-timer,” Ext2 underwent many improvements and was heavily tested. This might be the reason why people often refer to it as rock-solid. After a system outage when the file system could not be cleanly unmounted, `e2fsck` starts to analyze the file system data. Metadata is brought into a consistent state and pending files or data blocks are written to a designated directory (called `lost+found`). In contrast to journaling file systems, `e2fsck` analyzes the entire file system and not just the recently modified bits of metadata. This takes significantly longer than checking the log data of a journaling file system. Depending on file system size, this

procedure can take half an hour or more. Therefore, it is not desirable to choose Ext2 for any server that needs high availability. However, because Ext2 does not maintain a journal and uses significantly less memory, it is sometimes faster than other file systems.

### **1.2.2.2 Easy Upgradability**

Because Ext3 is based on the Ext2 code and shares its on-disk format as well as its metadata format, upgrades from Ext2 to Ext3 are very easy.

## **1.2.3 Ext3**

Ext3 was designed by Stephen Tweedie. Unlike all other next-generation file systems, Ext3 does not follow a completely new design principle. It is based on Ext2. These two file systems are very closely related to each other. An Ext3 file system can be easily built on top of an Ext2 file system. The most important difference between Ext2 and Ext3 is that Ext3 supports journaling. In summary, Ext3 has three major advantages to offer:

- Section 1.2.3.1, “Easy and Highly Reliable Upgrades from Ext2” (page 8)
- Section 1.2.3.2, “Reliability and Performance” (page 9)
- Section 1.2.3.3, “Converting an Ext2 File System into Ext3” (page 9)
- Section 1.2.3.4, “Ext3 File System Inode Size and Number of Inodes” (page 10)

### **1.2.3.1 Easy and Highly Reliable Upgrades from Ext2**

The code for Ext2 is the strong foundation on which Ext3 could become a highly-acclaimed next-generation file system. Its reliability and solidity are elegantly combined in Ext3 with the advantages of a journaling file system. Unlike transitions to other journaling file systems, such as ReiserFS or XFS, which can be quite tedious (making backups of the entire file system and recreating it from scratch), a transition to Ext3 is a matter of minutes. It is also very safe, because re-creating an entire file system from scratch might not work flawlessly. Considering the number of

existing Ext2 systems that await an upgrade to a journaling file system, you can easily see why Ext3 might be of some importance to many system administrators. Downgrading from Ext3 to Ext2 is as easy as the upgrade. Just perform a clean unmount of the Ext3 file system and remount it as an Ext2 file system.

### 1.2.3.2 Reliability and Performance

Some other journaling file systems follow the “metadata-only” journaling approach. This means your metadata is always kept in a consistent state, but this cannot be automatically guaranteed for the file system data itself. Ext3 is designed to take care of both metadata and data. The degree of “care” can be customized. Enabling Ext3 in the `data=journal` mode offers maximum security (data integrity), but can slow down the system because both metadata and data are journaled. A relatively new approach is to use the `data=ordered` mode, which ensures both data and metadata integrity, but uses journaling only for metadata. The file system driver collects all data blocks that correspond to one metadata update. These data blocks are written to disk before the metadata is updated. As a result, consistency is achieved for metadata and data without sacrificing performance. A third option to use is `data=writeback`, which allows data to be written into the main file system after its metadata has been committed to the journal. This option is often considered the best in performance. It can, however, allow old data to reappear in files after crash and recovery while internal file system integrity is maintained. Ext3 uses the `data=ordered` option as the default.

### 1.2.3.3 Converting an Ext2 File System into Ext3

To convert an Ext2 file system to Ext3:

- 1 Create an Ext3 journal by running `tune2fs -j` as the `root` user.

This creates an Ext3 journal with the default parameters.

To specify how large the journal should be and on which device it should reside, run `tune2fs -J` instead together with the desired journal options `size=` and `device=`. More information about the `tune2fs` program is available in the `tune2fs` man page.

- 2 Edit the file `/etc/fstab` as the `root` user to change the file system type specified for the corresponding partition from `ext2` to `ext3`, then save the changes.

This ensures that the Ext3 file system is recognized as such. The change takes effect after the next reboot.

- 3** To boot a root file system that is set up as an Ext3 partition, include the modules `ext3` and `jbd` in the `initrd`.

- 3a** Edit `/etc/sysconfig/kernel` as root, adding `ext3` and `jbd` to the `INITRD_MODULES` variable, then save the changes.

- 3b** Run the `mkinitrd` command.

This builds a new `initrd` and prepares it for use.

- 4** Reboot the system.

## 1.2.3.4 Ext3 File System Inode Size and Number of Inodes

An inode stores information about the file and its block location in the file system. To allow space in the inode for extended attributes and ACLs, the default inode size for Ext3 was increased from 128 bytes on SLES 10 to 256 bytes on SLES 11. As compared to SLES 10, when you make a new Ext3 file system on SLES 11, the default amount of space pre-allocated for the same number of inodes is doubled, and the usable space for files in the file system is reduced by that amount. Thus, you must use larger partitions to accommodate the same number of inodes and files than were possible for an Ext3 file system on SLES 10.

When you create a new Ext3 file system, the space in the inode table is pre-allocated for the total number of inodes that can be created. The bytes-per-inode ratio and the size of the file system determine how many inodes are possible. When the file system is made, an inode is created for every bytes-per-inode bytes of space:

```
number of inodes = total size of the file system divided by the number of
bytes per inode
```

The number of inodes controls the number of files you can have in the file system: one inode for each file. To address the increased inode size and reduced usable space available, the default for the bytes-per-inode ratio was increased from 8192 bytes on SLES 10 to 16384 bytes on SLES 11. The doubled ratio means that the number of

files that can be created is one-half of the number of files possible for an Ext3 file system on SLES 10.

---

## IMPORTANT

After the inodes are allocated, you cannot change the settings for the inode size or bytes-per-inode ratio. No new inodes are possible without recreating the file system with different settings, or unless the file system gets extended. When you exceed the maximum number of inodes, no new files can be created on the file system until some files are deleted.

---

When you make a new Ext3 file system, you can specify the inode size and bytes-per-inode ratio to control inode space usage and the number of files possible on the file system. If the blocks size, inode size, and bytes-per-inode ratio values are not specified, the default values in the `/etc/mked2fs.conf` file are applied. For information, see the `mke2fs.conf(5)` man page.

Use the following guidelines:

- **Inode size:** The default inode size is 256 bytes. Specify a value in bytes that is a power of 2 and equal to 128 or larger in bytes and up to the block size, such as 128, 256, 512, and so on. Use 128 bytes only if you do not use extended attributes or ACLs on your Ext3 file systems.
- **Bytes-per-inode ratio:** The default bytes-per-inode ratio is 16384 bytes. Valid bytes-per-inode ratio values must be a power of 2 equal to 1024 or greater in bytes, such as 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16384, 32768, and so on. This value should not be smaller than the block size of the file system, because the block size is the smallest chunk of space used to store data. The default block size for the Ext3 file system is 4 KB.

In addition, you should consider the number of files and the size of files you need to store. For example, if your file system will have many small files, you can specify a smaller bytes-per-inode ratio, which increases the number of inodes. If your file system will have a very large files, you can specify a larger bytes-per-inode ratio, which reduces the number of possible inodes.

Generally, it is better to have too many inodes than to run out of them. If you have too few inodes and very small files, you could reach the maximum number of files on a disk that is practically empty. If you have too many inodes and very

large files, you might have free space reported but be unable to use it because you cannot create new files in space reserved for inodes.

If you do not use extended attributes or ACLs on your Ext3 file systems, you can restore the SLES 10 behavior specifying 128 bytes as the inode size and 8192 bytes as the bytes-per-inode ratio when you make the file system. Use any of the following methods to set the inode size and bytes-per-inode ratio:

- **Modifying the default settings for all new Ext3 files:** In a text editor, modify the `defaults` section of the `/etc/mke2fs.conf` file to set the `inode_size` and `inode_ratio` to the desired default values. The values apply to all new Ext3 file systems. For example:

```
blocksize = 4096
inode_size = 128
inode_ratio = 8192
```

- **At the command line:** Pass the inode size (`-I 128`) and the bytes-per-inode ratio (`-i 8192`) to the `mkfs.ext3 (8)` command or the `mke2fs (8)` command when you create a new Ext3 file system. For example, use either of the following commands:

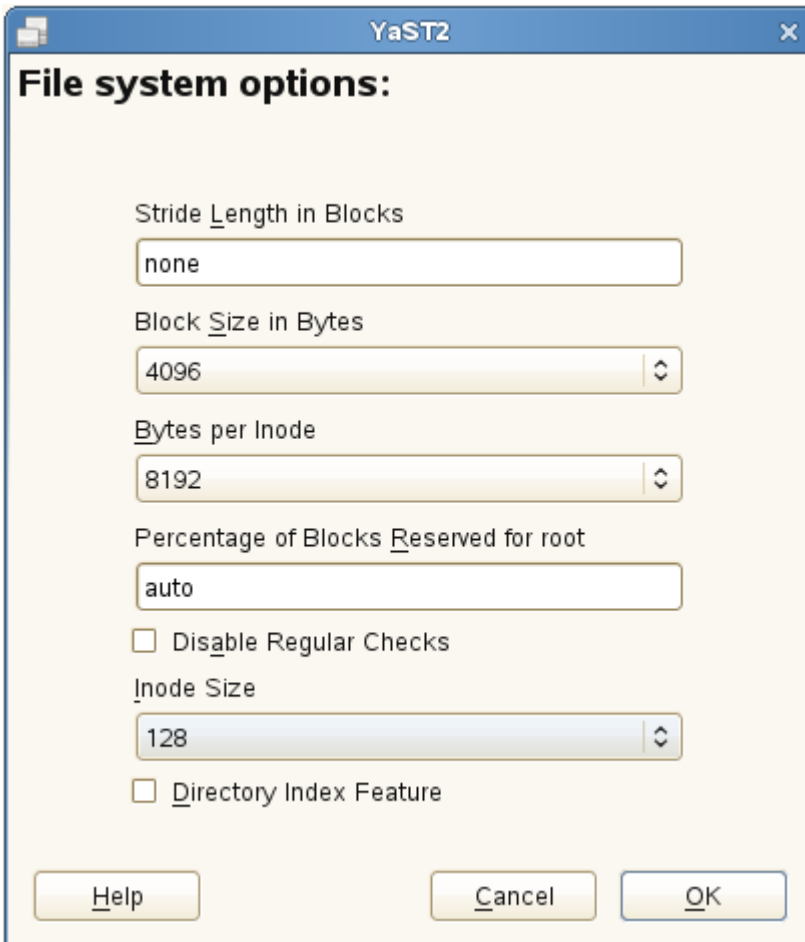
```
mkfs.ext3 -b 4096 -i 8092 -I 128 /dev/sda2

mke2fs -t ext3 -b 4096 -i 8192 -I 128 /dev/sda2
```

- **During installation with YaST:** Pass the inode size and bytes-per-inode ratio values when you create a new Ext3 file system during the installation. In the YaST Partitioner on the *Edit Partition* page under *Formatting Options*, select *Format partitionExt3*, then click *Options*. In the *File system options* dialog box, select the desired values from the *Block Size in Bytes*, *Bytes-per-inode*, and *Inode Size* drop-down lists.

For example, select 4096 for the *Block Size in Bytes* drop-down list, select 8192 from the *Bytes per inode* drop-down list, select 128 from the *Inode Size* drop-down list, then click *OK*.





- **During installation with autoyast:** In an autoyast profile, you can use the `fs_options` tag to set the `opt_bytes_per_inode` ratio value of 8192 for `-i` and the `opt_inode_density` value of 128 for `-I`:

```
<partitioning config:type="list">
  <drive>
    <device>/dev/sda</device>
    <initialize config:type="boolean">true</initialize>
    <partitions config:type="list">
      <partition>
        <filesystem config:type="symbol">ext3</filesystem>
```

```

<format config:type="boolean">true</format>
<fs_options>
  <opt_bytes_per_inode>
    <option_str>-i</option_str>
    <option_value>8192</option_value>
  </opt_bytes_per_inode>
  <opt_inode_density>
    <option_str>-I</option_str>
    <option_value>128</option_value>
  </opt_inode_density>
</fs_options>
<mount></mount>
<partition_id config:type="integer">131</partition_id>
<partition_type>primary</partition_type>
<size>25G</size>
</partition>

```

For information, see *SLES11 ext3 partitions can only store 50% of the files that can be stored on SLES10* [Technical Information Document 7009075] [<http://www.novell.com/support/kb/doc.php?id=7009075>].

## 1.2.4 ReiserFS

Officially one of the key features of the 2.4 kernel release, ReiserFS has been available as a kernel patch for 2.2.x SUSE kernels since version 6.4. ReiserFS was designed by Hans Reiser and the Namesys development team. It has proven itself to be a powerful alternative to Ext2. Its key assets are better disk space utilization, better disk access performance, faster crash recovery, and reliability through data journaling.

---

### IMPORTANT

The ReiserFS file system is fully supported for the lifetime of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 specifically for migration purposes. SUSE plans to remove support for creating new ReiserFS file systems starting with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12.

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- Section 1.2.4.1, “Better Disk Space Utilization” (page 15)
- Section 1.2.4.2, “Better Disk Access Performance” (page 15)
- Section 1.2.4.3, “Fast Crash Recovery” (page 15)
- Section 1.2.4.4, “Reliability through Data Journaling” (page 15)

### 1.2.4.1 Better Disk Space Utilization

In ReiserFS, all data is organized in a structure called a B\*-balanced tree. The tree structure contributes to better disk space utilization because small files can be stored directly in the B\* tree leaf nodes instead of being stored elsewhere and just maintaining a pointer to the actual disk location. In addition to that, storage is not allocated in chunks of 1 or 4 KB, but in portions of the exact size needed. Another benefit lies in the dynamic allocation of inodes. This keeps the file system more flexible than traditional file systems, like Ext2, where the inode density must be specified at file system creation time.

### 1.2.4.2 Better Disk Access Performance

For small files, file data and “stat\_data” (inode) information are often stored next to each other. They can be read with a single disk I/O operation, meaning that only one access to disk is required to retrieve all the information needed.

### 1.2.4.3 Fast Crash Recovery

Using a journal to keep track of recent metadata changes makes a file system check a matter of seconds, even for huge file systems.

### 1.2.4.4 Reliability through Data Journaling

ReiserFS also supports data journaling and ordered data modes similar to the concepts outlined in Section 1.2.3, “Ext3” (page 8). The default mode is `data=ordered`, which ensures both data and metadata integrity, but uses journaling only for metadata.

## 1.2.5 XFS

Originally intended as the file system for their IRIX OS, SGI started XFS development in the early 1990s. The idea behind XFS was to create a high-performance 64-bit journaling file system to meet extreme computing challenges. XFS is very good at manipulating large files and performs well on high-end hardware. However, even XFS has a drawback. Like ReiserFS, XFS takes great care of metadata integrity, but less care of data integrity.

A quick review of XFS's key features explains why it might prove to be a strong competitor for other journaling file systems in high-end computing.

- Section 1.2.5.1, “High Scalability through the Use of Allocation Groups” (page 16)
- Section 1.2.5.2, “High Performance through Efficient Management of Disk Space” (page 16)
- Section 1.2.5.3, “Preallocation to Avoid File System Fragmentation” (page 17)

### **1.2.5.1 High Scalability through the Use of Allocation Groups**

At the creation time of an XFS file system, the block device underlying the file system is divided into eight or more linear regions of equal size. Those are referred to as *allocation groups*. Each allocation group manages its own inodes and free disk space. Practically, allocation groups can be seen as file systems in a file system. Because allocation groups are rather independent of each other, more than one of them can be addressed by the kernel simultaneously. This feature is the key to XFS's great scalability. Naturally, the concept of independent allocation groups suits the needs of multiprocessor systems.

### **1.2.5.2 High Performance through Efficient Management of Disk Space**

Free space and inodes are handled by B<sup>+</sup> trees inside the allocation groups. The use of B<sup>+</sup> trees greatly contributes to XFS's performance and scalability. XFS uses *delayed allocation*, which handles allocation by breaking the process into two pieces. A pending transaction is stored in RAM and the appropriate amount of space is reserved. XFS still does not decide where exactly (in file system blocks) the data should be stored. This decision is delayed until the last possible moment. Some short-lived temporary data might never make its way to disk, because it is obsolete by the time XFS decides where actually to save it. In this way, XFS increases write performance and reduces file system fragmentation. Because delayed allocation results in less frequent write events than in other file systems, it is likely that data loss after a crash during a write is more severe.

### 1.2.5.3 Preallocation to Avoid File System Fragmentation

Before writing the data to the file system, XFS *reserves* (preallocates) the free space needed for a file. Thus, file system fragmentation is greatly reduced. Performance is increased because the contents of a file are not distributed all over the file system.

## 1.2.6 File System Feature Comparison

For a side-by-side feature comparison of the major operating systems in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, see File System Support and Sizes [<http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/#FileSystem>] on the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Technical Information Web site [<http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/>].

## 1.3 Other Supported File Systems

Table 1.2, “File System Types in Linux” (page 17) summarizes some other file systems supported by Linux. They are supported mainly to ensure compatibility and interchange of data with different kinds of media or foreign operating systems.

**Table 1.2:** *File System Types in Linux*

File System Type	Description
cramfs	Compressed ROM file system: A compressed read-only file system for ROMs.
hpfs	High Performance File System: The IBM OS/2 standard file system. Only supported in read-only mode.
iso9660	Standard file system on CD-ROMs.
minix	This file system originated from academic projects on operating systems and was the first file system used in Linux. Today, it is used as a file system for floppy disks.

<b>File System Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<code>msdos</code>	<code>fat</code> , the file system originally used by DOS, is today used by various operating systems.
<code>ncpfs</code>	File system for mounting Novell volumes over networks.
<code>nfs</code>	Network File System: Here, data can be stored on any machine in a network and access might be granted via a network.
<code>ntfs</code>	Windows NT file system; read-only.
<code>smbfs</code>	Server Message Block is used by products such as Windows to enable file access over a network.
<code>sysv</code>	Used on SCO UNIX, Xenix, and Coherent (commercial UNIX systems for PCs).
<code>ufs</code>	Used by BSD, SunOS, and NextStep. Only supported in read-only mode.
<code>umsdos</code>	UNIX on MS-DOS: Applied on top of a standard <code>fat</code> file system, achieves UNIX functionality (permissions, links, long filenames) by creating special files.
<code>vfat</code>	Virtual FAT: Extension of the <code>fat</code> file system (supports long filenames).

## 1.4 Large File Support in Linux

Originally, Linux supported a maximum file size of 2 GiB ( $2^{31}$  bytes). Unless a file system comes with large file support, the maximum file size on a 32-bit system is 2 GiB.

Currently, all of our standard file systems have LFS (large file support), which gives a maximum file size of  $2^{63}$  bytes in theory. Table 1.3, “Maximum Sizes of Files and

File Systems (On-Disk Format, 4 KiB Block Size)” (page 19) offers an overview of the current on-disk format limitations of Linux files and file systems. The numbers in the table assume that the file systems are using 4 KiB block size, which is a common standard. When using different block sizes, the results are different. The maximum file sizes in Table 1.3, “Maximum Sizes of Files and File Systems (On-Disk Format, 4 KiB Block Size)” (page 19) can be larger than the file system’s actual size when using sparse blocks.

---

**NOTE**

In this document: 1024 Bytes = 1 KiB; 1024 KiB = 1 MiB; 1024 MiB = 1 GiB; 1024 GiB = 1 TiB; 1024 TiB = 1 PiB; 1024 PiB = 1 EiB (see also *NIST: Prefixes for Binary Multiples* [<http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/binary.html>]).

---

**Table 1.3:** *Maximum Sizes of Files and File Systems (On-Disk Format, 4 KiB Block Size)*

File System (4 KiB Block Size)	Maximum File System Size	Maximum File Size
Btrfs	16 EiB	16 EiB
Ext3	16 TiB	2 TiB
OCFS2 (a cluster-aware file system available in the High Availability Extension)	164 TiB	1EiB
ReiserFS v3.6	16 TiB	1 EiB
XFS	8 EiB	8 EiB
NFSv2 (client side)	8 EiB	2 GiB
NFSv3 (client side)	8 EiB	8 EiB

---

**IMPORTANT**

Table 1.3, “Maximum Sizes of Files and File Systems (On-Disk Format, 4 KiB Block Size)” (page 19) describes the limitations regarding the on-disk format. The Linux kernel imposes its own limits on the size of files and file systems handled by it. These are as follows:

**File Size**

On 32-bit systems, files cannot exceed 2 TiB ( $2^{41}$  bytes).

**File System Size**

File systems can be up to  $2^{73}$  bytes in size. However, this limit is still out of reach for the currently available hardware.

---

## 1.5 Linux Kernel Storage Limitations

Table 1.4, “Storage Limitations” (page 20) summarizes the kernel limits for storage associated with SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 Service Pack 3.

**Table 1.4:** *Storage Limitations*

<b>Storage Feature</b>	<b>Limitation</b>
Maximum number of LUNs supported	16384 LUNs per target.
Maximum number of paths per single LUN	No limit per se. Each path is treated as a normal LUN.  The actual limit is given by the number of LUNs per target and the number of targets per HBA (16777215 for a Fibre Channel HBA).



Storage Feature	Limitation
Maximum number of HBAs	Unlimited. The actual limit is determined by the amount of PCI slots of the system.
Maximum number of paths with device-mapper-multipath (in total) per operating system	Approximately 1024. The actual number depends on the length of the device number strings. It is a compile-time variable within multipath-tools, which can be raised if this limit poses to be a problem.
Maximum size per block device	For X86, up to 16 TiB.  For x86_64, ia64, s390x, and ppc64, up to 8 EiB.

## 1.6 Managing Devices with the YaST Partitioner

You can use the YaST Partitioner to create and manage file systems and RAID devices. For information, see “Advanced Disk Setup” [[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/cha\\_advdisk.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/cha_advdisk.html)] in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 Deployment Guide* [[https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_deployment/data/book\\_sle\\_deployment.html](https://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_deployment/data/book_sle_deployment.html)].

## 1.7 Additional Information

Each of the file system projects described above maintains its own home page on which to find mailing list information, further documentation, and FAQs:

- *E2fsprogs: Ext2/3/4 File System Utilities* [ <http://e2fsprogs.sourceforge.net/> ]

- *Introducing Ext3* [ <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/library/l-fs7/> ]
- *Using ReiserFS with Linux* [ <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/aix/library/au-unix-reiserFS/> ]
- *XFS: A High-Performance Journaling Filesystem* [ <http://oss.sgi.com/projects/xfst/> ]
- *OCFS2 Project* [ <http://oss.oracle.com/projects/ocfs2/> ]

A comprehensive multipart tutorial about Linux file systems can be found at IBM developerWorks in the *Advanced File System Implementor's Guide* [<https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/linux/library/l-fs/>].

An in-depth comparison of file systems (not only Linux file systems) is available from the Wikipedia project in *Comparison of File Systems* [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison\\_of\\_file\\_systems#Comparison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_file_systems#Comparison)].

# What's New for Storage in SLES 11

The features and behavior changes noted in this section were made for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11.

- Section 2.1, “What’s New in SLES 11 SP3” (page 23)
- Section 2.2, “What’s New in SLES 11 SP2” (page 24)
- Section 2.3, “What’s New in SLES 11 SP1” (page 24)
- Section 2.4, “What’s New in SLES 11” (page 29)

## 2.1 What's New in SLES 11 SP3

In addition to bug fixes, the features and behavior changes in this section were made for the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 release:

- The Intel software RAID provides improved support on the RSTe+ (Rapid Storage Technology Enterprise) platform.
- The LEDMON utility supports PCIe-SSD enclosure LEDs for MD software RAIDs. For information, see Chapter 12, *Storage Enclosure LED Utilities for MD Software RAIDs* (page 211).
- YaST supports the iSCSI LIO Target Server software. For information, see Chapter 15, *Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI LIO Target Server* (page 263).

- The following enhancements were made for multipath I/O configuration:
  - The `user_friendly_names` parameter can also be configured in the devices configuration section and in the multipath configuration section.
  - The default settings for the `max_fds` parameter was changed to `max`:

```
max_fds max
```

- In the Add RAID wizard in the YaST Partitioner, the *Classify* option allows you to specify the order in which the selected devices in a Linux software RAID will be used to ensure that one half of the array resides on one disk subsystem and the other half of the array resides on a different disk subsystem. For example, if one disk subsystem fails, the system keeps running from the second disk subsystem. For information, see Step 4d (page 191) in Section 10.3.3, “Creating a Complex RAID10 with the YaST Partitioner” (page 190).

## 2.2 What’s New in SLES 11 SP2

In addition to bug fixes, the features and behavior changes in this section were made for the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP2 release:

- Btrfs File System. See Section 1.2.1, “Btrfs” (page 3).
- Open Fibre Channel over Ethernet. See Chapter 16, *Fibre Channel Storage over Ethernet Networks: FCoE* (page 299).
- Tagging for LVM storage objects. See Section 4.7, “Tagging LVM2 Storage Objects” (page 52).
- NFSv4 ACLs tools. See Chapter 18, *Managing Access Control Lists over NFSv4* (page 321).
- `--assume-clean` option for `mdadm resize` command. See Section 11.2.2, “Increasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 200).

## 2.3 What’s New in SLES 11 SP1

In addition to bug fixes, the features and behavior changes noted in this section were made for the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP1 release.

- Section 2.3.1, “Saving iSCSI Target Information” (page 25)
- Section 2.3.2, “Modifying Authentication Parameters in the iSCSI Initiator” (page 25)
- Section 2.3.3, “Allowing Persistent Reservations for MPIO Devices” (page 26)
- Section 2.3.4, “MDADM 3.0.2” (page 26)
- Section 2.3.5, “Boot Loader Support for MDRAID External Metadata” (page 26)
- Section 2.3.6, “YaST Install and Boot Support for MDRAID External Metadata” (page 27)
- Section 2.3.7, “Improved Shutdown for MDRAID Arrays that Contain the Root File System” (page 27)
- Section 2.3.8, “MD over iSCSI Devices” (page 27)
- Section 2.3.9, “MD-SGPIIO” (page 28)
- Section 2.3.10, “Resizing LVM 2 Mirrors ” (page 28)
- Section 2.3.11, “Updating Storage Drivers for Adapters on IBM Servers” (page 28)

## 2.3.1 Saving iSCSI Target Information

In the *YaSTNetwork ServicesiSCSI Target* function, a *Save* option was added that allows you to export the iSCSI target information. This makes it easier to provide information to consumers of the resources.

## 2.3.2 Modifying Authentication Parameters in the iSCSI Initiator

In the *YaSTNetwork ServicesiSCSI Initiator* function, you can modify the authentication parameters for connecting to a target devices. Previously, you needed to delete the entry and re-create it in order to change the authentication information.

## 2.3.3 Allowing Persistent Reservations for MPIO Devices

A SCSI initiator can issue SCSI reservations for a shared storage device, which locks out SCSI initiators on other servers from accessing the device. These reservations persist across SCSI resets that might happen as part of the SCSI exception handling process.

The following are possible scenarios where SCSI reservations would be useful:

- In a simple SAN environment, persistent SCSI reservations help protect against administrator errors where a LUN is attempted to be added to one server but it is already in use by another server, which might result in data corruption. SAN zoning is typically used to prevent this type of error.
- In a high-availability environment with failover set up, persistent SCSI reservations help protect against errant servers connecting to SCSI devices that are reserved by other servers.

## 2.3.4 MDADM 3.0.2

Use the latest version of the Multiple Devices Administration (MDADM, `mdadm`) utility to take advantage of bug fixes and improvements.

## 2.3.5 Boot Loader Support for MDRAID External Metadata

Support was added to use the external metadata capabilities of the MDADM utility version 3.0 to install and run the operating system from RAID volumes defined by the Intel Matrix Storage Technology metadata format. This moves the functionality from the Device Mapper RAID (DMRAID) infrastructure to the Multiple Devices RAID (MDRAID) infrastructure, which offers the more mature RAID 5 implementation and offers a wider feature set of the MD kernel infrastructure. It allows a common RAID driver to be used across all metadata formats, including Intel, DDF (common RAID disk data format), and native MD metadata.

## 2.3.6 YaST Install and Boot Support for MDRAID External Metadata

The YaST installer tool added support for MDRAID External Metadata for RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, and 6. The installer can detect RAID arrays and whether the platform RAID capabilities are enabled. If multipath RAID is enabled in the platform BIOS for Intel Matrix Storage Manager, it offers options for DMRAID, MDRAID (recommended), or none. The `initrd` was also modified to support assembling BIOS-based RAID arrays.

## 2.3.7 Improved Shutdown for MDRAID Arrays that Contain the Root File System

Shutdown scripts were modified to wait until all of the MDRAID arrays are marked clean. The operating system shutdown process now waits for a dirty-bit to be cleared until all MDRAID volumes have finished write operations.

Changes were made to the startup script, shutdown script, and the `initrd` to consider whether the root (`/`) file system (the system volume that contains the operating system and application files) resides on a software RAID array. The metadata handler for the array is started early in the shutdown process to monitor the final root file system environment during the shutdown. The handler is excluded from the general `killall` events. The process also allows for writes to be quiesced and for the array's metadata dirty-bit (which indicates whether an array needs to be resynchronized) to be cleared at the end of the shutdown.

## 2.3.8 MD over iSCSI Devices

The YaST installer now allows MD to be configured over iSCSI devices.

If RAID arrays are needed on boot, the iSCSI initiator software is loaded before `boot.md` so that the iSCSI targets are available to be auto-configured for the RAID.

For a new install, Libstorage creates an `/etc/mdadm.conf` file and adds the line `AUTO -all`. During an update, the line is not added. If `/etc/mdadm.conf` contains the line

AUTO -all

then no RAID arrays are auto-assembled unless they are explicitly listed in `/etc/mdadm.conf`.

## 2.3.9 MD-SGPIO

The MD-SGPIO utility is a standalone application that monitors RAID arrays via `sysfs` (2). Events trigger an LED change request that controls blinking for LED lights that are associated with each slot in an enclosure or a drive bay of a storage subsystem. It supports two types of LED systems:

- 2-LED systems (Activity LED, Status LED)
- 3-LED systems (Activity LED, Locate LED, Fail LED)

## 2.3.10 Resizing LVM 2 Mirrors

The `lvresize`, `lvextend`, and `lvreduce` commands that are used to resize logical volumes were modified to allow the resizing of LVM 2 mirrors. Previously, these commands reported errors if the logical volume was a mirror.

## 2.3.11 Updating Storage Drivers for Adapters on IBM Servers

Update the following storage drivers to use the latest available versions to support storage adapters on IBM servers:

- Adaptec: `aacraid`, `aic94xx`
- Emulex: `lpfc`
- LSI: `mptsas`, `megaraid_sas`

The `mptsas` driver now supports native EEH (Enhanced Error Handler) recovery, which is a key feature for all of the I/O devices for Power platform customers.

- qLogic: `qla2xxx`, `qla3xxx`, `qla4xxx`



## 2.4 What's New in SLES 11

The features and behavior changes noted in this section were made for the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 release.

- Section 2.4.1, “EVMS2 Is Deprecated” (page 29)
- Section 2.4.2, “Ext3 as the Default File System” (page 30)
- Section 2.4.3, “Default Inode Size Increased for Ext3” (page 30)
- Section 2.4.4, “JFS File System Is Deprecated” (page 30)
- Section 2.4.5, “OCFS2 File System Is in the High Availability Release” (page 30)
- Section 2.4.6, “/dev/disk/by-name Is Deprecated” (page 31)
- Section 2.4.7, “Device Name Persistence in the /dev/disk/by-id Directory” (page 31)
- Section 2.4.8, “Filters for Multipathed Devices” (page 31)
- Section 2.4.9, “User-Friendly Names for Multipathed Devices” (page 32)
- Section 2.4.10, “Advanced I/O Load-Balancing Options for Multipath” (page 32)
- Section 2.4.11, “Location Change for Multipath Tool Callouts” (page 33)
- Section 2.4.12, “Change from mpath to multipath for the mkinitrd -f Option” (page 33)
- Section 2.4.13, “Change from Multibus to Failover as the Default Setting for the MPIO Path Grouping Policy” (page 33)

### 2.4.1 EVMS2 Is Deprecated

The Enterprise Volume Management Systems (EVMS2) storage management solution is deprecated. All EVMS management modules have been removed from the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 packages. Your EVMS-managed devices should be automatically recognized and managed by Linux Volume Manager 2 (LVM2)

when you upgrade your system. For more information, see *Evolution of Storage and Volume Management in SUSE Linux Enterprise* [<http://www.novell.com/linux/volumemanagement/strategy.html>].

For information about managing storage with EVMS2 on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10, see the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 SP3: Storage Administration Guide* [[http://www.novell.com/documentation/sles10/stor\\_admin/data/bookinfo.html](http://www.novell.com/documentation/sles10/stor_admin/data/bookinfo.html)].

## 2.4.2 Ext3 as the Default File System

The Ext3 file system has replaced ReiserFS as the default file system recommended by the YaST tools at installation time and when you create file systems. ReiserFS is still supported. For more information, see *File System Support* [<http://www.novell.com/linux/techspecs.html?tab=2>] on the *SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 Tech Specs* Web page.

## 2.4.3 Default Inode Size Increased for Ext3

To allow space for extended attributes and ACLs for a file on Ext3 file systems, the default inode size for Ext3 was increased from 128 bytes on SLES 10 to 256 bytes on SLES11. For information, see Section 1.2.3.4, “Ext3 File System Inode Size and Number of Inodes” (page 10).

## 2.4.4 JFS File System Is Deprecated

The JFS file system is no longer supported. The JFS utilities were removed from the distribution.

## 2.4.5 OCFS2 File System Is in the High Availability Release

The OCFS2 file system is fully supported as part of the SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension.

## 2.4.6 /dev/disk/by-name Is Deprecated

The `/dev/disk/by-name` path is deprecated in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 packages.

## 2.4.7 Device Name Persistence in the /dev/disk/by-id Directory

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, the default multipath setup relies on `udev` to overwrite the existing symbolic links in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory when multipathing is started. Before you start multipathing, the link points to the SCSI device by using its `scsi-xxx` name. When multipathing is running, the symbolic link points to the device by using its `dm-uuid-xxx` name. This ensures that the symbolic links in the `/dev/disk/by-id` path persistently point to the same device regardless of whether multipathing is started or not. The configuration files (such as `lvm.conf` and `md.conf`) do not need to be modified because they automatically point to the correct device.

See the following sections for more information about how this behavior change affects other features:

- Section 2.4.8, “Filters for Multipathed Devices” (page 31)
- Section 2.4.9, “User-Friendly Names for Multipathed Devices” (page 32)

## 2.4.8 Filters for Multipathed Devices

The deprecation of the `/dev/disk/by-name` directory (as described in Section 2.4.6, “/dev/disk/by-name Is Deprecated” (page 31)) affects how you set up filters for multipathed devices in the configuration files. If you used the `/dev/disk/by-name` device name path for the multipath device filters in the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file, you need to modify the file to use the `/dev/disk/by-id` path. Consider the following when setting up filters that use the `by-id` path:

- The `/dev/disk/by-id/scsi-*` device names are persistent and created for exactly this purpose.

- Do not use the `/dev/disk/by-id/dm-*` name in the filters. These are symbolic links to the Device-Mapper devices, and result in reporting duplicate PVs in response to a `pvscan` command. The names appear to change from `LVM-pvuuid` to `dm-uuid` and back to `LVM-pvuuid`.

For information about setting up filters, see Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90).

## 2.4.9 User-Friendly Names for Multipath Devices

A change in how multipath device names are handled in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory (as described in Section 2.4.7, “Device Name Persistence in the `/dev/disk/by-id` Directory” (page 31)) affects your setup for user-friendly names because the two names for the device differ. You must modify the configuration files to scan only the device mapper names after multipathing is configured.

For example, you need to modify the `lvm.conf` file to scan using the multipath device names by specifying the `/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*-mpath-.*` path instead of `/dev/disk/by-id`.

## 2.4.10 Advanced I/O Load-Balancing Options for Multipath

The following advanced I/O load-balancing options are available for Device Mapper Multipath, in addition to round-robin:

- Least-pending
- Length-load-balancing
- Service-time

For information, see “`path_selector`” (page 133) in Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126).

## 2.4.11 Location Change for Multipath Tool Callouts

The `mpath_* prio_callouts` for the Device Mapper Multipath tool have been moved to shared libraries in `/lib/libmultipath/lib*`. By using shared libraries, the callouts are loaded into memory on daemon startup. This helps avoid a system deadlock on an all-paths-down scenario where the programs need to be loaded from the disk, which might not be available at this point.

## 2.4.12 Change from `mpath` to `multipath` for the `mkinitrd -f` Option

The option for adding Device Mapper Multipath services to the `initrd` has changed from `-f mpath` to `-f multipath`.

To make a new `initrd`, the command is now:

```
mkinitrd -f multipath
```

## 2.4.13 Change from Multibus to Failover as the Default Setting for the MPIO Path Grouping Policy

The default setting for the `path_grouping_policy` in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file has changed from `multibus` to `failover`.

For information about configuring the `path_grouping_policy`, see Section 7.11, “Configuring Path Failover Policies and Priorities” (page 124).



# Planning a Storage Solution

Consider what your storage needs are and how you can effectively manage and divide your storage space to best meet your needs. Use the information in this section to help plan your storage deployment for file systems on your SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 server.

- Section 3.1, “Partitioning Devices” (page 35)
- Section 3.2, “Multipath Support” (page 35)
- Section 3.3, “Software RAID Support” (page 36)
- Section 3.4, “File System Snapshots” (page 36)
- Section 3.5, “Backup and Antivirus Support” (page 36)

## 3.1 Partitioning Devices

For information about using the YaST Expert Partitioner, see “Using the YaST Partitioner” in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 Installation and Administration Guide*.

## 3.2 Multipath Support

Linux supports using multiple I/O paths for fault-tolerant connections between the server and its storage devices. Linux multipath support is disabled by default. If you

use a multipath solution that is provided by your storage subsystem vendor, you do not need to configure the Linux multipath separately.

## 3.3 Software RAID Support

Linux supports hardware and software RAID devices. If you use hardware RAID devices, software RAID devices are unnecessary. You can use both hardware and software RAID devices on the same server.

To maximize the performance benefits of software RAID devices, partitions used for the RAID should come from different physical devices. For software RAID 1 devices, the mirrored partitions cannot share any disks in common.

## 3.4 File System Snapshots

Linux supports file system snapshots.

## 3.5 Backup and Antivirus Support

- Section 3.5.1, “Open Source Backup” (page 36)
- Section 3.5.2, “Commercial Backup and Antivirus Support” (page 37)

### 3.5.1 Open Source Backup

Open source tools for backing up data on Linux include `tar`, `cpio`, and `rsync`. See the man pages for these tools for more information.

- PAX: POSIX File System Archiver. It supports `cpio` and `tar`, which are the two most common forms of standard archive (backup) files. See the man page for more information.
- Amanda: The Advanced Maryland Automatic Network Disk Archiver. See [www.amanda.org](http://www.amanda.org) [<http://www.amanda.org/>].



## 3.5.2 Commercial Backup and Antivirus Support

Novell Open Enterprise Server (OES) 2 for Linux is a product that includes SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) 10. Antivirus and backup software vendors who support OES 2 also support SLES 10. You can visit the vendor Web sites to find out about their scheduled support of SLES 11.

For a current list of possible backup and antivirus software vendors, see *Novell Open Enterprise Server Partner Support: Backup and Antivirus Support* [[http://www.novell.com/products/openenterpriseserver/partners\\_communities.html](http://www.novell.com/products/openenterpriseserver/partners_communities.html)]. This list is updated quarterly.



# LVM Configuration

This section briefly describes the principles behind Logical Volume Manager (LVM) and its basic features that make it useful under many circumstances. The YaST LVM configuration can be reached from the YaST Expert Partitioner. This partitioning tool enables you to edit and delete existing partitions and create new ones that should be used with LVM.

---

## WARNING

Using LVM might be associated with increased risk, such as data loss. Risks also include application crashes, power failures, and faulty commands. Save your data before implementing LVM or reconfiguring volumes. Never work without a backup.

---

- Section 4.1, “Understanding the Logical Volume Manager” (page 40)
- Section 4.2, “Creating LVM Partitions” (page 42)
- Section 4.3, “Creating Volume Groups” (page 44)
- Section 4.4, “Configuring Physical Volumes” (page 46)
- Section 4.5, “Configuring Logical Volumes” (page 48)
- Section 4.6, “Automatically Activating Non-Root LVM Volume Groups” (page 51)
- Section 4.7, “Tagging LVM2 Storage Objects” (page 52)

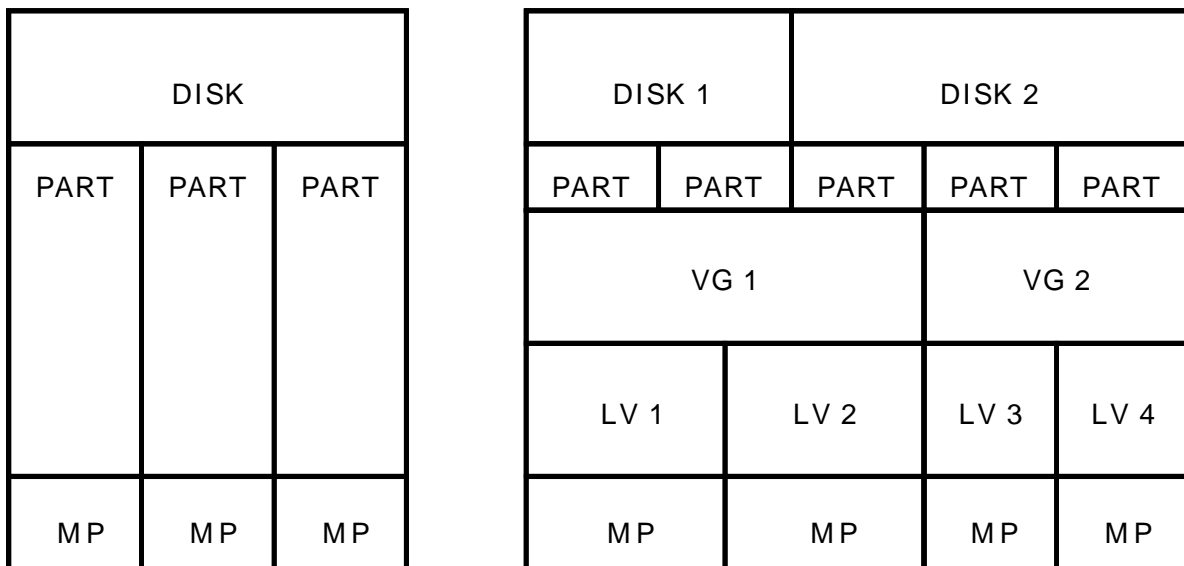
- Section 4.8, “Resizing a Volume Group” (page 60)
- Section 4.9, “Resizing a Logical Volume with YaST” (page 62)
- Section 4.10, “Resizing a Logical Volume with Commands” (page 63)
- Section 4.11, “Deleting a Volume Group” (page 65)
- Section 4.12, “Deleting an LVM Partition (Physical Volume)” (page 65)

## 4.1 Understanding the Logical Volume Manager

LVM enables flexible distribution of hard disk space over several file systems. It was developed because the need to change the segmentation of hard disk space might arise only after the initial partitioning has already been done during installation. Because it is difficult to modify partitions on a running system, LVM provides a virtual pool (volume group or VG) of memory space from which logical volumes (LVs) can be created as needed. The operating system accesses these LVs instead of the physical partitions. Volume groups can span more than one disk, so that several disks or parts of them can constitute one single VG. In this way, LVM provides a kind of abstraction from the physical disk space that allows its segmentation to be changed in a much easier and safer way than through physical repartitioning.

Figure 4.1, “Physical Partitioning versus LVM” (page 41) compares physical partitioning (left) with LVM segmentation (right). On the left side, one single disk has been divided into three physical partitions (PART), each with a mount point (MP) assigned so that the operating system can access them. On the right side, two disks have been divided into two and three physical partitions each. Two LVM volume groups (VG 1 and VG 2) have been defined. VG 1 contains two partitions from DISK 1 and one from DISK 2. VG 2 contains the remaining two partitions from DISK 2.

**Figure 4.1:** *Physical Partitioning versus LVM*



In LVM, the physical disk partitions that are incorporated in a volume group are called physical volumes (PVs). Within the volume groups in Figure 4.1, “Physical Partitioning versus LVM” (page 41), four logical volumes (LV 1 through LV 4) have been defined, which can be used by the operating system via the associated mount points. The border between different logical volumes need not be aligned with any partition border. See the border between LV 1 and LV 2 in this example.

LVM features:

- Several hard disks or partitions can be combined in a large logical volume.
- Provided the configuration is suitable, an LV (such as `/usr`) can be enlarged when the free space is exhausted.
- Using LVM, it is possible to add hard disks or LVs in a running system. However, this requires hot-swappable hardware that is capable of such actions.
- It is possible to activate a *striping mode* that distributes the data stream of a logical volume over several physical volumes. If these physical volumes reside on different disks, this can improve the reading and writing performance just like RAID 0.

- The snapshot feature enables consistent backups (especially for servers) in the running system.

With these features, using LVM already makes sense for heavily used home PCs or small servers. If you have a growing data stock, as in the case of databases, music archives, or user directories, LVM is especially useful. It allows file systems that are larger than the physical hard disk. Another advantage of LVM is that up to 256 LVs can be added. However, keep in mind that working with LVM is different from working with conventional partitions.

Starting from kernel version 2.6, LVM version 2 is available, which is downward-compatible with the previous LVM and enables the continued management of old volume groups. When creating new volume groups, decide whether to use the new format or the downward-compatible version. LVM 2 does not require any kernel patches. It makes use of the device mapper integrated in kernel 2.6. This kernel only supports LVM version 2. Therefore, when talking about LVM, this section always refers to LVM version 2.

You can manage new or existing LVM storage objects by using the YaST Partitioner. Instructions and further information about configuring LVM is available in the official *LVM HOWTO* [<http://tldp.org/HOWTO/LVM-HOWTO/>].

---

### IMPORTANT

If you add multipath support after you have configured LVM, you must modify the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file to scan only the multipath device names in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory as described in Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90), then reboot the server.

---

## 4.2 Creating LVM Partitions

For each disk, partition the free space that you want to use for LVM as `0x8E` Linux LVM. You can create one or multiple LVM partitions on a single device. It is not necessary for all of the partitions on a device to be LVM partitions.

You can use the Volume Group function to group one or more LVM partitions into a logical pool of space called a volume group, then carve out one or more logical volumes from the space in the volume group.

In the YaST Partitioner, only the free space on the disk is made available to you as you are creating LVM partitions. If you want to use the entire disk for a single LVM partition and other partitions already exist on the disk, you must first remove all of the existing partitions to free the space before you can use that space in an LVM partition.

---

## WARNING

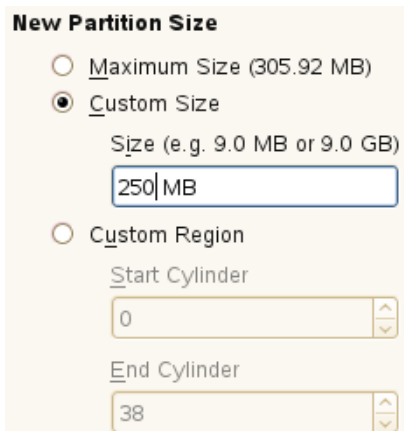
Deleting a partition destroys all of the data in the partition.

---

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 (Optional) Remove one or more existing partitions to free that space and make it available for the LVM partition you want to create.

For information, see Section 4.12, “Deleting an LVM Partition (Physical Volume)” (page 65).

- 4 On the Partitions page, click *Add*.
- 5 Under *New Partition Type*, select *Primary Partition* or *Extended Partition*, then click *Next*.
- 6 Specify the *New Partition Size*, then click *Next*.



**New Partition Size**

Maximum Size (305.92 MB)

Custom Size

Size (e.g. 9.0 MB or 9.0 GB)

Custom Region

Start Cylinder

End Cylinder

- **Maximum Size:** Use all of the free available space on the disk.
- **Custom Size:** Specify a size up the amount of free available space on the disk.
- **Custom Region:** Specify the start and end cylinder of the free available space on the disk.

## 7 Configure the partition format:

**Formatting Options**

Format partition

File system

Ext3

Options...

Do not format partition

File system ID:

0x8E Linux LVM

Encrypt device

1. Under *Formatting Options*, select *Do not format*.
2. From the *File System ID* drop-down list, select *0x8E Linux LVM* as the partition identifier.
3. Under *Mounting Options*, select *Do not mount partition*.

## 8 Click *Finish*.

The partitions are not actually created until you click *Next* and *Finish* to exit the partitioner.

## 9 Repeat Step 4 (page 43) through Step 8 (page 44) for each Linux LVM partition you want to add.

## 10 Click *Next*, verify that the new Linux LVM partitions are listed, then click *Finish* to exit the partitioner.

## 11 (Optional) Continue with the Volume Group configuration as described in Section 4.3, “Creating Volume Groups” (page 44).

# 4.3 Creating Volume Groups

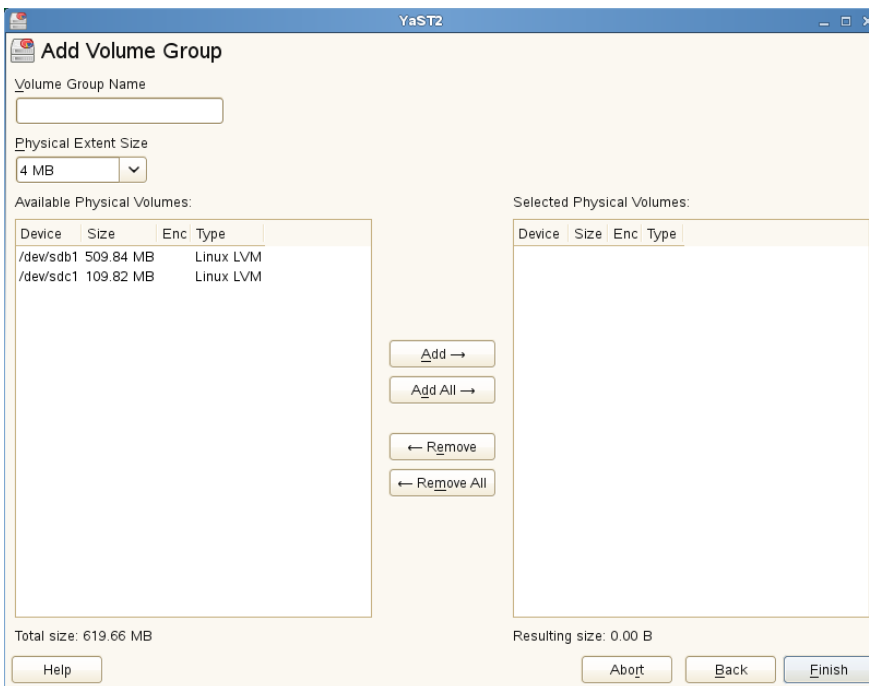
An LVM volume group organizes the Linux LVM partitions into a logical pool of space. You can carve out logical volumes from the available space in the group. The Linux LVM partitions in a group can be on the same or different disks. You can add LVM partitions from the same or different disks to expand the size of the group. Assign all partitions reserved for LVM to a volume group. Otherwise, the space on the partition remains unused.



- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 In the left panel, click *Volume Management*.

A list of existing Volume Groups are listed in the right panel.

- 4 At the lower left of the Volume Management page, click *Add Volume Group*.



- 5 Specify the *Volume Group Name*.

If you are creating a volume group at install time, the name `system` is suggested for a volume group that will contain the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server system files.

- 6 Specify the *Physical Extent Size*.

The *Physical Extent Size* defines the size of a physical block in the volume group. All the disk space in a volume group is handled in chunks of this size. Values can be from 1 KB to 16 GB in powers of 2. This value is normally set to 4 MB.

In LVM1, a 4 MB physical extent allowed a maximum LV size of 256 GB because it supports only up to 65534 extents per LV. VM2 does not restrict the number of physical extents. Having a large number of extents has no impact on I/O performance to the logical volume, but it slows down the LVM tools.

---

### IMPORTANT

Different physical extent sizes should not be mixed in a single VG. The extent should not be modified after the initial setup.

---

**7** In the *Available Physical Volumes* list, select the Linux LVM partitions that you want to make part of this volume group, then click *Add* to move them to the *Selected Physical Volumes* list.

**8** Click *Finish*.

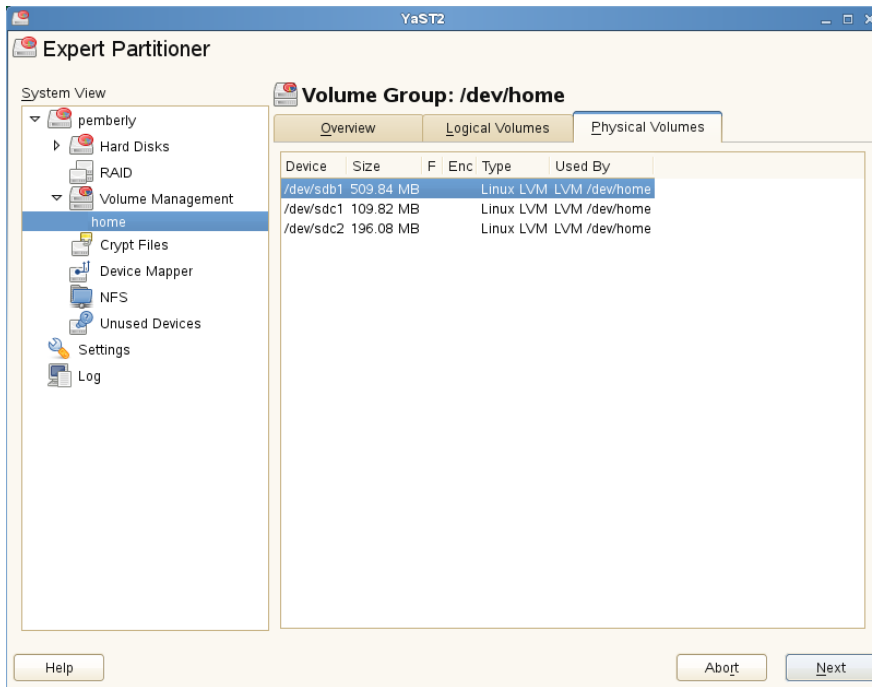
The new group appears in the *Volume Groups* list.

**9** On the Volume Management page, click *Next*, verify that the new volume group is listed, then click *Finish*.

## 4.4 Configuring Physical Volumes

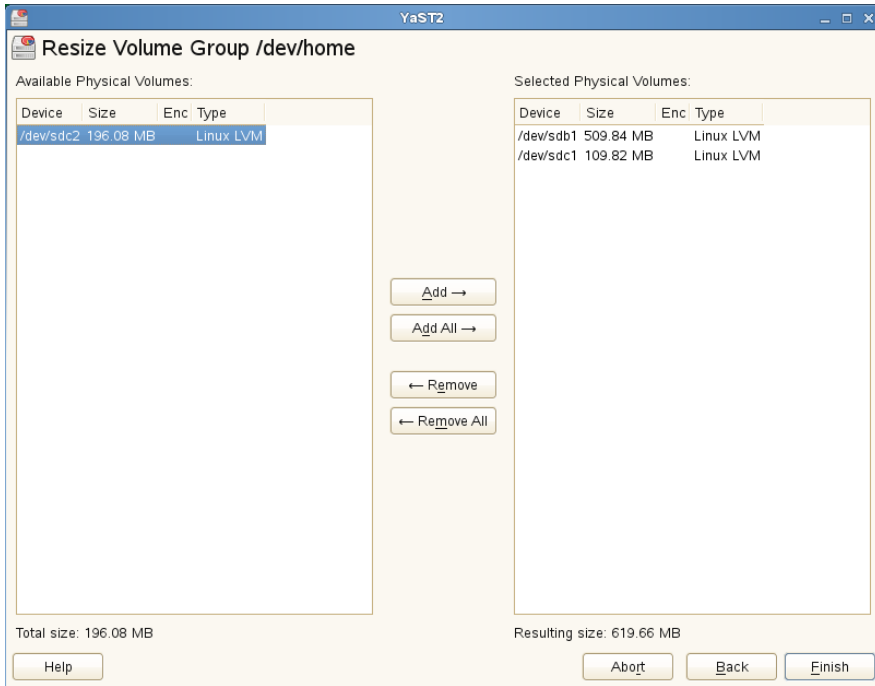
When the Linux LVM partitions are assigned to a volume group, the partitions are then referred to as a physical volumes.

**Figure 4.2:** *Physical Volumes in the Volume Group Named Home*



To add more physical volumes to an existing volume group:

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 In the left panel, select Volume Management and expand the list of groups.
- 4 Under Volume Management, select the volume group, then click the *Overview* tab.
- 5 At the bottom of the page, click *Resize*.

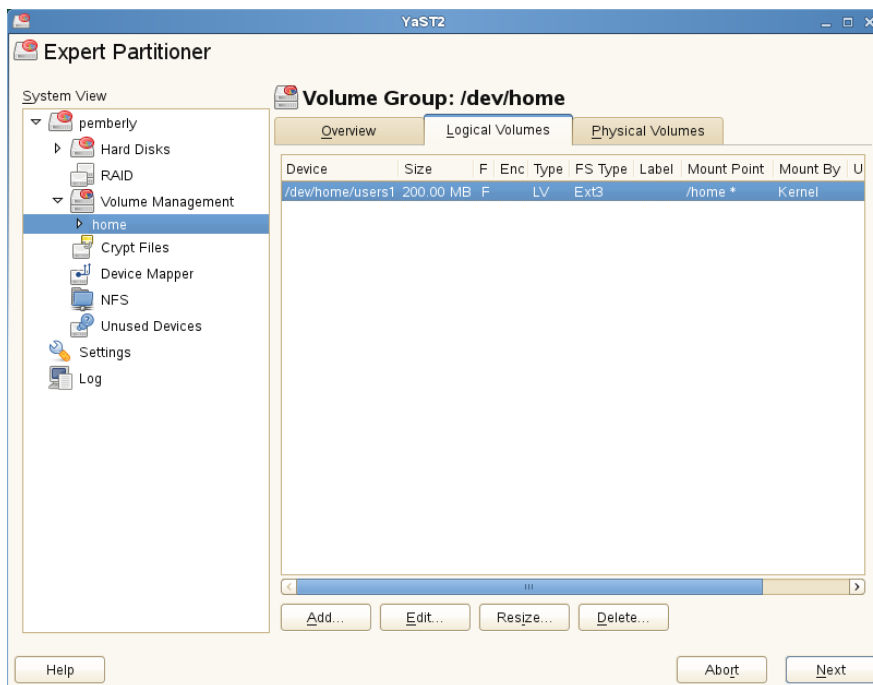


- 6 Select a physical volume (LVM partitions) from the *Available Physical Volumes* list then click *Add* to move it to the *Selected Physical Volumes* list.
- 7 Click *Finish*.
- 8 Click *Next*, verify that the changes are listed, then click *Finish*.

## 4.5 Configuring Logical Volumes

After a volume group has been filled with physical volumes, use the Logical Volumes dialog box (see Figure 4.3, “Logical Volume Management” (page 49)) to define and manage the logical volumes that the operating system should use. This dialog lists all of the logical volumes in that volume group. You can use *Add*, *Edit*, and *Remove* options to manage the logical volumes. Assign at least one logical volume to each volume group. You can create new logical volumes as needed until all free space in the volume group has been exhausted.

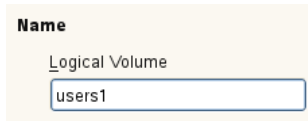
**Figure 4.3:** Logical Volume Management



It is possible to distribute the data stream in the logical volume among several physical volumes (striping). If these physical volumes reside on different hard disks, this generally results in a better reading and writing performance (like RAID 0). However, a striping LV with  $n$  stripes can only be created correctly if the hard disk space required by the LV can be distributed evenly to  $n$  physical volumes. For example, if only two physical volumes are available, a logical volume with three stripes is impossible.

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 In the left panel, select Volume Management and expand it to see the list of volume groups.
- 4 Under Volume Management, select the volume group, then click the *Logical Volumes* tab.


- 5 In the lower left, click *Add* to open the Add Logical Volume dialog box.
- 6 Specify the *Name* for the logical volume, then click *Next*.



**Name**  
Logical Volume  
users1

- 7 Specify the size of the volume and whether to use multiple stripes.

---

 <p><b>Size</b></p> <p><input type="radio"/> Maximum Size (808.00 MB) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Manual Size</p> <p>Size 200.00 MB</p> <p><b>Stripes</b></p> <table border="0"><tr><td>Number</td><td>Size</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>64 kB</td></tr></table>	Number	Size	1	64 kB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Specify the size of the logical volume, up to the maximum size available.</li></ol> <p>The amount of free space in the current volume group is shown next to the <i>Maximum Size</i> option.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Specify the number of stripes.</li></ol>
Number	Size				
1	64 kB				

---

**WARNING**

YaST has no chance at this point to verify the correctness of your entries concerning striping. Any mistake made here is apparent only later when the LVM is implemented on disk.

---

- 8 Specify the formatting options for the logical volume:

---

**Formatting Options**

Format partition

File system

Ext3

Options...

Do not format partition

Encrypt device

**Mounting Options**

Mount partition

Mount Point

/home

Fstab Options...

Do not mount partition

---

1. Under *Formatting Options*, select *Format partition*, then select the format type from the *File system* drop-down list, such as Ext3.

2. Under *Mounting Options*, select *Mount partition*, then select the mount point.

The files stored on this logical volume can be found at this mount point on the installed system.

3. Click *Fstab Options* to add special mounting options for the volume.

9 Click *Finish*.

10 Click *Next*, verify that the changes are listed, then click *Finish*.

## 4.6 Automatically Activating Non-Root LVM Volume Groups

Activation behavior for non-root LVM volume groups is controlled by parameter settings in the `/etc/sysconfig/lvm` file.

By default, non-root LVM volume groups are automatically activated on system restart by `/etc/rc.d/boot.lvm`, according to the setting for the `LVM_VGS_ACTIVATED_ON_BOOT` parameter in the `/etc/sysconfig/lvm`

file. This parameter allows you to activate all volume groups on system restart, or to activate only specified non-root LVM volume groups.

To activate all non-root LVM volume groups on system restart, ensure that the value for the `LVM_VGS_ACTIVATED_ON_BOOT` parameter in the `/etc/sysconfig/lvm` file is empty (`" "`). This is the default setting. For almost all standard LVM installations, it can safely stay empty.

```
LVM_VGS_ACTIVATED_ON_BOOT=""
```

To activate only a specified non-root LVM volume group on system restart, specify the volume group name as the value for the `LVM_VGS_ACTIVATED_ON_BOOT` parameter:

```
LVM_VGS_ACTIVATED_ON_BOOT="vg1"
```

By default, newly discovered LVM volume groups are not automatically activated. The `LVM_ACTIVATED_ON_DISCOVERED` parameter is disabled in the `/etc/sysconfig/lvm` file:

```
LVM_ACTIVATED_ON_DISCOVERED="disable"
```

You can enable the `LVM_ACTIVATED_ON_DISCOVERED` parameter to allow newly discovered LVM volume groups to be activated via udev rules:

```
LVM_ACTIVATED_ON_DISCOVERED="enable"
```

## 4.7 Tagging LVM2 Storage Objects

A tag is an unordered keyword or term assigned to the metadata of a storage object. Tagging allows you to classify collections of LVM storage objects in ways that you find useful by attaching an unordered list of tags to their metadata.

- Section 4.7.1, “Using LVM2 Tags” (page 53)
- Section 4.7.2, “Requirements for Creating LVM2 Tags” (page 53)
- Section 4.7.3, “Command Line Tag Syntax” (page 54)
- Section 4.7.4, “Configuration File Syntax” (page 55)



- Section 4.7.5, “Using Tags for a Simple Activation Control in a Cluster” (page 57)
- Section 4.7.6, “Using Tags to Activate On Preferred Hosts in a Cluster” (page 57)

## 4.7.1 Using LVM2 Tags

After you tag the LVM2 storage objects, you can use the tags in commands to accomplish the following tasks:

- Select LVM objects for processing according to the presence or absence of specific tags.
- Use tags in the configuration file to control which volume groups and logical volumes are activated on a server.
- Override settings in a global configuration file by specifying tags in the command.

A tag can be used in place of any command line LVM object reference that accepts:

- a list of objects
- a single object as long as the tag expands to a single object

Replacing the object name with a tag is not supported everywhere yet. After the arguments are expanded, duplicate arguments in a list are resolved by removing the duplicate arguments, and retaining the first instance of each argument.

Wherever there might be ambiguity of argument type, you must prefix a tag with the commercial at sign (@) character, such as @mytag. Elsewhere, using the “@” prefix is optional.

## 4.7.2 Requirements for Creating LVM2 Tags

Consider the following requirements when using tags with LVM:

- Section 4.7.2.1, “Supported Characters” (page 54)

- Section 4.7.2.2, “Supported Storage Objects” (page 54)

## 4.7.2.1 Supported Characters

An LVM tag word can contain the ASCII uppercase characters A to Z, lowercase characters a to z, numbers 0 to 9, underscore (`_`), plus (`+`), hyphen (`-`), and period (`.`). The word cannot begin with a hyphen. The maximum length is 128 characters.

## 4.7.2.2 Supported Storage Objects

You can tag LVM2 physical volumes, volume groups, logical volumes, and logical volume segments. PV tags are stored in its volume group’s metadata. Deleting a volume group also deletes the tags in the orphaned physical volume. Snapshots cannot be tagged, but their origin can be tagged.

LVM1 objects cannot be tagged because the disk format does not support it.

## 4.7.3 Command Line Tag Syntax

`--addtag <tag_info>`

Add a tag to (or *tag*) an LVM2 storage object.

### Example

```
vgchange --addtag @dbl vg1
```

`--deltag <tag_info>`

Remove a tag from (or *untag*) an LVM2 storage object.

### Example

```
vgchange --deltag @dbl vg1
```

`--tag <tag_info>`

Specify the tag to use to narrow the list of volume groups or logical volumes to be activated or deactivated.

### Example

Enter the following to activate it the volume if it has a tag that matches the tag provided:

```
lvchange -ay --tag @db1 vg1/vol2
```

## 4.7.4 Configuration File Syntax

- Section 4.7.4.1, “Enabling Hostname Tags in the lvm.conf File” (page 55)
- Section 4.7.4.2, “Defining Tags for Hostnames in the lvm.conf File” (page 55)
- Section 4.7.4.3, “Defining Activation” (page 56)
- Section 4.7.4.4, “Defining Activation in Multiple Hostname Configuration Files” (page 56)

### 4.7.4.1 Enabling Hostname Tags in the lvm.conf File

Add the following code to the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file to enable host tags that are defined separately on host in a `/etc/lvm/lvm_<hostname>.conf` file.

```
tags {  
    # Enable hostname tags  
    hosttags = 1  
}
```

You place the activation code in the `/etc/lvm/lvm_<hostname>.conf` file on the host. See Section 4.7.4.3, “Defining Activation” (page 56).

### 4.7.4.2 Defining Tags for Hostnames in the lvm.conf File

```
tags {  
    tag1 {  
        # Tag does not require a match to be set.    }  
}
```

```

tag2 {
    # If no exact match, tag is not set.
    host_list = [ "hostname1", "hostname2" ]
}
}

```

### 4.7.4.3 Defining Activation

You can modify the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file to activate LVM logical volumes based on tags.

In a text editor, add the following code to the file:

```

activation {
    volume_list = [ "vg1/lvol0", "@database" ]
}

```

Replace `@database` with the your tag. Use `"@*"` to match the tag against any tag set on the host.

The activation command matches against `vgname`, `vgname/lvname`, or `@tag` set in the metadata of volume groups and logical volumes. A volume group or logical volume is activated only if a metadata tag matches. The default if there is no match is not to activate.

If `volume_list` is not present and any tags are defined on the host, then it activates the volume group or logical volumes only if a host tag matches a metadata tag.

If `volume_list` is not present and no tags are defined on the host, then it does activate.

### 4.7.4.4 Defining Activation in Multiple Hostname Configuration Files

You can use the activation code in a host's configuration file (`/etc/lvm/lvm_<host_tag>.conf`) when host tags are enabled in the `lvm.conf` file. For example, a server has two configuration files in the `/etc/lvm/` folder:

```

lvm.conf
lvm_<host_tag>.conf

```

At startup, load the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file, and process any tag settings in the file. If any host tags were defined, it loads the related `/etc/lvm/lvm_<host_tag>.conf` file. When it searches for a specific configuration file entry, it searches the host tag file first, then the `lvm.conf` file, and stops at the first match. Within the `lvm_<host_tag>.conf` file, use the reverse order that tags were set. This allows the file for the last tag set to be searched first. New tags set in the host tag file will trigger additional configuration file loads.

## 4.7.5 Using Tags for a Simple Activation Control in a Cluster

You can set up a simple hostname activation control by enabling the `hostname_tags` option in a the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file. Use the same file on every machine in a cluster so that it is a global setting.

**1** In a text editor, add the following code to the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file:

```
tags {
    hostname_tags = 1
}
```

**2** Replicate the file to all hosts in the cluster.

**3** From any machine in the cluster, add `db1` to the list of machines that activate `vg1/lvol2`:

```
lvchange --addtag @db1 vg1/lvol2
```

**4** On the `db1` server, enter the following to activate it:

```
lvchange -ay vg1/vol2
```

## 4.7.6 Using Tags to Activate On Preferred Hosts in a Cluster

The examples in this section demonstrate two methods to accomplish the following:

- Activate volume group `vg1` only on the database hosts `db1` and `db2`.

- Activate volume group `vg2` only on the file server host `fs1`.
- Activate nothing initially on the file server backup host `fsb1`, but be prepared for it to take over from the file server host `fs1`.
- Section 4.7.6.1, “Option 1: Centralized Admin and Static Configuration Replicated Between Hosts” (page 58)
- Section 4.7.6.2, “Option 2: Localized Admin and Configuration” (page 59)

## 4.7.6.1 Option 1: Centralized Admin and Static Configuration Replicated Between Hosts

In the following solution, the single configuration file is replicated among multiple hosts.

- 1** Add the `@database` tag to the metadata of volume group `vg1`. In a terminal console, enter

```
vgchange --addtag @database vg1
```

- 2** Add the `@fileserver` tag to the metadata of volume group `vg2`. In a terminal console, enter

```
vgchange --addtag @fileserver vg2
```

- 3** In a text editor, modify the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file with the following code to define the `@database`, `@fileserver`, `@fileserverbackup` tags.

```
tags {
    database {
        host_list = [ "db1", "db2" ]
    }
    fileserver {
        host_list = [ "fs1" ]
    }
    fileserverbackup {
        host_list = [ "fsb1" ]
    }
}

activation {
    # Activate only if host has a tag that matches a metadata tag
    volume_list = [ "@*" ]
}
```

```
}
```

- 4 Replicate the modified `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file to the four hosts: `db1`, `db2`, `fs1`, and `fsb1`.
- 5 If the file server host goes down, `vg2` can be brought up on `fsb1` by entering the following commands in a terminal console on any node:

```
vgchange --addtag @fileserverbackup vg2
vgchange -ay vg2
```

## 4.7.6.2 Option 2: Localized Admin and Configuration

In the following solution, each host holds locally the information about which classes of volume to activate.

- 1 Add the `@database` tag to the metadata of volume group `vg1`. In a terminal console, enter

```
vgchange --addtag @database vg1
```

- 2 Add the `@fileserver` tag to the metadata of volume group `vg2`. In a terminal console, enter

```
vgchange --addtag @fileserver vg2
```

- 3 Enable host tags in the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file:

- 3a In a text editor, modify the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file with the following code to enable host tag configuration files.

```
tags {
    hosttags = 1
}
```

- 3b Replicate the modified `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file to the four hosts: `db1`, `db2`, `fs1`, and `fsb1`.

- 4 On host `db1`, create an activation configuration file for the database host `db1`. In a text editor, create a `/etc/lvm/lvm_db1.conf` file and add the following code:

```
activation {
    volume_list = [ "@database" ]
}
```

- 5** On host `db2`, create an activation configuration file for the database host `db2`. In a text editor, create a `/etc/lvm/lvm_db2.conf` file and add the following code:

```
activation {
    volume_list = [ "@database" ]
}
```

- 6** On host `fs1`, create an activation configuration file for the file server host `fs1`. In a text editor, create a `/etc/lvm/lvm_fs1.conf` file and add the following code:

```
activation {
    volume_list = [ "@fileserver" ]
}
```

- 7** If the file server host `fs1` goes down, to bring up a spare file server host `fsb1` as a file server:

- 7a** On host `fsb1`, create an activation configuration file for the host `fsb1`. In a text editor, create a `/etc/lvm/lvm_fsb1.conf` file and add the following code:

```
activation {
    volume_list = [ "@fileserver" ]
}
```

- 7b** In a terminal console, enter one of the following commands:

```
vgchange -ay vg2
vgchange -ay @fileserver
```

## 4.8 Resizing a Volume Group

You can add and remove Linux LVM partitions from a volume group to expand or reduce its size.



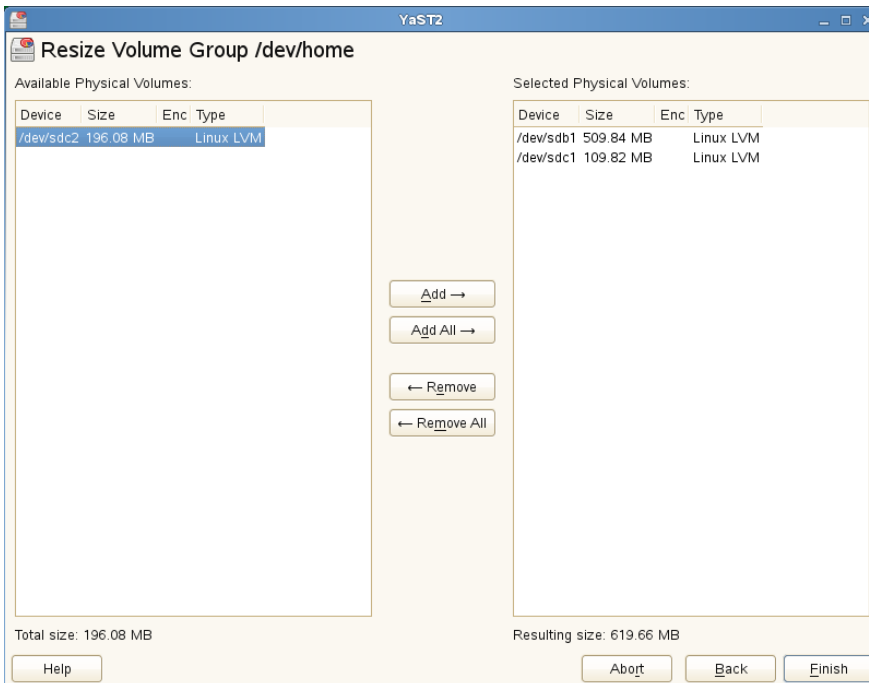
---

## WARNING

Removing a partition can result in data loss if the partition is in use by a logical volume.

---

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 In the left panel, select Volume Management and expand it to see the list of volume groups.
- 4 Under Volume Management, select the volume group, then click the *Overview* tab.
- 5 At the bottom of the page, click *Resize*.



- 6 Do one of the following:

- **Add:** Expand the size of the volume group by moving one or more physical volumes (LVM partitions) from the *Available Physical Volumes* list to the *Selected Physical Volumes* list.
- **Remove:** Reduce the size of the volume group by moving one or more physical volumes (LVM partitions) from the *Selected Physical Volumes* list to the *Available Physical Volumes* list.

7 Click *Finish*.

8 Click *Next*, verify that the changes are listed, then click *Finish*.

## 4.9 Resizing a Logical Volume with YaST

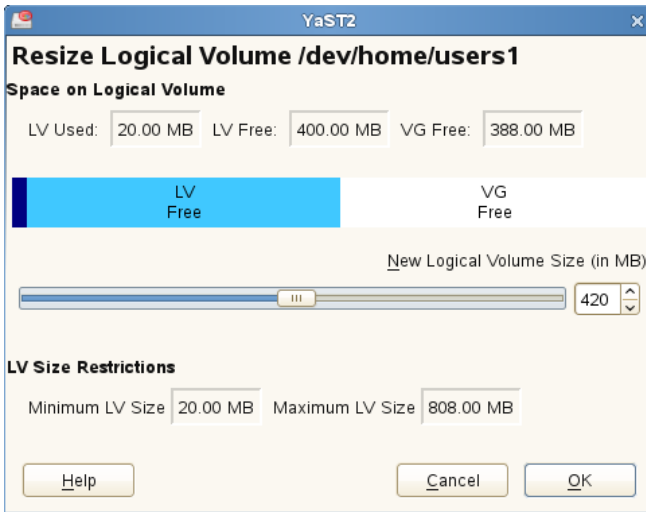
1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.

2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.

3 In the left panel, select Volume Management and expand it to see the list of volume groups.

4 Under Volume Management, select the volume group, then click the *Logical Volumes* tab.

5 At the bottom of the page, click *Resize* to open the Resize Logical Volume dialog box.



- 6 Use the slider to expand or reduce the size of the logical volume.

---

### WARNING

Reducing the size of a logical volume that contains data can cause data corruption.

---

- 7 Click *OK*.
- 8 Click *Next*, verify that the change is listed, then click *Finish*.

## 4.10 Resizing a Logical Volume with Commands

The `lvresize`, `lvextend`, and `lvreduce` commands are used to resize logical volumes. See the man pages for each of these commands for syntax and options information.

You can also increase the size of a logical volume by using the YaST Partitioner. YaST uses `parted(8)` to grow the partition.

To extend an LV there must be enough unallocated space available on the VG.

LVs can be extended or shrunk while they are being used, but this may not be true for a file system on them. Extending or shrinking the LV does not automatically modify the size of file systems in the volume. You must use a different command to grow the file system afterwards. For information about resizing file systems, see Chapter 5, *Resizing File Systems* (page 67).

Ensure that you use the right sequence:

- If you extend an LV, you must extend the LV before you attempt to grow the file system.
- If you shrink an LV, you must shrink the file system before you attempt to shrink the LV.

To extend the size of a logical volume:

- 1 Open a terminal console, log in as the `root` user.
- 2 If the logical volume contains file systems that are hosted for a virtual machine (such as a Xen VM), shut down the VM.
- 3 Dismount the file systems on the logical volume.
- 4 At the terminal console prompt, enter the following command to grow the size of the logical volume:

```
lvextend -L +size /dev/vgname/lvname
```

For *size*, specify the amount of space you want to add to the logical volume, such as 10GB. Replace `/dev/vgname/lvname` with the Linux path to the logical volume, such as `/dev/vg1/v1`. For example:

```
lvextend -L +10GB /dev/vg1/v1
```

For example, to extend an LV with a (mounted and active) ReiserFS on it by 10GB:

```
lvextend -L +10G /dev/vgname/lvname  
resize_reiserfs -s +10GB -f /dev/vg-name/lv-name
```

For example, to shrink an LV with a ReiserFS on it by 5GB:

```
umount /mountpoint-of-LV
resize_reiserfs -s -5GB /dev/vgname/lvname
lvreduce /dev/vgname/lvname
mount /dev/vgname/lvname /mountpoint-of-LV
```

## 4.11 Deleting a Volume Group

---

### WARNING

Deleting a volume group destroys all of the data in each of its member partitions.

---

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.
- 3 In the left panel, select Volume Management and expand the list of groups.
- 4 Under Volume Management, select the volume group, then click the *Overview* tab.
- 5 At the bottom of the page, click *Delete*, then click *Yes* to confirm the deletion.
- 6 Click *Next*, verify that the deleted volume group is listed (deletion is indicated by a red colored font), then click *Finish*.

## 4.12 Deleting an LVM Partition (Physical Volume)

---

### WARNING

Deleting a partition destroys all of the data in the partition.

---

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, open the *Partitioner*.

- 3** If the Linux LVM partition is in use as a member of a volume group, remove the partition from the volume group, or delete the volume group.
- 4** In the YaST Partitioner under *Hard Disks*, select the device (such as `sdc`).
- 5** On the Partitions page, select a partition that you want to remove, click *Delete*, then click *Yes* to confirm the deletion.
- 6** Click *Next*, verify that the deleted partition is listed (deletion is indicated by a red colored font), then click *Finish*.

# Resizing File Systems

When your data needs grow for a volume, you might need to increase the amount of space allocated to its file system.

- Section 5.1, “Guidelines for Resizing” (page 67)
- Section 5.2, “Increasing the Size of an Ext2, Ext3, or Ext4 File System” (page 69)
- Section 5.3, “Increasing the Size of a Reiser File System” (page 70)
- Section 5.4, “Decreasing the Size of an Ext2 or Ext3 File System” (page 71)
- Section 5.5, “Decreasing the Size of a Reiser File System” (page 72)

## 5.1 Guidelines for Resizing

Resizing any partition or file system involves some risks that can potentially result in losing data.

---

### WARNING

To avoid data loss, ensure that you back up your data before you begin any resizing task.

---

Consider the following guidelines when planning to resize a file system.

- Section 5.1.1, “File Systems that Support Resizing” (page 68)

- Section 5.1.2, “Increasing the Size of a File System” (page 68)
- Section 5.1.3, “Decreasing the Size of a File System” (page 69)

## 5.1.1 File Systems that Support Resizing

The file system must support resizing in order to take advantage of increases in available space for the volume. In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, file system resizing utilities are available for file systems Ext2, Ext3, Ext4, and ReiserFS. The utilities support increasing and decreasing the size as follows:

**Table 5.1:** *File System Support for Resizing*

File System	Utility	Increase Size (Grow)	Decrease Size (Shrink)
Ext2	resize2fs	Offline only	Offline only
Ext3	resize2fs	Online or offline	Offline only
Ext4	resize2fs	Offline only	Offline only
ReiserFS	resize_reiserfs	Online or offline	Offline only

## 5.1.2 Increasing the Size of a File System

You can grow a file system to the maximum space available on the device, or specify an exact size. Ensure that you grow the size of the device or logical volume before you attempt to increase the size of the file system.

When specifying an exact size for the file system, ensure that the new size satisfies the following conditions:

- The new size must be greater than the size of the existing data; otherwise, data loss occurs.
- The new size must be equal to or less than the current device size because the file system size cannot extend beyond the space available.



## 5.1.3 Decreasing the Size of a File System

When decreasing the size of the file system on a device, ensure that the new size satisfies the following conditions:

- The new size must be greater than the size of the existing data; otherwise, data loss occurs.
- The new size must be equal to or less than the current device size because the file system size cannot extend beyond the space available.

If you plan to also decrease the size of the logical volume that holds the file system, ensure that you decrease the size of the file system before you attempt to decrease the size of the device or logical volume.

## 5.2 Increasing the Size of an Ext2, Ext3, or Ext4 File System

The size of Ext2, Ext3, and Ext4 file systems can be increased by using the `resize2fs` command when the file system is mounted. The size of an Ext3 file system can also be increased by using the `resize2fs` command when the file system is unmounted.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 If the file system is Ext2 or Ext4, you must unmount the file system. The Ext3 file system can be mounted or unmounted.
- 3 Increase the size of the file system using one of the following methods:

- To extend the file system size to the maximum available size of the device called `/dev/sda1`, enter

```
resize2fs /dev/sda1
```

If a size parameter is not specified, the size defaults to the size of the partition.

- To extend the file system to a specific size, enter

```
resize2fs /dev/sda1 size
```

The *size* parameter specifies the requested new size of the file system. If no units are specified, the unit of the size parameter is the block size of the file system. Optionally, the size parameter can be suffixed by one of the following the unit designators: s for 512 byte sectors; K for kilobytes (1 kilobyte is 1024 bytes); M for megabytes; or G for gigabytes.

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

- 4 If the file system is not mounted, mount it now.

For example, to mount an Ext2 file system for a device named `/dev/sda1` at mount point `/home`, enter

```
mount -t ext2 /dev/sda1 /home
```

- 5 Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

## 5.3 Increasing the Size of a Reiser File System

A ReiserFS file system can be increased in size while mounted or unmounted.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Increase the size of the file system on the device called `/dev/sda2`, using one of the following methods:
  - To extend the file system size to the maximum available size of the device, enter

```
resize_reiserfs /dev/sda2
```

When no size is specified, this increases the volume to the full size of the partition.

- To extend the file system to a specific size, enter

```
resize_reiserfs -s size /dev/sda2
```

Replace *size* with the desired size in bytes. You can also specify units on the value, such as 50000K (kilobytes), 250M (megabytes), or 2G (gigabytes). Alternatively, you can specify an increase to the current size by prefixing the value with a plus (+) sign. For example, the following command increases the size of the file system on `/dev/sda2` by 500 MB:

```
resize_reiserfs -s +500M /dev/sda2
```

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

- 3** If the file system is not mounted, mount it now.

For example, to mount an ReiserFS file system for device `/dev/sda2` at mount point `/home`, enter

```
mount -t reiserfs /dev/sda2 /home
```

- 4** Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

## 5.4 Decreasing the Size of an Ext2 or Ext3 File System

You can shrink the size of the Ext2, Ext3, or Ext4 file systems when the volume is unmounted.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Unmount the file system.
- 3 Decrease the size of the file system on the device such as `/dev/sda1` by entering

```
resize2fs /dev/sda1 <size>
```

Replace *size* with an integer value in kilobytes for the desired size. (A kilobyte is 1024 bytes.)

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

- 4 Mount the file system. For example, to mount an Ext2 file system for a device named `/dev/sda1` at mount point `/home`, enter

```
mount -t ext2 /dev/md0 /home
```

- 5 Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

## 5.5 Decreasing the Size of a Reiser File System

Reiser file systems can be reduced in size only if the volume is unmounted.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Unmount the device by entering

```
umount /mnt/point
```

If the partition you are attempting to decrease in size contains system files (such as the root (/) volume), unmounting is possible only when booting from a bootable CD or floppy.

**3** Decrease the size of the file system on a device called `/dev/sda1` by entering

```
resize_reiserfs -s size /dev/sda2
```

Replace *size* with the desired size in bytes. You can also specify units on the value, such as 50000K (kilobytes), 250M (megabytes), or 2G (gigabytes). Alternatively, you can specify a decrease to the current size by prefixing the value with a minus (-) sign. For example, the following command reduces the size of the file system on `/dev/md0` by 500 MB:

```
resize_reiserfs -s -500M /dev/sda2
```

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

**4** Mount the file system by entering

```
mount -t reiserfs /dev/sda2 /mnt/point
```

**5** Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.



# 6

## Using UUIDs to Mount Devices

This section describes the optional use of UUIDs instead of device names to identify file system devices in the boot loader file and the `/etc/fstab` file.

- Section 6.1, “Naming Devices with udev” (page 75)
- Section 6.2, “Understanding UUIDs” (page 76)
- Section 6.3, “Using UUIDs in the Boot Loader and `/etc/fstab` File (x86)” (page 77)
- Section 6.4, “Using UUIDs in the Boot Loader and `/etc/fstab` File (IA64)” (page 79)
- Section 6.5, “Additional Information” (page 81)

### 6.1 Naming Devices with udev

In the Linux 2.6 and later kernel, `udev` provides a userspace solution for the dynamic `/dev` directory, with persistent device naming. As part of the hotplug system, `udev` is executed if a device is added to or removed from the system.

A list of rules is used to match against specific device attributes. The `udev` rules infrastructure (defined in the `/etc/udev/rules.d` directory) provides stable names for all disk devices, regardless of their order of recognition or the connection

used for the device. The `udev` tools examine every appropriate block device that the kernel creates to apply naming rules based on certain buses, drive types, or file systems. For information about how to define your own rules for `udev`, see *Writing udev Rules* [[http://reactivated.net/writing\\_udev\\_rules.html](http://reactivated.net/writing_udev_rules.html)].

Along with the dynamic kernel-provided device node name, `udev` maintains classes of persistent symbolic links pointing to the device in the `/dev/disk` directory, which is further categorized by the `by-id`, `by-label`, `by-path`, and `by-uuid` subdirectories.

---

## NOTE

Other programs besides `udev`, such as LVM or `md`, might also generate UUIDs, but they are not listed in `/dev/disk`.

---

## 6.2 Understanding UUIDs

A UUID (Universally Unique Identifier) is a 128-bit number for a file system that is unique on both the local system and across other systems. It is a randomly generated with system hardware information and time stamps as part of its seed. UUIDs are commonly used to uniquely tag devices.

- Section 6.2.1, “Using UUIDs to Assemble or Activate File System Devices” (page 76)
- Section 6.2.2, “Finding the UUID for a File System Device” (page 77)

### 6.2.1 Using UUIDs to Assemble or Activate File System Devices

The UUID is always unique to the partition and does not depend on the order in which it appears or where it is mounted. With certain SAN devices attached to the server, the system partitions are renamed and moved to be the last device. For example, if root (`/`) is assigned to `/dev/sda1` during the install, it might be assigned to `/dev/sdg1` after the SAN is connected. One way to avoid this problem is to use the UUID in the boot loader and `/etc/fstab` files for the boot device.



The device ID assigned by the manufacturer for a drive never changes, no matter where the device is mounted, so it can always be found at boot. The UUID is a property of the file system and can change if you reformat the drive. In a boot loader file, you typically specify the location of the device (such as `/dev/sda1`) to mount it at system boot. The boot loader can also mount devices by their UUIDs and administrator-specified volume labels. However, if you use a label and file location, you cannot change the label name when the partition is mounted.

You can use the UUID as criterion for assembling and activating software RAID devices. When a RAID is created, the `md` driver generates a UUID for the device, and stores the value in the `md` superblock.

## 6.2.2 Finding the UUID for a File System Device

You can find the UUID for any block device in the `/dev/disk/by-uuid` directory. For example, a UUID looks like this:

```
e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a
```

## 6.3 Using UUIDs in the Boot Loader and `/etc/fstab` File (x86)

After the install, you can optionally use the following procedure to configure the UUID for the system device in the boot loader and `/etc/fstab` files for your x86 system.

Before you begin, make a copy of `/boot/grub/menu.1st` file and the `/etc/fstab` file.

- 1 Install the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for x86 with no SAN devices connected.
- 2 After the install, boot the system.
- 3 Open a terminal console as the `root` user or equivalent.

- 4 Navigate to the `/dev/disk/by-uuid` directory to find the UUID for the device where you installed `/boot`, `/root`, and `swap`.

**4a** At the terminal console prompt, enter

```
cd /dev/disk/by-uuid
```

**4b** List all partitions by entering

```
ll
```

**4c** Find the UUID, such as

```
e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a -> /dev/sda1
```

- 5 Edit `/boot/grub/menu.lst` file, using the Boot Loader option in YaST or using a text editor.

For example, change

```
kernel /boot/vmlinuz root=/dev/sda1
```

to

```
kernel /boot/vmlinuz root=/dev/disk/by-uuid/  
e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a
```

---

## IMPORTANT

If you make a mistake, you can boot the server without the SAN connected, and fix the error by using the backup copy of the `/boot/grub/menu.lst` file as a guide.

---

If you use the Boot Loader option in YaST, there is a defect where it adds some duplicate lines to the boot loader file when you change a value. Use an editor to remove the following duplicate lines:

```
color white/blue black/light-gray
```

```
default 0
```

```
timeout 8
```

```
gfxmenu (sd0,1)/boot/message
```

When you use YaST to change the way that the root (/) device is mounted (such as by UUID or by label), the boot loader configuration needs to be saved again to make the change effective for the boot loader.

**6** As the `root` user or equivalent, do one of the following to place the UUID in the `/etc/fstab` file:

- Launch YaST as the `root` user, select *System > Partitioner*, select the device of interest, then modify *Fstab Options*.
- Edit the `/etc/fstab` file to modify the system device from the location to the UUID.

For example, if the root (/) volume has a device path of `/dev/sda1` and its UUID is `e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a`, change line entry from

```
/dev/sda1 / reiserfs acl,user_xattr 1 1
```

to

```
UUID=e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a / reiserfs  
acl,user_xattr 1 1
```

---

### IMPORTANT

Do not leave stray characters or spaces in the file.

---

## 6.4 Using UUIDs in the Boot Loader and `/etc/fstab` File (IA64)

After the install, use the following procedure to configure the UUID for the system device in the boot loader and `/etc/fstab` files for your IA64 system. IA64 uses the EFI BIOS. Its file system configuration file is `/boot/efi/SuSE/elilo.conf` instead of `/etc/fstab`.

Before you begin, make a copy of the `/boot/efi/SuSE/elilo.conf` file.

- 1 Install the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for IA64 with no SAN devices connected.
- 2 After the install, boot the system.
- 3 Open a terminal console as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 4 Navigate to the `/dev/disk/by-uuid` directory to find the UUID for the device where you installed `/boot`, `/root`, and `swap`.

**4a** At the terminal console prompt, enter

```
cd /dev/disk/by-uuid
```

**4b** List all partitions by entering

```
ll
```

**4c** Find the UUID, such as

```
e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a -> /dev/sda1
```

- 5 Edit the boot loader file, using the Boot Loader option in YaST.

For example, change

```
root=/dev/sda1
```

to

```
root=/dev/disk/by-uuid/e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a
```

- 6 Edit the `/boot/efi/SuSE/elilo.conf` file to modify the system device from the location to the UUID.

For example, change

```
/dev/sda1 / reiserfs acl,user_xattr 1 1
```

to

```
UUID=e014e482-1c2d-4d09-84ec-61b3aefde77a / reiserfs acl,user_xattr
1 1
```

---

## IMPORTANT

Do not leave stray characters or spaces in the file.

---

## 6.5 Additional Information

For more information about using `udev (8)` for managing devices, see “Dynamic Kernel Device Management with `udev`” [[http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book\\_sle\\_admin/data/cha\\_udev.html](http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles11/book_sle_admin/data/cha_udev.html)] in the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 Administration Guide*.

For more information about `udev (8)` commands, see its man page. Enter the following at a terminal console prompt:

```
man 8 udev
```



# Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

This section describes how to manage failover and path load balancing for multiple paths between the servers and block storage devices.

- Section 7.1, “Understanding Multipath I/O” (page 84)
- Section 7.2, “Planning for Multipathing” (page 84)
- Section 7.3, “Multipath Management Tools” (page 100)
- Section 7.4, “Configuring the System for Multipathing” (page 108)
- Section 7.5, “Enabling and Starting Multipath I/O Services” (page 111)
- Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112)
- Section 7.7, “Configuring Default Policies for Polling, Queuing, and Failback” (page 117)
- Section 7.8, “Blacklisting Non-Multipath Devices” (page 118)
- Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119)
- Section 7.10, “Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices” (page 123)
- Section 7.11, “Configuring Path Failover Policies and Priorities” (page 124)
- Section 7.12, “Configuring Multipath I/O for the Root Device” (page 142)
- Section 7.13, “Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID” (page 147)

- Section 7.14, “Scanning for New Devices without Rebooting” (page 150)
- Section 7.15, “Scanning for New Partitioned Devices without Rebooting” (page 153)
- Section 7.16, “Viewing Multipath I/O Status” (page 155)
- Section 7.17, “Managing I/O in Error Situations” (page 156)
- Section 7.18, “Resolving Stalled I/O” (page 158)
- Section 7.19, “Troubleshooting MPIO” (page 158)
- Section 7.20, “What’s Next” (page 160)

## 7.1 Understanding Multipath I/O

Multipathing is the ability of a server to communicate with the same physical or logical block storage device across multiple physical paths between the host bus adapters in the server and the storage controllers for the device, typically in Fibre Channel (FC) or iSCSI SAN environments. You can also achieve multiple connections with direct attached storage when multiple channels are available.

Linux multipathing provides connection fault tolerance and can provide load balancing across the active connections. When multipathing is configured and running, it automatically isolates and identifies device connection failures, and reroutes I/O to alternate connections.

Typical connection problems involve faulty adapters, cables, or controllers. When you configure multipath I/O for a device, the multipath driver monitors the active connection between devices. When the multipath driver detects I/O errors for an active path, it fails over the traffic to the device’s designated secondary path. When the preferred path becomes healthy again, control can be returned to the preferred path.

## 7.2 Planning for Multipathing

- Section 7.2.1, “Guidelines for Multipathing” (page 85)



- Section 7.2.2, “PRIO Settings in multipath-tools-0.4.9” (page 88)
- Section 7.2.3, “Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipath Devices” (page 89)
- Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90)
- Section 7.2.5, “Using mdadm with Multipath Devices” (page 93)
- Section 7.2.6, “Using Multipath with NetApp Devices” (page 93)
- Section 7.2.7, “Using --noflush with Multipath Devices” (page 94)
- Section 7.2.8, “SAN Timeout Settings When the Root Device Is Multipath” (page 94)
- Section 7.2.9, “Partitioning Multipath Devices” (page 95)
- Section 7.2.10, “Supported Architectures for Multipath I/O” (page 96)
- Section 7.2.11, “Supported Storage Arrays for Multipathing” (page 96)

## 7.2.1 Guidelines for Multipathing

Use the guidelines in this section when planning your multipath I/O solution.

- Section 7.2.1.1, “Prerequisites” (page 85)
- Section 7.2.1.2, “Vendor-Provided Multipath Solutions” (page 86)
- Section 7.2.1.3, “Disk Management Tasks” (page 86)
- Section 7.2.1.4, “Software RAIDs” (page 86)
- Section 7.2.1.5, “High-Availability Solutions” (page 87)
- Section 7.2.1.6, “Volume Managers” (page 88)
- Section 7.2.1.7, “Virtualization Environments” (page 88)

### 7.2.1.1 Prerequisites

- Multipathing is managed at the device level.

- The storage array you use for the multipathed device must support multipathing. For more information, see Section 7.2.11, “Supported Storage Arrays for Multipathing” (page 96).
- You need to configure multipathing only if multiple physical paths exist between host bus adapters in the server and host bus controllers for the block storage device. You configure multipathing for the logical device as seen by the server.

## 7.2.1.2 Vendor-Provided Multipath Solutions

For some storage arrays, the vendor provides its own multipathing software to manage multipathing for the array’s physical and logical devices. In this case, you should follow the vendor’s instructions for configuring multipathing for those devices.

## 7.2.1.3 Disk Management Tasks

Perform the following disk management tasks before you attempt to configure multipathing for a physical or logical device that has multiple paths:

- Use third-party tools to carve physical disks into smaller logical disks.
- Use third-party tools to partition physical or logical disks. If you change the partitioning in the running system, the Device Mapper Multipath (DM-MP) module does not automatically detect and reflect these changes. DM-MPIO must be re-initialized, which usually requires a reboot.
- Use third-party SAN array management tools to create and configure hardware RAID devices.
- Use third-party SAN array management tools to create logical devices such as LUNs. Logical device types that are supported for a given array depend on the array vendor.

## 7.2.1.4 Software RAIDs

The Linux software RAID management software runs on top of multipathing. For each device that has multiple I/O paths and that you plan to use in a software RAID, you must configure the device for multipathing before you attempt to create

the software RAID device. Automatic discovery of multipathed devices is not available. The software RAID is not aware of the multipathing management running underneath.

For information about setting up multipathing for existing software RAIDs, see Section 7.13, “Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID” (page 147).

## 7.2.1.5 High-Availability Solutions

High-availability solutions for clustering storage resources run on top of the multipathing service on each node. Ensure that the configuration settings in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file on each node are consistent across the cluster.

Ensure that multipath devices the same name across all devices by doing the following:

- Use UUID and alias names to ensure that multipath device names are consistent across all nodes in the cluster. Alias names must be unique across all nodes. Copy the `/etc/multipath.conf` file from the node to the `/etc/` directory all of the other nodes in the cluster.
- When using links to multipath-mapped devices, ensure that you specify the `dm-uuid*` name or alias name in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory, and not a fixed path instance of the device. For information, see Section 7.2.3, “Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipathed Devices” (page 89).
- Set the `user_friendly_names` configuration option to `no` to disable it. A user-friendly name is unique to a node, but a device might not be assigned the same user-friendly name on every node in the cluster.

You can force the system-defined user-friendly names to be consistent across all nodes in the cluster by doing the following:

1. In the `/etc/multipath.conf` file on one node:

- a. Set the `user_friendly_names` configuration option to `yes` to enable it.

Multipath uses the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file to assign a persistent and unique name to the device in the form of `mpath<n>` in the `/dev/mapper` directory.

- b. (Optional) Set the `bindings_file` option in the `defaults` section of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file to specify an alternate location for the `bindings` file.

The default location is `/var/lib/multipath/bindings`.

2. Set up all of the multipath devices on the node.
3. Copy the `/etc/multipath.conf` file from the node to the `/etc/` directory all of the other nodes in the cluster.
4. Copy the `bindings` file from the node to the `bindings_file` path on all of the other nodes in the cluster.

The Distributed Replicated Block Device (DRBD) high-availability solution for mirroring devices across a LAN runs on top of multipathing. For each device that has multiple I/O paths and that you plan to use in a DRBD solution, you must configure the device for multipathing before you configure DRBD.

## 7.2.1.6 Volume Managers

Volume managers such as LVM2 and Clustered LVM2 run on top of multipathing. You must configure multipathing for a device before you use LVM2 or cLVM2 to create segment managers and file systems on it. For information, see Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90).

## 7.2.1.7 Virtualization Environments

When using multipathing in a virtualization environment, the multipathing is controlled in the host server environment. Configure multipathing for the device before you assign it to a virtual guest machine.

## 7.2.2 PRIO Settings in multipath-tools-0.4.9

SLES 11 SP2 upgrades the `multipath-tools` from 0.4.8 to 0.4.9. Some changes in PRIO syntax require that you manually modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file as needed to comply with the new syntax.

The syntax for the `prio` keyword in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file is changed in `multipath-tools-0.4.9`. The `prio` line specifies the prioritizer. If the prioritizer requires an argument, you specify the argument by using the `prio_args` keyword on a second line. Previously, the prioritizer and its arguments were included on the `prio` line.

Multipath Tools 0.4.9 and later uses the `prio` setting in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. It silently ignores the keyword `prio` when it is specified for an individual `multipath` definition in the `multipaths{}` section. Multipath Tools 0.4.8 for SLES 11 SP1 and earlier allows the `prio` setting in the individual `multipath` definition in the `multipaths{}` section to override the `prio` settings in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section.

## 7.2.3 Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipathed Devices

A multipath device can be uniquely identified by its WWID, by a user-friendly name, or by an alias that you assign for it. Device node names in the form of `/dev/sdn` and `/dev/dm-n` can change on reboot and might be assigned to different devices each time. A device's WWID, user-friendly name, and alias name persist across reboots, and are the preferred way to identify the device.

If you want to use the entire LUN directly (for example, if you are using the SAN features to partition your storage), you can use the `/dev/disk/by-id/xxx` names for `mkfs`, `fstab`, your application, and so on. Partitioned devices have `_part<n>` appended to the device name, such as `/dev/disk/by-id/xxx_part1`.

In the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory, the multipath-mapped devices are represented by the device's `dm-uuid*` name or alias name (if you assign an alias for it in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file). The `scsi-` and `wwn-` device names represent physical paths to the devices.

---

### IMPORTANT

When using links to multipath-mapped devices, ensure that you specify the `dm-uuid*` name or alias name in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory, and not a fixed path instance of the device.

---

When you define device aliases in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, ensure that you use each device's WWID (such as `3600508e0000000009e6baa6f609e7908`) and not its WWN, which replaces the first character of a device ID with `0x`, such as `0x600508e00000000009e6baa6f609e7908`.

For information about using user-friendly names and aliases for multipathed devices, see Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119).

## 7.2.4 Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices

Ensure that the configuration file for `lvm.conf` points to the multipath-device names instead of fixed path names. This should happen automatically if `boot.multipath` is enabled and loads before `boot.lvm`.

- Section 7.2.4.1, “Adding a Multipath Device Filter in the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` File” (page 90)
- Section 7.2.4.2, “Enabling `boot.multipath`” (page 92)
- Section 7.2.4.3, “Troubleshooting MPIO Mapping for LVM Devices” (page 92)

### 7.2.4.1 Adding a Multipath Device Filter in the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` File

By default, LVM2 does not recognize multipathed devices. To make LVM2 recognize the multipathed devices as possible physical volumes, you must modify `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` to scan multipathed devices through the multipath I/O layer.

Adding a multipath filter prevents LVM from scanning and using the physical paths for raw device nodes that represent individual paths to the SAN (`/dev/sd*`). Ensure that you specify the filter path so that LVM scans only the device mapper names for the device (`/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*-mpath-.*`) after multipathing is configured.

To modify `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` for multipath use:

- 1 Open the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file in a text editor.

If `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` does not exist, you can create one based on your current LVM configuration by entering the following at a terminal console prompt:

```
lvm dumpconfig > /etc/lvm/lvm.conf
```

## 2 Change the `filter` and `types` entries in `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` as follows:

```
filter = [ "a|/dev/disk/by-id/.*/", "r|.*/" ]
types = [ "device-mapper", 1 ]
```

This allows LVM2 to scan only the by-id paths and reject everything else.

If you are using user-friendly names, specify the filter path so that only the Device Mapper names are scanned after multipathing is configured. The following filter path accepts only partitions on a multipathed device:

```
filter = [ "a|/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*-mpath-.*/", "r|.*/" ]
```

To accept both raw disks and partitions for Device Mapper names, specify the path as follows, with no hyphen (-) before `mpath`:

```
filter = [ "a|/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*mpath-.*/", "r|.*/" ]
```

## 3 If you are also using LVM2 on non-multipathed devices, make the necessary adjustments in the `filter` and `types` entries to suit your setup. Otherwise, the other LVM devices are not visible with a `pvscan` after you modify the `lvm.conf` file for multipathing.

You want only those devices that are configured with LVM to be included in the LVM cache, so ensure that you are specific about which other non-multipathed devices are included by the filter.

For example, if your local disk is `/dev/sda` and all SAN devices are `/dev/sdb` and above, specify the local and multipathing paths in the filter as follows:

```
filter = [ "a|/dev/sda.*|", "a|/dev/disk/by-id/.*/", "r|.*/" ]
types = [ "device-mapper", 253 ]
```

## 4 Save the file.

- 5 Add `dm-multipath` to `/etc/sysconfig/kernel:INITRD_MODULES`.
- 6 Make a new `initrd` to ensure that the Device Mapper Multipath services are loaded with the changed settings. Running `mkinitrd` is needed only if the root (`/`) device or any parts of it (such as `/var`, `/etc`, `/log`) are on the SAN and multipath is needed to boot.

Enter the following at a terminal console prompt:

```
mkinitrd -f multipath
```

- 7 Reboot the server to apply the changes.

## 7.2.4.2 Enabling `boot.multipath`

Multipath must be loaded before LVM to ensure that multipath maps are built correctly. Loading multipath after LVM can result in incomplete device maps for a multipath device because LVM locks the device, and MPIO cannot create the maps properly.

If the system device is a local device that does not use MPIO and LVM, you can disable both `boot.multipath` and `boot.lvm`. After the server starts, you can manually start multipath before you start LVM, then run a `pvs` command to recognize the LVM objects.

## 7.2.4.3 Troubleshooting MPIO Mapping for LVM Devices

Timing is important for starting the LVM process. If LVM starts before MPIO maps are done, LVM might use a fixed path for the device instead of its multipath. The device works, so you might not be aware that the device's MPIO map is incomplete until that fixed path fails. You can help prevent the problem by enabling `boot.multipath` and following the instructions in Section 7.2.4.1, "Adding a Multipath Device Filter in the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` File" (page 90).

To troubleshoot a mapping problem, you can use `dmsetup` to check that the expected number of paths are present for each multipath device. As the `root` user, enter the following at a command prompt:

```
dmsetup ls --tree
```



In the following sample response, the first device has four paths. The second device is a local device with a single path. The third device has two paths. The distinction between active and passive paths is not reported through this tool.

```
vg910-lv00 (253:23)
├─ 360a980006465576657346d4b6c593362 (253:10)
│  ├── (65:96)
│  ├── (8:128)
│  └── (8:240)
└─ (8:16)
vg00-lv08 (253:9)
├─ (8:3)
system_vg-data_lv (253:1)
├─ 36006016088d014007e0d0d2213ecdf11 (253:0)
│  ├── (8:32)
│  └── (8:48)
```

An incorrect mapping typically returns too few paths and does not have a major number of 253. For example, the following shows what an incorrect mapping looks like for the third device:

```
system_vg-data_lv (8:31)
├─ (8:32)
```

## 7.2.5 Using mdadm with Multipath Devices

The `mdadm` tool requires that the devices be accessed by the ID rather than by the device node path. Therefore, the `DEVICE` entry in `/etc/mdadm.conf` file should be set as follows to ensure that only device mapper names are scanned after multipathing is configured:

```
DEVICE /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*mpath-.*
```

If you are using user-friendly names or multipath aliases, specify the path as follows:

```
DEVICE /dev/disk/by-id/dm-name-.*
```

## 7.2.6 Using Multipath with NetApp Devices

When using multipath for NetApp devices, we recommend the following settings in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file:

- Set the default values for the following parameters globally for NetApp devices:

```
max_fds max
queue_without_daemon no
```

- Set the default values for the following parameters for NetApp devices in the hardware table:

```
dev_loss_tmo infinity
fast_io_fail_tmo 5
features "3 queue_if_no_path pg_init_retries 50"
```

## 7.2.7 Using --noflush with Multipath Devices

The `--noflush` option should always be used when running on multipath devices.

For example, in scripts where you perform a table reload, you use the `--noflush` option on resume to ensure that any outstanding I/O is not flushed, because you need the multipath topology information.

```
load
resume --noflush
```

## 7.2.8 SAN Timeout Settings When the Root Device Is Multipathed

A system with root (/) on a multipath device might stall when all paths have failed and are removed from the system because a `dev_loss_tmo` time-out is received from the storage subsystem (such as Fibre Channel storage arrays).

If the system device is configured with multiple paths and the multipath `no_path_retry` setting is active, you should modify the storage subsystem's `dev_loss_tmo` setting accordingly to ensure that no devices are removed during an all-paths-down scenario. We strongly recommend that you set the `dev_loss_tmo` value to be equal to or higher than the `no_path_retry` setting from multipath.

The recommended setting for the storage subsystem's `dev_loss_tmo` is:

```
<dev_loss_tmo> = <no_path_retry> * <polling_interval>
```

where the following definitions apply for the multipath values:

- `no_path_retry` is the number of retries for multipath I/O until the path is considered to be lost, and queuing of I/O is stopped.
- `polling_interval` is the time in seconds between path checks.

Each of these multipath values should be set from the `/etc/multipath.conf` configuration file. For information, see Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112).

## 7.2.9 Partitioning Multipath Devices

Behavior changes for how multipathed devices are partitioned might affect your configuration if you are upgrading.

- Section 7.2.9.1, “SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11” (page 95)
- Section 7.2.9.2, “SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10” (page 96)
- Section 7.2.9.3, “SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9” (page 96)

### 7.2.9.1 SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, the default multipath setup relies on `udev` to overwrite the existing symbolic links in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory when multipathing is started. Before you start multipathing, the link points to the SCSI device by using its `scsi-xxx` name. When multipathing is running, the symbolic link points to the device by using its `dm-uuid-xxx` name. This ensures that the symbolic links in the `/dev/disk/by-id` path persistently point to the same device regardless of whether multipath is started or not.

Ensure that the configuration files for `lvm.conf` and `md.conf` point to the multipath-device names. This should happen automatically if `boot.multipath` is enabled and loads before `boot.lvm` and `boot.md`. Otherwise, the LVM and MD configuration files might contain fixed paths for multipath-devices, and you must correct those paths to use the multipath-device names. For LVM2 and cLVM

information, see Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90). For software RAID information, see Section 7.13, “Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID” (page 147).

## 7.2.9.2 SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10, the `kpartx` software is used in the `/etc/init.d/boot.multipath` to add symlinks to the `/dev/dm-*` line in the `multipath.conf` configuration file for any newly created partitions without requiring a reboot. This triggers `udev` to fill in the `/dev/disk/by-*` symlinks. The main benefit is that you can call `kpartx` with the new parameters without rebooting the server.

## 7.2.9.3 SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9, it is not possible to partition multipath I/O devices themselves. If the underlying physical device is already partitioned, the multipath I/O device reflects those partitions and the layer provides `/dev/disk/by-id/<name>p1 . . . pN` devices so you can access the partitions through the multipath I/O layer. As a consequence, the devices need to be partitioned prior to enabling multipath I/O. If you change the partitioning in the running system, DM-MPIO does not automatically detect and reflect these changes. The device must be re-initialized, which usually requires a reboot.

## 7.2.10 Supported Architectures for Multipath I/O

The multipathing drivers and tools support all seven of the supported processor architectures: IA32, AMD64/EM64T, IPF/IA64, p-Series (32-bit and 64-bit), and z-Series (31-bit and 64-bit).

## 7.2.11 Supported Storage Arrays for Multipathing

The multipathing drivers and tools support most storage arrays. The storage array that houses the multipathed device must support multipathing in order to use the multipathing drivers and tools. Some storage array vendors provide their own

multipathing management tools. Consult the vendor's hardware documentation to determine what settings are required.

- Section 7.2.11.1, “Storage Arrays That Are Automatically Detected for Multipathing” (page 97)
- Section 7.2.11.2, “Tested Storage Arrays for Multipathing Support” (page 98)
- Section 7.2.11.3, “Storage Arrays that Require Specific Hardware Handlers” (page 99)

## 7.2.11.1 Storage Arrays That Are Automatically Detected for Multipathing

The `multipath-tools` package automatically detects the following storage arrays:

3PARdata VV  
Compaq HSV110  
Compaq MSA1000  
DDN SAN MultiDirector  
DEC HSG80  
EMC CLARiiON CX  
EMC Symmetrix  
FSC CentricStor  
Hewlett Packard (HP) A6189A  
HP HSV110  
HP HSV210  
HP Open  
Hitachi DF400  
Hitachi DF500  
Hitachi DF600  
IBM 3542  
IBM ProFibre 4000R  
NetApp  
SGI TP9100  
SGI TP9300  
SGI TP9400  
SGI TP9500

STK OPENstorage DS280  
Sun StorEdge 3510  
Sun T4

In general, most other storage arrays should work. When storage arrays are automatically detected, the default settings for multipathing apply. If you want non-default settings, you must manually create and configure the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. For information, see Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112).

Testing of the IBM zSeries device with multipathing has shown that the `dev_loss_tmo` parameter should be set to 90 seconds, and the `fast_io_fail_tmo` parameter should be set to 5 seconds. If you are using zSeries devices, you must manually create and configure the `/etc/multipath.conf` file to specify the values. For information, see Section 7.10, “Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices” (page 123).

Hardware that is not automatically detected requires an appropriate entry for configuration in the `DEVICES` section of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. In this case, you must manually create and configure the configuration file. For information, see Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112).

Consider the following caveats:

- Not all of the storage arrays that are automatically detected have been tested on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server. For information, see Section 7.2.11.2, “Tested Storage Arrays for Multipathing Support” (page 98).
- Some storage arrays might require specific hardware handlers. A hardware handler is a kernel module that performs hardware-specific actions when switching path groups and dealing with I/O errors. For information, see Section 7.2.11.3, “Storage Arrays that Require Specific Hardware Handlers” (page 99).
- After you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, you must run `mkinitrd` to re-create the `INITRD` on your system, then reboot in order for the changes to take effect.

## 7.2.11.2 Tested Storage Arrays for Multipathing Support

The following storage arrays have been tested with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server:

EMC  
Hitachi  
Hewlett-Packard/Compaq  
IBM  
NetApp  
SGI

Most other vendor storage arrays should also work. Consult your vendor's documentation for guidance. For a list of the default storage arrays recognized by the `multipath-tools` package, see Section 7.2.11.1, “Storage Arrays That Are Automatically Detected for Multipathing” (page 97).

### 7.2.11.3 Storage Arrays that Require Specific Hardware Handlers

Storage arrays that require special commands on failover from one path to the other or that require special nonstandard error handling might require more extensive support. Therefore, the Device Mapper Multipath service has hooks for hardware handlers. For example, one such handler for the EMC CLARiON CX family of arrays is already provided.

---

#### IMPORTANT

Consult the hardware vendor's documentation to determine if its hardware handler must be installed for Device Mapper Multipath.

---

The `multipath -t` command shows an internal table of storage arrays that require special handling with specific hardware handlers. The displayed list is not an exhaustive list of supported storage arrays. It lists only those arrays that require special handling and that the `multipath-tools` developers had access to during the tool development.

---

#### IMPORTANT

Arrays with true active/active multipath support do not require special handling, so they are not listed for the `multipath -t` command.

---

A listing in the `multipath -t` table does not necessarily mean that SUSE Linux Enterprise Server was tested on that specific hardware. For a list of tested

storage arrays, see Section 7.2.11.2, “Tested Storage Arrays for Multipathing Support” (page 98).

## 7.3 Multipath Management Tools

The multipathing support in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 and later is based on the Device Mapper Multipath module of the Linux 2.6 kernel and the `multipath-tools` userspace package. You can use the Multiple Devices Administration utility (MDADM, `mdadm`) to view the status of multipathed devices.

- Section 7.3.1, “Device Mapper Multipath Module” (page 100)
- Section 7.3.2, “Multipath I/O Management Tools” (page 103)
- Section 7.3.3, “Using MDADM for Multipathed Devices” (page 104)
- Section 7.3.4, “The Linux `multipath(8)` Command” (page 105)

### 7.3.1 Device Mapper Multipath Module

The Device Mapper Multipath (DM-MP) module provides the multipathing capability for Linux. DM-MPIO is the preferred solution for multipathing on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11. It is the only multipathing option shipped with the product that is completely supported by Novell and SUSE.

DM-MPIO features automatic configuration of the multipathing subsystem for a large variety of setups. Configurations of up to 8 paths to each device are supported. Configurations are supported for active/passive (one path active, others passive) or active/active (all paths active with round-robin load balancing).

The DM-MPIO framework is extensible in two ways:

- Using specific hardware handlers. For information, see Section 7.2.11.3, “Storage Arrays that Require Specific Hardware Handlers” (page 99).
- Using load-balancing algorithms that are more sophisticated than the round-robin algorithm

The user-space component of DM-MPIO takes care of automatic path discovery and grouping, as well as automated path retesting, so that a previously failed path is



automatically reinstated when it becomes healthy again. This minimizes the need for administrator attention in a production environment.

DM-MPIO protects against failures in the paths to the device, and not failures in the device itself. If one of the active paths is lost (for example, a network adapter breaks or a fiber-optic cable is removed), I/O is redirected to the remaining paths. If the configuration is active/passive, then the path fails over to one of the passive paths. If you are using the round-robin load-balancing configuration, the traffic is balanced across the remaining healthy paths. If all active paths fail, inactive secondary paths must be waked up, so failover occurs with a delay of approximately 30 seconds.

If a disk array has more than one storage processor, ensure that the SAN switch has a connection to the storage processor that owns the LUNs you want to access. On most disk arrays, all LUNs belong to both storage processors, so both connections are active.

---

**NOTE**

On some disk arrays, the storage array manages the traffic through storage processors so that it presents only one storage processor at a time. One processor is active and the other one is passive until there is a failure. If you are connected to the wrong storage processor (the one with the passive path) you might not see the expected LUNs, or you might see the LUNs but get errors when you try to access them.

---

**Table 7.1:** *Multipath I/O Features of Storage Arrays*

<b>Features of Storage Arrays</b>	<b>Description</b>
Active/passive controllers	<p>One controller is active and serves all LUNs. The second controller acts as a standby. The second controller also presents the LUNs to the multipath component so that the operating system knows about redundant paths. If the primary controller fails, the second controller takes over, and it serves all LUNs.</p> <p>In some arrays, the LUNs can be assigned to different controllers. A given LUN is assigned to one controller to be its active controller. One controller does the disk I/O for any given LUN at a time, and the</p>

<b>Features of Storage Arrays</b>	<b>Description</b>
	second controller is the standby for that LUN. The second controller also presents the paths, but disk I/O is not possible. Servers that use that LUN are connected to the LUN's assigned controller. If the primary controller for a set of LUNs fails, the second controller takes over, and it serves all LUNs.
Active/active controllers	Both controllers share the load for all LUNs, and can process disk I/O for any given LUN. If one controller fails, the second controller automatically handles all traffic.
Load balancing	The Device Mapper Multipath driver automatically load balances traffic across all active paths.
Controller failover	When the active controller fails over to the passive, or standby, controller, the Device Mapper Multipath driver automatically activates the paths between the host and the standby, making them the primary paths.
Boot/Root device support	<p>Multipathing is supported for the root (/) device in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 and later. The host server must be connected to the currently active controller and storage processor for the boot device.</p> <p>Multipathing is supported for the /boot device in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 and later.</p>

Device Mapper Multipath detects every path for a multipathed device as a separate SCSI device. The SCSI device names take the form `/dev/sdN`, where *N* is an autogenerated letter for the device, beginning with a and issued sequentially as the devices are created, such as `/dev/sda`, `/dev/sdb`, and so on. If the number of devices exceeds 26, the letters are duplicated so that the next device after `/dev/sdz` will be named `/dev/sdaa`, `/dev/sdab`, and so on.

If multiple paths are not automatically detected, you can configure them manually in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. The `multipath.conf` file does not exist

until you create and configure it. For information, see Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112).

## 7.3.2 Multipath I/O Management Tools

The `multipath-tools` user-space package takes care of automatic path discovery and grouping. It automatically tests the path periodically, so that a previously failed path is automatically reinstated when it becomes healthy again. This minimizes the need for administrator attention in a production environment.

**Table 7.2:** *Tools in the multipath-tools Package*

Tool	Description
<code>multipath</code>	Scans the system for multipathed devices and assembles them.
<code>multipathd</code>	Waits for maps events, then executes <code>multipath</code> .
<code>devmap-name</code>	Provides a meaningful device name to <code>udev</code> for device maps (devmaps).
<code>kpartx</code>	Maps linear devmaps to partitions on the multipathed device, which makes it possible to create multipath monitoring for partitions on the device.

The file list for a package can vary for different server architectures. For a list of files included in the `multipath-tools` package, go to the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Technical Specifications > Package Descriptions* Web page [<http://www.novell.com/products/server/techspecs.html?tab=1>], find your architecture and select *Packages Sorted by Name*, then search on “multipath-tools” to find the package list for that architecture.

You can also determine the file list for an RPM file by querying the package itself: using the `rpm -ql` or `rpm -qpl` command options.

- To query an installed package, enter

```
rpm -ql <package_name>
```

- To query a package not installed, enter

```
rpm -qpl <URL_or_path_to_package>
```

To check that the `multipath-tools` package is installed, do the following:

- Enter the following at a terminal console prompt:

```
rpm -q multipath-tools
```

If it is installed, the response repeats the package name and provides the version information, such as:

```
multipath-tools-04.7-34.23
```

If it is not installed, the response reads:

```
package multipath-tools is not installed
```

## 7.3.3 Using MDADM for Multipathed Devices

Udev is the default device handler, and devices are automatically known to the system by the Worldwide ID instead of by the device node name. This resolves problems in previous releases of MDADM and LVM where the configuration files (`mdadm.conf` and `lvm.conf`) did not properly recognize multipathed devices.

Just as for LVM2, MDADM requires that the devices be accessed by the ID rather than by the device node path. Therefore, the `DEVICE` entry in `/etc/mdadm.conf` should be set as follows:

```
DEVICE /dev/disk/by-id/*
```

If you are using user-friendly names, specify the path as follows so that only the device mapper names are scanned after multipathing is configured:

```
DEVICE /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*-mpath-.*
```

To verify that MDADM is installed:

- Ensure that the `mdadm` package is installed by entering the following at a terminal console prompt:

```
rpm -q mdadm
```

If it is installed, the response repeats the package name and provides the version information. For example:

```
mdadm-2.6-0.11
```

If it is not installed, the response reads:

```
package mdadm is not installed
```

For information about modifying the `/etc/lvm/lvm.conf` file, see Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90).

## 7.3.4 The Linux `multipath(8)` Command

Use the Linux `multipath(8)` command to configure and manage multipathed devices.

General syntax for the `multipath(8)` command:

```
multipath [-v verbosity] [-d] [-h|-l|-ll|-f|-F] [-p failover | multibus |  
group_by_serial | group_by_prio | group_by_node_name ] [devicename]
```

### General Examples

`multipath`

Configure all multipath devices.

`multipath devicename`

Configures a specific multipath device.

Replace *devicename* with the device node name such as `/dev/sdb` (as shown by `udev` in the `$DEVNAME` variable), or in the `major:minor` format. The device may alternatively be a multipath map name.

`multipath -f`

Selectively suppresses a multipath map, and its device-mapped partitions.

`multipath -d`

Dry run. Displays potential multipath devices, but does not create any devices and does not update device maps.

`multipath -v2 -d`

Displays multipath map information for potential multipath devices in a dry run. The `-v2` option shows only local disks. This verbosity level prints the created or updated multipath names only for use to feed other tools like `kpartx`.

There is no output if the devices already exists and there are no changes. Use `multipath -ll` to see the status of configured multipath devices.

`multipath -v2 devicename`

Configures a specific potential multipath device and displays multipath map information for it. This verbosity level prints only the created or updated multipath names for use to feed other tools like `kpartx`.

There is no output if the device already exists and there are no changes. Use `multipath -ll` to see the status of configured multipath devices.

Replace *devicename* with the device node name such as `/dev/sdb` (as shown by `udev` in the `$DEVNAME` variable), or in the `major:minor` format. The device may alternatively be a multipath map name.

`multipath -v3`

Configures potential multipath devices and displays multipath map information for them. This verbosity level prints all detected paths, multipaths, and device maps. Both `wwid` and `devnode` blacklisted devices are displayed.

`multipath -v3 devicename`

Configures a specific potential multipath device and displays information for it. The `-v3` option shows the full path list. This verbosity level prints all detected paths, multipaths, and device maps. Both `wwid` and `devnode` blacklisted devices are displayed.

Replace *devicename* with the device node name such as `/dev/sdb` (as shown by `udev` in the `$DEVNAME` variable), or in the `major:minor` format. The device may alternatively be a multipath map name.

`multipath -ll`

Display the status of all multipath devices.

`multipath -ll devicename`

Displays the status of a specified multipath device.

Replace *devicename* with the device node name such as `/dev/sdb` (as shown by `udev` in the `$DEVNAME` variable), or in the `major:minor` format. The device may alternatively be a multipath map name.

`multipath -F`

Flushes all unused multipath device maps. This unresolves the multiple paths; it does not delete the devices.

`multipath -F devicename`

Flushes unused multipath device maps for a specified multipath device. This unresolves the multiple paths; it does not delete the device.

Replace *devicename* with the device node name such as `/dev/sdb` (as shown by `udev` in the `$DEVNAME` variable), or in the `major:minor` format. The device may alternatively be a multipath map name.

`multipath -p [ failover | multibus | group_by_serial | group_by_prio | group_by_node_name ]`

Sets the group policy by specifying one of the group policy options that are described in Table 7.3, “Group Policy Options for the multipath -p Command” (page 107):

**Table 7.3:** *Group Policy Options for the multipath -p Command*

Policy Option	Description
failover	One path per priority group. You can use only one path at a time.
multibus	All paths in one priority group.
group_by_serial	One priority group per detected SCSI serial number (the controller node worldwide number).
group_by_prio	One priority group per path priority value. Paths with the same priority are in the same priority

Policy Option	Description
	group. Priorities are determined by callout programs specified as a global, per-controller, or per-multipath option in the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> configuration file.
<code>group_by_node_name</code>	One priority group per target node name. Target node names are fetched in the <code>/sys/class/fc_transport/target*/node_name</code> location.

## 7.4 Configuring the System for Multipathing

- Section 7.4.1, “Preparing SAN Devices for Multipathing” (page 108)
- Section 7.4.2, “Partitioning Multipathed Devices” (page 109)
- Section 7.4.3, “Configuring the Server for Multipathing” (page 110)
- Section 7.4.4, “Adding multipathd to the Boot Sequence” (page 110)

### 7.4.1 Preparing SAN Devices for Multipathing

Before configuring multipath I/O for your SAN devices, prepare the SAN devices, as necessary, by doing the following:

- Configure and zone the SAN with the vendor’s tools.
- Configure permissions for host LUNs on the storage arrays with the vendor’s tools.
- Install the Linux HBA driver module. Upon module installation, the driver automatically scans the HBA to discover any SAN devices that have permissions for the host. It presents them to the host for further configuration.



---

**NOTE**

Ensure that the HBA driver you are using does not have native multipathing enabled.

---

See the vendor's specific instructions for more details.

- After the driver module is loaded, discover the device nodes assigned to specific array LUNs or partitions.
- If the SAN device will be used as the root device on the server, modify the timeout settings for the device as described in Section 7.2.8, “SAN Timeout Settings When the Root Device Is Multipathed” (page 94).

If the LUNs are not seen by the HBA driver, `lsscsi` can be used to check whether the SCSI devices are seen correctly by the operating system. When the LUNs are not seen by the HBA driver, check the zoning setup of the SAN. In particular, check whether LUN masking is active and whether the LUNs are correctly assigned to the server.

If the LUNs are seen by the HBA driver, but there are no corresponding block devices, additional kernel parameters are needed to change the SCSI device scanning behavior, such as to indicate that LUNs are not numbered consecutively. For information, see *TID 3955167: Troubleshooting SCSI (LUN) Scanning Issues* in the Novell Support Knowledgebase [<http://support.novell.com/>].

## 7.4.2 Partitioning Multipathed Devices

Partitioning devices that have multiple paths is not recommended, but it is supported. You can use the `kpartx` tool to create partitions on multipathed devices without rebooting. You can also partition the device before you attempt to configure multipathing by using the Partitioner function in YaST, or by using a third-party partitioning tool.

## 7.4.3 Configuring the Server for Multipathing

The system must be manually configured to automatically load the device drivers for the controllers to which the multipath I/O devices are connected within the `initrd`. You need to add the necessary driver module to the variable `INITRD_MODULES` in the file `/etc/sysconfig/kernel`.

For example, if your system contains a RAID controller accessed by the `cciss` driver and multipathed devices connected to a QLogic controller accessed by the driver `qla2xxx`, this entry would look like:

```
INITRD_MODULES="cciss"
```

Because the QLogic driver is not automatically loaded on startup, add it here:

```
INITRD_MODULES="cciss qla23xx"
```

After changing `/etc/sysconfig/kernel`, you must re-create the `initrd` on your system with the `mkinitrd` command, then reboot in order for the changes to take effect.

When you are using LILO as a boot manager, reinstall it with the `/sbin/lilo` command. No further action is required if you are using GRUB.

## 7.4.4 Adding multipathd to the Boot Sequence

Use either of the methods in this section to add multipath I/O services (`multipathd`) to the boot sequence.

- Section 7.4.4.1, “Using YaST to Add multipathd” (page 110)
- Section 7.4.4.2, “Using the Command Line to Add multipathd” (page 111)

### 7.4.4.1 Using YaST to Add multipathd

- 1 In YaST, click *System > System Services (Runlevel) > Simple Mode*.
- 2 Select *multipathd*, then click *Enable*.

**3** Click *OK* to acknowledge the service startup message.

**4** Click *Finish*, then click *Yes*.

The changes do not take affect until the server is restarted.

## 7.4.4.2 Using the Command Line to Add multipathd

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** At the terminal console prompt, enter

```
insserv multipathd
```

# 7.5 Enabling and Starting Multipath I/O Services

To start multipath services and enable them to start at reboot:

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** At the terminal console prompt, enter

```
chkconfig multipathd on
```

```
chkconfig boot.multipath on
```

If the `boot.multipath` service does not start automatically on system boot, do the following to start them manually:

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Enter

```
/etc/init.d/boot.multipath start
```

```
/etc/init.d/multipathd start
```

## 7.6 Creating or Modifying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File

The `/etc/multipath.conf` file does not exist unless you create it. Default multipath device settings are applied automatically when the `multipathd` daemon runs unless you create the multipath configuration file and personalize the settings. The `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.synthetic` file contains a sample `/etc/multipath.conf` file that you can use as a guide for multipath settings.

Whenever you create or modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, the changes are not automatically applied when you save the file. This allows you time to perform a dry run to verify your changes before they are committed. When you are satisfied with the revised settings, you can update the multipath maps for the running `multipathd` daemon to use, or the changes will be applied the next time that the `multipathd` daemon is restarted, such as on a system restart.

- Section 7.6.1, “Creating the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 112)
- Section 7.6.2, “Sections in the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 113)
- Section 7.6.3, “Verifying the Multipath Setup in the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 114)
- Section 7.6.4, “Applying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File Changes to Update the Multipath Maps” (page 116)

### 7.6.1 Creating the `/etc/multipath.conf` File

If the `/etc/multipath.conf` file does not exist, copy the example to create the file:

- 1 In a terminal console, log in as the `root` user.
- 2 Enter the following command (all on one line, of course) to copy the template:

```
cp /usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.synthetic /etc/multipath.conf
```

- 3 Use the `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.annotated` file as a reference to determine how to configure multipathing for your system.
- 4 Ensure that there is an appropriate `device` entry for your SAN. Most vendors provide documentation on the proper setup of the `device` section.

The `/etc/multipath.conf` file requires a different `device` section for different SANs. If you are using a storage subsystem that is automatically detected (see Section 7.2.11.2, “Tested Storage Arrays for Multipathing Support” (page 98)), the default entry for that device can be used; no further configuration of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file is required.

- 5 Save the file.

## 7.6.2 Sections in the `/etc/multipath.conf` File

The `/etc/multipath.conf` file is organized in the following sections. See `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.annotated` for a template with extensive comments for each of the attributes and their options.

### defaults

General default settings for multipath I/O. For information, see Section 7.7, “Configuring Default Policies for Polling, Queueing, and Failback” (page 117).

### blacklist

Lists the device names to discard as not multipath candidates. Devices can be identified by their device node name (`devnode`), their WWID (`wwid`), or their vendor or product strings (`device`). For information, see Section 7.8, “Blacklisting Non-Multipath Devices” (page 118).

### blacklist\_exceptions

Lists the device names of devices to be treated as multipath candidates even if they are on the blacklist. Devices can be identified by their device node name (`devnode`), their WWID (`wwid`), or their vendor or product strings (`device`). You must specify the excepted devices by using the same keyword that you used in the blacklist. For example, if you used the `devnode` keyword for devices in

the blacklist, you use the `devnode` keyword to exclude some of the devices in the blacklist exceptions.

#### devices

Specifies settings for individual storage controllers. These values overwrite values specified in the `defaults` section of the configuration file. If you use a storage array that is not supported by default, you can create a `devices` subsection to specify the default settings for it. These values can be overwritten by settings for individual multipath devices if the keyword allows it.

For information, see the following:

- Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119)
- Section 7.10, “Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices” (page 123)

#### multipaths

Specifies settings for individual multipath devices. Except for settings that do not support individual settings, these values overwrite what is specified in the `defaults` and `devices` sections of the configuration file.

## 7.6.3 Verifying the Multipath Setup in the `/etc/multipath.conf` File

Whenever you create or modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, the changes are not automatically applied when you save the file. You can perform a “dry run” of the setup to verify the multipath setup before you update the multipath maps.

At the server command prompt, enter

```
multipath -v2 -d
```

This command scans the devices, then displays what the setup would look like if you commit the changes. It is assumed that the `multipathd` daemon is already running with the old (or default) multipath settings when you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file and perform the dry run. If the changes are acceptable, continue with Section 7.6.4, “Applying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File Changes to Update the Multipath Maps” (page 116).

The output is similar to the following:

```
26353900f02796769
[size=127 GB]
[features="0"]
[hwhandler="1    emc"]

\_ round-robin 0 [first]
  \_ 1:0:1:2 sdav 66:240 [ready ]
  \_ 0:0:1:2 sdr  65:16  [ready ]

\_ round-robin 0
  \_ 1:0:0:2 sdag 66:0   [ready ]
  \_ 0:0:0:2 sdc  8:32  [ready ]
```

Paths are grouped into priority groups. Only one priority group is in active use at a time. To model an active/active configuration, all paths end in the same group. To model active/passive configuration, the paths that should not be active in parallel are placed in several distinct priority groups. This normally happens automatically on device discovery.

The output shows the order, the scheduling policy used to balance I/O within the group, and the paths for each priority group. For each path, its physical address (host:bus:target:lun), device node name, major:minor number, and state is shown.

By using a verbosity level of `-v3` in the dry run, you can see all detected paths, multipaths, and device maps. Both WWID and device node blacklisted devices are displayed.

```
multipath -v3 d
```

The following is an example of `-v3` output on a 64-bit SLES server with two Qlogic HBA connected to a Xiootech Magnitude 3000 SAN. Some multiple entries have been omitted to shorten the example.

```
dm-22: device node name blacklisted
< content omitted >
loop7: device node name blacklisted
< content omitted >
md0: device node name blacklisted
< content omitted >
dm-0: device node name blacklisted
sdf: not found in pathvec
sdf: mask = 0x1f
sdf: dev_t = 8:80
sdf: size = 105005056
sdf: subsystem = scsi
```

```

sdf: vendor = XIOTech
sdf: product = Magnitude 3D
sdf: rev = 3.00
sdf: h:b:t:l = 1:0:0:2
sdf: tgt_node_name = 0x202100d0b2028da
sdf: serial = 000028DA0014
sdf: getuid = /lib/udev/scsi_id -g -u -s /block/%n (config file default)
sdf: uid = 200d0b2da28001400 (callout)
sdf: prio = const (config file default)
sdf: const prio = 1
< content omitted >
raml5: device node name blacklisted
< content omitted >
===== paths list =====
uid          hcil      dev dev_t pri dm_st  chk_st  vend/prod/rev
200d0b2da28001400 1:0:0:2 sdf 8:80  1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
200d0b2da28005400 1:0:0:1 sde 8:64  1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
200d0b2da28004d00 1:0:0:0 sdd 8:48  1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
200d0b2da28001400 0:0:0:2 sdc 8:32  1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
200d0b2da28005400 0:0:0:1 sdb 8:16  1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
200d0b2da28004d00 0:0:0:0 sda 8:0   1  [undef][undef] XIOTech,Magnitude 3D
params = 0 0 2 1 round-robin 0 1 1 8:80 1000 round-robin 0 1 1 8:32 1000
status = 2 0 0 0 2 1 A 0 1 0 8:80 A 0 E 0 1 0 8:32 A 0
sdf: mask = 0x4
sdf: path checker = directio (config file default)
directio: starting new request
directio: async io getevents returns 1 (errno=Success)
directio: io finished 4096/0
sdf: state = 2
< content omitted >

```

## 7.6.4 Applying the /etc/multipath.conf File Changes to Update the Multipath Maps

Changes to the `/etc/multipath.conf` file cannot take effect when `multipathd` is running. After you make changes, save and close the file, then do the following to apply the changes and update the multipath maps:

- 1 Stop the `multipathd` service.
- 2 Clear old multipath bindings by entering

```
/sbin/multipath -F
```

- 3 Create new multipath bindings by entering



```
/sbin/multipath -v2 -l
```

- 4 Start the `multipathd` service.
- 5 Run `mkinitrd` to re-create the `initrd` on your system, then reboot in order for the changes to take effect.

## 7.7 Configuring Default Policies for Polling, Queueing, and Failback

The goal of multipath I/O is to provide connectivity fault tolerance between the storage system and the server. The desired default behavior depends on whether the server is a standalone server or a node in a high-availability cluster.

When you configure multipath I/O for a stand-alone server, the `no_path_retry` setting protects the server operating system from receiving I/O errors as long as possible. It queues messages until a multipath failover occurs and provides a healthy connection.

When you configure multipath I/O for a node in a high-availability cluster, you want multipath to report the I/O failure in order to trigger the resource failover instead of waiting for a multipath failover to be resolved. In cluster environments, you must modify the `no_path_retry` setting so that the cluster node receives an I/O error in relation to the cluster verification process (recommended to be 50% of the heartbeat tolerance) if the connection is lost to the storage system. In addition, you want the multipath I/O fail back to be set to manual in order to avoid a ping-pong of resources because of path failures.

The `/etc/multipath.conf` file should contain a `defaults` section where you can specify default behaviors for polling, queueing, and failback. If the field is not otherwise specified in a `device` section, the default setting is applied for that SAN configuration.

The following are the compiled in default settings. They will be used unless you overwrite these values by creating and configuring a personalized `/etc/multipath.conf` file.

```
defaults {
    udev_dir           /dev
    polling_interval   5
    path_selector      "round-robin 0"
```

```

path_grouping_policy failover
getuid_callout      "/lib/udev/scsi_id --whitelisted --device=/dev/%n"
prio                const
prio_args           ""
path_checker        directio
rr_min_io_rq        1
rr_weight           uniform
failback            manual
no_path_retry       fail
user_friendly_names no
}

```

For information about setting the polling, queuing, and failback policies, see the following parameters in Section 7.11, “Configuring Path Failover Policies and Priorities” (page 124):

- “polling\_interval” (page 134)
- “no\_path\_retry” (page 131)
- “failback” (page 130)

If you modify the settings in the `defaults` section, the changes are not applied until you update the multipath maps, or until the `multipathd` daemon is restarted, such as at system restart.

## 7.8 Blacklisting Non-Multipath Devices

The `/etc/multipath.conf` file should contain a `blacklist` section where all non-multipath devices are listed. For example, local IDE hard drives and floppy drives do not normally have multiple paths. If you have single-path devices that `multipath` is trying to manage and you want `multipath` to ignore them, put them in the `blacklist` section to resolve the problem.

---

### NOTE

The keyword `devnode_blacklist` has been deprecated and replaced with the keyword `blacklist`.

---

For example, to blacklist local devices and all arrays from the `cciss` driver from being managed by `multipath`, the `blacklist` section looks like this:

```

blacklist {
    wwid 26353900f02796769
    devnode "^(ram|raw|loop|fd|md|dm-|sr|scd|st|sda)[0-9]*"
    devnode "^hd[a-z][0-9]*"
    devnode "^cciss!c[0-9]d[0-9].*"
}

```

You can also blacklist only the partitions from a driver instead of the entire array. For example, using the following regular expression blacklists only partitions from the `cciss` driver and not the entire array:

```
^cciss!c[0-9]d[0-9]*[p[0-9]*]
```

After you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, you must run `mkinitrd` to re-create the `initrd` on your system, then restart the server in order for the changes to take effect.

After you do this, the local devices should no longer be listed in the multipath maps when you issue the `multipath -ll` command.

## 7.9 Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names

A multipath device can be identified by its WWID, by a user-friendly name, or by an alias that you assign for it. Before you begin, review the requirements in Section 7.2.3, “Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipathed Devices” (page 89).

---

### IMPORTANT

Because device node names in the form of `/dev/sdn` and `/dev/dm-n` can change on reboot, referring to multipath devices by their WWID is preferred. You can also use a user-friendly name or alias that is mapped to the WWID in order to identify the device uniquely across reboots.

---

Table 7.4, “Comparison of Multipath Device Name Types” (page 120) describes the types of device names that can be used for a device in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. For an example of `multipath.conf` settings, see the `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.synthetic` file.

**Table 7.4:** Comparison of Multipath Device Name Types

<b>Name Types</b>	<b>Description</b>
WWID (default)	The serial WWID (Worldwide Identifier) is an identifier for the multipath device that is guaranteed to be globally unique and unchanging. The default name used in multipathing is the ID of the logical unit as found in the <code>/dev/disk/by-id</code> directory. For example, a device with the WWID of <code>3600508e0000000009e6baa6f609e7908</code> is listed as <code>/dev/disk/by-id/scsi-3600508e0000000009e6baa6f609e7908</code> .
User-friendly	The Device Mapper Multipath device names in the <code>/dev/mapper</code> directory also reference the ID of the logical unit. These multipath device names are user-friendly names in the form of <code>/dev/mapper/mpath&lt;n&gt;</code> , such as <code>/dev/mapper/mpath0</code> . The names are unique and persistent because they use the <code>/var/lib/multipath/bindings</code> file to track the association between the UUID and user-friendly names.
Alias	An alias name is a globally unique name that the administrator provides for a multipath device. Alias names override the WWID and the user-friendly <code>/dev/mapper/mpathN</code> names.  If you are using <code>user_friendly_names</code> , do not set the alias to <code>mpathN</code> format. This may conflict with an automatically assigned user friendly name, and give you incorrect device node names.

The global multipath `user_friendly_names` option in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file is used to enable or disable the use of user-friendly names for multipath devices. If it is set to “no” (the default), multipath uses the WWID as the name of the device. If it is set to “yes”, multipath uses the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file to assign a persistent and unique name to the device in the form of `mpath<n>` in the `/dev/mapper` directory. The `bindings` file option in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file can be used to specify an alternate location for the `bindings` file.

The global `multipath alias` option in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file is used to explicitly assign a name to the device. If an alias name is set up for a multipath device, the alias is used instead of the WWID or the user-friendly name.

Using the `user_friendly_names` option can be problematic in the following situations:

- **Root Device Is Using Multipath:** If the system root device is using multipath and you use the `user_friendly_names` option, the user-friendly settings in the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file are included in the `initrd`. If you later change the storage setup, such as by adding or removing devices, there is a mismatch between the bindings setting inside the `initrd` and the bindings settings in `/var/lib/multipath/bindings`.

---

## WARNING

A bindings mismatch between `initrd` and `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` can lead to a wrong assignment of mount points to devices, which can result in file system corruption and data loss.

---

To avoid this problem, we recommend that you use the default WWID settings for the system root device. You should not use aliases for the system root device. Because the device name would differ, using an alias causes you to lose the ability to seamlessly switch off multipathing via the kernel command line.

- **Mounting /var from Another Partition:** The default location of the `user_friendly_names` configuration file is `/var/lib/multipath/bindings`. If the `/var` data is not located on the system root device but mounted from another partition, the `bindings` file is not available when setting up multipathing.

Ensure that the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file is available on the system root device and multipath can find it. For example, this can be done as follows:

1. Move the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file to `/etc/multipath/bindings`.
2. Set the `bindings_file` option in the `defaults` section of `/etc/multipath.conf` to this new location. For example:

```

defaults {
    user_friendly_names yes
    bindings_file "/etc/multipath/bindings"
}

```

- **Multipath Is in the initrd:** Even if the system root device is not on multipath, it is possible for multipath to be included in the `initrd`. For example, this can happen if the system root device is on LVM. If you use the `user_friendly_names` option and multipath is in the `initrd`, you should boot with the parameter `multipath=off` to avoid problems.

This disables multipath only in the `initrd` during system boots. After the system boots, the `boot.multipath` and `multipathd` boot scripts are able to activate multipathing.

To enable user-friendly names or to specify aliases:

- 1 In a terminal console, log in as the `root` user.
- 2 Open the `/etc/multipath.conf` file in a text editor.
- 3 (Optional) Modify the location of the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file.

The alternate path must be available on the system root device where multipath can find it.

**3a** Move the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file to `/etc/multipath/bindings`.

**3b** Set the `bindings_file` option in the `defaults` section of `/etc/multipath.conf` to this new location. For example:

```

defaults {
    user_friendly_names yes
    bindings_file "/etc/multipath/bindings"
}

```

- 4 (Optional, not recommended) Enable user-friendly names:
  - 4a Uncomment the `defaults` section and its ending bracket.
  - 4b Uncomment the `user_friendly_names` option, then change its value from `No` to `Yes`.

For example:

```
## Use user friendly names, instead of using WWIDs as names.
defaults {
    user_friendly_names yes
}
```

## 5 (Optional) Specify your own names for devices by using the `alias` option in the `multipath` section.

For example:

```
## Use alias names, instead of using WWIDs as names.
multipaths {
    multipath {
        wwid          36006048000028350131253594d303030
        alias         blue1
    }
    multipath {
        wwid          36006048000028350131253594d303041
        alias         blue2
    }
    multipath {
        wwid          36006048000028350131253594d303145
        alias         yellow1
    }
    multipath {
        wwid          36006048000028350131253594d303334
        alias         yellow2
    }
}
```

## 6 Save your changes, then close the file.

The changes are not applied until you update the multipath maps, or until the `multipathd` daemon is restarted, such as at system restart.

# 7.10 Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices

Testing of the IBM zSeries device with multipathing has shown that the `dev_loss_tmo` parameter should be set to 90 seconds, and the `fast_io_fail_tmo`

parameter should be set to 5 seconds. If you are using zSeries devices, modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file to specify the values as follows:

```
defaults {
    dev_loss_tmo 90
    fast_io_fail_tmo 5
}
```

The `dev_loss_tmo` parameter sets the number of seconds to wait before marking a multipath link as bad. When the path fails, any current I/O on that failed path fails. The default value varies according to the device driver being used. The valid range of values is 0 to 600 seconds. To use the driver's internal timeouts, set the value to zero (0) or to any value greater than 600.

The `fast_io_fail_tmo` parameter sets the length of time to wait before failing I/O when a link problem is detected. I/O that reaches the driver fails. If I/O is in a blocked queue, the I/O does not fail until the `dev_loss_tmo` time elapses and the queue is unblocked.

If you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, the changes are not applied until you update the multipath maps, or until the `multipathd` daemon is restarted, such as at system restart.

## 7.11 Configuring Path Failover Policies and Priorities

In a Linux host, when there are multiple paths to a storage controller, each path appears as a separate block device, and results in multiple block devices for single LUN. The Device Mapper Multipath service detects multiple paths with the same LUN ID, and creates a new multipath device with that ID. For example, a host with two HBAs attached to a storage controller with two ports via a single unzoned Fibre Channel switch sees four block devices: `/dev/sda`, `/dev/sdb`, `/dev/sdc`, and `/dev/sdd`. The Device Mapper Multipath service creates a single block device, `/dev/mpath/mpath1` that reroutes I/O through those four underlying block devices.

This section describes how to specify policies for failover and configure priorities for the paths.

- Section 7.11.1, “Configuring the Path Failover Policies” (page 125)



- Section 7.11.2, “Configuring Failover Priorities” (page 125)
- Section 7.11.3, “Using a Script to Set Path Priorities” (page 138)
- Section 7.11.4, “Configuring ALUA (mpath\_prio\_alua)” (page 140)
- Section 7.11.5, “Reporting Target Path Groups” (page 142)

## 7.11.1 Configuring the Path Failover Policies

Use the `multipath` command with the `-p` option to set the path failover policy:

```
multipath devicename -p policy
```

Replace `policy` with one of the following policy options:

**Table 7.5:** *Group Policy Options for the multipath -p Command*

Policy Option	Description
failover	One path per priority group.
multibus	All paths in one priority group.
group_by_serial	One priority group per detected serial number.
group_by_prio	One priority group per path priority value. Priorities are determined by callout programs specified as a global, per-controller, or per-multipath option in the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> configuration file.
group_by_node_name	One priority group per target node name. Target node names are fetched in the <code>/sys/class/fc_transport/target*/node_name</code> location.

## 7.11.2 Configuring Failover Priorities

You must manually enter the failover priorities for the device in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. Examples for all settings and options can be

found in the `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.annotated` file.

If you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, the changes are not automatically applied when you save the file. For information, see Section 7.6.3, “Verifying the Multipath Setup in the `/etc/multipath.conf` File” (page 114) and Section 7.6.4, “Applying the `/etc/multipath.conf` File Changes to Update the Multipath Maps” (page 116).

- Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)
- Section 7.11.2.2, “Configuring for Round-Robin Load Balancing” (page 138)
- Section 7.11.2.3, “Configuring for Single Path Failover” (page 138)
- Section 7.11.2.4, “Grouping I/O Paths for Round-Robin Load Balancing” (page 138)

## 7.11.2.1 Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes

A *priority group* is a collection of paths that go to the same physical LUN. By default, I/O is distributed in a round-robin fashion across all paths in the group. The `multipath` command automatically creates priority groups for each LUN in the SAN based on the `path_grouping_policy` setting for that SAN. The `multipath` command multiplies the number of paths in a group by the group’s priority to determine which group is the primary. The group with the highest calculated value is the primary. When all paths in the primary group are failed, the priority group with the next highest value becomes active.

A *path priority* is an integer value assigned to a path. The higher the value, the higher the priority is. An external program is used to assign priorities for each path. For a given device, the paths with the same priorities belong to the same priority group.

Multipath Tools 0.4.9 for SLES 11 SP2 uses the `prio` setting in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. It silently ignores the keyword `prio` when it is specified for an individual `multipath` definition in the `multipaths{}` section. Multipath Tools 0.4.8 for SLES 11 SP1 and earlier allows the `prio` setting in the individual `multipath` definition in the

`multipaths()` section to override the `prio` settings in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section.

The syntax for the `prio` keyword in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file is changed in `multipath-tools-0.4.9`. The `prio` line specifies the prioritizer. If the prioritizer requires an argument, you specify the argument by using the `prio_args` keyword on a second line. Previously, the prioritizer and its arguments were included on the `prio` line.

### ***PRIO Settings for the Defaults or Devices Sections***

#### **prio**

Specifies the prioritizer program to call to obtain a path priority value. Weights are summed for each path group to determine the next path group to use in case of failure.

Use the `prio_args` keyword to specify arguments if the specified prioritizer requires arguments.

#### **Values**

If no `prio` keyword is specified, all paths are equal. The default setting is “const” with a `prio_args` setting with no value.

```
prio const
prio_args ""
```

Example prioritizer programs include:

<b>Prioritizer Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
alua	Generates path priorities based on the SCSI-3 ALUA settings.
const	Generates the same priority for all paths.
emc	Generates the path priority for EMC arrays.
hdc	Generates the path priority for Hitachi HDS Modular storage arrays.

<b>Prioritizer Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
hp_sw	Generates the path priority for Compaq/HP controller in active/standby mode.
ontap	Generates the path priority for NetApp arrays.
random	Generates a random priority for each path.
rdac	Generates the path priority for LSI/Engenio RDAC controller.
weightedpath	<p>Generates the path priority based on the weighted values you specify in the arguments for <code>prio_args</code>, such as:</p> <pre data-bbox="575 735 1083 784">&lt;hctl devname&gt; &lt;regex1&gt; &lt;prio1&gt; &lt;regex2&gt; &lt;prio2&gt;...</pre> <p>The <code>hctl regex</code> argument format uses the SCSI <code>H:B:T:L</code> notation (such as <code>1:0:0:0</code> and <code>*:0:0:0</code>) with a weight value, where H, B, T, L are the host, bus, target, and LUN IDs for a device. For example:</p> <pre data-bbox="575 1024 1032 1073">prio "weightedpath" prio_args "hctl 1:0:0:0 2 4:0:0:0 4"</pre> <p>The <code>devname regex</code> argument format uses a device node name with a weight value for each device. For example:</p> <pre data-bbox="575 1243 1120 1308">prio "weightedpath" prio_args "devname sda 50 sde 10 sdc 50 sdf 10"</pre>

#### prio\_args

Specifies the arguments for the specified prioritizer program that requires arguments. Most prio programs do not need arguments.

## Values

There is no default. The value depends on the `prio` setting and whether the prioritizer requires arguments.

```
prio const
prio_args ""
```

Multipath attributes are used to control the behavior of multipath I/O for devices. You can specify attributes as defaults for all multipath devices. You can also specify attributes that apply only to a given multipath device by creating an entry for that device in the `multipaths` section of the multipath configuration file.

### *Multipath Attributes*

#### `user_friendly_names`

Specifies whether to use world-wide IDs (WWIDs) or to use the `/var/lib/multipath/bindings` file to assign a persistent and unique alias to the multipath devices in the form of `/dev/mapper/mpathN`.

## Values

Value	Description
no	(Default) Use the WWIDs shown in the <code>/dev/disk/by-id/</code> location.
yes	Autogenerate user-friendly names as aliases for the multipath devices instead of the actual ID.

#### `blacklist`

Specifies the list of device names to ignore as non-multipathed devices, such as `cciss`, `fd`, `hd`, `md`, `dm`, `sr`, `scd`, `st`, `ram`, `raw`, `loop`.

## Values

For an example, see Section 7.8, “Blacklisting Non-Multipath Devices” (page 118).

#### `blacklist_exceptions`

Specifies the list of device names to treat as multipath devices even if they are included in the blacklist.

Blacklist exceptions are valid only in the same class. It is not possible to blacklist devices by using the `devnode` keyword and to exclude some devices of them by using the `wwid` keyword.

### Values

For an example, see the `/usr/share/doc/packages/multipath-tools/multipath.conf.annotated` file.

### failback

Specifies whether to monitor the failed path recovery, and indicates the timing for group failback after failed paths return to service.

When the failed path recovers, the path is added back into the multipath enabled path list based on this setting. Multipath evaluates the priority groups, and changes the active priority group when the priority of the primary path exceeds the secondary group.

### Values

Value	Description
manual	(Default) The failed path is not monitored for recovery. The administrator runs the <code>multipath</code> command to update enabled paths and priority groups.
immediate	When a path recovers, enable the path immediately.
n	When the path recovers, wait <i>n</i> seconds before enabling the path. Specify an integer value greater than 0.

We recommend failback setting of “manual” for multipath in cluster environments in order to prevent multipath failover ping-pong.

```
failback "manual"
```

---

### IMPORTANT

Ensure that you verify the failback setting with your storage system vendor. Different storage systems can require different settings.

---

## getuid

The default program and arguments to call to obtain a unique path identifier. Specify the location with an absolute Linux path.

The `getuid_callout` attribute was obsoleted by the `getuid` attribute.

### Values

The default location and arguments are:

```
/lib/udev/scsi_id -g -u -s
```

Example:

```
getuid "/lib/udev/scsi_id -g -u -d /dev/%n"
```

## no\_path\_retry

Specifies the behaviors to use on path failure.

### Values

Value	Description
n	Specifies the number of retries until <code>multipath</code> stops the queuing and fails the path. Specify an integer value greater than 0.  In a cluster, you can specify a value of “0” to prevent queuing and allow resources to fail over.
fail	Specifies immediate failure (no queuing).
queue	Never stop queuing (queue forever until the path comes alive).

We recommend a retry setting of “fail” or “0” in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file when working in a cluster. This causes the resources to fail over when the connection is lost to storage. Otherwise, the messages queue and the resource failover cannot occur.

```
no_path_retry "fail"  
no_path_retry "0"
```

---

## IMPORTANT

Ensure that you verify the retry settings with your storage system vendor. Different storage systems can require different settings.

---

### path\_checker

Determines the state of the path.

### Values

Value	Description
<code>directio</code>	(Default in <code>multipath-tools</code> version 0.4.8 and later) Reads the first sector that has direct I/O. This is useful for DASD devices. Logs failure messages in <code>/var/log/messages</code> .
<code>readsector0</code>	(Default in <code>multipath-tools</code> version 0.4.7 and earlier) Reads the first sector of the device. Logs failure messages in <code>/var/log/messages</code> .
<code>tur</code>	Issues a SCSI test unit ready command to the device. This is the preferred setting if the LUN supports it. On failure, the command does not fill up <code>/var/log/messages</code> with messages.
<code>custom_vendor_</code>	<p>Some SAN vendors provide custom <code>path_checker</code> options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>cciss_tur:</b> Checks the path state for HP Smart Storage Arrays.</li><li>• <b>emc_clariion:</b> Queries the EMC Clariion EVPD page 0xC0 to determine the path state.</li><li>• <b>hp_sw:</b> Checks the path state (Up, Down, or Ghost) for HP storage arrays with Active/Standby firmware.</li></ul>



Value	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>rdac</b>: Checks the path state for the LSI/Engenio RDAC storage controller.</li> </ul>

### path\_grouping\_policy

Specifies the path grouping policy for a multipath device hosted by a given controller.

#### Values

Value	Description
failover	(Default) One path is assigned per priority group so that only one path at a time is used.
multibus	All valid paths are in one priority group. Traffic is load-balanced across all active paths in the group.
group_by_prio	One priority group exists for each path priority value. Paths with the same priority are in the same priority group. Priorities are assigned by an external program.
group_by_serial	Paths are grouped by the SCSI target serial number (controller node WWN).
group_by_node_name	One priority group is assigned per target node name. Target node names are fetched in <code>/sys/class/fc_transport/target*/node_name</code> .

### path\_selector

Specifies the path-selector algorithm to use for load balancing.

#### Values

Value	Description
round-robin 0	(Default) The load-balancing algorithm used to balance traffic across all active paths in a priority group.

<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
least-pending 0	<p>Provides a least-pending-I/O dynamic load balancing policy for BIO (block I/O) based device mapper multipath. This load balancing policy considers the number of unserved requests pending on a path and selects the path with least count of pending service requests.</p> <p>This policy is especially useful when the SAN environment has heterogeneous components. For example, when there is one 8 GB HBA and one 2 GB HBA connected to the same server, the 8 GB HBA could be utilized better with this algorithm.</p>
queue-length 0	A dynamic load balancer that balances the number of in-flight I/O on paths similar to the least-pending option.
service-time 0	A service-time oriented load balancer that balances I/O on paths according to the latency.

pg\_timeout

Specifies path group timeout handling.

### Values

NONE (internal default)

polling\_interval

Specifies the time in seconds between the end of one path checking cycle and the beginning of the next path checking cycle.

### Values

Specify an integer value greater than 0. The default value is 5. Ensure that you verify the polling\_interval setting with your storage system vendor. Different storage systems can require different settings.

## prio\_callout

Specifies the program and arguments to use to determine the layout of the multipath map.

Multipath `prio_callout` programs are located in shared libraries in `/lib/libmultipath/lib*`. By using shared libraries, the callout programs are loaded into memory on daemon startup.

When queried by the `multipath` command, the specified `mpath_prio_*` callout program returns the priority for a given path in relation to the entire multipath layout.

When it is used with the `path_grouping_policy` of `group_by_prio`, all paths with the same priority are grouped into one multipath group. The group with the highest aggregate priority becomes the active group.

When all paths in a group fail, the group with the next highest aggregate priority becomes active. Additionally, a failover command (as determined by the hardware handler) might be send to the target.

The `mpath_prio_*` program can also be a custom script created by a vendor or administrator for a specified setup.

- A `%n` in the command line expands to the device name in the `/dev` directory.
- A `%b` in the command line expands to the device number in `major:minor` format in the `/dev` directory.
- A `%d` in the command line expands to the device ID in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory.

If devices are hot-pluggable, use the `%d` flag instead of `%n`. This addresses the short time that elapses between the time when devices are available and when `udev` creates the device nodes.

## Values

Value	Description
(No value)	If no <code>prio_callout</code> attribute is used, all paths are equal. This is the default.

<b>Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
/bin/true	Specify this value when the <code>group_by_prio</code> is not being used.

The `prioritizer` programs generate path priorities when queried by the `multipath` command. The program names must begin with `mpath_prio_` and are named by the device type or balancing method used. Current `prioritizer` programs include the following:

<b>Prioritizer Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
<code>mpath_prio_alua %n</code>	Generates path priorities based on the SCSI-3 ALUA settings.
<code>mpath_prio_balance_units</code>	Generates the same priority for all paths.
<code>mpath_prio_emc %n</code>	Generates the path priority for EMC arrays.
<code>mpath_prio_hds_modular %b</code>	Generates the path priority for Hitachi HDS Modular storage arrays.
<code>mpath_prio_hp_sw %n</code>	Generates the path priority for Compaq/HP controller in active/standby mode.
<code>mpath_prio_netapp %n</code>	Generates the path priority for NetApp arrays.
<code>mpath_prio_random %n</code>	Generates a random priority for each path.
<code>mpath_prio_rdac %n</code>	Generates the path priority for LSI/Engenio RDAC controller.
<code>mpath_prio_tpc %n</code>	You can optionally use a script created by a vendor or administrator that gets the priorities from a file where you specify priorities to use for each path.

<b>Prioritizer Program</b>	<b>Description</b>
<pre>mpath_prio_spec.sh %n</pre>	<p>Provides the path of a user-created script that generates the priorities for multipathing based on information contained in a second data file. (This path and filename are provided as an example. Specify the location of your script instead.) The script can be created by a vendor or administrator. The script's target file identifies each path for all multipathed devices and specifies a priority for each path. For an example, see Section 7.11.3, "Using a Script to Set Path Priorities" (page 138).</p>

### rr\_min\_io

Specifies the number of I/O transactions to route to a path before switching to the next path in the same path group, as determined by the specified algorithm in the `path_selector` setting.

The `rr_min_io` attribute is used only for kernels 2.6.31 and earlier. It is obsoleted in SLES 11 SP2 and replaced by the `rr_min_io_rq` attribute.

#### Values

Specify an integer value greater than 0. The default value is 1000.

```
rr_min_io "1000"
```

### rr\_min\_io\_rq

Specifies the number of I/O requests to route to a path before switching to the next path in the current path group, using request-based device-mapper-multipath.

This attribute is available for systems running SLES 11 SP2 and later. It replaces the `rr_min_io` attribute.

#### Values

Specify an integer value greater than 0. The default value is 1.

```
rr_min_io_rq "1"
```

`rr_weight`

Specifies the weighting method to use for paths.

**Values**

Value	Description
uniform	(Default) All paths have the same round-robin weights.
priorities	Each path's weight is determined by the path's priority times the <code>rr_min_io_rq</code> setting (or the <code>rr_min_io</code> setting for kernels 2.6.31 and earlier).

## 7.11.2.2 Configuring for Round-Robin Load Balancing

All paths are active. I/O is configured for some number of seconds or some number of I/O transactions before moving to the next open path in the sequence.

## 7.11.2.3 Configuring for Single Path Failover

A single path with the highest priority (lowest value setting) is active for traffic. Other paths are available for failover, but are not used unless failover occurs.

## 7.11.2.4 Grouping I/O Paths for Round-Robin Load Balancing

Multiple paths with the same priority fall into the active group. When all paths in that group fail, the device fails over to the next highest priority group. All paths in the group share the traffic load in a round-robin load balancing fashion.

## 7.11.3 Using a Script to Set Path Priorities

You can create a script that interacts with Device Mapper Multipath (DM-MPIO) to provide priorities for paths to the LUN when set as a resource for the `prio_callout` setting.

First, set up a text file that lists information about each device and the priority values you want to assign to each path. For example, name the file `/usr/local/etc/primary-paths`. Enter one line for each path in the following format:

```
host_wwpn target_wwpn scsi_id priority_value
```

Return a priority value for each path on the device. Ensure that the variable `FILE_PRIMARY_PATHS` resolves to a real file with appropriate data (host wwpn, target wwpn, scsi\_id and priority value) for each device.

The contents of the `primary-paths` file for a single LUN with eight paths each might look like this:

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200200a0b8122c6e 2:0:0:0 sdb
3600a0b8000122c6d0000000453174fc 50
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200200a0b8122c6e 2:0:0:1 sdc
3600a0b8000fd632000000045317563 2
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200200a0b8122c6e 2:0:0:2 sdd
3600a0b8000122c6d0000000345317524 50
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200200a0b8122c6e 2:0:0:3 sde
3600a0b8000fd6320000000245317593 2
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200300a0b8122c6e 2:0:1:0 sdi
3600a0b8000122c6d0000000453174fc 5
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200300a0b8122c6e 2:0:1:1 sdj
3600a0b8000fd632000000045317563 51
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200300a0b8122c6e 2:0:1:2 sdk
3600a0b8000122c6d0000000345317524 5
```

```
0x10000000c95eb4 0x200300a0b8122c6e 2:0:1:3 sdl
3600a0b8000fd6320000000245317593 51
```

To continue the example mentioned in “prio\_callout” (page 135), create a script named `/usr/local/sbin/path_prio.sh`. You can use any path and filename. The script does the following:

- On query from multipath, `grep` the device and its path from the `/usr/local/etc/primary-paths` file.

- Return to multipath the priority value in the last column for that entry in the file.

## 7.11.4 Configuring ALUA (`mpath_prio_alua`)

The `mpath_prio_alua(8)` command is used as a priority callout for the Linux `multipath(8)` command. It returns a number that is used by DM-MPIO to group SCSI devices with the same priority together. This path priority tool is based on ALUA (Asynchronous Logical Unit Access).

- Section 7.11.4.1, “Syntax” (page 140)
- Section 7.11.4.2, “Prerequisite” (page 140)
- Section 7.11.4.3, “Options” (page 140)
- Section 7.11.4.4, “Return Values” (page 141)

### 7.11.4.1 Syntax

```
mpath_prio_alua [-d directory] [-h] [-v] [-V] device [device...]
```

### 7.11.4.2 Prerequisite

SCSI devices.

### 7.11.4.3 Options

`-d directory`

Specifies the Linux directory path where the listed device node names can be found. The default directory is `/dev`. When you use this option, specify the device node name only (such as `sda`) for the device or devices you want to manage.

`-h`

Displays help for this command, then exits.



-v

Turns on verbose output to display status in human-readable format. Output includes information about which port group the specified device is in and its current state.

-V

Displays the version number of this tool, then exits.

*device* [*device...*]

Specifies the SCSI device (or multiple devices) that you want to manage. The device must be a SCSI device that supports the Report Target Port Groups (`sg_rtpg(8)`) command. Use one of the following formats for the device node name:

- The full Linux directory path, such as `/dev/sda`. Do not use with the `-d` option.
- The device node name only, such as `sda`. Specify the directory path by using the `-d` option.
- The major and minor number of the device separated by a colon (`:`) with no spaces, such as `8:0`. This creates a temporary device node in the `/dev` directory with a name in the format of `tmpdev-<major>:<minor>-<pid>`. For example, `/dev/tmpdev-8:0-<pid>`.

## 7.11.4.4 Return Values

On success, returns a value of 0 and the priority value for the group. Table 7.6, “ALUA Priorities for Device Mapper Multipath” (page 141) shows the priority values returned by the `mpath_prio_alua` command.

**Table 7.6:** *ALUA Priorities for Device Mapper Multipath*

Priority Value	Description
50	The device is in the active, optimized group.
10	The device is in an active but non-optimized group.

Priority Value	Description
1	The device is in the standby group.
0	All other groups.

Values are widely spaced because of the way the `multipath` command handles them. It multiplies the number of paths in a group with the priority value for the group, then selects the group with the highest result. For example, if a non-optimized path group has six paths ( $6 \times 10 = 60$ ) and the optimized path group has a single path ( $1 \times 50 = 50$ ), the non-optimized group has the highest score, so `multipath` chooses the non-optimized group. Traffic to the device uses all six paths in the group in a round-robin fashion.

On failure, returns a value of 1 to 5 indicating the cause for the command's failure. For information, see the man page for `mpath_prio_alua`.

## 7.11.5 Reporting Target Path Groups

Use the SCSI Report Target Port Groups (`sg_rtpg(8)`) command. For information, see the man page for `sg_rtpg(8)`.

## 7.12 Configuring Multipath I/O for the Root Device

Device Mapper Multipath I/O (DM-MPIO) is available and supported for `/boot` and `/root` in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11. In addition, the YaST partitioner in the YaST installer supports enabling multipath during the install.

- Section 7.12.1, “Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time” (page 143)
- Section 7.12.2, “Enabling Multipath I/O for an Existing Root Device” (page 146)
- Section 7.12.3, “Disabling Multipath I/O on the Root Device” (page 147)

## 7.12.1 Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time

The multipath software must be running at install time if you want to install the operating system on a multipath device. The `multipathd` daemon is not automatically active during the system installation. You can start it by using the *Configure Multipath* option in the YaST partitioner.

- Section 7.12.1.1, “Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Active Multipath Storage LUN” (page 143)
- Section 7.12.1.2, “Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Passive Multipath Storage LUN” (page 143)

### 7.12.1.1 Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Active Multipath Storage LUN

- 1 During the install on the YaST Installation Settings page, click on *Partitioning* to open the YaST partitioner.
- 2 Select *Custom Partitioning (for experts)*.
- 3 Select the *Hard Disks* main icon, click the *Configure* button, then select *Configure Multipath*.
- 4 Start multipath.

YaST starts to rescan the disks and shows available multipath devices (such as `/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-mpath-3600a0b80000f4593000012ae4ab0ae65`). This is the device that should be used for all further processing.

- 5 Click *Next* to continue with the installation.

### 7.12.1.2 Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Passive Multipath Storage LUN

The `multipathd` daemon is not automatically active during the system installation. You can start it by using the *Configure Multipath* option in the YaST partitioner.

To enable multipath I/O at install time for an active/passive multipath storage LUN:

- 1** During the install on the YaST Installation Settings page, click on *Partitioning* to open the YaST partitioner.
- 2** Select *Custom Partitioning (for experts)*.
- 3** Select the *Hard Disks* main icon, click the *Configure* button, then select *Configure Multipath*.
- 4** Start multipath.

YaST starts to rescan the disks and shows available multipath devices (such as `/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-mpath-3600a0b80000f4593000012ae4ab0ae65`). This is the device that should be used for all further processing. Write down the device path and UUID; you need it later.

- 5** Click *Next* to continue with the installation.
- 6** After all settings are done and the installation finished, YaST starts to write the boot loader information, and displays a countdown to restart the system. Stop the counter by clicking the *Stop* button and press CTRL+ALT+F5 to access a console.
- 7** Use the console to determine if a passive path was entered in the `/boot/grub/device.map` file for the `hd0` entry.

This is necessary because the installation does not distinguish between active and passive paths.

**7a** Mount the root device to `/mnt` by entering

```
mount /dev/disk/by-id/<UUID>_part2 /mnt
```

For example, enter

```
mount /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-mpath-3600a0b80000f4593000012ae4ab0ae65_part2 /mnt
```

**7b** Mount the boot device to `/mnt/boot` by entering

```
mount /dev/disk/by-id/<UUID>_part1 /mnt/boot
```

For example, enter

```
mount /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-  
mpath-3600a0b80000f4593000012ae4ab0ae65_part2 /mnt/boot
```

**7c** Open `/mnt/boot/grub/device.map` file by entering

```
less /mnt/boot/grub/device.map
```

**7d** In the `/mnt/boot/grub/device.map` file, determine if the `hd0` entry points to a passive path, then do one of the following:

- **Active path:** No action is needed; skip Step 8 (page 145) and continue with Step 9 (page 146).
- **Passive path:** The configuration must be changed and the boot loader must be reinstalled. Continue with Step 8 (page 145).

**8** If the `hd0` entry points to a passive path, change the configuration and reinstall the boot loader:

**8a** At the console, enter the following commands at the console prompt:

```
mount -o bind /dev /mnt/dev  
  
mount -o bind /sys /mnt/sys  
  
mount -o bind /proc /mnt/proc  
  
chroot
```

**8b** At the console, run `multipath -ll`, then check the output to find the active path.

Passive paths are flagged as `ghost`.

**8c** In the `/mnt/boot/grub/device.map` file, change the `hd0` entry to an active path, save the changes, and close the file.

**8d** In case the selection was to boot from MBR, `/etc/grub.conf` should look like the following:

```
setup --stage2=/boot/grub/stage2 (hd0) (hd0,0)
quit
```

**8e** Reinstall the boot loader by entering

```
grub < /etc/grub.conf
```

**8f** Enter the following commands:

```
exit

umount /mnt/*

umount /mnt
```

**9** Return to the YaST graphical environment by pressing CTRL+ALT+F7.

**10** Click *OK* to continue with the installation reboot.

## 7.12.2 Enabling Multipath I/O for an Existing Root Device

- 1** Install Linux with only a single path active, preferably one where the `by-id` symlinks are listed in the partitioner.
- 2** Mount the devices by using the `/dev/disk/by-id` path used during the install.
- 3** After installation, add `dm-multipath` to `/etc/sysconfig/kernel:INITRD_MODULES`.
- 4** For System Z, before running `mkinitrd`, edit the `/etc/zipl.conf` file to change the `by-path` information in `zipl.conf` with the same `by-id` information that was used in the `/etc/fstab`.
- 5** Re-run `/sbin/mkinitrd` to update the `initrd` image.
- 6** For System Z, after running `mkinitrd`, run `zipl`.
- 7** Reboot the server.

## 7.12.3 Disabling Multipath I/O on the Root Device

- Add `multipath=off` to the kernel command line.

This affects only the root device. All other devices are not affected.

## 7.13 Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID

Ideally, you should configure multipathing for devices before you use them as components of a software RAID device. If you add multipathing after creating any software RAID devices, the DM-MPIO service might be starting after the `multipath` service on reboot, which makes multipathing appear not to be available for RAIDs. You can use the procedure in this section to get multipathing running for a previously existing software RAID.

For example, you might need to configure multipathing for devices in a software RAID under the following circumstances:

- If you create a new software RAID as part of the Partitioning settings during a new install or upgrade.
- If you did not configure the devices for multipathing before using them in the software RAID as a member device or spare.
- If you grow your system by adding new HBA adapters to the server or expanding the storage subsystem in your SAN.

---

### NOTE

The following instructions assume the software RAID device is `/dev/mapper/mpath0`, which is its device name as recognized by the kernel. It assumes you have enabled user-friendly-names in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file as described in Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119).

Ensure that you modify the instructions for the device name of your software RAID.

---

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

Except where otherwise directed, use this console to enter the commands in the following steps.

- 2 If any software RAID devices are currently mounted or running, enter the following commands for each device to dismount the device and stop it.

```
umount /dev/mapper/mpath0
```

```
mdadm --misc --stop /dev/mapper/mpath0
```

- 3 Stop the `boot.md` service by entering

```
/etc/init.d/boot.md stop
```

- 4 Start the `boot.multipath` and `multipathd` services by entering the following commands:

```
/etc/init.d/boot.multipath start
```

```
/etc/init.s/multipathd start
```

- 5 After the multipathing services are started, verify that the software RAID's component devices are listed in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory. Do one of the following:

- **Devices Are Listed:** The device names should now have symbolic links to their Device Mapper Multipath device names, such as `/dev/dm-1`.
- **Devices Are Not Listed:** Force the multipath service to recognize them by flushing and rediscovering the devices.

To do this, enter the following commands:

```
multipath -F
```

```
multipath -v0
```



The devices should now be listed in `/dev/disk/by-id`, and have symbolic links to their Device Mapper Multipath device names. For example:

```
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 10 2011-01-06 11:42 dm-uuid-  
mpath-36006016088d014007e0d0d2213ecdf11 -> ../../dm-1
```

**6** Restart the `boot .md` service and the RAID device by entering

```
/etc/init.d/boot.md start
```

**7** Check the status of the software RAID by entering

```
mdadm --detail /dev/mapper/mpath0
```

The RAID's component devices should match their Device Mapper Multipath device names that are listed as the symbolic links of devices in the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory.

**8** Make a new `initrd` to ensure that the Device Mapper Multipath services are loaded before the RAID services on reboot. Running `mkinitrd` is needed only if the root (`/`) device or any parts of it (such as `/var`, `/etc`, `/log`) are on the SAN and multipath is needed to boot.

Enter

```
mkinitrd -f multipath
```

**9** Reboot the server to apply these post-install configuration settings.

**10** Verify that the software RAID array comes up properly on top of the multipathed devices by checking the RAID status. Enter

```
mdadm --detail /dev/mapper/mpath0
```

For example:

```
Number Major Minor RaidDevice State  
0 253 0 0 active sync /dev/dm-0  
1 253 1 1 active sync /dev/dm-1  
2 253 2 2 active sync /dev/dm-2
```

# 7.14 Scanning for New Devices without Rebooting

If your system has already been configured for multipathing and you later need to add more storage to the SAN, you can use the `rescan-scsi-bus.sh` script to scan for the new devices. By default, this script scans all HBAs with typical LUN ranges.

## Syntax

```
rescan-scsi-bus.sh [options] [host [host ...]]
```

You can specify hosts on the command line (deprecated), or use the `--hosts=LIST` option (recommended).

## Options

For most storage subsystems, the script can be run successfully without options. However, some special cases might need to use one or more of the following parameters for the `rescan-scsi-bus.sh` script:

Option	Description
<code>-l</code>	Activates scanning for LUNs 0-7. [Default: 0]
<code>-L NUM</code>	Activates scanning for LUNs 0 to NUM. [Default: 0]
<code>-w</code>	Scans for target device IDs 0 to 15. [Default: 0 to 7]
<code>-c</code>	Enables scanning of channels 0 or 1. [Default: 0]
<code>-r</code> <code>--remove</code>	Enables removing of devices. [Default: Disabled]
<code>-i</code>	Issues a Fibre Channel LIP reset. [Default: Disabled]

<b>Option</b>	<b>Description</b>
--issueLip	
--forcerescan	Rescans existing devices.
--forceremove	Removes and re-adds every device. <hr/> <b>WARNING</b> <hr/> Use with caution, this option is dangerous.
--nooptscan	Don't stop looking for LUNs if 0 is not found.
--color	Use colored prefixes OLD/NEW/DEL.
--hosts=LIST	Scans only hosts in LIST, where LIST is a comma-separated list of single values and ranges. No spaces are allowed.  --hosts=A[-B] [,C[-D]]
--channels=LIST	Scans only channels in LIST, where LIST is a comma-separated list of single values and ranges. No spaces are allowed.  --channels=A[-B] [,C[-D]]
--ids=LIST	Scans only target IDs in LIST, where LIST is a comma-separated list of single values and ranges. No spaces are allowed.  --ids=A[-B] [,C[-D]]
--luns=LIST	Scans only LUNs in LIST, where LIST is a comma-separated list of single values and ranges. No spaces are allowed.

Option	Description
	--luns=A[-B] [,C[-D]]

## Procedure

Use the following procedure to scan the devices and make them available to multipathing without rebooting the system.

- 1 On the storage subsystem, use the vendor's tools to allocate the device and update its access control settings to allow the Linux system access to the new storage. Refer to the vendor's documentation for details.
- 2 Scan all targets for a host to make its new device known to the middle layer of the Linux kernel's SCSI subsystem. At a terminal console prompt, enter

```
rescan-scsi-bus.sh [options]
```

- 3 Check for scanning progress in the system log (the `/var/log/messages` file). At a terminal console prompt, enter

```
tail -30 /var/log/messages
```

This command displays the last 30 lines of the log. For example:

```
# tail -30 /var/log/messages
. . .
Feb 14 01:03 kernel: SCSI device sde: 81920000
Feb 14 01:03 kernel: SCSI device sdf: 81920000
Feb 14 01:03 multipathd: sde: path checker registered
Feb 14 01:03 multipathd: sdf: path checker registered
Feb 14 01:03 multipathd: mpath4: event checker started
Feb 14 01:03 multipathd: mpath5: event checker started
Feb 14 01:03:multipathd: mpath4: remaining active paths: 1
Feb 14 01:03 multipathd: mpath5: remaining active paths: 1
```

- 4 Repeat Step 2 (page 152) through Step 3 (page 152) to add paths through other HBA adapters on the Linux system that are connected to the new device.
- 5 Run the `multipath` command to recognize the devices for DM-MPIO configuration. At a terminal console prompt, enter

```
multipath
```

You can now configure the new device for multipathing.

## 7.15 Scanning for New Partitioned Devices without Rebooting

Use the example in this section to detect a newly added multipathed LUN without rebooting.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user.
- 2 Scan all targets for a host to make its new device known to the middle layer of the Linux kernel's SCSI subsystem. At a terminal console prompt, enter

```
rescan-scsi-bus.sh [options]
```

For syntax and options information for the `rescan-scsi-bus-sh` script, see Section 7.14, “Scanning for New Devices without Rebooting” (page 150).

- 3 Verify that the device is seen (such as if the link has a new time stamp) by entering

```
ls -lrt /dev/dm-*
```

You can also verify the devices in `/dev/disk/by-id` by entering

```
ls -l /dev/disk/by-id/
```

- 4 Verify the new device appears in the log by entering

```
tail -33 /var/log/messages
```

- 5 Use a text editor to add a new alias definition for the device in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, such as `data_vol3`.

For example, if the UUID is `36006016088d014006e98a7a94a85db11`, make the following changes:

```
defaults {
    user_friendly_names    yes
}
multipaths {
    multipath {
        wwid    36006016088d014006e98a7a94a85db11
        alias   data_vol3
    }
}
```

## 6 Create a partition table for the device by entering

```
fdisk /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-mpath-<UUID>
```

Replace **UUID** with the device **WWID**, such as  
36006016088d014006e98a7a94a85db11.

## 7 Trigger udev by entering

```
echo 'add' > /sys/block/<dm_device>/uevent
```

For example, to generate the device-mapper devices for the partitions on **dm-8**,  
enter

```
echo 'add' > /sys/block/dm-8/uevent
```

## 8 Create a file system and label for the new partition by entering the following commands:

```
mke2fs -j /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-mpath-<UUID_partN>
tune2fs -L data_vol3 /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-<UUID_partN>
```

Replace **UUID\_part1** with the actual **UUID** and partition number, such as  
36006016088d014006e98a7a94a85db11\_part1.

## 9 Restart DM-MPIO to let it read the aliases by entering

```
/etc/init.d/multipathd restart
```

## 10 Verify that the device is recognized by multipathd by entering

```
multipath -ll
```

## 11 Use a text editor to add a mount entry in the `/etc/fstab` file.

At this point, the alias you created in Step 5 (page 153) is not yet in the `/dev/disk/by-label` directory. Add the mount entry the `/dev/dm-9` path, then change the entry before the next time you reboot to

```
LABEL=data_vol3
```

**12** Create a directory to use as the mount point, then mount the device by entering

```
md /data_vol3
```

```
mount /data_vol3
```

## 7.16 Viewing Multipath I/O Status

Querying the multipath I/O status outputs the current status of the multipath maps.

The `multipath -l` option displays the current path status as of the last time that the path checker was run. It does not run the path checker.

The `multipath -ll` option runs the path checker, updates the path information, then displays the current status information. This option always displays the latest information about the path status.

- At a terminal console prompt, enter

```
multipath -ll
```

This displays information for each multipathed device. For example:

```
3600601607cf30e00184589a37a31d911  
[size=127 GB][features="0"][hwhandler="1 emc"]
```

```
\_ round-robin 0 [active][first]  
  \_ 1:0:1:2 sdav 66:240 [ready ][active]  
  \_ 0:0:1:2 sdr 65:16 [ready ][active]
```

```
\_ round-robin 0 [enabled]  
  \_ 1:0:0:2 sdag 66:0 [ready ][active]  
  \_ 0:0:0:2 sdc 8:32 [ready ][active]
```

For each device, it shows the device's ID, size, features, and hardware handlers.

Paths to the device are automatically grouped into priority groups on device discovery. Only one priority group is active at a time. For an active/active configuration, all paths are in the same group. For an active/passive configuration, the passive paths are placed in separate priority groups.

The following information is displayed for each group:

- Scheduling policy used to balance I/O within the group, such as round-robin
- Whether the group is active, disabled, or enabled
- Whether the group is the first (highest priority) group
- Paths contained within the group

The following information is displayed for each path:

- The physical address as *host:bus:target:lun*, such as 1:0:1:2
- Device node name, such as *sda*
- Major:minor numbers
- Status of the device

## 7.17 Managing I/O in Error Situations

You might need to configure multipathing to queue I/O if all paths fail concurrently by enabling `queue_if_no_path`. Otherwise, I/O fails immediately if all paths are gone. In certain scenarios, where the driver, the HBA, or the fabric experience spurious errors, DM-MPIO should be configured to queue all I/O where those errors lead to a loss of all paths, and never propagate errors upward.

When you use multipathed devices in a cluster, you might choose to disable `queue_if_no_path`. This automatically fails the path instead of queuing the I/O, and escalates the I/O error to cause a failover of the cluster resources.



Because enabling `queue_if_no_path` leads to I/O being queued indefinitely unless a path is reinstated, ensure that `multipathd` is running and works for your scenario. Otherwise, I/O might be stalled indefinitely on the affected multipathed device until reboot or until you manually return to failover instead of queuing.

To test the scenario:

- 1 In a terminal console, log in as the `root` user.
- 2 Activate queuing instead of failover for the device I/O by entering:

```
dmsetup message device_ID 0 queue_if_no_path
```

Replace the `device_ID` with the ID for your device. The 0 value represents the sector and is used when sector information is not needed.

For example, enter:

```
dmsetup message 3600601607cf30e00184589a37a31d911 0 queue_if_no_path
```

- 3 Return to failover for the device I/O by entering:

```
dmsetup message device_ID 0 fail_if_no_path
```

This command immediately causes all queued I/O to fail.

Replace the `device_ID` with the ID for your device. For example, enter:

```
dmsetup message 3600601607cf30e00184589a37a31d911 0 fail_if_no_path
```

To set up queuing I/O for scenarios where all paths fail:

- 1 In a terminal console, log in as the `root` user.
- 2 Open the `/etc/multipath.conf` file in a text editor.
- 3 Uncomment the defaults section and its ending bracket, then add the `default_features` setting, as follows:

```
defaults {  
    default_features "1 queue_if_no_path"  
}
```

- 4 After you modify the `/etc/multipath.conf` file, you must run `mkinitrd` to re-create the `initrd` on your system, then reboot in order for the changes to take effect.
- 5 When you are ready to return over to failover for the device I/O, enter:

```
dmsetup message mapname 0 fail_if_no_path
```

Replace the *mapname* with the mapped alias name or the device ID for the device. The 0 value represents the sector and is used when sector information is not needed.

This command immediately causes all queued I/O to fail and propagates the error to the calling application.

## 7.18 Resolving Stalled I/O

If all paths fail concurrently and I/O is queued and stalled, do the following:

- 1 Enter the following command at a terminal console prompt:

```
dmsetup message mapname 0 fail_if_no_path
```

Replace *mapname* with the correct device ID or mapped alias name for the device. The 0 value represents the sector and is used when sector information is not needed.

This command immediately causes all queued I/O to fail and propagates the error to the calling application.

- 2 Reactivate queueing by entering the following command at a terminal console prompt:

```
dmsetup message mapname 0 queue_if_no_path
```

## 7.19 Troubleshooting MPIO

This section describes some known issues and possible solutions for MPIO.

- Section 7.19.1, “PRIO Settings for Individual Devices Fail After Upgrading to Multipath 0.4.9” (page 159)
- Section 7.19.2, “PRIO Settings with Arguments Fail After Upgrading to multipath-tools-0.4.9” (page 159)
- Section 7.19.3, “Technical Information Documents” (page 160)

## 7.19.1 PRIO Settings for Individual Devices Fail After Upgrading to Multipath 0.4.9

Multipath Tools 0.4.9 for SLES 11 SP2 uses the `prio` setting in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section of the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. It silently ignores the keyword `prio` when it is specified for an individual `multipath` definition in the `multipaths{}` section.

Multipath Tools 0.4.8 for SLES 11 SP1 and earlier allows the `prio` setting in the individual `multipath` definition in the `multipaths{}` section to override the `prio` settings in the `defaults{}` or `devices{}` section.

## 7.19.2 PRIO Settings with Arguments Fail After Upgrading to multipath-tools-0.4.9

When you upgrade from `multipath-tools-0.4.8` to `multipath-tools-0.4.9`, the `prio` settings in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file are broken for prioritizers that require an argument. In `multipath-tools-0.4.9`, the `prio` keyword is used to specify the prioritizer, and the `prio_args` keyword is used to specify the argument for prioritizers that require an argument. Previously, both the prioritizer and its argument were specified on the same `prio` line.

For example, in `multipath-tools-0.4.8`, the following line was used to specify a prioritizer and its arguments on the same line.

```
prio "weightedpath hbt1 [1,3]:...+ 260 [0,2]:...+ 20"
```

After upgrading to `multipath-tools-0.4.9`, the command causes an error. The message is similar to the following:

```
<Month day hh:mm:ss> | Prioritizer 'weightedpath hbt1 [1,3]:...+:+ 260  
[0,2]:...+:+ 20' not found in /lib64/multipath
```

To resolve this problem, use a text editor to modify the `prio` line in the `/etc/multipath.conf` file. Create two lines with the prioritizer specified on the `prio` line, and the prioritizer argument specified on the `prio_args` line below it:

```
prio "weightedpath"  
prio_args "hbt1 [1,3]:...+:+ 260 [0,2]:...+:+ 20"
```

## 7.19.3 Technical Information Documents

For information about troubleshooting multipath I/O issues on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, see the following Technical Information Documents (TIDs) in the Novell Support Knowledgebase:

- *Troubleshooting SLES Multipathing (MPIO) Problems (TID 3231766)* [ <http://www.novell.com/support/kb/doc.php?id=3231766> ]
- *DM MPIO Device Blacklisting Not Honored in multipath.conf (TID 3029706)* [ <http://www.novell.com/support/kb/doc.php?id=3029706> ]
- *Troubleshooting SCSI (LUN) Scanning Issues (TID 3955167)* [ <http://www.novell.com/support/kb/doc.php?id=3955167> ]
- *Using LVM on Multipath (DM MPIO) Devices* [ <http://www.novell.com/support/kb/doc.php?id=7007498> ]

## 7.20 What's Next

If you want to use software RAIDs, create and configure them before you create file systems on the devices. For information, see the following:

- Chapter 8, *Software RAID Configuration* (page 161)
- Chapter 10, *Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm* (page 177)

# Software RAID Configuration

The purpose of RAID (redundant array of independent disks) is to combine several hard disk partitions into one large virtual hard disk to optimize performance, data security, or both. Most RAID controllers use the SCSI protocol because it can address a larger number of hard disks in a more effective way than the IDE protocol and is more suitable for parallel processing of commands. There are some RAID controllers that support IDE or SATA hard disks. Software RAID provides the advantages of RAID systems without the additional cost of hardware RAID controllers. However, this requires some CPU time and has memory requirements that make it unsuitable for real high performance computers.

---

## IMPORTANT

Software RAID is not supported underneath clustered file systems such as OCFS2, because RAID does not support concurrent activation. If you want RAID for OCFS2, you need the RAID to be handled by the storage subsystem.

---

SUSE Linux Enterprise offers the option of combining several hard disks into one soft RAID system. RAID implies several strategies for combining several hard disks in a RAID system, each with different goals, advantages, and characteristics. These variations are commonly known as *RAID levels*.

- Section 8.1, “Understanding RAID Levels” (page 162)
- Section 8.2, “Soft RAID Configuration with YaST” (page 164)
- Section 8.3, “Troubleshooting Software RAIDs” (page 166)

- Section 8.4, “For More Information” (page 167)

## 8.1 Understanding RAID Levels

This section describes common RAID levels 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and nested RAID levels.

- Section 8.1.1, “RAID 0” (page 162)
- Section 8.1.2, “RAID 1” (page 162)
- Section 8.1.3, “RAID 2 and RAID 3” (page 163)
- Section 8.1.4, “RAID 4” (page 163)
- Section 8.1.5, “RAID 5” (page 163)
- Section 8.1.6, “Nested RAID Levels” (page 163)

### 8.1.1 RAID 0

This level improves the performance of your data access by spreading out blocks of each file across multiple disk drives. Actually, this is not really a RAID, because it does not provide data backup, but the name *RAID 0* for this type of system has become the norm. With RAID 0, two or more hard disks are pooled together. The performance is very good, but the RAID system is destroyed and your data lost if even one hard disk fails.

### 8.1.2 RAID 1

This level provides adequate security for your data, because the data is copied to another hard disk 1:1. This is known as *hard disk mirroring*. If a disk is destroyed, a copy of its contents is available on another mirrored disk. All disks except one could be damaged without endangering your data. However, if damage is not detected, damaged data might be mirrored to the correct disk and the data is corrupted that way. The writing performance suffers a little in the copying process compared to when using single disk access (10 to 20 percent slower), but read access is significantly faster in comparison to any one of the normal physical hard disks,

because the data is duplicated so can be scanned in parallel. RAID 1 generally provides nearly twice the read transaction rate of single disks and almost the same write transaction rate as single disks.

## 8.1.3 RAID 2 and RAID 3

These are not typical RAID implementations. Level 2 stripes data at the bit level rather than the block level. Level 3 provides byte-level striping with a dedicated parity disk and cannot service simultaneous multiple requests. Both levels are rarely used.

## 8.1.4 RAID 4

Level 4 provides block-level striping just like Level 0 combined with a dedicated parity disk. If a data disk fails, the parity data is used to create a replacement disk. However, the parity disk might create a bottleneck for write access. Nevertheless, Level 4 is sometimes used.

## 8.1.5 RAID 5

RAID 5 is an optimized compromise between Level 0 and Level 1 in terms of performance and redundancy. The hard disk space equals the number of disks used minus one. The data is distributed over the hard disks as with RAID 0. *Parity blocks*, created on one of the partitions, are there for security reasons. They are linked to each other with XOR, enabling the contents to be reconstructed by the corresponding parity block in case of system failure. With RAID 5, no more than one hard disk can fail at the same time. If one hard disk fails, it must be replaced as soon as possible to avoid the risk of losing data.

## 8.1.6 Nested RAID Levels

Several other RAID levels have been developed, such as RAIDn, RAID 10, RAID 0+1, RAID 30, and RAID 50. Some of them being proprietary implementations created by hardware vendors. These levels are not very widespread, and are not explained here.

## 8.2 Soft RAID Configuration with YaST

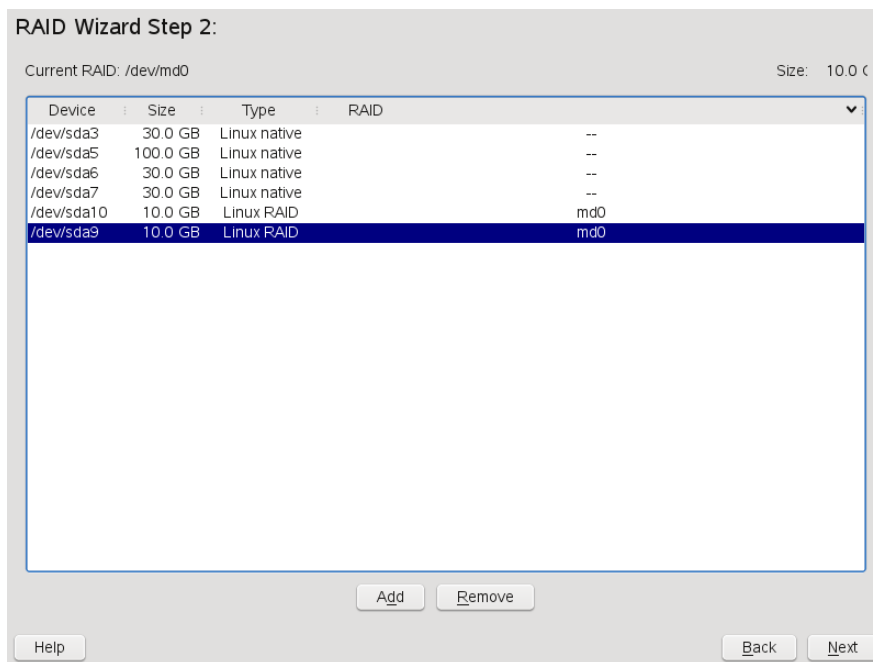
The YaST soft RAID configuration can be reached from the YaST Expert Partitioner. This partitioning tool enables you to edit and delete existing partitions and create new ones that should be used with soft RAID.

You can create RAID partitions by first clicking *Create > Do not format* then selecting *0xFD Linux RAID* as the partition identifier. For RAID 0 and RAID 1, at least two partitions are needed—for RAID 1, usually exactly two and no more. If RAID 5 is used, at least three partitions are required. It is recommended to use only partitions of the same size because each segment can contribute only the same amount of space as the smallest sized partition. The RAID partitions should be stored on different hard disks to decrease the risk of losing data if one is defective (RAID 1 and 5) and to optimize the performance of RAID 0. After creating all the partitions to use with RAID, click *RAID > Create RAID* to start the RAID configuration.

On the next page of the wizard, choose among RAID levels 0, 1, and 5, then click *Next*. The following dialog (see Figure 8.1, “RAID Partitions” (page 165)) lists all partitions with either the *Linux RAID* or *Linux native* type. No swap or DOS partitions are shown. If a partition is already assigned to a RAID volume, the name of the RAID device (for example, `/dev/md0`) is shown in the list. Unassigned partitions are indicated with “--”.



**Figure 8.1:** RAID Partitions



To add a previously unassigned partition to the selected RAID volume, first select the partition then click *Add*. At this point, the name of the RAID device is displayed next to the selected partition. Assign all partitions reserved for RAID. Otherwise, the space on the partition remains unused. After assigning all partitions, click *Next* to proceed to the settings dialog where you can fine-tune the performance (see Figure 8.2, “File System Settings” (page 166)).

**Figure 8.2:** *File System Settings*

RAID Wizard Step 3:

Format

Do not format

Format

File system

Reiser

Options

Encrypt file system

RAID Type

raid1

Chunk size in KB

4

Parity algorithm (only for RAID 5)

left-asymmetric

Fstab Options

Mount Point

/local

Help

Back

Finish

As with conventional partitioning, set the file system to use as well as encryption and the mount point for the RAID volume. After completing the configuration with *Finish*, see the `/dev/md0` device and others indicated with *RAID* in the Expert Partitioner.

## 8.3 Troubleshooting Software RAIDs

Check the `/proc/mdstat` file to find out whether a RAID partition has been damaged. In the event of a system failure, shut down your Linux system and replace the defective hard disk with a new one partitioned the same way. Then restart your system and enter the command `mdadm /dev/mdX --add /dev/sdX`. Replace X with your particular device identifiers. This integrates the hard disk automatically into the RAID system and fully reconstructs it.

Although you can access all data during the rebuild, you might encounter some performance issues until the RAID has been fully rebuilt.

## 8.4 For More Information

Configuration instructions and more details for soft RAID can be found in the HOWTOs at:

- *Linux RAID wiki* [ [https://raid.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Linux\\_Raid](https://raid.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Linux_Raid) ]
- *The Software RAID HOWTO* in the `/usr/share/doc/packages/mdadm/Software-RAID.HOWTO.html` file

Linux RAID mailing lists are also available, such as linux-raid [<http://marc.info/?l=linux-raid>].



# Configuring Software RAID1 for the Root Partition

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, the Device Mapper RAID tool has been integrated into the YaST Partitioner. You can use the partitioner at install time to create a software RAID1 for the system device that contains your root (/) partition. The `/boot` partition must be created on a separate device than the MD RAID1.

- Section 9.1, “Prerequisites for Using a Software RAID1 Device for the Root Partition” (page 169)
- Section 9.2, “Enabling iSCSI Initiator Support at Install Time” (page 170)
- Section 9.3, “Enabling Multipath I/O Support at Install Time” (page 171)
- Section 9.4, “Creating a Software RAID1 Device for the Root (/) Partition” (page 171)

## 9.1 Prerequisites for Using a Software RAID1 Device for the Root Partition

Ensure that your configuration meets the following requirements:

- You need two hard drives to create the RAID1 mirror device. The hard drives should be similarly sized. The RAID assumes the size of the smaller drive. The

block storage devices can be any combination of local (in or directly attached to the machine), Fibre Channel storage subsystems, or iSCSI storage subsystems.

- You need a third device to use for the `/boot` partition. The boot device should be a local device.
- If you are using hardware RAID devices, do not attempt to run software RAIDs on top of it.
- If you are using iSCSI target devices, you must enable the iSCSI initiator support before you create the RAID device.
- If your storage subsystem provides multiple I/O paths between the server and its directly attached local devices, Fibre Channel devices, or iSCSI devices that you want to use in the software RAID, you must enable the multipath support before you create the RAID device.

## 9.2 Enabling iSCSI Initiator Support at Install Time

If there are iSCSI target devices that you want to use for the root (`/`) partition, you must enable the iSCSI Initiator software to make those devices available to you before you create the software RAID1 device.

- 1 Proceed with the YaST install of SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 until you reach the Installation Settings page.
- 2 Click *Partitioning* to open the Preparing Hard Disk page, click *Custom Partitioning (for experts)*, then click *Next*.
- 3 On the Expert Partitioner page, expand *Hard Disks* in the *System View* panel to view the default proposal.
- 4 On the *Hard Disks* page, select *ConfigureConfigure iSCSI*, then click *Continue* when prompted to continue with initializing the iSCSI initiator configuration.

## 9.3 Enabling Multipath I/O Support at Install Time

If there are multiple I/O paths to the devices that you want to use for the root (/) partition, you must enable multipath support before you create the software RAID1 device.

- 1 Proceed with the YaST install of SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 until you reach the Installation Settings page.
- 2 Click *Partitioning* to open the Preparing Hard Disk page, click *Custom Partitioning (for experts)*, then click *Next*.
- 3 On the Expert Partitioner page, expand *Hard Disks* in the *System View* panel to view the default proposal.
- 4 On the *Hard Disks* page, select *Configure Configure Multipath*, then click *Yes* when prompted to activate multipath.

This re-scans the devices and resolves the multiple paths so that each device is listed only once in the list of hard disks.

## 9.4 Creating a Software RAID1 Device for the Root (/) Partition

- 1 Proceed with the YaST install of SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 until you reach the Installation Settings page.
- 2 Click *Partitioning* to open the Preparing Hard Disk page, click *Custom Partitioning (for experts)*, then click *Next*.
- 3 On the Expert Partitioner page, expand *Hard Disks* in the *System View* panel to view the default proposal, select the proposed partitions, then click *Delete*.
- 4 Create a `/boot` partition.
  - 4a On the Expert Partitioner page under *Hard Disks*, select the device you want to use for the `/boot` partition, then click *Add* on the *Hard Disk Partitions* tab.

- 4b** Under *New Partition Type*, select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.
  - 4c** Under *New Partition Size*, specify the size to use, then click *Next*.
  - 4d** Under *Format Options*, select *Format partition*, then select your preferred file system type (such as Ext2 or Ext3) from the drop-down list.
  - 4e** Under *Mount Options*, select *Mount partition*, then select */boot* from the drop-down list.
  - 4f** Click *Finish*.
- 5** Create a swap partition.
  - 5a** On the Expert Partitioner page under *Hard Disks*, select the device you want to use for the swap partition, then click *Add* on the *Hard Disk Partitions* tab.
  - 5b** Under *New Partition Type*, select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.
  - 5c** Under *New Partition Size*, specify the size to use, then click *Next*.
  - 5d** Under *Format Options*, select *Format partition*, then select *Swap* from the drop-down list.
  - 5e** Under *Mount Options*, select *Mount partition*, then select *swap* from the drop-down list.
  - 5f** Click *Finish*.
- 6** Set up the *0xFD Linux RAID* format for each of the devices you want to use for the software RAID1.
  - 6a** On the Expert Partitioner page under *Hard Disks*, select the device you want to use in the RAID1, then click *Add* on the *Hard Disk Partitions* tab.
  - 6b** Under *New Partition Type*, select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.
  - 6c** Under *New Partition Size*, specify to use the maximum size, then click *Next*.



**6d** Under *Format Options*, select *Do not format partition*, then select *0xFD Linux RAID* from the drop-down list.

**6e** Under *Mount Options*, select *Do not mount partition*.

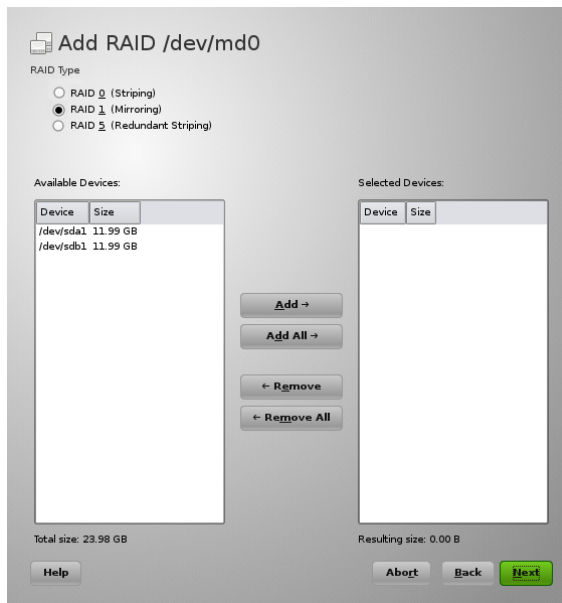
**6f** Click *Finish*.

**6g** Repeat Step 6a (page 172) to Step 6f (page 173) for each device that you plan to use in the software RAID1.

## 7 Create the RAID device.

**7a** In the *System View* panel, select *RAID*, then click *Add RAID* on the RAID page.

The devices that you prepared in Step 6 (page 172) are listed in *Available Devices*.

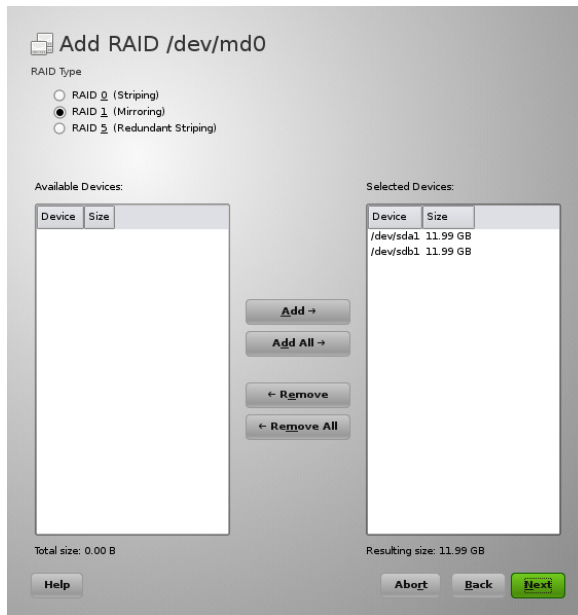


**7b** Under *RAID Type*, select *RAID 1 (Mirroring)*.

- 7c** In the *Available Devices* panel, select the devices you want to use for the RAID, then click *Add* to move the devices to the *Selected Devices* panel.

Specify two or more devices for a RAID1.

To continue the example, two devices are selected for RAID1.



- 7d** Click *Next*.

- 7e** Under *RAID Options*, select the chunk size from the drop-down list.

The default chunk size for a RAID1 (Mirroring) is 4 KB.

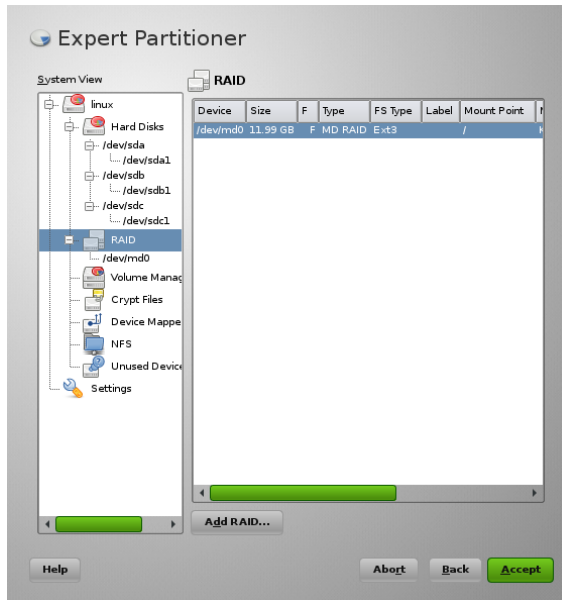
Available chunk sizes are 4 KB, 8 KB, 16 KB, 32 KB, 64 KB, 128 KB, 256 KB, 512 KB, 1 MB, 2 MB, or 4 MB.

- 7f** Under *Formatting Options*, select *Format partition*, then select the file system type (such as Ext3) from the *File system* drop-down list.

**7g** Under *Mounting Options*, select *Mount partition*, then select `/` from the *Mount Point* drop-down list.

**7h** Click *Finish*.

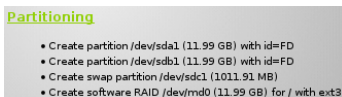
The software RAID device is managed by Device Mapper, and creates a device under the `/dev/md0` path.



**8** On the Expert Partitioner page, click *Accept*.

The new proposal appears under *Partitioning* on the Installation Settings page.

For example, the setup for the



**9** Continue with the install.

Whenever you reboot your server, Device Mapper is started at boot time so that the software RAID is automatically recognized, and the operating system on the root (/) partition can be started.

# Managing Software RAID 6 and 10 with mdadm

# 10

This section describes how to create software RAID 6 and 10 devices, using the Multiple Devices Administration (`mdadm(8)`) tool. You can also use `mdadm` to create RAID 0, 1, 4, and 5. The `mdadm` tool provides the functionality of legacy programs `mdtools` and `raidtools`.

- Section 10.1, “Creating a RAID 6” (page 177)
- Section 10.2, “Creating Nested RAID 10 Devices with `mdadm`” (page 179)
- Section 10.3, “Creating a Complex RAID 10” (page 184)
- Section 10.4, “Creating a Degraded RAID Array” (page 192)

## 10.1 Creating a RAID 6

- Section 10.1.1, “Understanding RAID 6” (page 177)
- Section 10.1.2, “Creating a RAID 6” (page 178)

### 10.1.1 Understanding RAID 6

RAID 6 is essentially an extension of RAID 5 that allows for additional fault tolerance by using a second independent distributed parity scheme (dual parity).

Even if two of the hard disk drives fail during the data recovery process, the system continues to be operational, with no data loss.

RAID 6 provides for extremely high data fault tolerance by sustaining multiple simultaneous drive failures. It handles the loss of any two devices without data loss. Accordingly, it requires N+2 drives to store N drives worth of data. It requires a minimum of 4 devices.

The performance for RAID 6 is slightly lower but comparable to RAID 5 in normal mode and single disk failure mode. It is very slow in dual disk failure mode.

**Table 10.1:** *Comparison of RAID 5 and RAID 6*

Feature	RAID 5	RAID 6
Number of devices	N+1, minimum of 3	N+2, minimum of 4
Parity	Distributed, single	Distributed, dual
Performance	Medium impact on write and rebuild	More impact on sequential write than RAID 5
Fault-tolerance	Failure of one component device	Failure of two component devices

## 10.1.2 Creating a RAID 6

The procedure in this section creates a RAID 6 device `/dev/md0` with four devices: `/dev/sda1`, `/dev/sdb1`, `/dev/sdc1`, and `/dev/sdd1`. Ensure that you modify the procedure to use your actual device nodes.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Create a RAID 6 device. At the command prompt, enter

```
mdadm --create /dev/md0 --run --level=raid6 --chunk=128 --raid-  
devices=4 /dev/sdb1 /dev/sdc1 /dev/sdc1 /dev/sdd1
```

The default chunk size is 64 KB.

- 3 Create a file system on the RAID 6 device `/dev/md0`, such as a Reiser file system (reiserfs). For example, at the command prompt, enter

```
mkfs.reiserfs /dev/md0
```

Modify the command if you want to use a different file system.

- 4 Edit the `/etc/mdadm.conf` file to add entries for the component devices and the RAID device `/dev/md0`.
- 5 Edit the `/etc/fstab` file to add an entry for the RAID 6 device `/dev/md0`.
- 6 Reboot the server.

The RAID 6 device is mounted to `/local`.

- 7 (Optional) Add a hot spare to service the RAID array. For example, at the command prompt enter:

```
mdadm /dev/md0 -a /dev/sde1
```

## 10.2 Creating Nested RAID 10 Devices with mdadm

- Section 10.2.1, “Understanding Nested RAID Devices” (page 179)
- Section 10.2.2, “Creating Nested RAID 10 (1+0) with mdadm” (page 181)
- Section 10.2.3, “Creating Nested RAID 10 (0+1) with mdadm” (page 183)

### 10.2.1 Understanding Nested RAID Devices

A nested RAID device consists of a RAID array that uses another RAID array as its basic element, instead of using physical disks. The goal of this configuration is to improve the performance and fault tolerance of the RAID.

Linux supports nesting of RAID 1 (mirroring) and RAID 0 (striping) arrays. Generally, this combination is referred to as RAID 10. To distinguish the order of the nesting, this document uses the following terminology:

- **RAID 1+0:** RAID 1 (mirror) arrays are built first, then combined to form a RAID 0 (stripe) array.
- **RAID 0+1:** RAID 0 (stripe) arrays are built first, then combined to form a RAID 1 (mirror) array.

The following table describes the advantages and disadvantages of RAID 10 nesting as 1+0 versus 0+1. It assumes that the storage objects you use reside on different disks, each with a dedicated I/O capability.

**Table 10.2:** *Nested RAID Levels*

RAID Level	Description	Performance and Fault Tolerance
10 (1+0)	RAID 0 (stripe) built with RAID 1 (mirror) arrays	<p>RAID 1+0 provides high levels of I/O performance, data redundancy, and disk fault tolerance. Because each member device in the RAID 0 is mirrored individually, multiple disk failures can be tolerated and data remains available as long as the disks that fail are in different mirrors.</p> <p>You can optionally configure a spare for each underlying mirrored array, or configure a spare to serve a spare group that serves all mirrors.</p>
10 (0+1)	RAID 1 (mirror) built with RAID 0 (stripe) arrays	<p>RAID 0+1 provides high levels of I/O performance and data redundancy, but slightly less fault tolerance than a 1+0. If multiple disks fail on one side of the mirror, then the other mirror is available. However, if disks are lost concurrently on both sides of the mirror, all data is lost.</p> <p>This solution offers less disk fault tolerance than a 1+0 solution, but if you need to perform maintenance or maintain the mirror on a different site, you can take an entire side of the mirror offline</p>



RAID Level	Description	Performance and Fault Tolerance
		<p>and still have a fully functional storage device. Also, if you lose the connection between the two sites, either site operates independently of the other. That is not true if you stripe the mirrored segments, because the mirrors are managed at a lower level.</p> <p>If a device fails, the mirror on that side fails because RAID 1 is not fault-tolerant. Create a new RAID 0 to replace the failed side, then resynchronize the mirrors.</p>

## 10.2.2 Creating Nested RAID 10 (1+0) with mdadm

A nested RAID 1+0 is built by creating two or more RAID 1 (mirror) devices, then using them as component devices in a RAID 0.

### IMPORTANT

If you need to manage multiple connections to the devices, you must configure multipath I/O before configuring the RAID devices. For information, see Chapter 7, *Managing Multipath I/O for Devices* (page 83).

The procedure in this section uses the device names shown in the following table. Ensure that you modify the device names with the names of your own devices.

**Table 10.3:** Scenario for Creating a RAID 10 (1+0) by Nesting

Raw Devices	RAID 1 (mirror)	RAID 1+0 (striped mirrors)
/dev/sdb1 /dev/sdc1	/dev/md0	/dev/md2
/dev/sdd1	/dev/md1	

Raw Devices	RAID 1 (mirror)	RAID 1+0 (striped mirrors)
/dev/sde1		

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Create 2 software RAID 1 devices, using two different devices for each RAID 1 device. At the command prompt, enter these two commands:

```
mdadm --create /dev/md0 --run --level=1 --raid-devices=2 /dev/sdb1 /dev/sdc1
```

```
mdadm --create /dev/md1 --run --level=1 --raid-devices=2 /dev/sdd1 /dev/sde1
```

**3** Create the nested RAID 1+0 device. At the command prompt, enter the following command using the software RAID 1 devices you created in Step 2 (page 182):

```
mdadm --create /dev/md2 --run --level=0 --chunk=64 --raid-devices=2 /dev/md0 /dev/md1
```

The default chunk size is 64 KB.

**4** Create a file system on the RAID 1+0 device `/dev/md2`, such as a Reiser file system (`reiserfs`). For example, at the command prompt, enter

```
mkfs.reiserfs /dev/md2
```

Modify the command if you want to use a different file system.

**5** Edit the `/etc/mdadm.conf` file to add entries for the component devices and the RAID device `/dev/md2`.

**6** Edit the `/etc/fstab` file to add an entry for the RAID 1+0 device `/dev/md2`.

**7** Reboot the server.

The RAID 1+0 device is mounted to `/local`.

## 10.2.3 Creating Nested RAID 10 (0+1) with mdadm

A nested RAID 0+1 is built by creating two to four RAID 0 (striping) devices, then mirroring them as component devices in a RAID 1.

---

### IMPORTANT

If you need to manage multiple connections to the devices, you must configure multipath I/O before configuring the RAID devices. For information, see Chapter 7, *Managing Multipath I/O for Devices* (page 83).

---

In this configuration, spare devices cannot be specified for the underlying RAID 0 devices because RAID 0 cannot tolerate a device loss. If a device fails on one side of the mirror, you must create a replacement RAID 0 device, then add it into the mirror.

The procedure in this section uses the device names shown in the following table. Ensure that you modify the device names with the names of your own devices.

**Table 10.4:** Scenario for Creating a RAID 10 (0+1) by Nesting

Raw Devices	RAID 0 (stripe)	RAID 0+1 (mirrored stripes)
/dev/sdb1 /dev/sdc1	/dev/md0	/dev/md2
/dev/sdd1 /dev/sde1	/dev/md1	

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the root user or equivalent.
- 2 Create two software RAID 0 devices, using two different devices for each RAID 0 device. At the command prompt, enter these two commands:

```
mdadm --create /dev/md0 --run --level=0 --chunk=64 --raid-devices=2 /dev/  
sdb1 /dev/sdc1
```

```
mdadm --create /dev/md1 --run --level=0 --chunk=64 --raid-devices=2 /dev/  
sdd1 /dev/sde1
```

The default chunk size is 64 KB.

- 3 Create the nested RAID 0+1 device. At the command prompt, enter the following command using the software RAID 0 devices you created in Step 2 (page 183):

```
mdadm --create /dev/md2 --run --level=1 --raid-devices=2 /dev/md0 /dev/  
md1
```

- 4 Create a file system on the RAID 0+1 device `/dev/md2`, such as a Reiser file system (`reiserfs`). For example, at the command prompt, enter

```
mkfs.reiserfs /dev/md2
```

Modify the command if you want to use a different file system.

- 5 Edit the `/etc/mdadm.conf` file to add entries for the component devices and the RAID device `/dev/md2`.
- 6 Edit the `/etc/fstab` file to add an entry for the RAID 0+1 device `/dev/md2`.
- 7 Reboot the server.

The RAID 0+1 device is mounted to `/local`.

## 10.3 Creating a Complex RAID 10

- Section 10.3.1, “Understanding the Complex RAID10” (page 184)
- Section 10.3.2, “Creating a Complex RAID 10 with mdadm” (page 189)
- Section 10.3.3, “Creating a Complex RAID10 with the YaST Partitioner” (page 190)

### 10.3.1 Understanding the Complex RAID10

In `mdadm`, the RAID10 level creates a single complex software RAID that combines features of both RAID 0 (striping) and RAID 1 (mirroring). Multiple copies of

all data blocks are arranged on multiple drives following a striping discipline. Component devices should be the same size.

- Section 10.3.1.1, “Comparing the Complex RAID10 and Nested RAID 10 (1+0)” (page 185)
- Section 10.3.1.2, “Number of Replicas in the Complex RAID10” (page 186)
- Section 10.3.1.3, “Number of Devices in the Complex RAID10” (page 186)
- Section 10.3.1.4, “Near Layout” (page 187)
- Section 10.3.1.5, “Far Layout” (page 187)
- Section 10.3.1.6, “Offset Layout” (page 188)

### 10.3.1.1 Comparing the Complex RAID10 and Nested RAID 10 (1+0)

The complex RAID 10 is similar in purpose to a nested RAID 10 (1+0), but differs in the following ways:

**Table 10.5:** *Complex vs. Nested RAID 10*

Feature	Complex RAID10	Nested RAID 10 (1+0)
Number of devices	Allows an even or odd number of component devices	Requires an even number of component devices
Component devices	Managed as a single RAID device	Manage as a nested RAID device
Striping	Striping occurs in the near or far layout on component devices.  The far layout provides sequential	Striping occurs consecutively across component devices

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Complex RAID10</b>	<b>Nested RAID 10 (1+0)</b>
	read throughput that scales by number of drives, rather than number of RAID 1 pairs.	
Multiple copies of data	Two or more copies, up to the number of devices in the array	Copies on each mirrored segment
Hot spare devices	A single spare can service all component devices	Configure a spare for each underlying mirrored array, or configure a spare to serve a spare group that serves all mirrors.

### 10.3.1.2 Number of Replicas in the Complex RAID10

When configuring an complex RAID10 array, you must specify the number of replicas of each data block that are required. The default number of replicas is 2, but the value can be 2 to the number of devices in the array.

### 10.3.1.3 Number of Devices in the Complex RAID10

You must use at least as many component devices as the number of replicas you specify. However, number of component devices in a RAID10 array does not need to be a multiple of the number of replicas of each data block. The effective storage size is the number of devices divided by the number of replicas.

For example, if you specify 2 replicas for an array created with 5 component devices, a copy of each block is stored on two different devices. The effective storage size for one copy of all data is  $5/2$  or 2.5 times the size of a component device.

## 10.3.1.4 Near Layout

With the near layout, copies of a block of data are striped near each other on different component devices. That is, multiple copies of one data block are at similar offsets in different devices. Near is the default layout for RAID10. For example, if you use an odd number of component devices and two copies of data, some copies are perhaps one chunk further into the device.

The near layout for the `mdadm` RAID10 yields read and write performance similar to RAID 0 over half the number of drives.

Near layout with an even number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1
 0    0    1    1
 2    2    3    3
 4    4    5    5
 6    6    7    7
 8    8    9    9
```

Near layout with an odd number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1 sdf1
 0    0    1    1    2
 2    3    3    4    4
 5    5    6    6    7
 7    8    8    9    9
10   10   11   11   12
```

## 10.3.1.5 Far Layout

The far layout stripes data over the early part of all drives, then stripes a second copy of the data over the later part of all drives, making sure that all copies of a block are on different drives. The second set of values starts halfway through the component drives.

With a far layout, the read performance of the `mdadm` RAID10 is similar to a RAID 0 over the full number of drives, but write performance is substantially slower than a RAID 0 because there is more seeking of the drive heads. It is best used for read-intensive operations such as for read-only file servers.

The speed of the `raid10` for writing is similar to other mirrored RAID types, like `raid1` and `raid10` using near layout, as the elevator of the file system schedules the

writes in a more optimal way than raw writing. Using raid10 in the far layout well-suited for mirrored writing applications.

Far layout with an even number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1
0 1 2 3
4 5 6 7
. . .
3 0 1 2
7 4 5 6
```

Far layout with an odd number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1 sdf1
0 1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9
. . .
4 0 1 2 3
9 5 6 7 8
```

### 10.3.1.6 Offset Layout

The offset layout duplicates stripes so that the multiple copies of a given chunk are laid out on consecutive drives and at consecutive offsets. Effectively, each stripe is duplicated and the copies are offset by one device. This should give similar read characteristics to a far layout if a suitably large chunk size is used, but without as much seeking for writes.

Offset layout with an even number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1
0 1 2 3
3 0 1 2
4 5 6 7
7 4 5 6
8 9 10 11
11 8 9 10
```

Offset layout with an odd number of disks and two replicas:

```
sda1 sdb1 sdc1 sde1 sdf1
0 1 2 3 4
4 0 1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9
```



9	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14
14	10	11	12	13

## 10.3.2 Creating a Complex RAID 10 with mdadm

The RAID10 option for mdadm creates a RAID 10 device without nesting. For information about RAID10, see Section 10.3.1, “Understanding the Complex RAID10” (page 184).

The procedure in this section uses the device names shown in the following table. Ensure that you modify the device names with the names of your own devices.

**Table 10.6:** Scenario for Creating a RAID 10 Using the mdadm RAID10 Option

Raw Devices	RAID10 (near or far striping scheme)
/dev/sdf1	/dev/md3
/dev/sdg1	
/dev/sdh1	
/dev/sdi1	

- 1 In YaST, create a 0xFD Linux RAID partition on the devices you want to use in the RAID, such as /dev/sdf1, /dev/sdg1, /dev/sdh1, and /dev/sdi1.
- 2 Open a terminal console, then log in as the root user or equivalent.
- 3 Create a RAID 10 command. At the command prompt, enter (all on the same line):

```
mdadm --create /dev/md3 --run --level=10 --chunk=4 --raid-devices=4 /dev/
sdf1 /dev/sdg1 /dev/sdh1 /dev/sdi1
```

- 4 Create a Reiser file system on the RAID 10 device /dev/md3. At the command prompt, enter

```
mkfs.reiserfs /dev/md3
```

- 5 Edit the `/etc/mdadm.conf` file to add entries for the component devices and the RAID device `/dev/md3`. For example:

```
DEVICE /dev/md3
```

- 6 Edit the `/etc/fstab` file to add an entry for the RAID 10 device `/dev/md3`.
- 7 Reboot the server.

The RAID10 device is mounted to `/raid10`.

## 10.3.3 Creating a Complex RAID10 with the YaST Partitioner

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user, then open the Partitioner.
- 2 Select *Hard Disks* to view the available disks, such as `sdab`, `sdc`, `sdd`, and `sde`.
- 3 For each disk that you will use in the software RAID, create a RAID partition on the device. Each partition should be the same size. For a RAID 10 device, you need
  - 3a Under *Hard Disks*, select the device, then select the *Partitions* tab in the right panel.
  - 3b Click *Add* to open the *Add Partition* wizard.
  - 3c Under *New Partition Type*, select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.
  - 3d For *New Partition Size*, specify the desired size of the RAID partition on this disk, then click *Next*.
  - 3e Under *Formatting Options*, select *Do not format partition*, then select *0xFD Linux RAID* from the *File system ID* drop-down list.
  - 3f Under *Mounting Options*, select *Do not mount partition*, then click *Finish*.

**3g** Repeat these steps until you have defined a RAID partition on the disks you want to use in the RAID 10 device.

**4** Create a RAID 10 device:

**4a** Select *RAID*, then select *Add RAID* in the right panel to open the *Add RAID* wizard.

**4b** Under *RAID Type*, select *RAID 10 (Mirroring and Striping)*.

**4c** In the *Available Devices* list, select the desired Linux RAID partitions, then click *Add* to move them to the *Selected Devices* list.

**4d** (Optional) Click *Classify*, specify the preferred order of the disks in the RAID array.

For RAID types where the order of added disks matters, you can specify the order in which the devices will be used to ensure that one half of the array resides on one disk subsystem and the other half of the array resides on a different disk subsystem. For example, if one disk subsystem fails, the system keeps running from the second disk subsystem.

**4di** Select each disk in turn and click one of the *Class X* buttons, where X is the letter you want to assign to the disk. Available classes are A, B, C, D and E but for many cases fewer classes are needed (e.g. only A and B). Assign all available RAID disks this way.

You can press the Ctrl or Shift key to select multiple devices. You can also right-click a selected device and choose the appropriate class from the context menu.

**4dii** Specify the order the devices by selecting one of the sorting options:

**Sorted:** Sorts all devices of class A before all devices of class B and so on. For example: AABBC.

**Interleaved:** Sorts devices by the first device of class A, then first device of class B, then all the following classes with assigned devices. Then the second device of class A, the second device of class B, and so on follows. All devices without a class are sorted to the end of devices list. For example, ABCABC.

**Pattern File:** Select an existing file that contains multiple lines, where each is a regular expression and a class name ("`sda.*A`"). All devices that match the regular expression are assigned to the specified class for that line. The regular expression is matched against the kernel name (`/dev/sda1`), the udev path name (`/dev/disk/by-path/pci-0000:00:1f.2-scsi-0:0:0:0-part1`) and then the udev ID (`/dev/disk/by-id/ata-ST3500418AS_9VMN8X8L-part1`). The first match made determines the class if a device's name matches more than one regular expression.

**4diii** At the bottom of the dialog box, click *OK* to confirm the order.

**4e** Click *Next*.

**4f** Under *RAID Options*, specify the *Chunk Size* and *Parity Algorithm*, then click *Next*.

For a RAID 10, the parity options are n (near), f (far), and o (offset). The number indicates the number of replicas of each data block are required. Two is the default. For information, see Section 10.3.1, "Understanding the Complex RAID10" (page 184).

**4g** Add a file system and mount options to the RAID device, then click *Finish*.

**5** Select *RAID*, select the newly created RAID device, then click *Used Devices* to view its partitions.

**6** Click *Next*.

**7** Verify the changes to be made, then click *Finish* to create the RAID.

## 10.4 Creating a Degraded RAID Array

A degraded array is one in which some devices are missing. Degraded arrays are supported only for RAID 1, RAID 4, RAID 5, and RAID 6. These RAID types

are designed to withstand some missing devices as part of their fault-tolerance features. Typically, degraded arrays occur when a device fails. It is possible to create a degraded array on purpose.

RAID Type	Allowable Number of Slots Missing	
RAID 1	All but one device	
RAID 4	One slot	
RAID 5	One slot	
RAID 6	One or two slots	

To create a degraded array in which some devices are missing, simply give the word `missing` in place of a device name. This causes `mdadm` to leave the corresponding slot in the array empty.

When creating a RAID 5 array, `mdadm` automatically creates a degraded array with an extra spare drive. This is because building the spare into a degraded array is generally faster than resynchronizing the parity on a non-degraded, but not clean, array. You can override this feature with the `--force` option.

Creating a degraded array might be useful if you want create a RAID, but one of the devices you want to use already has data on it. In that case, you create a degraded array with other devices, copy data from the in-use device to the RAID that is running in degraded mode, add the device into the RAID, then wait while the RAID is rebuilt so that the data is now across all devices. An example of this process is given in the following procedure:

- 1 Create a degraded RAID 1 device `/dev/md0`, using one single drive `/dev/sd1`, enter the following at the command prompt:

```
mdadm --create /dev/md0 -l 1 -n 2 /dev/sd1 missing
```

The device should be the same size or larger than the device you plan to add to it.

- 2 If the device you want to add to the mirror contains data that you want to move to the RAID array, copy it now to the RAID array while it is running in degraded mode.

- 3** Add a device to the mirror. For example, to add `/dev/sdb1` to the RAID, enter the following at the command prompt:

```
mdadm /dev/md0 -a /dev/sdb1
```

You can add only one device at a time. You must wait for the kernel to build the mirror and bring it fully online before you add another mirror.

- 4** Monitor the build progress by entering the following at the command prompt:

```
cat /proc/mdstat
```

To see the rebuild progress while being refreshed every second, enter

```
watch -n 1 cat /proc/mdstat
```

# Resizing Software RAID Arrays with mdadm

This section describes how to increase or reduce the size of a software RAID 1, 4, 5, or 6 device with the Multiple Device Administration (`mdadm(8)`) tool.

---

## WARNING

Before starting any of the tasks described in this section, ensure that you have a valid backup of all of the data.

---

- Section 11.1, “Understanding the Resizing Process” (page 195)
- Section 11.2, “Increasing the Size of a Software RAID” (page 197)
- Section 11.3, “Decreasing the Size of a Software RAID” (page 204)

## 11.1 Understanding the Resizing Process

Resizing an existing software RAID device involves increasing or decreasing the space contributed by each component partition.

- Section 11.1.1, “Guidelines for Resizing a Software RAID” (page 196)
- Section 11.1.2, “Overview of Tasks” (page 196)

## 11.1.1 Guidelines for Resizing a Software RAID

The `mdadm` (8) tool supports resizing only for software RAID levels 1, 4, 5, and 6. These RAID levels provide disk fault tolerance so that one component partition can be removed at a time for resizing. In principle, it is possible to perform a hot resize for RAID partitions, but you must take extra care for your data when doing so.

The file system that resides on the RAID must also be able to be resized in order to take advantage of the changes in available space on the device. In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11, file system resizing utilities are available for file systems Ext2, Ext3, and ReiserFS. The utilities support increasing and decreasing the size as follows:

**Table 11.1:** *File System Support for Resizing*

File System	Utility	Increase Size	Decrease Size
Ext2 or Ext3	<code>resize2fs</code>	Yes, offline only	Yes, offline only
ReiserFS	<code>resize_reiserfs</code>	Yes, online or offline	Yes, offline only

Resizing any partition or file system involves some risks that can potentially result in losing data.

---

### WARNING

To avoid data loss, ensure that you back up your data before you begin any resizing task.

---

## 11.1.2 Overview of Tasks

Resizing the RAID involves the following tasks. The order in which these tasks is performed depends on whether you are increasing or decreasing its size.



**Table 11.2:** *Tasks Involved in Resizing a RAID*

<b>Tasks</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Order If Increasing Size</b>	<b>Order If Decreasing Size</b>
Resize each of the component partitions.	Increase or decrease the active size of each component partition. You remove only one component partition at a time, modify its size, then return it to the RAID.	1	2
Resize the software RAID itself.	The RAID does not automatically know about the increases or decreases you make to the underlying component partitions. You must inform it about the new size.	2	3
Resize the file system.	You must resize the file system that resides on the RAID. This is possible only for file systems that provide tools for resizing, such as Ext2, Ext3, and ReiserFS.	3	1

## 11.2 Increasing the Size of a Software RAID

Before you begin, review the guidelines in Section 11.1, “Understanding the Resizing Process” (page 195).

- Section 11.2.1, “Increasing the Size of Component Partitions” (page 198)
- Section 11.2.2, “Increasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 200)
- Section 11.2.3, “Increasing the Size of the File System” (page 201)

## 11.2.1 Increasing the Size of Component Partitions

Apply the procedure in this section to increase the size of a RAID 1, 4, 5, or 6. For each component partition in the RAID, remove the partition from the RAID, modify its size, return it to the RAID, then wait until the RAID stabilizes to continue. While a partition is removed, the RAID operates in degraded mode and has no or reduced disk fault tolerance. Even for RAIDs that can tolerate multiple concurrent disk failures, do not remove more than one component partition at a time.

---

### WARNING

If a RAID does not have disk fault tolerance, or it is simply not consistent, data loss results if you remove any of its partitions. Be very careful when removing partitions, and ensure that you have a backup of your data available.

---

The procedure in this section uses the device names shown in the following table. Ensure that you modify the names to use the names of your own devices.

**Table 11.3:** *Scenario for Increasing the Size of Component Partitions*

RAID Device	Component Partitions
/dev/md0	/dev/sda1
	/dev/sdb1
	/dev/sdc1

---

To increase the size of the component partitions for the RAID:

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Ensure that the RAID array is consistent and synchronized by entering

```
cat /proc/mdstat
```

If your RAID array is still synchronizing according to the output of this command, you must wait until synchronization is complete before continuing.

- 3** Remove one of the component partitions from the RAID array. For example, to remove `/dev/sda1`, enter

```
mdadm /dev/md0 --fail /dev/sda1 --remove /dev/sda1
```

In order to succeed, both the fail and remove actions must be done.

- 4** Increase the size of the partition that you removed in Step 3 (page 199) by doing one of the following:

- Increase the size of the partition, using a disk partitioner such as `fdisk(8)`, `cgdisk(8)`, or `parted(8)`. This option is the usual choice.
- Replace the disk on which the partition resides with a higher-capacity device.

This option is possible only if no other file systems on the original disk are accessed by the system. When the replacement device is added back into the RAID, it takes much longer to synchronize the data because all of the data that was on the original device must be rebuilt.

- 5** Re-add the partition to the RAID array. For example, to add `/dev/sda1`, enter

```
mdadm -a /dev/md0 /dev/sda1
```

Wait until the RAID is synchronized and consistent before continuing with the next partition.

- 6** Repeat Step 2 (page 198) through Step 5 (page 199) for each of the remaining component devices in the array. Ensure that you modify the commands for the correct component partition.
- 7** If you get a message that tells you that the kernel could not re-read the partition table for the RAID, you must reboot the computer after all partitions have been resized to force an update of the partition table.
- 8** Continue with Section 11.2.2, “Increasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 200).

## 11.2.2 Increasing the Size of the RAID Array

After you have resized each of the component partitions in the RAID (see Section 11.2.1, “Increasing the Size of Component Partitions” (page 198)), the RAID array configuration continues to use the original array size until you force it to be aware of the newly available space. You can specify a size for the RAID or use the maximum available space.

The procedure in this section uses the device name `/dev/md0` for the RAID device. Ensure that you modify the name to use the name of your own device.

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Check the size of the array and the device size known to the array by entering

```
mdadm -D /dev/md0 | grep -e "Array Size" -e "Device Size"
```

- 3 Do one of the following:

- Increase the size of the array to the maximum available size by entering

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md0 -z max
```

- Increase the size of the array to the maximum available size by entering

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md0 -z max --assume-clean
```

The array makes use of any space that has been added to the devices, but this space will not be synchronized. This is recommended for RAID1 because the sync is not needed. It can be useful for other RAID levels if the space that was added to the member devices was pre-zeroed.

- Increase the size of the array to a specified value by entering

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md0 -z size
```

Replace *size* with an integer value in kilobytes (a kilobyte is 1024 bytes) for the desired size.

- 4 Recheck the size of your array and the device size known to the array by entering

```
mdadm -D /dev/md0 | grep -e "Array Size" -e "Device Size"
```

## 5 Do one of the following:

- If your array was successfully resized, continue with Section 11.2.3, “Increasing the Size of the File System” (page 201).
- If your array was not resized as you expected, you must reboot, then try this procedure again.

## 11.2.3 Increasing the Size of the File System

After you increase the size of the array (see Section 11.2.2, “Increasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 200)), you are ready to resize the file system.

You can increase the size of the file system to the maximum space available or specify an exact size. When specifying an exact size for the file system, ensure that the new size satisfies the following conditions:

- The new size must be greater than the size of the existing data; otherwise, data loss occurs.
- The new size must be equal to or less than the current RAID size because the file system size cannot extend beyond the space available.

### 11.2.3.1 Ext2 or Ext3

Ext2 and Ext3 file systems can be resized when mounted or unmounted with the `resize2fs` command.

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Increase the size of the file system using one of the following methods:

- To extend the file system size to the maximum available size of the software RAID device called `/dev/md0`, enter

```
resize2fs /dev/md0
```

If a size parameter is not specified, the size defaults to the size of the partition.

- To extend the file system to a specific size, enter

```
resize2fs /dev/md0 size
```

The *size* parameter specifies the requested new size of the file system. If no units are specified, the unit of the size parameter is the block size of the file system. Optionally, the size parameter can be suffixed by one of the following the unit designators: s for 512 byte sectors; K for kilobytes (1 kilobyte is 1024 bytes); M for megabytes; or G for gigabytes.

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

- 3** If the file system is not mounted, mount it now.

For example, to mount an Ext2 file system for a RAID named `/dev/md0` at mount point `/raid`, enter

```
mount -t ext2 /dev/md0 /raid
```

- 4** Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

## 11.2.3.2 ReiserFS

As with Ext2 and Ext3, a ReiserFS file system can be increased in size while mounted or unmounted. The resize is done on the block device of your RAID array.

- 1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2** Increase the size of the file system on the software RAID device called `/dev/md0`, using one of the following methods:

- To extend the file system size to the maximum available size of the device, enter

```
resize_reiserfs /dev/md0
```

When no size is specified, this increases the volume to the full size of the partition.

- To extend the file system to a specific size, enter

```
resize_reiserfs -s size /dev/md0
```

Replace *size* with the desired size in bytes. You can also specify units on the value, such as 50000K (kilobytes), 250M (megabytes), or 2G (gigabytes). Alternatively, you can specify an increase to the current size by prefixing the value with a plus (+) sign. For example, the following command increases the size of the file system on `/dev/md0` by 500 MB:

```
resize_reiserfs -s +500M /dev/md0
```

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

### 3 If the file system is not mounted, mount it now.

For example, to mount an ReiserFS file system for a RAID named `/dev/md0` at mount point `/raid`, enter

```
mount -t reiserfs /dev/md0 /raid
```

### 4 Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

# 11.3 Decreasing the Size of a Software RAID

Before you begin, review the guidelines in Section 11.1, “Understanding the Resizing Process” (page 195).

- Section 11.3.1, “Decreasing the Size of the File System” (page 204)
- Section 11.3.2, “Decreasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 206)
- Section 11.3.3, “Decreasing the Size of Component Partitions” (page 207)

## 11.3.1 Decreasing the Size of the File System

When decreasing the size of the file system on a RAID device, ensure that the new size satisfies the following conditions:

- The new size must be greater than the size of the existing data; otherwise, data loss occurs.
- The new size must be equal to or less than the current RAID size because the file system size cannot extend beyond the space available.

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, Ext2, Ext3, and ReiserFS provide utilities for decreasing the size of the file system. Use the appropriate procedure below for decreasing the size of your file system.

The procedures in this section use the device name `/dev/md0` for the RAID device. Ensure that you modify commands to use the name of your own device.

- Section 11.3.1.1, “Ext2 or Ext3” (page 204)
- Section 11.3.1.2, “ReiserFS” (page 205)

### 11.3.1.1 Ext2 or Ext3

The Ext2 and Ext3 file systems can be resized when mounted or unmounted.



**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Decrease the size of the file system on the RAID by entering

```
resize2fs /dev/md0 <size>
```

Replace *size* with an integer value in kilobytes for the desired size. (A kilobyte is 1024 bytes.)

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

**3** If the file system is not mounted, mount it now. For example, to mount an Ext2 file system for a RAID named `/dev/md0` at mount point `/raid`, enter

```
mount -t ext2 /dev/md0 /raid
```

**4** Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

**5** Continue with Section 11.3.2, “Decreasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 206).

## 11.3.1.2 ReiserFS

ReiserFS file systems can be decreased in size only if the volume is unmounted.

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Unmount the device by entering

```
umount /mnt/point
```

If the partition you are attempting to decrease in size contains system files (such as the root (`/`) volume), unmounting is possible only when booting from a bootable CD or floppy.

- 3 Decrease the size of the file system on the software RAID device called `/dev/md0` by entering

```
resize_reiserfs -s size /dev/md0
```

Replace *size* with the desired size in bytes. You can also specify units on the value, such as 50000K (kilobytes), 250M (megabytes), or 2G (gigabytes). Alternatively, you can specify a decrease to the current size by prefixing the value with a minus (-) sign. For example, the following command reduces the size of the file system on `/dev/md0` by 500 MB:

```
resize_reiserfs -s -500M /dev/md0
```

Wait until the resizing is completed before continuing.

- 4 Mount the file system by entering

```
mount -t reiserfs /dev/md0 /mnt/point
```

- 5 Check the effect of the resize on the mounted file system by entering

```
df -h
```

The Disk Free (`df`) command shows the total size of the disk, the number of blocks used, and the number of blocks available on the file system. The `-h` option print sizes in human-readable format, such as 1K, 234M, or 2G.

- 6 Continue with Section 11.3.2, “Decreasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 206).

## 11.3.2 Decreasing the Size of the RAID Array

After you have resized the file system, the RAID array configuration continues to use the original array size until you force it to reduce the available space. Use the `mdadm --grow` mode to force the RAID to use a smaller segment size. To do this, you must use the `-z` option to specify the amount of space in kilobytes to use from each device in the RAID. This size must be a multiple of the chunk size, and it must leave about 128KB of space for the RAID superblock to be written to the device.

The procedure in this section uses the device name `/dev/md0` for the RAID device. Ensure that you modify commands to use the name of your own device.

**1** Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.

**2** Check the size of the array and the device size known to the array by entering

```
mdadm -D /dev/md0 | grep -e "Array Size" -e "Device Size"
```

**3** Decrease the size of the array's device size to a specified value by entering

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md0 -z <size>
```

Replace *size* with an integer value in kilobytes for the desired size. (A kilobyte is 1024 bytes.)

For example, the following command sets the segment size for each RAID device to about 40 GB where the chunk size is 64 KB. It includes 128 KB for the RAID superblock.

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md2 -z 41943168
```

**4** Recheck the size of your array and the device size known to the array by entering

```
mdadm -D /dev/md0 | grep -e "Array Size" -e "Device Size"
```

**5** Do one of the following:

- If your array was successfully resized, continue with Section 11.3.3, “Decreasing the Size of Component Partitions” (page 207).
- If your array was not resized as you expected, you must reboot, then try this procedure again.

## 11.3.3 Decreasing the Size of Component Partitions

After you decrease the segment size that is used on each device in the RAID, the remaining space in each component partition is not used by the RAID. You can leave partitions at their current size to allow for the RAID to grow at a future time, or you can reclaim this now unused space.

To reclaim the space, you decrease the component partitions one at a time. For each component partition, you remove it from the RAID, reduce its partition size, return the partition to the RAID, then wait until the RAID stabilizes. To allow for metadata, you should specify a slightly larger size than the size you specified for the RAID in Section 11.3.2, “Decreasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 206).

While a partition is removed, the RAID operates in degraded mode and has no or reduced disk fault tolerance. Even for RAID configurations that can tolerate multiple concurrent disk failures, you should never remove more than one component partition at a time.

---

## WARNING

If a RAID does not have disk fault tolerance, or it is simply not consistent, data loss results if you remove any of its partitions. Be very careful when removing partitions, and ensure that you have a backup of your data available.

---

The procedure in this section uses the device names shown in the following table. Ensure that you modify the commands to use the names of your own devices.

**Table 11.4:** *Scenario for Increasing the Size of Component Partitions*

RAID Device	Component Partitions
/dev/md0	/dev/sda1
	/dev/sdb1
	/dev/sdc1

To decrease the size of the component partitions for the RAID:

- 1 Open a terminal console, then log in as the `root` user or equivalent.
- 2 Ensure that the RAID array is consistent and synchronized by entering

```
cat /proc/mdstat
```

If your RAID array is still synchronizing according to the output of this command, you must wait until synchronization is complete before continuing.

- 3** Remove one of the component partitions from the RAID array. For example, to remove `/dev/sda1`, enter

```
mdadm /dev/md0 --fail /dev/sda1 --remove /dev/sda1
```

In order to succeed, both the fail and remove actions must be done.

- 4** Decrease the size of the partition that you removed in Step 3 (page 199) to a size that is slightly larger than the size you set for the segment size. The size should be a multiple of the chunk size and allow 128 KB for the RAID superblock. Use a disk partitioner such as `fdisk`, `cfdisk`, or `parted` to decrease the size of the partition.
- 5** Re-add the partition to the RAID array. For example, to add `/dev/sda1`, enter

```
mdadm -a /dev/md0 /dev/sda1
```

Wait until the RAID is synchronized and consistent before continuing with the next partition.

- 6** Repeat Step 2 (page 198) through Step 5 (page 199) for each of the remaining component devices in the array. Ensure that you modify the commands for the correct component partition.
- 7** If you get a message that tells you that the kernel could not re-read the partition table for the RAID, you must reboot the computer after resizing all of its component partitions.
- 8** (Optional) Expand the size of the RAID and file system to use the maximum amount of space in the now smaller component partitions:

- 8a** Expand the size of the RAID to use the maximum amount of space that is now available in the reduced-size component partitions:

```
mdadm --grow /dev/md0 -z max
```

- 8b** Expand the size of the file system to use all of the available space in the newly resized RAID. For information, see Section 11.2.3, “Increasing the Size of the File System” (page 201).



# Storage Enclosure LED Utilities for MD Software RAIDs

# 12

Storage enclosure LED Monitoring utility (`ledmon(8)`) and LED Control (`ledctl(8)`) utility are Linux user space applications that use a broad range of interfaces and protocols to control storage enclosure LEDs. The primary usage is to visualize the status of Linux MD software RAID devices created with the `mdadm` utility. The `ledmon` daemon monitors the status of the drive array and updates the status of the drive LEDs. The `ledctl` utility allows you to set LED patterns for specified devices.

- Section 12.1, “Supported LED Management Protocols” (page 212)
- Section 12.2, “Supported Storage Enclosure Systems” (page 212)
- Section 12.3, “Storage Enclosure LED Monitor Service (`ledmon(8)`)” (page 212)
- Section 12.4, “Storage Enclosure LED Control Application (`ledctl(8)`)” (page 214)
- Section 12.5, “Enclosure LED Utilities Configuration File (`ledctl.conf(5)`)” (page 220)
- Section 12.6, “Additional Information” (page 221)

# 12.1 Supported LED Management Protocols

These LED utilities use the SGPIO (Serial General Purpose Input/Output) specification (Small Form Factor (SFF) 8485) and the SCSI Enclosure Services (SES) 2 protocol to control LEDs. They implement the International Blinking Pattern Interpretation (IBPI) patterns of the SFF-8489 specification for SGPIO. The IBPI defines how the SGPIO standards are interpreted as states for drives and slots on a backplane and how the backplane should visualize the states with LEDs.

Some storage enclosures do not adhere strictly to the SFF-8489 specification. An enclosure processor might accept an IBPI pattern but not blink the LEDs according to the SFF-8489 specification, or the processor might support only a limited number of the IBPI patterns.

LED management (AHCI) and SAF-TE protocols are not supported by the `ledmon` and `ledctl` utilities.

# 12.2 Supported Storage Enclosure Systems

The `ledmon` and `ledctl` applications have been verified to work with Intel storage controllers such as the Intel AHCI controller and Intel SAS controller. Beginning in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3, they also support PCIe-SSD (solid state disk) enclosure LEDs to control the storage enclosure status (OK, Fail, Rebuilding) LEDs of PCIe-SSD devices that are part of an MD software RAID volume. The applications might also work with the IBPI-compliant storage controllers of other vendors (especially SAS/SCSI controllers); however, other vendors' controllers have not been tested.

# 12.3 Storage Enclosure LED Monitor Service (ledmon(8))

The `ledmon` application is a daemon process that constantly monitors the state of MD software RAID devices or the state of block devices in a storage enclosure or



drive bay. Only a single instance of the daemon should be running at a time. The `ledmon` application is part of Intel Enclosure LED Utilities.

The state is visualized on LEDs associated with each slot in a storage array enclosure or a drive bay. The application monitors all software RAID devices and visualizes their state. It does not provide a way to monitor only selected software RAID volumes.

The `ledmon` application supports two types of LED systems: A two-LED system (Activity LED and Status LED) and a three-LED system (Activity LED, Locate LED, and Fail LED). This tool has the highest priority when accessing the LEDs.

- Section 12.3.1, “Syntax” (page 213)
- Section 12.3.2, “Options” (page 213)
- Section 12.3.3, “Files” (page 214)
- Section 12.3.4, “Known Issues” (page 214)

## 12.3.1 Syntax

```
ledmon [options]
```

Issue the command as the `root` user or as user with `root` privileges.

## 12.3.2 Options

`-c` , `--cfg=path`

Sets a path to local configuration file. If this option is specified, the global configuration file and user configuration file have no effect.

`-l` , `--log=path`

Sets a path to local log file. If this user-defined file is specified, the global log file `/var/log/ledmon.log` is not used.

`-t` , `--interval=seconds`

Sets the time interval between scans of `sysfs`. The value is given in seconds. The minimum is 5 seconds. The maximum is not specified.

<--quiet|--error|--warning|--info|--debug|--all>

Specifies the verbose level. The level options are specified in the order of no information to the most information. Use the `--quiet` option for no logging. Use the `--all` option to log everything. If you specify more than one verbose option, the last option in the command applies.

`-h` , `--help`

Prints the command information to the console, then exits.

`-v` , `--version`

Displays version of `ledmon` and information about the license, then exits.

## 12.3.3 Files

`/var/log/ledmon.log`

Global log file, used by `ledmon` application. To force logging to a user-defined file, use the `-l` option.

`~/.ledctl`

User configuration file, shared between `ledmon` and all `ledctl` application instances.

`/etc/ledcfg.conf`

Global configuration file, shared between `ledmon` and all `ledctl` application instances.

## 12.3.4 Known Issues

The `ledmon` daemon does not recognize the PFA (Predicted Failure Analysis) state from the SFF-8489 specification. Thus, the PFA pattern is not visualized.

# 12.4 Storage Enclosure LED Control Application (`ledctl(8)`)

The Enclosure LED Application (`ledctl(8)`) is a user space application that controls LEDs associated with each slot in a storage enclosure or a drive bay. The `ledctl` application is a part of Intel Enclosure LED Utilities.

When you issue the command, the LEDs of the specified devices are set to a specified pattern and all other LEDs are turned off. User must have root privileges to use this application. Because the `ledmon` application has the highest priority when accessing LEDs, some patterns set by `ledctl` might have no effect if `ledmon` is running (except the Locate pattern).

The `ledctl` application supports two types of LED systems: A two-LED system (Activity LED and Status LED) and a three-LED system (Activity LED, Fail LED, and Locate LED).

- Section 12.4.1, “Syntax” (page 215)
- Section 12.4.2, “Pattern Names” (page 215)
- Section 12.4.3, “Pattern Translation” (page 217)
- Section 12.4.4, “List of Devices” (page 218)
- Section 12.4.5, “Options” (page 219)
- Section 12.4.6, “Files” (page 219)
- Section 12.4.7, “Examples” (page 220)

## 12.4.1 Syntax

```
ledctl [options] pattern_name=list_of_devices
```

Issue the command as the `root` user or as user with `root` privileges.

## 12.4.2 Pattern Names

The `ledctl` application accepts the following names for *pattern\_name* argument, according to the SFF-8489 specification.

`locate`

Turns on the Locate LED associated with the specified devices or empty slots. This state is used to identify a slot or drive.

`locate_off`

Turns off the Locate LED associated with the specified devices or empty slots.

normal

Turns off the Status LED, Failure LED, and Locate LED associated with the specified devices.

off

Turns off only the Status LED and Failure LED associated with the specified devices.

ica , degraded

Visualizes the In a Critical Array pattern.

rebuild , rebuild\_p

Visualizes the Rebuild pattern. This supports both of the rebuild states for compatibility and legacy reasons.

ifa , failed\_array

Visualizes the In a Failed Array pattern.

hotspare

Visualizes the Hotspare pattern.

pfa

Visualizes the Predicted Failure Analysis pattern.

failure , disk\_failed

Visualizes the Failure pattern.

ses\_abort

SES-2 R/R ABORT

ses\_rebuild

SES-2 REBUILD/REMAP

ses\_ifa

SES-2 IN FAILED ARRAY

ses\_ica

SES-2 IN CRITICAL ARRAY

ses\_cons\_check

SES-2 CONS CHECK

ses\_hotspare

SES-2 HOTSPARE

ses\_rsvd\_dev  
SES-2 RSVD DEVICE

ses\_ok  
SES-2 OK

ses\_ident  
SES-2 IDENT

ses\_rm  
SES-2 REMOVE

ses\_insert  
SES-2 INSERT

ses\_missing  
SES-2 MISSING

ses\_dnr  
SES-2 DO NOT REMOVE

ses\_active  
SES-2 ACTIVE

ses\_enable\_bb  
SES-2 ENABLE BYP B

ses\_enable\_ba  
SES-2 ENABLE BYP A

ses\_devoff  
SES-2 DEVICE OFF

ses\_fault  
SES-2 FAULT

## 12.4.3 Pattern Translation

When a non-SES-2 pattern is sent to a device in an enclosure, the pattern is automatically translated to the SCSI Enclosure Services (SES) 2 pattern as shown in Table 12.1, “Translation between Non-SES-2 Patterns and SES-2 Patterns” (page 218).

**Table 12.1:** *Translation between Non-SES-2 Patterns and SES-2 Patterns*

<b>Non-SES-2 Pattern</b>	<b>SES-2 Pattern</b>
locate	ses_ident
locate_off	ses_ident
normal	ses_ok
off	ses_ok
ica	ses_ica
degraded	ses_ica
rebuild	ses_rebuild
rebuild_p	ses_rebuild
ifa	ses_ifa
failed_array	ses_ifa
hotspare	ses_hotspare
pfa	ses_rsvd_dev
failure	ses_fault
disk_failed	ses_fault

## 12.4.4 List of Devices

When you issue the `ledctl` command, the LEDs of the specified devices are set to the specified pattern and all other LEDs are turned off. The list of devices can be provided in one of two formats:

- A list of devices separated by a comma and no spaces

- A list in curly braces with devices separated by a space

If you specify multiple patterns in the same command, the device list for each pattern can use the same or different format. For examples that show the two list formats, see Section 12.4.7, “Examples” (page 220).

A device is a path to file in the `/dev` directory or in the `/sys/block` directory. The path can identify a block device, an MD software RAID device, or a container device. For a software RAID device or a container device, the reported LED state is set for all of the associated block devices.

The LEDs of devices listed in `list_of_devices` are set to the given pattern `pattern_name` and all other LEDs are turned off.

## 12.4.5 Options

`-c` , `--cfg=path`

Sets a path to local configuration file. If this option is specified, the global configuration file and user configuration file have no effect.

`-l` , `--log=path`

Sets a path to local log file. If this user-defined file is specified, the global log file `/var/log/ledmon.log` is not used.

`--quiet`

Turns off all messages sent to `stdout` or `stderr` out. The messages are still logged to local file and the `syslog` facility.

`-h` , `--help`

Prints the command information to the console, then exits.

`-v` , `--version`

Displays version of `ledctl` and information about the license, then exits.

## 12.4.6 Files

`/var/log/ledctl.log`

Global log file, used by all instances of the `ledctl` application. To force logging to a user-defined file, use the `-l` option.

`~/ledctl`

User configuration file, shared between `ledmon` and all `ledctl` application instances.

`/etc/ledcfg.conf`

Global configuration file, shared between `ledmon` and all `ledctl` application instances.

## 12.4.7 Examples

To locate a single block device:

```
ledctl locate=/dev/sda
```

To turn off the Locate LED off for a single block device:

```
ledctl locate_off=/dev/sda
```

To locate disks of an MD software RAID device and to set a rebuild pattern for two of its block devices at the same time:

```
ledctl locate=/dev/md127 rebuild={ /sys/block/sd[a-b] }
```

To turn off the Status LED and Failure LED for the specified devices:

```
ledctl off={ /dev/sda /dev/sdb }
```

To locate three block devices:

```
ledctl locate=/dev/sda,/dev/sdb,/dev/sdc
```

```
ledctl locate={ /dev/sda /dev/sdb /dev/sdc }
```

## 12.5 Enclosure LED Utilities Configuration File (`ledctl.conf(5)`)

The `ledctl.conf` file is the configuration file for the Intel Enclosure LED Utilities. The utilities do not use a configuration file at the moment. The name and location of file have been reserved for feature improvements.



## 12.6 Additional Information

See the following resources for details about the LED patterns and monitoring tools:

- LEDMON open source project on Sourceforge.net [ <http://ledmon.sourceforge.net/> ]
- SGPIO specification SFF-8485 [ <ftp://ftp.seagate.com/sff/SFF-8485.PDF> ]
- IBPI specification SFF-8489 [ <ftp://ftp.seagate.com/sff/SFF-8489.PDF> ]



# iSNS for Linux

Storage area networks (SANs) can contain many disk drives that are dispersed across complex networks. This can make device discovery and device ownership difficult. iSCSI initiators must be able to identify storage resources in the SAN and determine whether they have access to them.

Internet Storage Name Service (iSNS) is a standards-based service that facilitates the automated discovery, management, and configuration of iSCSI devices on a TCP/IP network. iSNS provides intelligent storage discovery and management services comparable to those found in Fibre Channel networks.

---

## **IMPORTANT**

iSNS should be used only in secure internal networks.

---

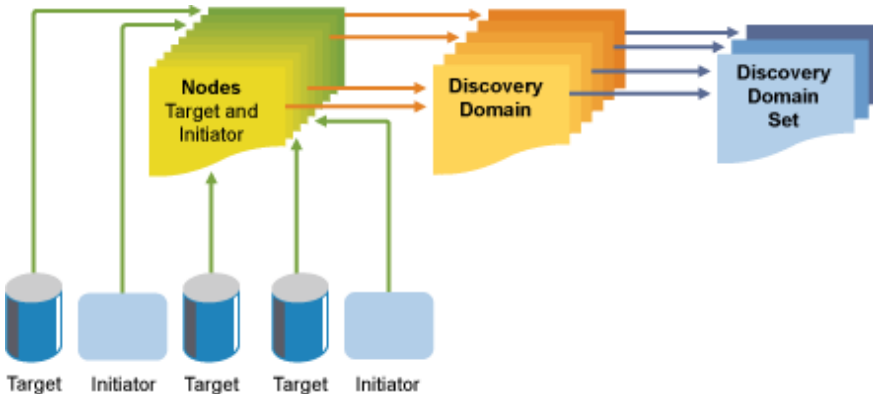
- Section 13.1, “How iSNS Works” (page 224)
- Section 13.2, “Installing iSNS Server for Linux” (page 225)
- Section 13.3, “Configuring iSNS Discovery Domains” (page 227)
- Section 13.4, “Starting iSNS” (page 234)
- Section 13.5, “Stopping iSNS” (page 234)
- Section 13.6, “For More Information” (page 235)

# 13.1 How iSNS Works

For an iSCSI initiator to discover iSCSI targets, it needs to identify which devices in the network are storage resources and what IP addresses it needs to access them. A query to an iSNS server returns a list of iSCSI targets and the IP addresses that the initiator has permission to access.

Using iSNS, you create iSNS discovery domains and discovery domain sets. You then group or organize iSCSI targets and initiators into discovery domains and group the discovery domains into discovery domain sets. By dividing storage nodes into domains, you can limit the discovery process of each host to the most appropriate subset of targets registered with iSNS, which allows the storage network to scale by reducing the number of unnecessary discoveries and by limiting the amount of time each host spends establishing discovery relationships. This lets you control and simplify the number of targets and initiators that must be discovered.

**Figure 13.1:** *iSNS Discovery Domains and Discovery Domain Sets*



Both iSCSI targets and iSCSI initiators use iSNS clients to initiate transactions with iSNS servers by using the iSNS protocol. They then register device attribute information in a common discovery domain, download information about other registered clients, and receive asynchronous notification of events that occur in their discovery domain.

iSNS servers respond to iSNS protocol queries and requests made by iSNS clients using the iSNS protocol. iSNS servers initiate iSNS protocol state change notifications and store properly authenticated information submitted by a registration request in an iSNS database.

Some of the benefits provided by iSNS for Linux include:

- Provides an information facility for registration, discovery, and management of networked storage assets.
- Integrates with the DNS infrastructure.
- Consolidates registration, discovery, and management of iSCSI storage.
- Simplifies storage management implementations.
- Improves scalability compared to other discovery methods.

An example of the benefits iSNS provides can be better understood through the following scenario:

Suppose you have a company that has 100 iSCSI initiators and 100 iSCSI targets. Depending on your configuration, all iSCSI initiators could potentially try to discover and connect to any of the 100 iSCSI targets. This could create discovery and connection difficulties. By grouping initiators and targets into discovery domains, you can prevent iSCSI initiators in one department from discovering the iSCSI targets in another department. The result is that the iSCSI initiators in a specific department only discover those iSCSI targets that are part of the department's discovery domain.

## 13.2 Installing iSNS Server for Linux

iSNS Server for Linux is included with SLES 10 SP2 and later, but is not installed or configured by default. You must install the iSNS package modules (`isns` and `yast2-isns` modules) and configure the iSNS service.

---

### NOTE

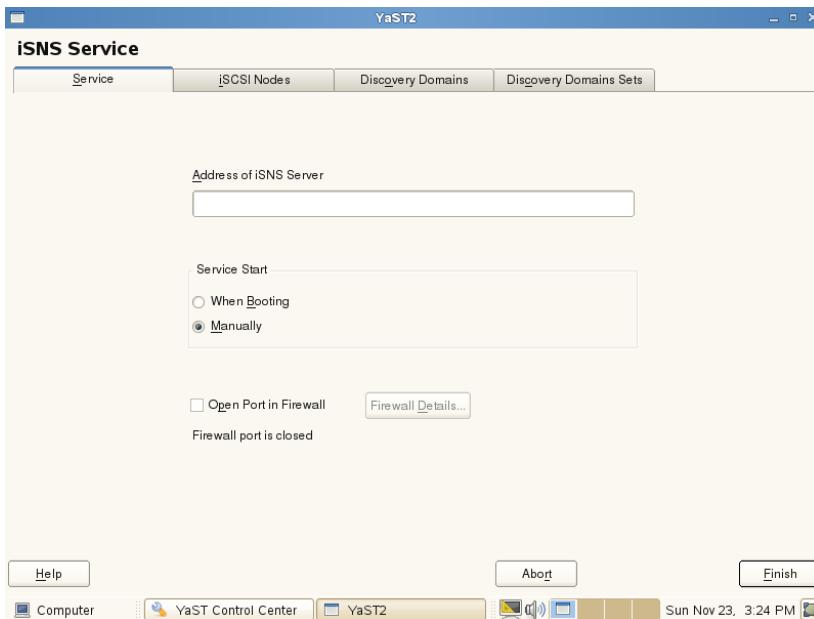
iSNS can be installed on the same server where iSCSI target or iSCSI initiator software is installed. Installing both the iSCSI target software and iSCSI initiator software on the same server is not supported.

---

To install iSNS for Linux:

- 1 Start YaST and select *Network Services* *iSNS Server*.
- 2 When prompted to install the `isns` package, click *Install*.
- 3 Follow the install instructions to provide the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 installation disks.

When the installation is complete, the iSNS Service configuration dialog box opens automatically to the *Service* tab.



- 4 In *Address of iSNS Server*, specify the DNS name or IP address of the iSNS Server.
- 5 In *Service Start*, select one of the following:
  - **When Booting:** The iSNS service starts automatically on server startup.
  - **Manually (Default):** The iSNS service must be started manually by entering `rcisns start` or `/etc/init.d/isns start` at the server console of the server where you install it.

6 Specify the following firewall settings:

- **Open Port in Firewall:** Select the check box to open the firewall and allow access to the service from remote computers. The firewall port is closed by default.
- **Firewall Details:** If you open the firewall port, the port is open on all network interfaces by default. Click *Firewall Details* to select interfaces on which to open the port, select the network interfaces to use, then click *OK*.

7 Click *Finish* to apply the configuration settings and complete the installation.

8 Continue with Section 13.3, “Configuring iSNS Discovery Domains” (page 227).

## 13.3 Configuring iSNS Discovery Domains

In order for iSCSI initiators and targets to use the iSNS service, they must belong to a discovery domain.

---

### IMPORTANT

The SNS service must be installed and running to configure iSNS discovery domains. For information, see Section 13.4, “Starting iSNS” (page 234).

---

- Section 13.3.1, “Creating iSNS Discovery Domains” (page 228)
- Section 13.3.2, “Creating iSNS Discovery Domain Sets” (page 229)
- Section 13.3.3, “Adding iSCSI Nodes to a Discovery Domain” (page 232)
- Section 13.3.4, “Adding Discovery Domains to a Discovery Domain Set” (page 233)

## 13.3.1 Creating iSNS Discovery Domains

A default discovery domain named *default DD* is automatically created when you install the iSNS service. The existing iSCSI targets and initiators that have been configured to use iSNS are automatically added to the default discovery domain.

To create a new discovery domain:

- 1 Start YaST and under *Network Services*, select *iSNS Server*.
- 2 Click the *Discovery Domains* tab.

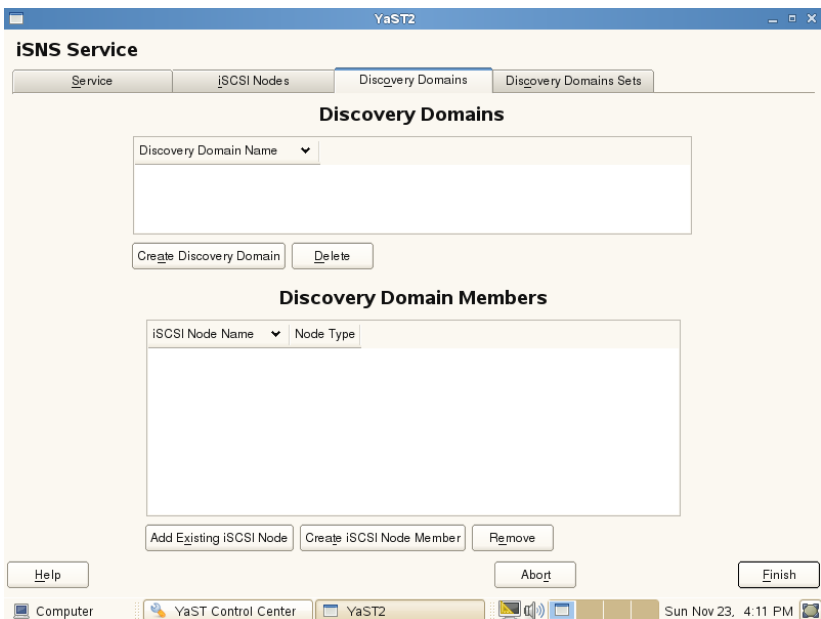
The *Discovery Domains* area lists all discovery domains. You can create new discovery domains, or delete existing ones. Deleting a domain removes the members from the domain, but it does not delete the iSCSI node members.

The *Discovery Domain Members* area lists all iSCSI nodes assigned to a selected discovery domain. Selecting a different discovery domain refreshes the list with members from that discovery domain. You can add and delete iSCSI nodes from a selected discovery domain. Deleting an iSCSI node removes it from the domain, but it does not delete the iSCSI node.

Creating an iSCSI node allows a node that is not yet registered to be added as a member of the discovery domain. When the iSCSI initiator or target registers this node, then it becomes part of this domain.

When an iSCSI initiator performs a discovery request, the iSNS service returns all iSCSI node targets that are members of the same discovery domain.





3 Click the *Create Discovery Domain* button.

You can also select an existing discovery domain and click the *Delete* button to remove that discovery domain.

4 Specify the name of the discovery domain you are creating, then click *OK*.

5 Continue with Section 13.3.2, “Creating iSNS Discovery Domain Sets” (page 229).

## 13.3.2 Creating iSNS Discovery Domain Sets

Discovery domains must belong to a discovery domain set. You can create a discovery domain and add nodes to that discovery domain, but it is not active and the iSNS service does not function unless you add the discovery domain to a discovery domain set. A default discovery domain set named *default DDS* is automatically created when you install iSNS and the default discovery domain is automatically added to that domain set.

To create a discovery domain set:

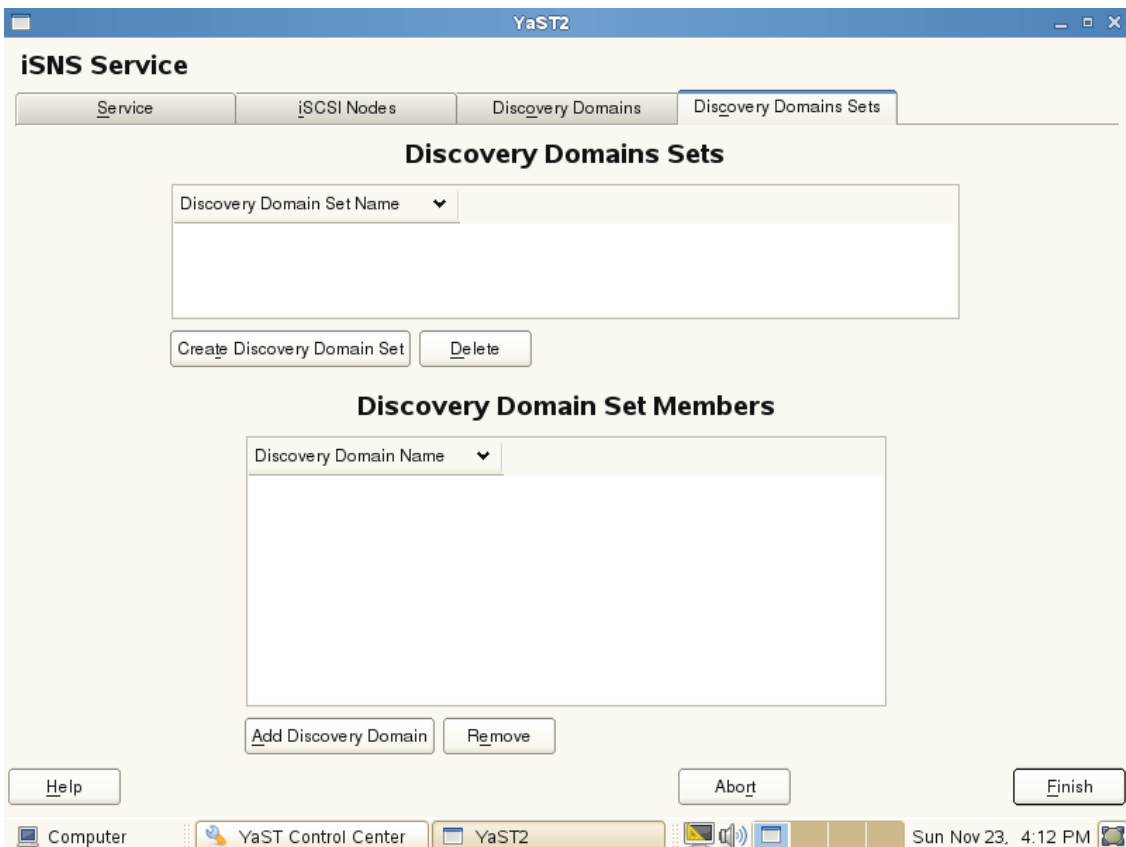
- 1 Start YaST and under *Network Services*, select *iSNS Server*.
- 2 Click the *Discovery Domains Sets* tab.

The *Discovery Domain Sets* area lists all of the discover domain sets. A discovery domain must be a member of a discovery domain set in order to be active.

In an iSNS database, a discovery domain set contains discovery domains, which in turn contains iSCSI node members.

The *Discovery Domain Set Members* area lists all discovery domains that are assigned to a selected discovery domain set. Selecting a different discovery domain set refreshes the list with members from that discovery domain set. You can add and delete discovery domains from a selected discovery domain set. Removing a discovery domain removes it from the domain set, but it does not delete the discovery domain.

Adding an discovery domain to a set allows a not yet registered iSNS discovery domain to be added as a member of the discovery domain set.



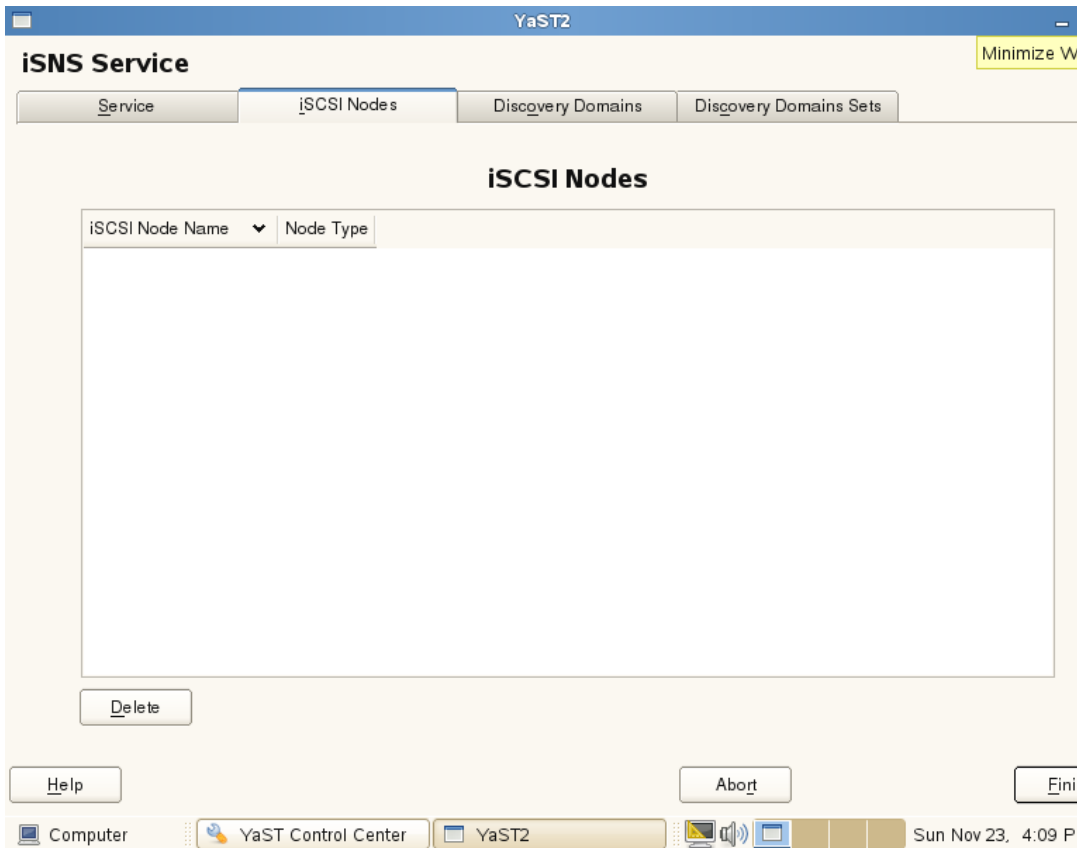
- 3 Click the *Create Discovery Domain Set* button.

You can also select an existing discovery domain set and click the *Delete* button to remove that discovery domain set.

- 4 Specify the name of the discovery domain set you are creating, then click *OK*.
- 5 Continue with Section 13.3.3, “Adding iSCSI Nodes to a Discovery Domain” (page 232).

## 13.3.3 Adding iSCSI Nodes to a Discovery Domain

- 1 Start YaST and under *Network Services*, select *iSNS Server*.
- 2 Click the *iSCSI Nodes* tab.



- 3 Review the list of nodes to ensure that the iSCSI targets and initiators that you want to use the iSNS service are listed.

If an iSCSI target or initiator is not listed, you might need to restart the iSCSI service on the node. You can do this by running the `rcopen-iscsi restart`

command to restart an initiator or the `rciscsitarget restart` command to restart a target.

You can select an iSCSI node and click the *Delete* button to remove that node from the iSNS database. This is useful if you are no longer using an iSCSI node or have renamed it.

The iSCSI node is automatically added to the list (iSNS database) again when you restart the iSCSI service or reboot the server unless you remove or comment out the iSNS portion of the iSCSI configuration file.

- 4 Click the *Discovery Domains* tab, select the desired discovery domain, then click the *Display Members* button.
- 5 Click *Add existing iSCSI Node*, select the node you want to add to the domain, then click *Add Node*.
- 6 Repeat Step 5 (page 233) for as many nodes as you want to add to the discovery domain, then click *Done* when you are finished adding nodes.

An iSCSI node can belong to more than one discovery domain.

- 7 Continue with Section 13.3.4, “Adding Discovery Domains to a Discovery Domain Set” (page 233).

## 13.3.4 Adding Discovery Domains to a Discovery Domain Set

- 1 Start YaST and under *Network Services*, select *iSNS Server*.
- 2 Click the *Discovery Domains Set* tab.
- 3 Select *Create Discovery Domain Set* to add a new set to the list of discovery domain sets.
- 4 Choose a discovery domain set to modify.
- 5 Click *Add Discovery Domain*, select the discovery domain you want to add to the discovery domain set, then click *Add Discovery Domain*.

- 6 Repeat the last step for as many discovery domains as you want to add to the discovery domain set, then click *Done*.

A discovery domain can belong to more than one discovery domain set.

## 13.4 Starting iSNS

iSNS must be started at the server where you install it. Enter one of the following commands at a terminal console as the `root` user:

```
rcisns start
```

```
/etc/init.d/isns start
```

You can also use the `stop`, `status`, and `restart` options with iSNS.

iSNS can also be configured to start automatically each time the server is rebooted:

- 1 Start YaST and under *Network Services*, select *iSNS Server*.
- 2 With the *Service* tab selected, specify the IP address of your iSNS server, then click *Save Address*.
- 3 In the *Service Start* section of the screen, select *When Booting*.

You can also choose to start the iSNS server manually. You must then use the `rcisns start` command to start the service each time the server is restarted.

## 13.5 Stopping iSNS

iSNS must be stopped at the server where it is running. Enter one of the following commands at a terminal console as the `root` user:

```
rcisns stop
```

```
/etc/init.d/isns stop
```

## 13.6 For More Information

For information, see the *Linux iSNS for iSCSI project* [<http://sourceforge.net/projects/linuxisns/>]. The electronic mailing list for this project is *Linux iSNS - Discussion* [[http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/forum.php?forum\\_name=linuxisns-discussion](http://sourceforge.net/mailarchive/forum.php?forum_name=linuxisns-discussion)].

General information about iSNS is available in *RFC 4171: Internet Storage Name Service* [<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc4171>].



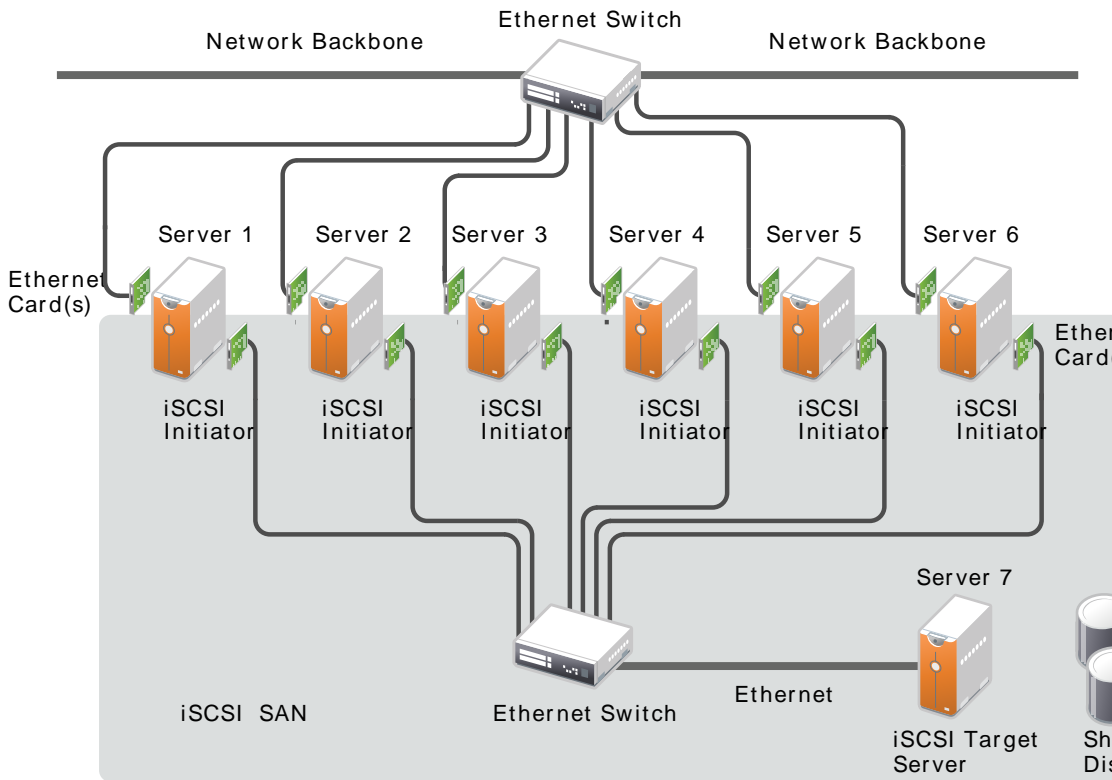


# Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI

# 14

One of the central tasks in computer centers and when operating servers is providing hard disk capacity for server systems. Fibre Channel is often used for this purpose. iSCSI (Internet SCSI) solutions provide a lower-cost alternative to Fibre Channel that can leverage commodity servers and Ethernet networking equipment. Linux iSCSI provides iSCSI initiator and target software for connecting Linux servers to central storage systems.

**Figure 14.1:** iSCSI SAN with an iSNS Server



iSCSI is a storage networking protocol that facilitates data transfers of SCSI packets over TCP/IP networks between block storage devices and servers. iSCSI target software runs on the target server and defines the logical units as iSCSI target devices. iSCSI initiator software runs on different servers and connects to the target devices to make the storage devices available on that server.

---

### **IMPORTANT**

It is not supported to run iSCSI target software and iSCSI initiator software on the same server in a production environment.

---

The iSCSI target and initiator servers communicate by sending SCSI packets at the IP level in your LAN. When an application running on the initiator server starts an inquiry for an iSCSI target device, the operating system produces the necessary SCSI

commands. The SCSI commands are then embedded in IP packets and encrypted as necessary by software that is commonly known as the *iSCSI initiator*. The packets are transferred across the internal IP network to the corresponding iSCSI remote station, called the *iSCSI target*.

Many storage solutions provide access over iSCSI, but it is also possible to run a Linux server that provides an iSCSI target. In this case, it is important to set up a Linux server that is optimized for file system services. The iSCSI target accesses block devices in Linux. Therefore, it is possible to use RAID solutions to increase disk space as well as a lot of memory to improve data caching. For more information about RAID, also see Chapter 8, *Software RAID Configuration* (page 161).

- Section 14.1, “Installing iSCSI Target and Initiator” (page 239)
- Section 14.2, “Setting Up an iSCSI Target” (page 241)
- Section 14.3, “Configuring iSCSI Initiator” (page 251)
- Section 14.4, “Using iSCSI Disks when Installing” (page 258)
- Section 14.5, “Troubleshooting iSCSI” (page 258)
- Section 14.6, “Additional Information” (page 261)

## 14.1 Installing iSCSI Target and Initiator

YaST includes entries for iSCSI Target and iSCSI Initiator software, but the packages are not installed by default.

---

### IMPORTANT

It is not supported to run iSCSI target software and iSCSI initiator software on the same server in a production environment.

---

- Section 14.1.1, “Installing iSCSI Target Software” (page 240)
- Section 14.1.2, “Installing the iSCSI Initiator Software” (page 240)

## 14.1.1 Installing iSCSI Target Software

Install the iSCSI target software on the server where you want to create iSCSI target devices.

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *Network Services* *iSCSI Target*.
- 3 When you are prompted to install the `iscsitarget` package, click *Install*.
- 4 Follow the on-screen install instructions, and provide the installation media as needed.

When the installation is complete, YaST opens to the iSCSI Target Overview page with the *Service* tab selected.

- 5 Continue with Section 14.2, “Setting Up an iSCSI Target” (page 241).

## 14.1.2 Installing the iSCSI Initiator Software

Install the iSCSI initiator software on each server where you want to access the target devices that you set up on the iSCSI target server.

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *Network Services* *iSCSI Initiator*.
- 3 When you are prompted to install the `open-iscsi` package, click *Install*.
- 4 Follow the on-screen install instructions, and provide the installation media as needed.

When the installation is complete, YaST opens to the iSCSI Initiator Overview page with the *Service* tab selected.

- 5 Continue with Section 14.3, “Configuring iSCSI Initiator” (page 251).

# 14.2 Setting Up an iSCSI Target

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server comes with an open source iSCSI target solution that evolved from the Ardis iSCSI target. A basic setup can be done with YaST, but to take full advantage of iSCSI, a manual setup is required.

- Section 14.2.1, “Preparing the Storage Space” (page 241)
- Section 14.2.2, “Creating iSCSI Targets with YaST” (page 243)
- Section 14.2.3, “Configuring an iSCSI Target Manually” (page 247)
- Section 14.2.4, “Configuring Online Targets with ietadm” (page 249)

## 14.2.1 Preparing the Storage Space

The iSCSI target configuration exports existing block devices to iSCSI initiators. You must prepare the storage space you want to use in the target devices by setting up unformatted partitions or devices by using the Partitioner in YaST, or by partitioning the devices from the command line. iSCSI LIO targets can use unformatted partitions with Linux, Linux LVM, or Linux RAID file system IDs.

---

### IMPORTANT

After you set up a device or partition for use as an iSCSI target, you never access it directly via its local path. Do not specify a mount point for it when you create it.

---

- Section 14.2.1.1, “Partitioning Devices” (page 241)
- Section 14.2.1.2, “Partitioning Devices in a Virtual Environment” (page 242)

### 14.2.1.1 Partitioning Devices

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *SystemPartitioner*.

- 3** Click *Yes* to continue through the warning about using the Partitioner.
- 4** Click *Add* to create a partition, but do not format it, and do not mount it.
  - 4a** Select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.
  - 4b** Specify the amount of space to use, then click *Next*.
  - 4c** Select *Do not format*, then specify the file system ID type.

iSCSI targets can use unformatted partitions with Linux, Linux LVM, or Linux RAID file system IDs.
  - 4d** Select *Do not mount*.
  - 4e** Click *Finish*.
- 5** Repeat Step 4 (page 242) for each area that you want to use later as an iSCSI LUN.
- 6** Click *Accept* to keep your changes, then close YaST.

## 14.2.1.2 Partitioning Devices in a Virtual Environment

You can use a Xen guest server as the iSCSI target server. You must assign the storage space you want to use for the iSCSI storage devices to the guest virtual machine, then access the space as virtual disks within the guest environment. Each virtual disk can be a physical block device, such as an entire disk, partition, or volume, or it can be a file-backed disk image where the virtual disk is a single image file on a larger physical disk on the Xen host server. For the best performance, create each virtual disk from a physical disk or a partition. After you set up the virtual disks for the guest virtual machine, start the guest server, then configure the new blank virtual disks as iSCSI target devices by following the same process as for a physical server.

file-backed disk images are created on the Xen host server, then assigned to the Xen guest server. By default, Xen stores file-backed disk images in the `/var/lib/xen/images/vm_name` directory, where `vm_name` is the name of the virtual machine.

For example, if you want to create the disk image `/var/lib/xen/images/vm_one/xen-0` with a size of 4 GB, first ensure that the directory is there, then create the image itself.

- 1 Log in to the host server as the `root` user.
- 2 At a terminal console prompt, enter the following commands

```
mkdir -p /var/lib/xen/images/vm_one
dd if=/dev/zero of=/var/lib/xen/images/vm_one/xen-0 seek=1M bs=4096
count=1
```

- 3 Assign the file system image to the guest virtual machine in the Xen configuration file.
- 4 Log in as the `root` user on the guest server, then use YaST to set up the virtual block device by using the process in Section 14.2.1.1, “Partitioning Devices” (page 241).

## 14.2.2 Creating iSCSI Targets with YaST

To configure the iSCSI target, run the *iSCSI Target* module in YaST. The configuration is split into three tabs. In the *Service* tab, select the start mode and the firewall settings. If you want to access the iSCSI target from a remote machine, select *Open Port in Firewall*. If an iSNS server should manage the discovery and access control, activate *iSNS Access Control* and enter the IP address of your iSNS server. You cannot use hostnames or DNS names; you must use the IP address. For more about iSNS, read Chapter 13, *iSNS for Linux* (page 223).

The *Global* tab provides settings for the iSCSI server. The authentication set here is used for the discovery of services, not for accessing the targets. If you do not want to restrict the access to the discovery, use *No Authentication*.

If authentication is needed, there are two possibilities to consider. One is that an initiator must prove that it has the permissions to run a discovery on the iSCSI target. This is done with *Incoming Authentication*. The other is that the iSCSI target must prove to the initiator that it is the expected target. Therefore, the iSCSI target can also provide a user name and password. This is done with *Outgoing Authentication*. Find more information about authentication in *RFC 3720* [<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3720.txt>].

The targets are defined in the *Targets* tab. Use *Add* to create a new iSCSI target. The first dialog box asks for information about the device to export.

### Target

The *Target* line has a fixed syntax that looks like the following:

```
iqn.yyyy-mm.<reversed domain name>:unique_id
```

It always starts with *iqn*. *yyyy-mm* is the format of the date when this target is activated. Find more about naming conventions in *RFC 3722* [<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3722.txt>].

### Identifier

The *Identifier* is freely selectable. It should follow some scheme to make the whole system more structured.

### LUN

It is possible to assign several LUNs to a target. To do this, select a target in the *Targets* tab, then click *Edit*. Then, add new LUNs to an existing target.

### Path

Add the path to the block device or file system image to export.

The next menu configures the access restrictions of the target. The configuration is very similar to the configuration of the discovery authentication. In this case, at least an incoming authentication should be setup.

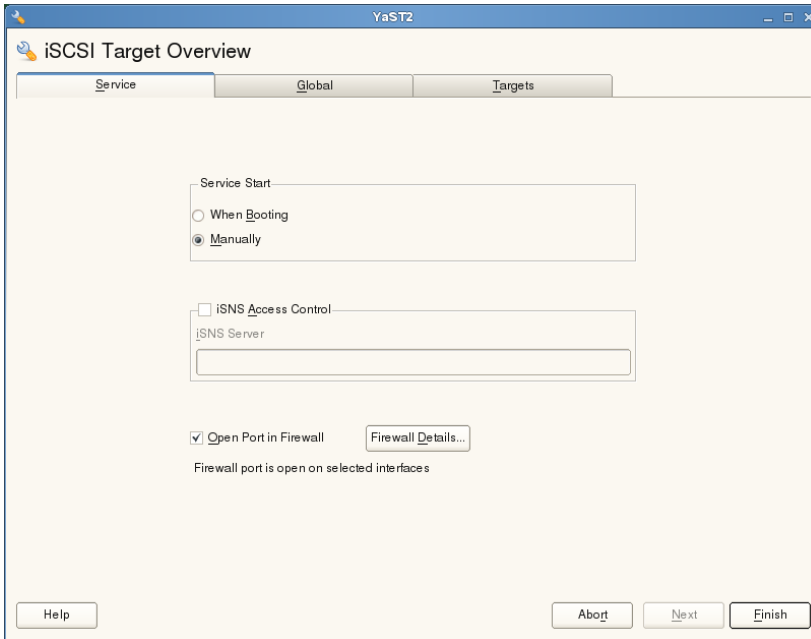
*Next* finishes the configuration of the new target, and brings you back to the overview page of the *Target* tab. Activate your changes by clicking *Finish*.

To create a target device:

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *Network Services* *iSCSI Target*.

YaST opens to the iSCSI Target Overview page with the *Service* tab selected.





**3** In the *Service Start* area, select one of the following:

- **When booting:** Automatically start the initiator service on subsequent server reboots.
- **Manually (default):** Start the service manually.

**4** If you are using iSNS for target advertising, select the *iSNS Access Control* check box, then type the IP address.

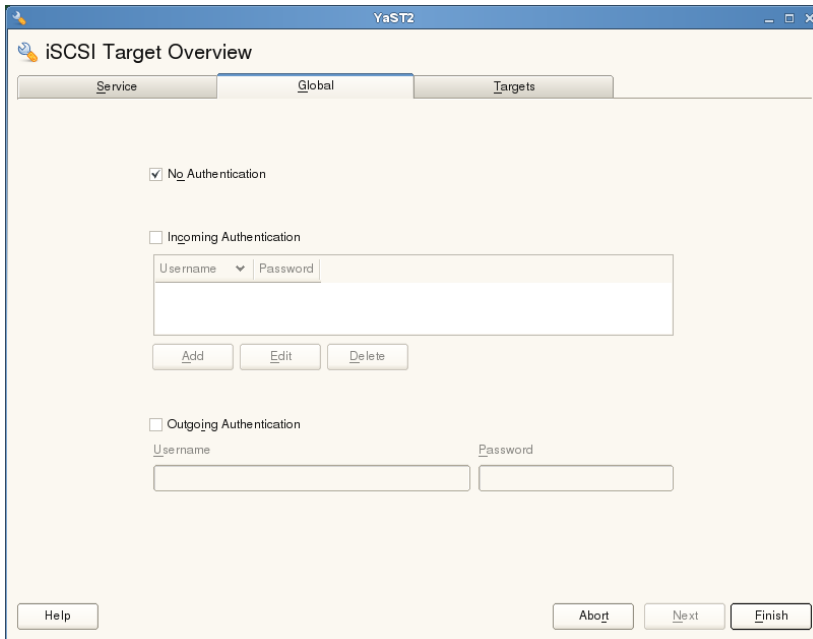
**5** If desired, open the firewall ports to allow access to the server from remote computers.

**5a** Select the *Open Port in Firewall* check box.

**5b** Specify the network interfaces where you want to open the port by clicking *Firewall Details*, selecting the check box next to a network interface to enable it, then clicking *OK* to accept the settings.

- 6 If authentication is required to connect to target devices you set up on this server, select the *Global* tab, deselect *No Authentication* to enable authentication, then specify the necessary credentials for incoming and outgoing authentication.

The *No Authentication* option is enabled by default. For a more secure configuration, you can specify authentication for incoming, outgoing, or both incoming and outgoing. You can also specify multiple sets of credentials for incoming authentication by adding pairs of user names and passwords to the list under *Incoming Authentication*.



- 7 Configure the iSCSI target devices.

- 7a Select the *Targets* tab.

- 7b If you have not already done so, select and delete the example iSCSI target from the list, then confirm the deletion by clicking *Continue*.

- 7c Click *Add* to add a new iSCSI target.

The iSCSI target automatically presents an unformatted partition or block device and completes the Target and Identifier fields.

**7d** You can accept this, or browse to select a different space.

You can also subdivide the space to create LUNs on the device by clicking *Add* and specifying sectors to allocate to that LUN. If you need additional options for these LUNs, select *Expert Settings*.

**7e** Click *Next*

**7f** Repeat Step 7c (page 246) to Step 7e (page 247) for each iSCSI target device you want to create.

**7g** (Optional) On the *Service* tab, click *Save* to export the information about the configured iSCSI targets to a file.

This makes it easier to later provide this information to consumers of the resources.

**7h** Click *Finish* to create the devices, then click *Yes* to restart the iSCSI software stack.

## 14.2.3 Configuring an iSCSI Target Manually

Configure an iSCSI target in `/etc/ietd.conf`. All parameters in this file before the first *Target* declaration are global for the file. Authentication information in this portion has a special meaning—it is not global, but is used for the discovery of the iSCSI target.

If you have access to an iSNS server, you should first configure the file to tell the target about this server. The address of the iSNS server must always be given as an IP address. You cannot specify the DNS name for the server. The configuration for this functionality looks like the following:

```
iSNSServer 192.168.1.111
iSNSAccessControl no
```

This configuration makes the iSCSI target register itself with the `iSNS` server, which in turn provides the discovery for initiators. For more about `iSNS`, see Chapter 13, *iSNS for Linux* (page 223). The access control for the `iSNS` discovery is not supported. Just keep `iSNSAccessControl no`.

All direct iSCSI authentication can be done in two directions. The iSCSI target can require the iSCSI initiator to authenticate with the `IncomingUser`, which can be added multiple times. The iSCSI initiator can also require the iSCSI target to authenticate. Use `OutgoingUser` for this. Both have the same syntax:

```
IncomingUser <username> <password>
OutgoingUser <username> <password>
```

The authentication is followed by one or more target definitions. For each target, add a `Target` section. This section always starts with a `Target` identifier followed, by definitions of logical unit numbers:

```
Target iqn.yyyy-mm.<reversed domain name>[:identifier]
    Lun 0 Path=/dev/mapper/system-v3
    Lun 1 Path=/dev/hda4
    Lun 2 Path=/var/lib/xen/images/xen-1,Type=fileio
```

In the `Target` line, `yyyy-mm` is the date when this target is activated, and `identifier` is freely selectable. Find more about naming conventions in *RFC 3722* [<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3722.txt>]. Three different block devices are exported in this example. The first block device is a logical volume (see also Chapter 4, *LVM Configuration* (page 39)), the second is an IDE partition, and the third is an image available in the local file system. All these look like block devices to an iSCSI initiator.

Before activating the iSCSI target, add at least one `IncomingUser` after the `Lun` definitions. It does the authentication for the use of this target.

To activate all your changes, restart the `iscsitarget` daemon with `rcopen-iscsi restart`. Check your configuration in the `/proc` file system:

```
cat /proc/net/iet/volume
tid:1 name:iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems
    lun:0 state:0 iotype:fileio path:/dev/mapper/system-v3
    lun:1 state:0 iotype:fileio path:/dev/hda4
    lun:2 state:0 iotype:fileio path:/var/lib/xen/images/xen-1
```

There are many more options that control the behavior of the iSCSI target. For more information, see the man page of `ietd.conf`.

Active sessions are also displayed in the `/proc` file system. For each connected initiator, an extra entry is added to `/proc/net/iet/session`:

```
cat /proc/net/iet/session
tid:1 name:iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:system-v3
  sid:562949957419520
  initiator:iqn.2005-11.de.suse:cn=rome.example.com,01.9ff842f5645
    cid:0 ip:192.168.178.42 state:active hd:none dd:none
  sid:281474980708864 initiator:iqn.2006-02.de.suse:01.6f7259c88b70
    cid:0 ip:192.168.178.72 state:active hd:none dd:none
```

## 14.2.4 Configuring Online Targets with `ietadm`

When changes to the iSCSI target configuration are necessary, you must always restart the target to activate changes that are done in the configuration file. Unfortunately, all active sessions are interrupted in this process. To maintain an undisturbed operation, the changes should be done in the main configuration file `/etc/ietd.conf`, but also made manually to the current configuration with the administration utility `ietadm`.

To create a new iSCSI target with a LUN, first update your configuration file. The additional entry could be:

```
Target iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:system2
  Lun 0 Path=/dev/mapper/system-swap2
  IncomingUser joe secret
```

To set up this configuration manually, proceed as follows:

- 1 Create a new target with the command `ietadm --op new --tid=2 --params Name=iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:system2`.
- 2 Add a logical unit with `ietadm --op new --tid=2 --lun=0 --params Path=/dev/mapper/system-swap2`.
- 3 Set the user name and password combination on this target with `ietadm --op new --tid=2 --user --params=IncomingUser=joe,Password=secret`.
- 4 Check the configuration with `cat /proc/net/iet/volume`.

It is also possible to delete active connections. First, check all active connections with the command `cat /proc/net/iet/session`. This might look like:

```
cat /proc/net/iet/session
tid:1 name:iqn.2006-03.com.example.iserv:system
      sid:281474980708864 initiator:iqn.1996-04.com.example:01.82725735af5
      cid:0 ip:192.168.178.72 state:active hd:none dd:none
```

To delete the session with the session ID 281474980708864, use the command `ietadm --op delete --tid=1 --sid=281474980708864 --cid=0`. Be aware that this makes the device inaccessible on the client system and processes accessing this device are likely to hang.

`ietadm` can also be used to change various configuration parameters. Obtain a list of the global variables with `ietadm --op show --tid=1 --sid=0`. The output looks like:

```
InitialR2T=Yes
ImmediateData=Yes
MaxConnections=1
MaxRecvDataSegmentLength=8192
MaxXmitDataSegmentLength=8192
MaxBurstLength=262144
FirstBurstLength=65536
DefaultTime2Wait=2
DefaultTime2Retain=20
MaxOutstandingR2T=1
DataPDUInOrder=Yes
DataSequenceInOrder=Yes
ErrorRecoveryLevel=0
HeaderDigest=None
DataDigest=None
OFMarker=No
IFMarker=No
OFMarkInt=Reject
IFMarkInt=Reject
```

All of these parameters can be easily changed. For example, if you want to change the maximum number of connections to two, use

```
ietadm --op update --tid=1 --params=MaxConnections=2.
```

In the file `/etc/ietd.conf`, the associated line should look like `MaxConnections 2`.

---

## WARNING

The changes that you make with the `ietadm` utility are not permanent for the system. These changes are lost at the next reboot if they are not added to the `/etc/ietd.conf` configuration file. Depending on the usage of iSCSI in your network, this might lead to severe problems.

---

There are several more options available for the `ietadm` utility. Use `ietadm -h` to find an overview. The abbreviations there are target ID (`tid`), session ID (`sid`), and connection ID (`cid`). They can also be found in `/proc/net/iet/session`.

## 14.3 Configuring iSCSI Initiator

The iSCSI initiator, also called an iSCSI client, can be used to connect to any iSCSI target. This is not restricted to the iSCSI target solution explained in Section 14.2, “Setting Up an iSCSI Target” (page 241). The configuration of iSCSI initiator involves two major steps: the discovery of available iSCSI targets and the setup of an iSCSI session. Both can be done with YaST.

- Section 14.3.1, “Using YaST for the iSCSI Initiator Configuration” (page 251)
- Section 14.3.2, “Setting Up the iSCSI Initiator Manually” (page 256)
- Section 14.3.3, “The iSCSI Client Databases” (page 257)

### 14.3.1 Using YaST for the iSCSI Initiator Configuration

The iSCSI Initiator Overview in YaST is divided into three tabs:

- **Service:** The *Service* tab can be used to enable the iSCSI initiator at boot time. It also offers to set a unique *Initiator Name* and an iSNS server to use for the discovery. The default port for iSNS is 3205.
- **Connected Targets:** The *Connected Targets* tab gives an overview of the currently connected iSCSI targets. Like the *Discovered Targets* tab, it also gives the option to add new targets to the system.

On this page, you can select a target device, then toggle the start-up setting for each iSCSI target device:

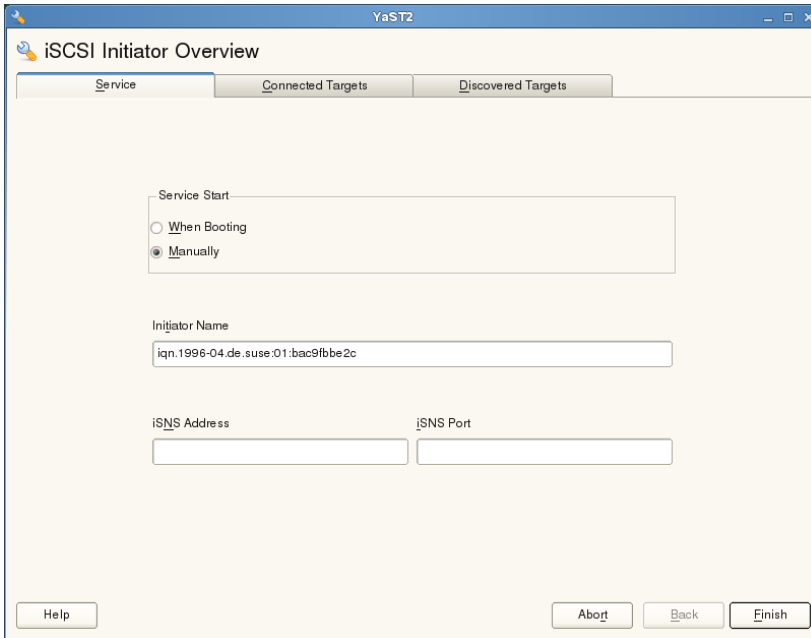
- **Automatic:** This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected when the iSCSI service itself starts up. This is the typical configuration.
- **Onboot:** This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected during boot; that is, when root (/) is on iSCSI. As such, the iSCSI target device will be evaluated from the `initrd` on server boots.
- **Discovered Targets:** *Discovered Targets* provides the possibility of manually discovering iSCSI targets in the network.
- Section 14.3.1.1, “Configuring the iSCSI Initiator” (page 252)
- Section 14.3.1.2, “Discovering iSCSI Targets by Using iSNS” (page 254)
- Section 14.3.1.3, “Discovering iSCSI Targets Manually” (page 254)
- Section 14.3.1.4, “Setting the Start-up Preference for iSCSI Target Devices” (page 255)

### 14.3.1.1 Configuring the iSCSI Initiator

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *Network Services* *iSCSI Initiator*.

YaST opens to the iSCSI Initiator Overview page with the *Service* tab selected.





**3** In the *Service Start* area, select one of the following:

- **When booting:** Automatically start the initiator service on subsequent server reboots.
- **Manually (default):** Start the service manually.

**4** Specify or verify the *Initiator Name*.

Specify a well-formed iSCSI qualified name (IQN) for the iSCSI initiator on this server. The initiator name must be globally unique on your network. The IQN uses the following general format:

```
iqn.yyyy-mm.com.mycompany:n1:n2
```

where n1 and n2 are alphanumeric characters. For example:

```
iqn.1996-04.de.suse:01:9c83a3e15f64
```

The *Initiator Name* is automatically completed with the corresponding value from the `/etc/iscsi/initiatorname.iscsi` file on the server.

If the server has iBFT (iSCSI Boot Firmware Table) support, the *Initiator Name* is completed with the corresponding value in the IBFT, and you are not able to change the initiator name in this interface. Use the BIOS Setup to modify it instead. The iBFT is a block of information containing various parameters useful to the iSCSI boot process, including iSCSI target and initiator descriptions for the server.

**5** Use either of the following methods to discover iSCSI targets on the network.

- **iSNS:** To use iSNS (Internet Storage Name Service) for discovering iSCSI targets, continue with Section 14.3.1.2, “Discovering iSCSI Targets by Using iSNS” (page 254).
- **Discovered Targets:** To discover iSCSI target devices manually, continue with Section 14.3.1.3, “Discovering iSCSI Targets Manually” (page 254).

### 14.3.1.2 Discovering iSCSI Targets by Using iSNS

Before you can use this option, you must have already installed and configured an iSNS server in your environment. For information, see Chapter 13, *iSNS for Linux* (page 223).

**1** In YaST, select *iSCSI Initiator*, then select the *Service* tab.

**2** Specify the IP address of the iSNS server and port.

The default port is 3205.

**3** On the iSCSI Initiator Overview page, click *Finish* to save and apply your changes.

### 14.3.1.3 Discovering iSCSI Targets Manually

Repeat the following process for each of the iSCSI target servers that you want to access from the server where you are setting up the iSCSI initiator.

**1** In YaST, select *iSCSI Initiator*, then select the *Discovered Targets* tab.

2 Click *Discovery* to open the iSCSI Initiator Discovery dialog box.

3 Enter the IP address and change the port if needed.

The default port is 3260.

4 If authentication is required, deselect *No Authentication*, then specify the credentials the *Incoming* or *Outgoing* authentication.

5 Click *Next* to start the discovery and connect to the iSCSI target server.

6 If credentials are required, after a successful discovery, use *Login* to activate the target.

You are prompted for authentication credentials to use the selected iSCSI target.

7 Click *Next* to finish the configuration.

If everything went well, the target now appears in *Connected Targets*.

The virtual iSCSI device is now available.

8 On the iSCSI Initiator Overview page, click *Finish* to save and apply your changes.

9 You can find the local device path for the iSCSI target device by using the `lsscsi` command:

```
lsscsi
[1:0:0:0]    disk      IET          VIRTUAL-DISK  0      /dev/sda
```

### 14.3.1.4 Setting the Start-up Preference for iSCSI Target Devices

1 In YaST, select *iSCSI Initiator*, then select the *Connected Targets* tab to view a list of the iSCSI target devices that are currently connected to the server.

2 Select the iSCSI target device that you want to manage.

3 Click *Toggle Start-Up* to modify the setting:

- **Automatic:** This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected when the iSCSI service itself starts up. This is the typical configuration.

- **Onboot:** This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected during boot; that is, when root (/) is on iSCSI. As such, the iSCSI target device will be evaluated from the initrd on server boots.

4 Click *Finish* to save and apply your changes.

## 14.3.2 Setting Up the iSCSI Initiator Manually

Both the discovery and the configuration of iSCSI connections require a running `iscsid`. When running the discovery the first time, the internal database of the iSCSI initiator is created in the directory `/var/lib/open-iscsi`.

If your discovery is password protected, provide the authentication information to `iscsid`. Because the internal database does not exist when doing the first discovery, it cannot be used at this time. Instead, the configuration file `/etc/iscsid.conf` must be edited to provide the information. To add your password information for the discovery, add the following lines to the end of `/etc/iscsid.conf`:

```
discovery.sendtargets.auth.authmethod = CHAP
discovery.sendtargets.auth.username = <username>
discovery.sendtargets.auth.password = <password>
```

The discovery stores all received values in an internal persistent database. In addition, it displays all detected targets. Run this discovery with the following command:

```
iscsiadm -m discovery --type=st --portal=<targetip>
```

The output should look like the following:

```
149.44.171.99:3260,1 iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems
```

To discover the available targets on a iSNS server, use the following command:

```
iscsiadm --mode discovery --type isns --portal <targetip>
```

For each target defined on the iSCSI target, one line appears. For more information about the stored data, see Section 14.3.3, “The iSCSI Client Databases” (page 257).

The special `--login` option of `iscsiadm` creates all needed devices:

```
iscsiadm -m node -n iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems --login
```

The newly generated devices show up in the output of `lsscsi` and can now be accessed by mount.

## 14.3.3 The iSCSI Client Databases

All information that was discovered by the iSCSI initiator is stored in two database files that reside in `/var/lib/open-iscsi`. There is one database for the discovery of targets and one for the discovered nodes. When accessing a database, you first must select if you want to get your data from the discovery or from the node database. Do this with the `-m discovery` and `-m node` parameters of `iscsiadm`. Using `iscsiadm` just with one of these parameters gives an overview of the stored records:

```
iscsiadm -m discovery
149.44.171.99:3260,1 iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems
```

The target name in this example is

`iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems`. This name is needed for all actions that relate to this special data set. To examine the content of the data record with the ID `iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems`, use the following command:

```
iscsiadm -m node --targetname iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems
node.name = iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems
node.transport_name = tcp
node.tpgt = 1
node.active_conn = 1
node.startup = manual
node.session.initial_cmdsns = 0
node.session.reopen_max = 32
node.session.auth.authmethod = CHAP
node.session.auth.username = joe
node.session.auth.password = *****
node.session.auth.username_in = <empty>
node.session.auth.password_in = <empty>
node.session.timeo.replacement_timeout = 0
node.session.err_timeo.abort_timeout = 10
node.session.err_timeo.reset_timeout = 30
node.session.iscsi.InitialR2T = No
node.session.iscsi.ImmediateData = Yes
....
```

To edit the value of one of these variables, use the command `iscsiadm` with the `update` operation. For example, if you want `iscsid` to log in to the iSCSI target when it initializes, set the variable `node.startup` to the value `automatic`:

```
iscsiadm -m node -n iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems --op=update --name=node.startup --value=automatic
```

Remove obsolete data sets with the `delete` operation If the target `iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems` is no longer a valid record, delete this record with the following command:

```
iscsiadm -m node -n iqn.2006-02.com.example.iserv:systems --op=delete
```

---

### IMPORTANT

Use this option with caution because it deletes the record without any additional confirmation prompt.

---

To get a list of all discovered targets, run the `iscsiadm -m node` command.

## 14.4 Using iSCSI Disks when Installing

Booting from an iSCSI disk on `i386`, `x86_64`, and `ppc64` architectures is supported, when iSCSI enabled firmware is used.

To use iSCSI disks during installation, it is necessary to add the following parameter to the boot option line:

```
withiscsi=1
```

During installation, an additional screen appears that provides the option to attach iSCSI disks to the system and use them in the installation process.

## 14.5 Troubleshooting iSCSI

- Section 14.5.1, “Hotplug Doesn’t Work for Mounting iSCSI Targets” (page 259)

- Section 14.5.2, “Data Packets Dropped for iSCSI Traffic” (page 259)
- Section 14.5.3, “Using iSCSI Volumes with LVM” (page 259)
- Section 14.5.4, “iSCSI Targets Are Mounted When the Configuration File Is Set to Manual” (page 260)

## 14.5.1 Hotplug Doesn’t Work for Mounting iSCSI Targets

In SLES 10, you could add the `hotplug` option to your device in the `/etc/fstab` file to mount iSCSI targets. For example:

```
/dev/disk/by-uuid-blah /oracle/db ext3 hotplug,rw 0 2
```

For SLES 11, the `hotplug` option no longer works. Use the `nofail` option instead. For example:

```
/dev/sdb1 /mnt/mountpoint ext3 acl,user,nofail 0 0
```

For information, see *TID 7004427: /etc/fstab entry does not mount iSCSI device on boot up* [<http://www.novell.com/support/php/search.do?cmd=displayKC&docType=kc&externalId=7004427>].

## 14.5.2 Data Packets Dropped for iSCSI Traffic

A firewall might drop packets if it gets too busy. The default for the SUSE Firewall is to drop packets after three minutes. If you find that iSCSI traffic packets are being dropped, you can consider configuring the SUSE Firewall to queue packets instead of dropping them when it gets too busy.

## 14.5.3 Using iSCSI Volumes with LVM

Use the troubleshooting tips in this section when using LVM on iSCSI targets.

- Section 14.5.3.1, “Check the iSCSI Initiator Discovery Occurs at Boot” (page 260)

- Section 14.5.3.2, “Check that iSCSI Target Discovery Occurs at Boot” (page 260)

### 14.5.3.1 Check the iSCSI Initiator Discovery Occurs at Boot

When you set up the iSCSI Initiator, ensure that you enable discovery at boot time so that `udev` can discover the iSCSI devices at boot time and set up the devices to be used by LVM.

### 14.5.3.2 Check that iSCSI Target Discovery Occurs at Boot

Remember that `udev` provides the default setup for devices in SLES 11. Ensure that all of the applications that create devices have a Runlevel setting to run at boot so that `udev` can recognize and assign devices for them at system startup. If the application or service is not started until later, `udev` does not create the device automatically as it would at boot time.

You can check your runlevel settings for LVM2 and iSCSI in *YaST* by going to *SystemSystem Services (Runlevel)Expert Mode*. The following services should be enabled at boot (B):

```
boot.lvm
boot.open-iscsi
open-iscsi
```

### 14.5.4 iSCSI Targets Are Mounted When the Configuration File Is Set to Manual

When Open-iSCSI starts, it can mount the targets even if the option `node.startup` option is set to manual in the `/etc/iscsi/iscsid.conf` file if you manually modified the configuration file.

Check the `/etc/iscsi/nodes/<target_name>/<ip_address,port>/default` file. It contains a `node.startup` setting that overrides the `/etc/iscsi/iscsid.conf` file. Setting the mount option to manual by using the



YaST interface also sets the `node.startup = manual` in the `/etc/iscsi/nodes/<target_name>/<ip_address,port>/defaultfiles`.

## 14.6 Additional Information

The iSCSI protocol has been available for several years. There are many reviews and additional documentation comparing iSCSI with SAN solutions, doing performance benchmarks, or just describing hardware solutions. Important pages for more information about open-iscsi are:

- *Open-iSCSI Project* [ <http://www.open-iscsi.org/> ]
- *AppNote: iFolder on Open Enterprise Server Linux Cluster using iSCSI* [ <http://www.novell.com/coolsolutions/appnote/15394.html> ]

There is also some online documentation available. See the man pages for `iscsiadm`, `iscsid`, `ietd.conf`, and `ietd` and the example configuration file `/etc/iscsid.conf`.



# Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI LIO Target Server

# 15

LIO ([linux-iscsi.org](http://linux-iscsi.org)) is the standard open-source multiprotocol SCSI target for Linux. LIO replaced the STGT (SCSI Target) framework as the standard unified storage target in Linux with Linux kernel version 2.6.38 and later. YaST supports the iSCSI LIO Target Server software in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 and later.

This section describes how to use YaST to configure an iSCSI LIO Target Server and set up iSCSI LIO target devices. You can use any iSCSI initiator software to access the target devices.

- Section 15.1, “Installing the iSCSI LIO Target Server Software” (page 264)
- Section 15.2, “Starting the iSCSI LIO Target Service” (page 267)
- Section 15.3, “Configuring Authentication for Discovery of iSCSI LIO Targets and Clients” (page 271)
- Section 15.4, “Preparing the Storage Space” (page 275)
- Section 15.5, “Setting Up an iSCSI LIO Target Group” (page 278)
- Section 15.6, “Modifying an iSCSI LIO Target Group” (page 288)
- Section 15.7, “Deleting an iSCSI LIO Target Group” (page 291)
- Section 15.8, “Troubleshooting iSCSI LIO Target Server” (page 293)

- Section 15.9, “iSCSI LIO Target Terminology” (page 295)

## 15.1 Installing the iSCSI LIO Target Server Software

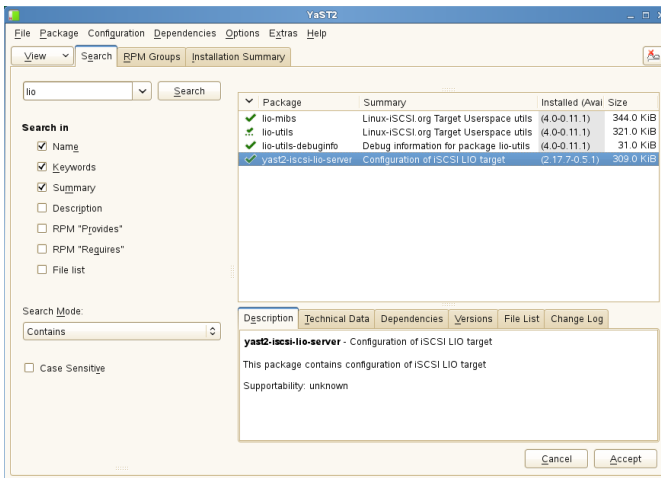
Use the YaST Software Management tool to install the iSCSI LIO Target Server software on the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP3 server where you want to create iSCSI LIO target devices.

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 Select *SoftwareSoftware Management*.
- 3 Select the *Search* tab, type `lio`, then click *Search*.
- 4 Select the iSCSI LIO Target Server packages:

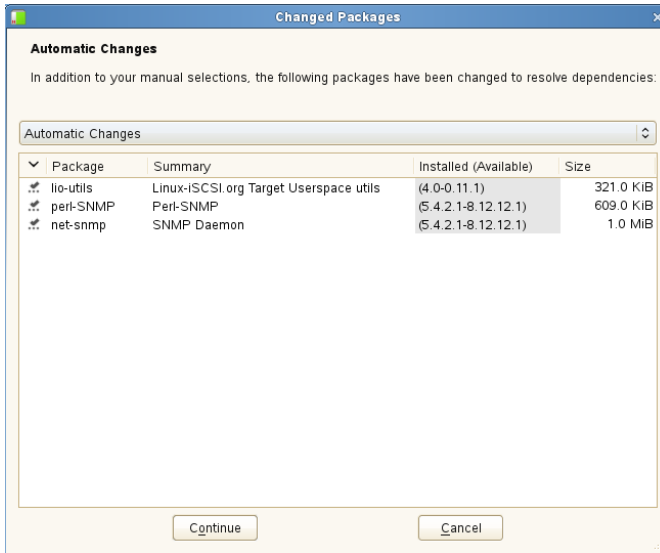
<b>iSCSI LIO Target Server Packages</b>	<b>Description</b>
<code>yast2-iscsi-lio-server</code>	Provides a GUI interface in YaST for the configuration of iSCSI LIO target devices.
<code>lio-utils</code>	Provides APIs for configuring and controlling iSCSI LIO target devices that are used by <code>yast2-iscsi-lio-server</code> .
<code>lio-mibs</code>	Provides SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) monitoring of iSCSI LIO target devices by using the dynamic load module ( <code>dlmod</code> ) functionality of the Net-SNMP agent. It supports SNMP v1, v2c, and v3. The configuration file is <code>/etc/snmp/snmpd.conf</code> .

<b>iSCSI LIO Target Server Packages</b>	<b>Description</b>
	<p>The <code>lio-mibs</code> software uses the <code>perl-SNMP</code> and <code>net-snmp</code> packages.</p> <p>For information about Net-SNMP, see the open source Net-SNMP Project [<a href="http://www.net-snmp.org/">http://www.net-snmp.org/</a>].</p>
<p><code>lio-utils-debuginfo</code></p>	<p>Provides debug information for the <code>lio-utils</code> package. You can use this package when developing or debugging applications for <code>lio-utils</code>.</p>

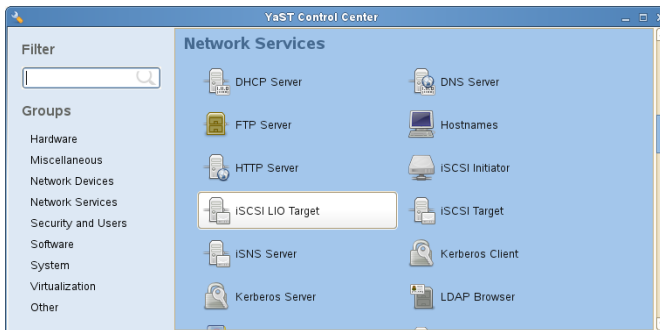
- In the lower right corner of the dialog box, click *Accept* to install the selected packages.



- When you are prompted to approve the automatic changes, click *Continue* to accept the iSCSI LIO Target Server dependencies for the `lio-utils`, `perl-SNMP`, and `net-snmp` packages.



- 7** Close and re-launch YaST, then click *Network Services* and verify that the *iSCSI LIO Target* option is available in the menu.



- 8** Continue with Section 15.2, “Starting the iSCSI LIO Target Service” (page 267).

# 15.2 Starting the iSCSI LIO Target Service

The iSCSI LIO Target service is by default configured to be started manually. You can configure the service to start automatically on system restart. If you use a firewall on the server and you want the iSCSI LIO targets to be available to other computers, you must open a port in the firewall for each adapter that you want to use for target access. TCP port 3260 is the port number for the iSCSI protocol, as defined by IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority).

- Section 15.2.1, “Configuring iSCSI LIO Startup Preferences” (page 267)
- Section 15.2.2, “Manually Starting iSCSI LIO Target at the Command Line” (page 270)
- Section 15.2.3, “Manually Starting iSCSI LIO Target in YaST” (page 270)

## 15.2.1 Configuring iSCSI LIO Startup Preferences

To configure the iSCSI LIO Target Server service settings:

- 1 Log in to the iSCSI LIO target server as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 Ensure that the `/etc/init.d/target` daemon is running. At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

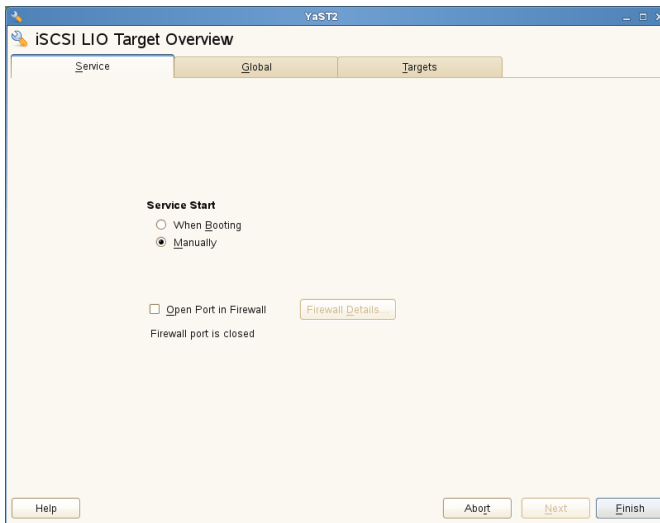
The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

- 3 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 4 In the YaST Control Center, select *Network Services*, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

You can also search for “lio”, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.



- 5 In the iSCSI LIO Target Overview dialog box, select the *Service* tab.



- 6 Under *Service Start*, specify how you want the iSCSI LIO target service to be started:

- **When Booting:** The service starts automatically on server restart.
- **Manually:** (Default) You must start the service manually after a server restart. The target devices are not available until you start the service.

- 7 If you use a firewall on the server and you want the iSCSI LIO targets to be available to other computers, open a port in the firewall for each adapter interface that you want to use for target access.

Firewall settings are disabled by default. They are not needed unless you deploy a firewall on the server. The default port number is 3260. If the port is closed

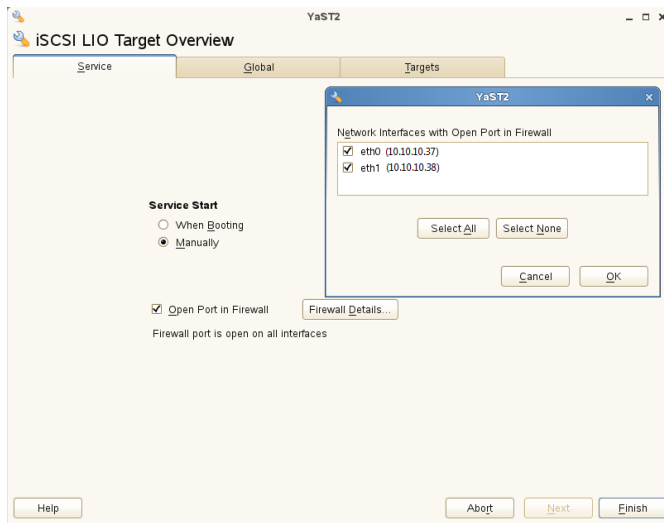


for all of the network interfaces, the iSCSI LIO targets are not available to other computers.

**7a** On the *Services* tab, select the *Open Port in Firewall* check box to enable the firewall settings.

**7b** Click *Firewall Details* to view or configure the network interfaces to use.

All available network interfaces are listed, and all are selected by default.



**7c** For each interface, specify whether to open or close a port for it:

- **Open:** Select the interface's check box to open the port. You can also click *Select All* to open a port on all of the interfaces.
- **Close:** Deselect the interface's check box to close the port. You can also click *Select None* to close the port on all of the interfaces.

**7d** Click *OK* to save and apply your changes.

**7e** If you are prompted to confirm the settings, click *Yes* to continue, or click *No* to return to the dialog box and make the desired changes.

**8** Click *Finish* to save and apply the iSCSI LIO Target service settings.

## 15.2.2 Manually Starting iSCSI LIO Target at the Command Line

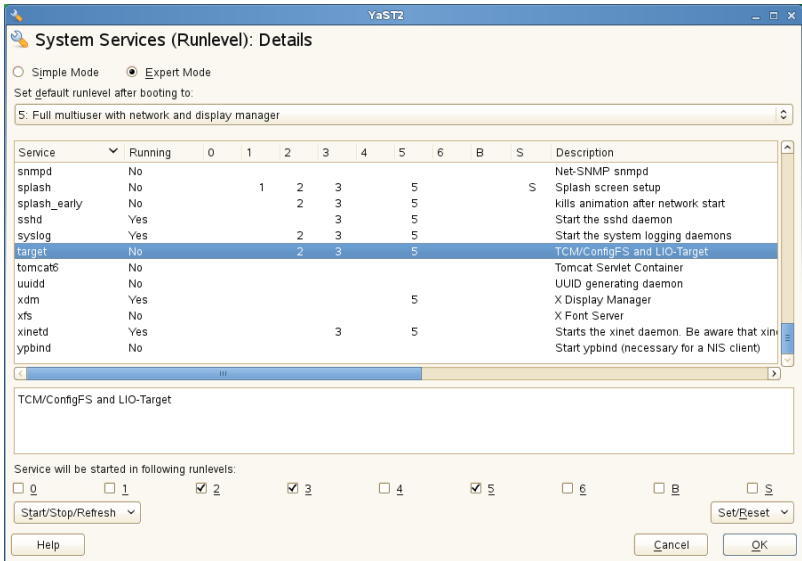
- 1 Log in as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

## 15.2.3 Manually Starting iSCSI LIO Target in YaST

- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In the YaST Control Center, select *System*, then select *System Services (Runlevel)*.
- 3 In the YaST System Services dialog box, select *Expert Mode*, then select *target (TCM/ConfigFS and LIO-Target)* in the list of services.



4 In the lower right, select *Start/Stop/Refresh Start Now*.

5 Click *OK*.

## 15.3 Configuring Authentication for Discovery of iSCSI LIO Targets and Clients

The iSCSI LIO Target Server software supports the PPP-CHAP (Point-to-Point Protocol Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol), a three-way authentication method defined in the *Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) RFC 1994*

[<http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1994.txt>]. iSCSI LIO Target Server uses this authentication method for the discovery of iSCSI LIO targets and clients, not for accessing files on the targets. If you do not want to restrict the access to the discovery, use *No Authentication*. The *No Authentication* option is enabled by default. If authentication for discovery is enabled, its settings apply to all iSCSI LIO target groups.

---

## IMPORTANT

We recommend that you use authentication for target and client discovery in production environments.

---

If authentication is needed for a more secure configuration, you can use incoming authentication, outgoing authentication, or both. *Incoming Authentication* requires an iSCSI initiator to prove that it has the permissions to run a discovery on the iSCSI LIO target. The initiator must provide the incoming user name and password. *Outgoing Authentication* requires the iSCSI LIO target to prove to the initiator that it is the expected target. The iSCSI LIO target must provide the outgoing user name and password to the iSCSI initiator. The user name and password pair can be different for incoming and outgoing discovery.

To configure authentication preferences for iSCSI LIO targets:

- 1 Log in to the iSCSI LIO target server as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 Ensure that the `/etc/init.d/target` daemon is running. At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

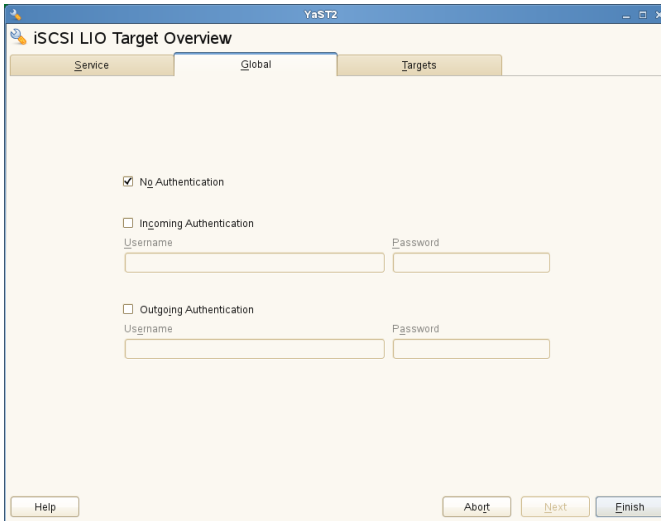
The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

- 3 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 4 In the YaST Control Center, select *Network Services*, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

You can also search for “lio”, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

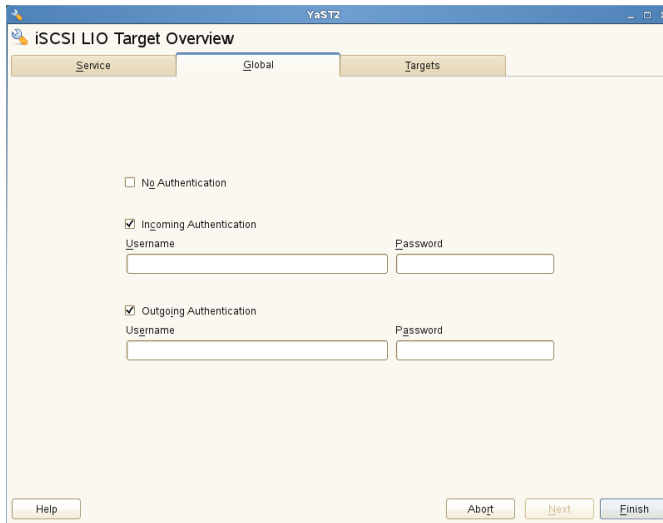


- 5 In the iSCSI LIO Target Overview dialog box, select the *Global* tab to configure the authentication settings. Authentication settings are disabled by default.



## 6 Specify whether to require authentication for iSCSI LIO targets:

- **Disable authentication:** (Default) Select the *No Authentication* check box to disable incoming and outgoing authentication for discovery on this server. All iSCSI LIO targets on this server can be discovered by any iSCSI initiator client on the same network. This server can discover any iSCSI initiator client on the same network that does not require authentication for discovery. Skip Step 7 (page 274) and continue with Step 8 (page 275).
- **Enable authentication:** Deselect the *No Authentication* check box. The check boxes for both *Incoming Authentication* and *Outgoing Authentication* are automatically selected. Continue with Step 7 (page 274).



- 7 Configure the authentication credentials needed for incoming discovery, outgoing discovery, or both. The user name and password pair can be different for incoming and outgoing discovery.

**7a** Configure incoming authentication by doing one of the following:

- **Disable incoming authentication:** Deselect the *Incoming Authentication* check box. All iSCSI LIO targets on this server can be discovered by any iSCSI initiator client on the same network.
- **Enable incoming authentication:** Select the *Incoming Authentication* check box, then specify an existing user name and password pair to use for incoming discovery of iSCSI LIO targets.

**7b** Configure outgoing authentication by doing one of the following:

- **Disable outgoing authentication:** Deselect the *Outgoing Authentication* check box. This server can discover any iSCSI initiator client on the same network that does not require authentication for discovery.

- **Enable outgoing authentication:** Select the *Outgoing Authentication* check box, then specify an existing user name and password pair to use for outgoing discovery of iSCSI initiator clients.

8 Click *Finish* to save and apply the settings.

## 15.4 Preparing the Storage Space

The iSCSI LIO target configuration exports existing block devices to iSCSI initiators. You must prepare the storage space you want to use in the target devices by setting up unformatted partitions or devices on the server. iSCSI LIO targets can use unformatted partitions with Linux, Linux LVM, or Linux RAID file system IDs.

---

### IMPORTANT

After you set up a device or partition for use as an iSCSI target, you never access it directly via its local path. Do not specify a mount point for it when you create it.

---

- Section 15.4.1, “Partitioning Devices” (page 275)
- Section 15.4.2, “Partitioning Devices in a Virtual Environment” (page 277)

### 15.4.1 Partitioning Devices

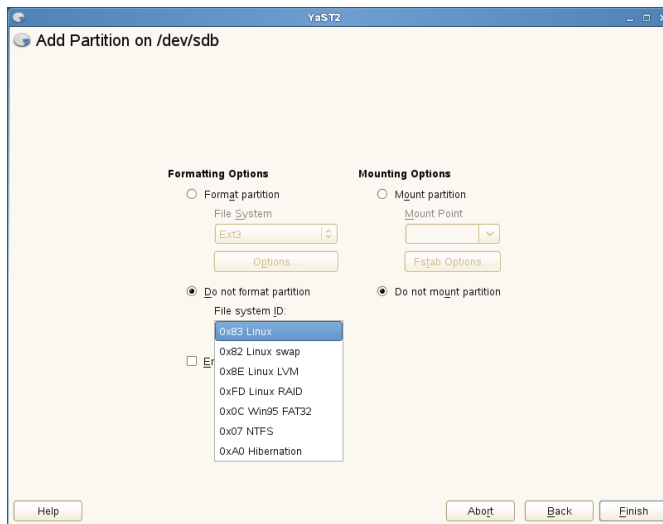
- 1 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, select *SystemPartitioner*.
- 3 Click *Yes* to continue through the warning about using the Partitioner.
- 4 At the bottom of the Partitions page, click *Add* to create a partition, but do not format it, and do not mount it.
  - 4a On the Expert Partitioner page, select *Hard Disks*, then select the leaf node name (such as `sdc`) of the disk you want to configure.

**4b** Select *Primary Partition*, then click *Next*.

**4c** Specify the amount of space to use, then click *Next*.

**4d** Under *Formatting Options*, select *Do not format*, then select the file system ID type from the drop-down list.

iSCSI LIO targets can use unformatted partitions with Linux (0x83), Linux LVM (0x8E), or Linux RAID (0xFD) file system IDs.

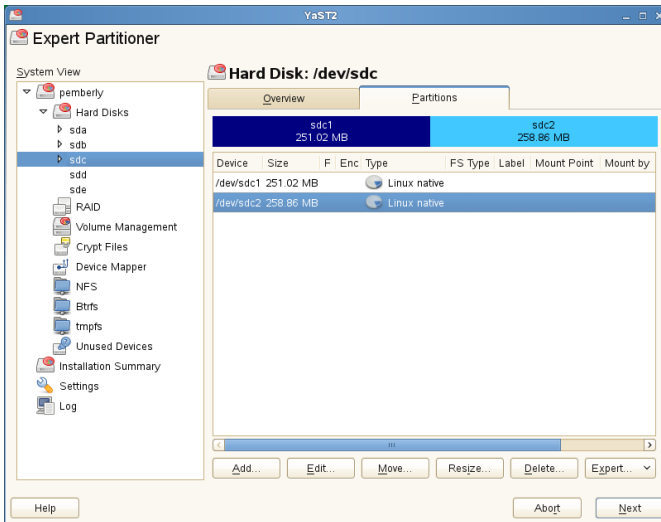


**4e** Under *Mounting Options*, select *Do not mount*.

**4f** Click *Finish*.

**5** Repeat Step 4 (page 242) to create an unformatted partition for each area that you want to use later as an iSCSI LIO target.





6 Click *NextFinish* to keep your changes, then close YaST.

## 15.4.2 Partitioning Devices in a Virtual Environment

You can use a virtual machine guest server as a iSCSI LIO Target Server. This section describes how to assign partitions to a Xen virtual machine. You can also use other virtual environments that are supported by SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 SP2 or later.

In a Xen virtual environment, you must assign the storage space you want to use for the iSCSI LIO target devices to the guest virtual machine, then access the space as virtual disks within the guest environment. Each virtual disk can be a physical block device, such as an entire disk, partition, or volume, or it can be a file-backed disk image where the virtual disk is a single image file on a larger physical disk on the Xen host server. For the best performance, create each virtual disk from a physical disk or a partition. After you set up the virtual disks for the guest virtual machine, start the guest server, then configure the new blank virtual disks as iSCSI target devices by following the same process as for a physical server.

File-backed disk images are created on the Xen host server, then assigned to the Xen guest server. By default, Xen stores file-backed disk images in the `/var/lib/`

`xen/images/vm_name` directory, where `vm_name` is the name of the virtual machine.

For example, if you want to create the disk image `/var/lib/xen/images/vm_one/xen-0` with a size of 4 GB, first ensure that the directory is there, then create the image itself.

- 1 Log in to the host server as the `root` user.
- 2 At a terminal console prompt, enter the following commands:

```
mkdir -p /var/lib/xen/images/vm_one
dd if=/dev/zero of=/var/lib/xen/images/vm_one/xen-0 seek=1M bs=4096
count=1
```

- 3 Assign the file system image to the guest virtual machine in the Xen configuration file.
- 4 Log in as the `root` user on the guest server, then use YaST to set up the virtual block device by using the process in Section 15.4.1, “Partitioning Devices” (page 275).

## 15.5 Setting Up an iSCSI LIO Target Group

You can use YaST to configure iSCSI LIO target devices. YaST uses APIs provided by the `lio-utils` software. iSCSI LIO targets can use unformatted partitions with Linux, Linux LVM, or Linux RAID file system IDs.

---

### IMPORTANT

Before you begin, create the unformatted partitions that you want to use as iSCSI LIO targets as described in Section 15.4, “Preparing the Storage Space” (page 275).

---

- 1 Log in to the iSCSI LIO target server as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 Ensure that the `/etc/init.d/target` daemon is running. At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

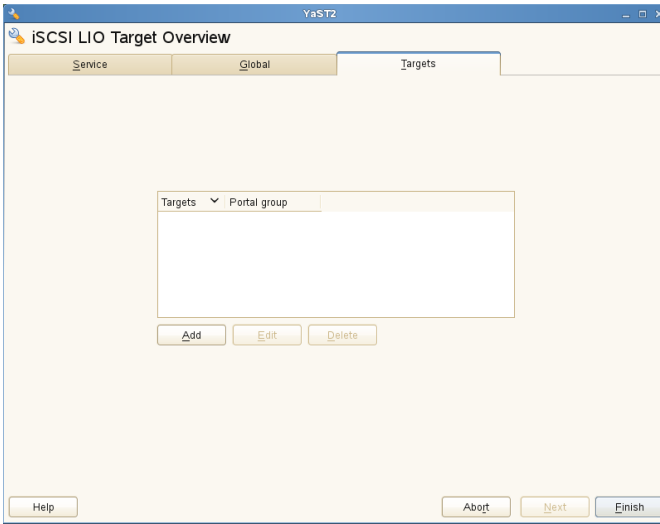
The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

- 3 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 4 In the YaST Control Center, select *Network Services*, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

You can also search for “lio”, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

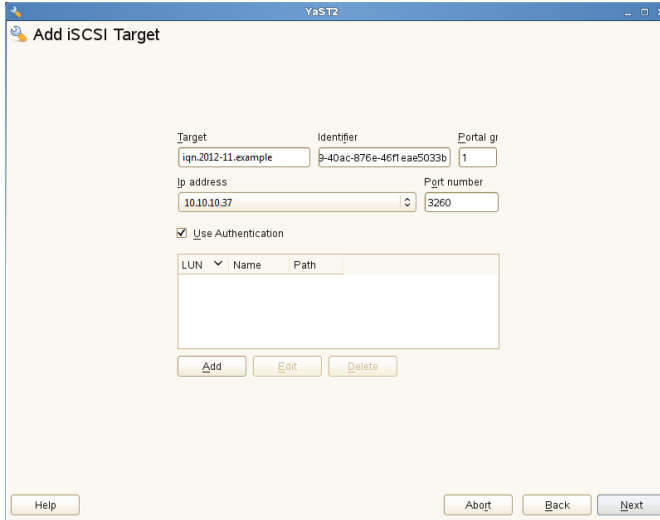


- 5 In the iSCSI LIO Target Overview dialog box, select the *Targets* tab to configure the targets.



- 6 Click *Add*, then define a new iSCSI LIO target group and devices:

The iSCSI LIO Target software automatically completes the *Target*, *Identifier*, *Portal Group*, *IP Address*, and *Port Number* fields. *Use Authentication* is selected by default.



- 6a** If you have multiple network interfaces, use the IP address drop-down list to select the IP address of the network interface to use for this target group.
- 6b** Select *Use Authentication* if you want to require client authentication for this target group.

---

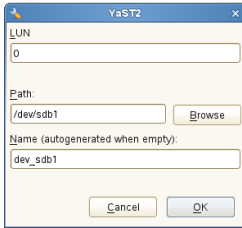
## IMPORTANT

Requiring authentication is recommended in a production environment.

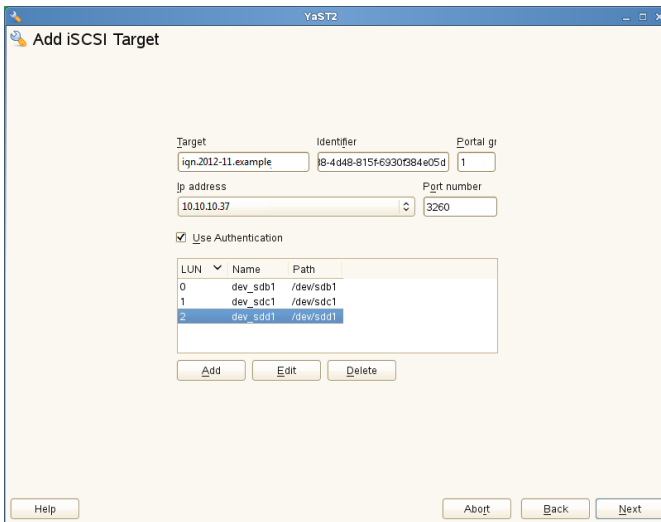
---

- 6c** Click *Add*, browse to select the device or partition, specify a name, then click *OK*.

The LUN number is automatically generated, beginning with 0. A name is automatically generated if you leave the field empty.

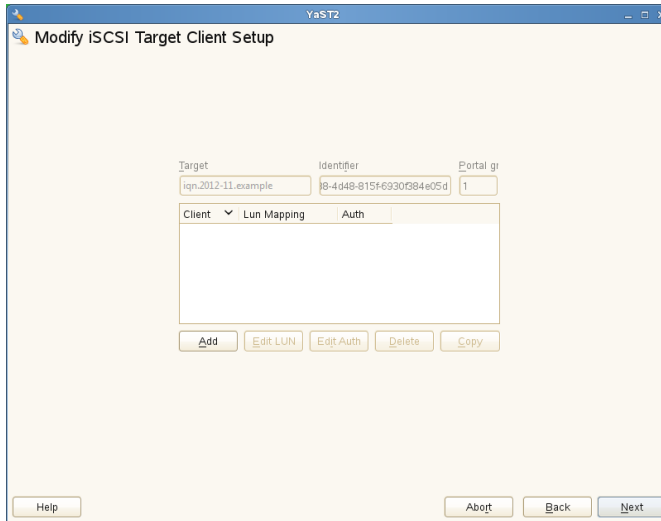


**6d** (Optional) Repeat Step 6a (page 280) through Step 6c (page 280) to add more targets to this target group.

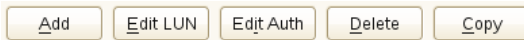


**6e** After all desired targets have been added to the group, click *Next*.

**7** On the Modify iSCSI Target Client Setup page, configure information for the clients that are permitted to access LUNs in the target group:

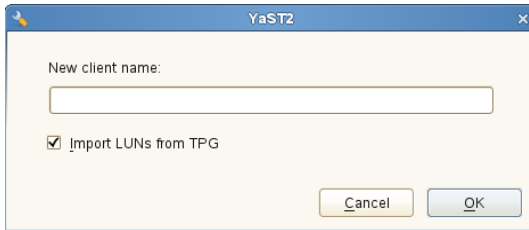


After you specify at least one client for the target group, the *Edit LUN*, *Edit Auth*, *Delete*, and *Copy* buttons are enabled. You can use *Add* or *Copy* to add more clients for the target group.



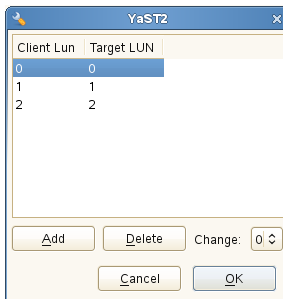
- **Add:** Add a new client entry for the selected iSCSI LIO target group.
- **Edit LUN:** Configure which LUNs in the iSCSI LIO target group to map to a selected client. You can map each of the allocated targets to a preferred client LUN.
- **Edit Auth:** Configure the preferred authentication method for a selected client. You can specify no authentication, or you can configure incoming authentication, outgoing authentication, or both.
- **Delete:** Remove a selected client entry from the list of clients allocated to the target group.
- **Copy:** Add a new client entry with the same LUN mappings and authentication settings as a selected client entry. This allows you to easily allocate the same shared LUNs, in turn, to each node in a cluster.

- 7a** Click *Add*, specify the client name, select or deselect the *Import LUNs from TPG* check box, then click *OK* to save the settings.



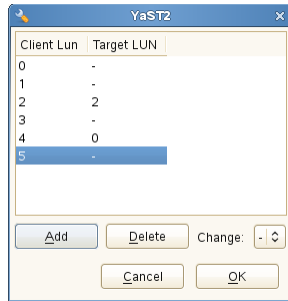
- 7b** Select a client entry, click *Edit LUN*, modify the LUN mappings to specify which LUNs in the iSCSI LIO target group to allocate to the selected client, then click *OK* to save the changes.

If the iSCSI LIO target group consists of multiple LUNs, you can allocate one or multiple LUNs to the selected client. By default, each of the available LUNs in the group are assigned to a Client LUN.

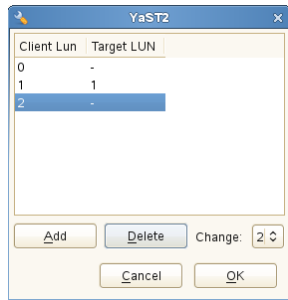


To modify the LUN allocation, perform one or more of the following actions:

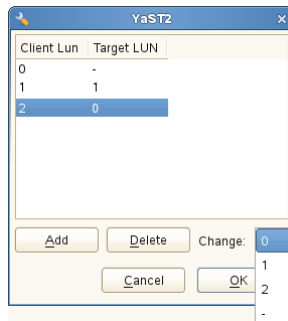
- **Add:** Click *Add* to create a new *Client LUN* entry, then use the *Change* drop-down list to map a Target LUN to it.



- **Delete:** Select the *Client LUN* entry, then click *Delete* to remove a Target LUN mapping.



- **Change:** Select the *Client LUN* entry, then use the *Change* drop-down list to select which Target LUN to map to it.

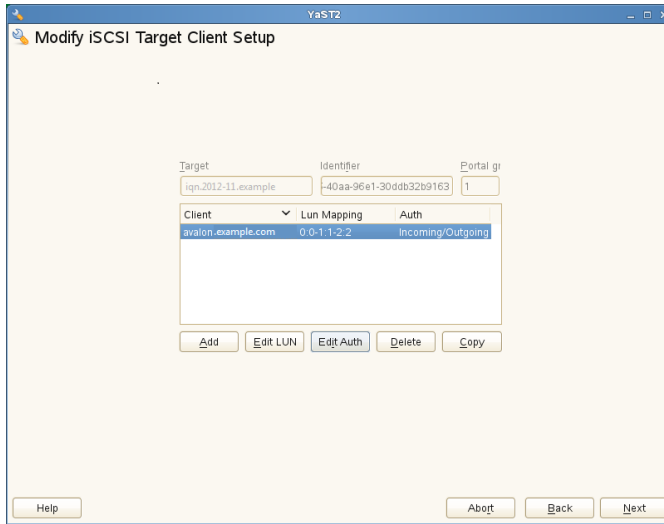


Typical allocation plans include the following:



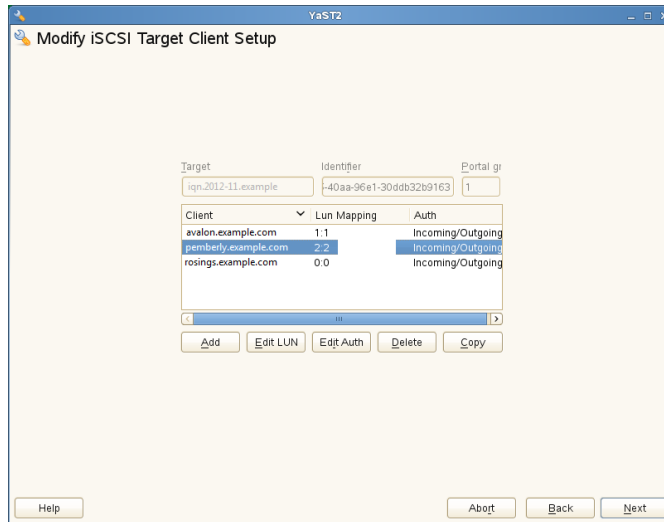
- A single server is listed as a client. All of the LUNs in the target group are allocated to it.

You can use this grouping strategy to logically group the iSCSI SAN storage for a given server.



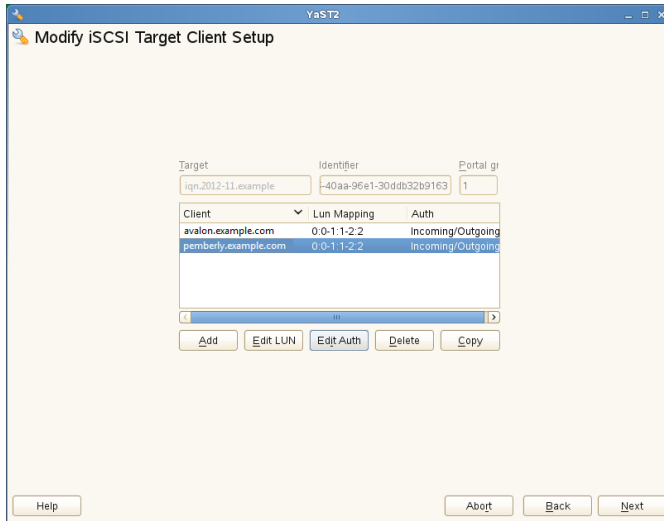
- Multiple independent servers are listed as clients. One or multiple target LUNs are allocated to each server. Each LUN is allocated to only one server.

You can use this grouping strategy to logically group the iSCSI SAN storage for a given department or service category in the data center.



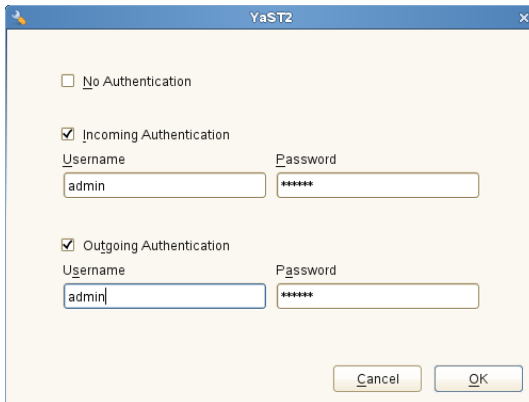
- Each node of a cluster is listed as a client. All of the shared target LUNs are allocated to each node. All nodes are attached to the devices, but for most file systems, the cluster software locks a device for access and mounts it on only one node at a time. Shared file systems (such as OCFS2) make it possible for multiple nodes to concurrently mount the same file structure and to open the same files with read and write access.

You can use this grouping strategy to logically group the iSCSI SAN storage for a given server cluster.



- 7c** Select a client entry, click *Edit Auth*, specify the authentication settings for the client, then click *OK* to save the settings.

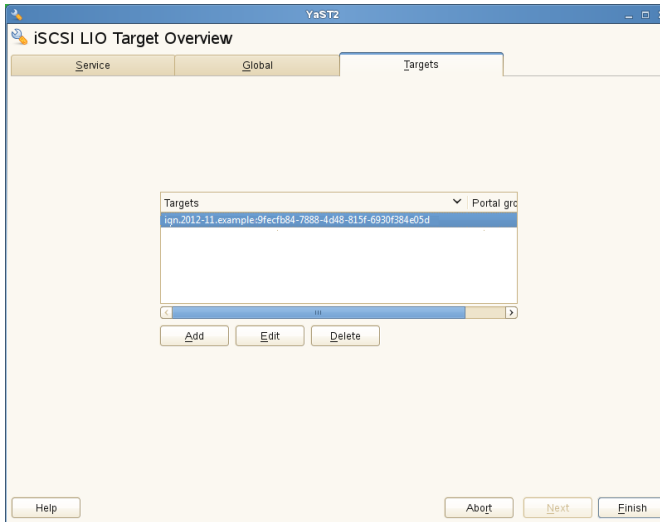
You can require *No Authentication*, or you can configure *Incoming Authentication*, *Outgoing Authentication*, or both. You can specify only one user name and password pair for each client. The credentials can be different for incoming and outgoing authentication for a client. The credentials can be different for each client.



**7d** Repeat Step 7a (page 283) through Step 7c (page 287) for each iSCSI client that can access this target group.

**7e** After the client assignments are configured, click *Next*.

**8** Click *Finish* to save and apply the settings.



## 15.6 Modifying an iSCSI LIO Target Group

You can modify an existing iSCSI LIO target group as follows:

- Add or remove target LUN devices from a target group
- Add or remove clients for a target group
- Modify the client LUN-to-target LUN mappings for a client of a target group
- Modify the user name and password credentials for a client authentication (incoming, outgoing, or both)

To view or modify the settings for an iSCSI LIO target group:

- 1 Log in to the iSCSI LIO target server as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 Ensure that the `/etc/init.d/target` daemon is running. At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

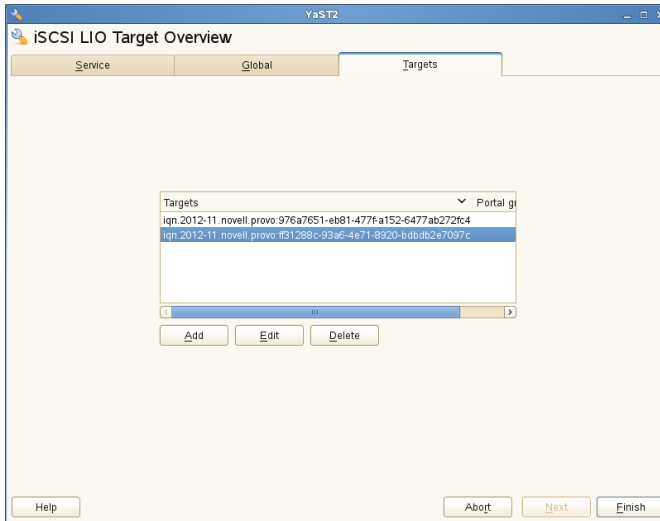
The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

- 3 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 4 In the YaST Control Center, select *Network Services*, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

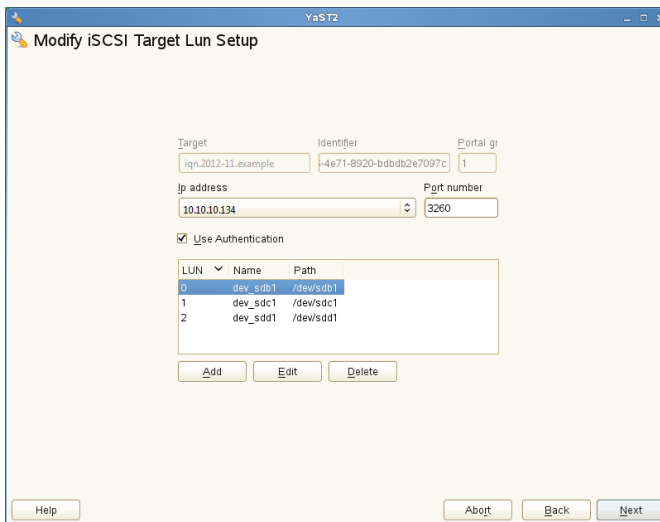
You can also search for “lio”, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.



- 5 In the iSCSI LIO Target Overview dialog box, select the *Targets* tab to view a list of target groups.



6 Select the iSCSI LIO target group to be modified, then click *Edit*.



7 On the Modify iSCSI Target LUN Setup page, add LUNs to the target group, edit the LUN assignments, or remove target LUNs from the group. After all desired changes have been made to the group, click *Next*.

For option information, see Step 6 (page 279) in Section 15.5, “Setting Up an iSCSI LIO Target Group” (page 278).

- 8 On the Modify iSCSI Target Client Setup page, configure information for the clients that are permitted to access LUNs in the target group. After all desired changes have been made to the group, click *Next*.

For option information, see Step 7 (page 281) in Section 15.5, “Setting Up an iSCSI LIO Target Group” (page 278).

- 9 Click *Finish* to save and apply the settings.

## 15.7 Deleting an iSCSI LIO Target Group

Deleting an iSCSI LIO target group removes the definition of the group, and the related setup for clients, including LUN mappings and authentication credentials. It does not destroy the data on the partitions. To give clients access again, you can allocate the target LUNs to a different or new target group, and configure the client access for them.

- 1 Log in to the iSCSI LIO target server as the `root` user, then launch a terminal console.
- 2 Ensure that the `/etc/init.d/target` daemon is running. At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

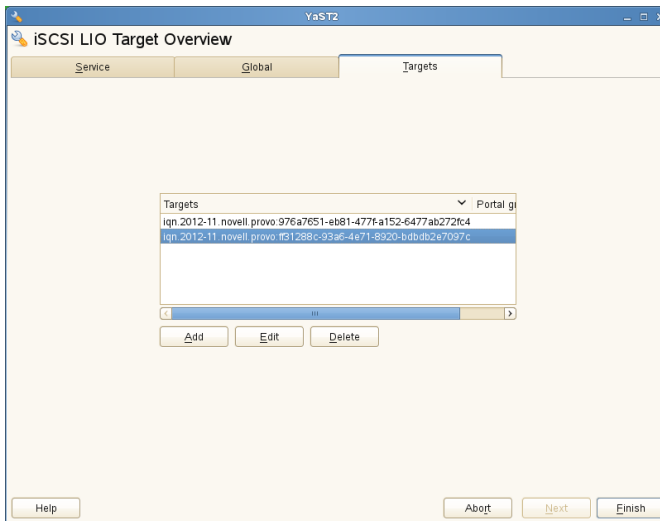
The command returns a message to confirm that the daemon is started, or that the daemon is already running.

- 3 Launch YaST as the `root` user.
- 4 In the YaST Control Center, select *Network Services*, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

You can also search for “lio”, then select *iSCSI LIO Target*.

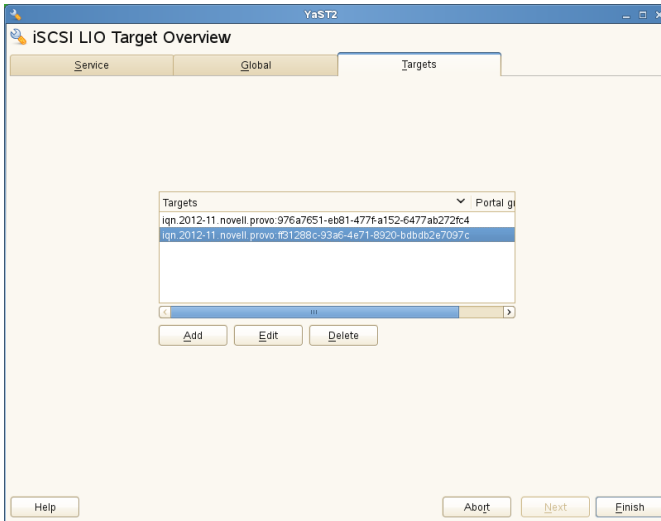


- 5 In the iSCSI LIO Target Overview dialog box, select the *Targets* tab to view a list of configured target groups.



- 6 Select the iSCSI LIO target group to be deleted, then click *Delete*.





- 7 When you are prompted, click *Continue* to confirm the deletion, or click *Cancel* to cancel it.
- 8 Click *Finish* to save and apply the settings.

## 15.8 Troubleshooting iSCSI LIO Target Server

This section describes some known issues and possible solutions for iSCSI LIO Target Server.

- Section 15.8.1, “Portal Error When Setting Up Target LUNs ” (page 293)
- Section 15.8.2, “iSCSI LIO Targets Are Not Visible from Other Computers” (page 294)

### 15.8.1 Portal Error When Setting Up Target LUNs

When adding or editing an iSCSI LIO target group, you get an error:

Problem setting network portal <ip\_address>:3260

The `/var/log/YasT2/y2log` log file contains the following error:

```
find: `/sys/kernel/config/target/iscsi': No such file or directory
```

This problem occurs if the iSCSI LIO Target Server software is not currently running. To resolve this issue, exit YaST, manually start iSCSI LIO at the command line, then try again.

**1** Open a terminal console as the `root` user.

**2** At the command prompt, enter

```
/etc/init.d/target start
```

You can also enter the following to check if `configfs`, `iscsi_target_mod`, and `target_core_mod` are loaded. A sample response is shown.

```
lsmod | grep iscsi
```

```
iscsi_target_mod      295015  0
target_core_mod       346745  4
iscsi_target_mod,target_core_pscsi,target_core_iblock,target_core_file
configfs              35817   3 iscsi_target_mod,target_core_mod
scsi_mod              231620  16
```

```
iscsi_target_mod,target_core_pscsi,target_core_mod,sg,sr_mod,mptctl,sd_mod,
scsi_dh_rdac,scsi_dh_emc,scsi_dh_alua,scsi_dh_hp_sw,scsi_dh,libata,mptspi,
mptscsih,scsi_transport_spi
```

## 15.8.2 iSCSI LIO Targets Are Not Visible from Other Computers

If you use a firewall on the target server, you must open the iSCSI port that you are using to allow other computers to see the iSCSI LIO targets. For information, see Step 7 (page 268) in Section 15.2.1, “Configuring iSCSI LIO Startup Preferences” (page 267).

# 15.9 iSCSI LIO Target Terminology

## backstore

A physical storage object that provides the actual storage underlying an iSCSI endpoint.

## CDB (command descriptor block)

The standard format for SCSI commands. CDBs are commonly 6, 10, or 12 bytes long, though they can be 16 bytes or of variable length.

## CHAP (Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol)

A point-to-point protocol (PPP) authentication method used to confirm the identity of one computer to another. After the Link Control Protocol (LCP) connects the two computers, and the CHAP method is negotiated, the authenticator sends a random Challenge to the peer. The peer issues a cryptographically hashed Response that depends upon the Challenge and a secret key. The authenticator verifies the hashed Response against its own calculation of the expected hash value, and either acknowledges the authentication or terminates the connection. CHAP is defined in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) [<http://www.ietf.org>] RFC 1994.

## CID (connection identifier)

A 16-bit number, generated by the initiator, that uniquely identifies a connection between two iSCSI devices. This number is presented during the login phase.

## endpoint

The combination of an iSCSI Target Name with an iSCSI TPG (IQN + Tag).

## EUI (extended unique identifier)

A 64-bit number that uniquely identifies every device in the world. The format consists of 24 bits that are unique to a given company, and 40 bits assigned by the company to each device it builds.

## initiator

The originating end of a SCSI session. Typically a controlling device such as a computer.

## IPS (Internet Protocol storage)

The class of protocols or devices that use the IP protocol to move data in a storage network. FCIP (Fibre Channel over Internet Protocol), iFCP (Internet

Fibre Channel Protocol), and iSCSI (Internet SCSI) are all examples of IPS protocols.

**IQN (iSCSI qualified name)**

A name format for iSCSI that uniquely identifies every device in the world (for example: `iqn.5886.com.acme.tapedrive.sn-a12345678`).

**ISID (initiator session identifier)**

A 48-bit number, generated by the initiator, that uniquely identifies a session between the initiator and the Target. This value is created during the login process, and is sent to the target with a Login PDU.

**MCS (multiple connections per session)**

A part of the iSCSI specification that allows multiple TCP/IP connections between an initiator and a target.

**MPIO (multipath I/O)**

A method by which data can take multiple redundant paths between a server and storage.

**network portal**

The combination of an iSCSI Endpoint with an IP address plus a TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) port. TCP port 3260 is the port number for the iSCSI protocol, as defined by IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority).

**SAM (SCSI architectural model)**

A document that describes the behavior of SCSI in general terms, allowing for different types of devices communicating over various media.

**target**

The receiving end of a SCSI session, typically a device such as a disk drive, tape drive, or scanner.

**target group (TG)**

A list of SCSI target ports that are all treated the same when creating views. Creating a view can help facilitate LUN (logical unit number) mapping. Each view entry specifies a target group, host group, and a LUN.

**target port**

The combination of an iSCSI endpoint with one or more LUNs.

target port group (TPG)

A list of IP addresses and TCP port numbers that determines which interfaces a specific iSCSI target will listen to.

target session identifier (TSID)

A 16-bit number, generated by the target, that uniquely identifies a session between the initiator and the target. This value is created during the login process, and is sent to the initiator with a Login Response PDU (protocol data units).

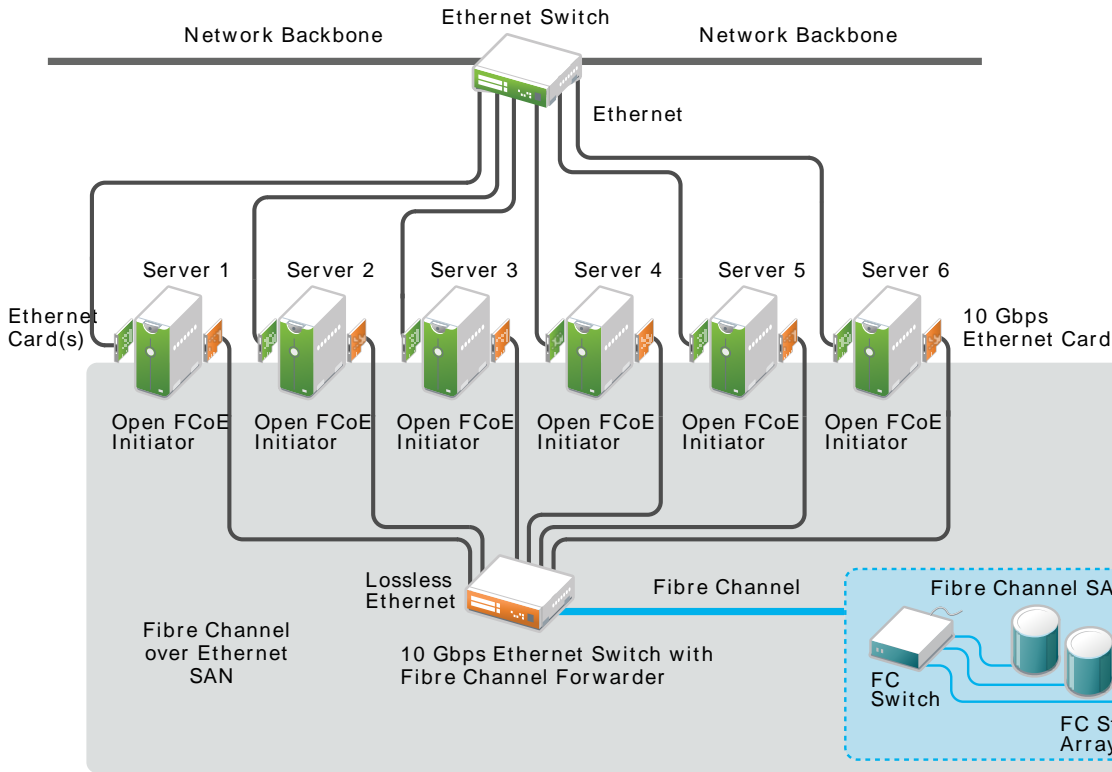


# Fibre Channel Storage over Ethernet Networks: FCoE

# 16

Many enterprise data centers rely on Ethernet for their LAN and data traffic, and on Fibre Channel networks for their storage infrastructure. Open Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) Initiator software allows servers with Ethernet adapters to connect to a Fibre Channel storage subsystem over an Ethernet network. This connectivity was previously reserved exclusively for systems with Fibre Channel adapters over a Fibre Channel fabric. The FCoE technology reduces complexity in the data center by aiding network convergence. This helps to preserve your existing investments in a Fibre Channel storage infrastructure and to simplify network management.

**Figure 16.1:** *Open Fibre Channel over Ethernet SAN*



Open-FCoE allows you to run the Fibre Channel protocols on the host, instead of on proprietary hardware on the host bus adapter. It is targeted for 10 Gbps (gigabit per second) Ethernet adapters, but can work on any Ethernet adapter that supports pause frames. The initiator software provides a Fibre Channel protocol processing module as well as an Ethernet based transport module. The Open-FCoE module acts as a low-level driver for SCSI. The Open-FCoE transport uses `net_device` to send and receive packets. Data Center Bridging (DCB) drivers provide the quality of service for FCoE.

FCoE is an encapsulation protocol that moves the Fibre Channel protocol traffic over Ethernet connections without changing the Fibre Channel frame. This allows your network security and traffic management infrastructure to work the same with FCoE as it does with Fibre Channel.



You might choose to deploy Open-FCoE in your enterprise if the following conditions exist:

- Your enterprise already has a Fibre Channel storage subsystem and administrators with Fibre Channel skills and knowledge.
- You are deploying 10 Gbps Ethernet in the network.

This section describes how to set up FCoE in your network.

- Section 16.1, “Installing FCoE and the YaST FCoE Client” (page 301)
- Section 16.2, “Configuring FCoE Interfaces during the Installation” (page 302)
- Section 16.3, “Managing FCoE Services with YaST” (page 303)
- Section 16.4, “Configuring FCoE with Commands” (page 309)
- Section 16.5, “Managing FCoE Instances with the FCoE Administration Tool” (page 310)
- Section 16.6, “Setting Up Partitions for an FCoE Initiator Disk” (page 315)
- Section 16.7, “Creating a File System on an FCoE Initiator Disk” (page 315)
- Section 16.8, “Additional Information” (page 316)

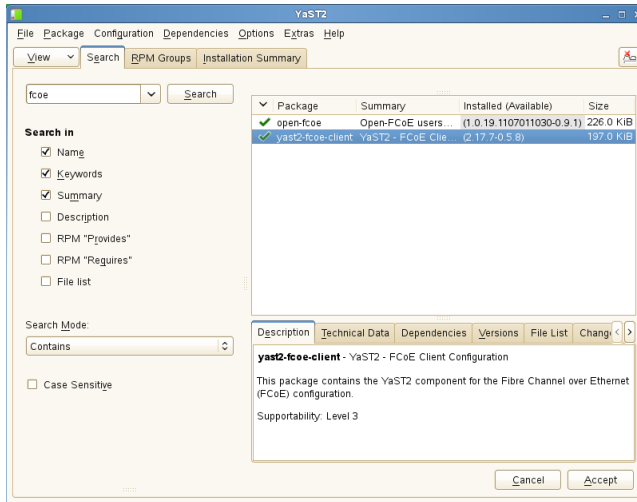
## 16.1 Installing FCoE and the YaST FCoE Client

You can set up FCoE disks in your storage infrastructure by enabling FCoE at the switch for the connections to a server. If FCoE disks are available when the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server operating system is installed, the FCoE Initiator software is automatically installed at that time.

If the FCoE Initiator software and YaST FCoE Client software are not installed, use the following procedure to manually install them on an existing system:

- 1 Log in to the server as the `root` user.
- 2 In YaST, select *Software Management*.
- 3 Search for and select the following FCoE packages:
  - `open-fcoe`
  - `yast2-fcoe-client`

For example, type `fcoe` in the *Search* field, click *Search* to locate the software packages, then select the check box next to each software package that you want to install.



- 4 Click *Accept*, then click *Continue* to accept the automatic changes.

## 16.2 Configuring FCoE Interfaces during the Installation

The YaST installation for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server allows you to configure FCoE disks during the operating system installation if FCoE is enabled at the switch

for the connections between the server and the Fibre Channel storage infrastructure. Some system BIOS types can automatically detect the FCoE disks, and report the disks to the YaST Installation software. However, automatic detection of FCoE disks is not supported by all BIOS types. To enable automatic detection in this case, you can add the `withfcOE` option to the kernel command line when you begin the installation:

```
withfcOE=1
```

When the FCoE disks are detected, the YaST installation offers the option to configure FCoE instances at that time. On the Disk Activation page, select *Configure FCoE Interfaces* to access the FCoE configuration. For information about configuring the FCoE interfaces, see Section 16.3, “Managing FCoE Services with YaST” (page 303).



## 16.3 Managing FCoE Services with YaST

You can use the YaST FCoE Client Configuration option to create, configure, and remove FCoE interfaces for the FCoE disks in your Fibre Channel storage

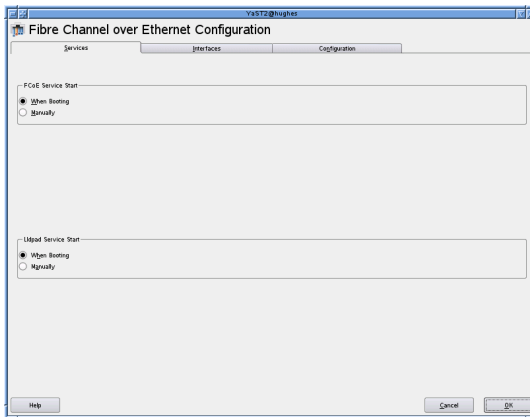
infrastructure. To use this option, the FCoE Initiator service (the `fcoemon` daemon) and the Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent daemon (`lldpad`) must be installed and running, and the FCoE connections must be enabled at the FCoE-capable switch.

- 1 Log in as the `root` user, then launch YaST.
- 2 In YaST, select *Network ServicesFCoE Client Configuration*.



The Fibre Channel over Ethernet Configuration dialog box provides three tabs:

- *Services*
  - *Interfaces*
  - *Configuration*
- 3 On the *Services* tab, view or modify the FCoE service and Lldpad (Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent daemon) service start time as necessary.



- **FCoE Service Start:** Specifies whether to start the Fibre Channel over Ethernet service `fcoemon` daemon at the server boot time or manually. The daemon controls the FCoE interfaces and establishes a connection with the Lldpad daemon. The values are *When Booting* (default) or *Manually*.

- **Lldpad Service Start:** Specifies whether to start the Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent `lldpad` daemon at the server boot time or manually. The `lldpad` daemon informs the `fcoemon` daemon about the Data Center Bridging features and the configuration of the FCoE interfaces. The values are *When Booting* (default) or *Manually*.

If you modify a setting, click *OK* to save and apply the change.

- 4 On the *Interfaces* tab, view information about all of the detected network adapters on the server, including information about VLAN and FCoE configuration. You can also create an FCoE VLAN interface, change settings for an existing FCoE interface, or remove an FCoE interface.

### View FCoE Information

The *FCoE Interfaces* table displays the following information about each adapter:

The screenshot shows a window titled "Fibre Channel over Ethernet Configuration" with a tabbed interface. The "Interfaces" tab is active, displaying a table with the following columns: Device Name, Model, FCoE VLAN Interface, FCoE Enable, DCB Required, AUTO VLAN, and DCB capable. The table contains five rows of data, with the last row highlighted in blue.

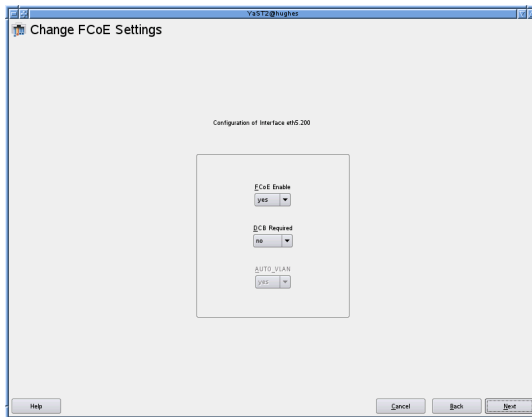
Device Name	Model	FCoE VLAN Interface	FCoE Enable	DCB Required	AUTO VLAN	DCB capable
eth0	NetXen N BCM5709 Gigabit Ethernet	not available			no	no
eth1	NetXen N BCM5709 Gigabit Ethernet	not available			no	no
eth2	NetXen N BCM5709 Gigabit Ethernet	not available			no	no
eth3	NetXen N BCM5709 Gigabit Ethernet	not available			no	no
eth4	Broadcom Ethernet controller eth4.200	yes	no	yes	no	no
eth5	Broadcom Ethernet controller eth5.200	yes	no	yes	no	no

- **Device Name:** Specifies the adapter name such as `eth4`.
- **Model:** Specifies the adapter model information.
- **FCoE VLAN Interface**
  - **Interface Name:** If a name is assigned to the interface, such as `eth4.200`, FCoE is available on the switch, and the FCoE interface is activated for the adapter.

- **Not Configured:** If the status is *not configured*, FCoE is enabled on the switch, but an FCoE interface has not been activated for the adapter. Select the adapter, then click *Create FCoE VLAN Interface* to activate the interface on the adapter.
- **Not Available:** If the status is *not available*, FCoE is not possible for the adapter because FCoE has not been enabled for that connection on the switch.
- **FCoE Enable:** Specifies whether FCoE is enabled on the switch for the adapter connection. (*yes* or *no*)
- **DCB Required:** Specifies whether the adapter requires Data Center Bridging. (*yes* or *no*)
- **Auto VLAN:** Specifies whether automatic VLAN configuration is enabled for the adapter. (*yes* or *no*)
- **DCB Capable:** Specifies whether the adapter supports Data Center Bridging. (*yes* or *no*)

### Change FCoE Settings

Select an FCoE VLAN interface, then click *Change Settings* at the bottom of the page to open the Change FCoE Settings dialog box.

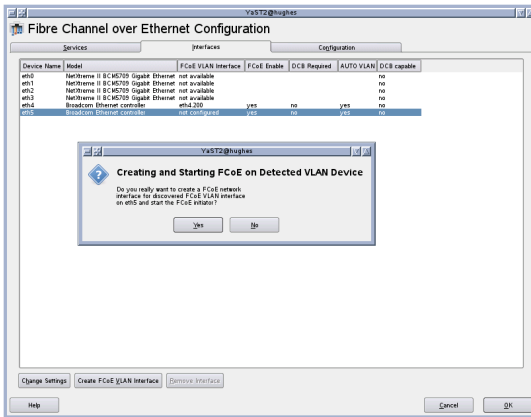


- **FCoE Enable:** Enable or disable the creation of FCoE instances for the adapter. Values are *yes* or *no*.
- **DCB Required:** Specifies whether Data Center Bridging is required for the adapter. Values are *yes* (default) or *no*. DCB is usually required.
- **Auto VLAN:** Specifies whether the `fcoemon` daemon creates the VLAN interfaces automatically. Values are *yes* or *no*.

If you modify a setting, click *Next* to save and apply the change. The settings are written to the `/etc/fcoe/ethX` file. The `fcoemon` daemon reads the configuration files for each FCoE interface when the daemon is initialized. There is a file for every FCoE interface.

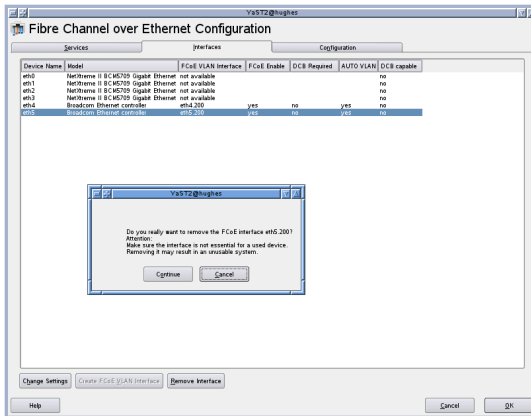
## Create FCoE VLAN Interfaces

Select an adapter that has FCoE enabled but is not configured, then click *Yes* to configure the FCoE interface. The assigned interface name appears in the list, such as `eth5.200`.

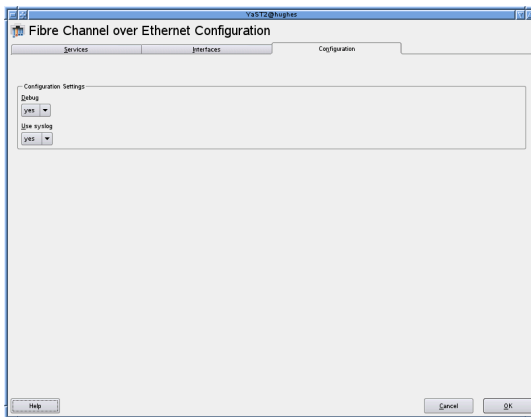


## Remove FCoE Interface

Select the FCoE interface that you want to remove, click *Remove Interface* at the bottom of the page, then click *Continue* to confirm. The FCoE Interface value changes to *not configured*.



5 On the *Configuration* tab, view or modify the general settings for the FCoE system service.



- **Debug:** Enables or disables debugging messages from the FCoE service script and `fcoemon` daemon. The values are *Yes* or *No* (default).
- **Use syslog:** Specifies whether messages are sent to the system log (`/var/log/syslog`). The values are *Yes* (default) or *No*. (Data is logged in `/var/log/messages`.)

If you modify a setting, click *OK* to save and apply the change. The settings are written to the `/etc/fcoe/config` file.



6 Click *OK* to save and apply changes.

## 16.4 Configuring FCoE with Commands

- 1 Log in to the server as the `root` user, then open a terminal console.
- 2 Use YaST to configure the Ethernet network interface card, such as `eth2`.
- 3 Start the Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent daemon (`lldpad`).

```
rclldpad start
```

- 4 Enable Data Center Bridging on your Ethernet adapter.

```
dcbtool sc eth2 dcb on
Version:      2
Command:      Set Config
Feature:      DCB State
Port:         eth2
Status:       Successful
```

- 5 Enable and set the Priority Flow Control (PFC) settings for Data Center Bridging.

```
dcbtool sc eth<x> pfc e:1 a:1 w:1
```

Argument setting values are:

`e:<0|1>`

Controls feature enable.

`a:<0|1>`

Controls whether the feature is advertised via Data Center Bridging Exchange protocol to the peer.

`w:<0|1>`

Controls whether the feature is willing to change its operational configuration based on what is received from the peer.

- 6 Enable the Data Center Bridging to accept the switch's priority setting for FCoE.

```
dcbttool sc eth2 app:fcOE e:1
  Version:      2
  Command:     Set Config
  Feature:     Application FCoE
  Port:        eth2
  Status:      Successful
```

## 7 Copy the default FCoE configuration file to `/etc/fcoe/cfg-eth2`.

```
cp /etc/fcoe/cfg-ethx /etc/fcoe/cfg-eth2
```

## 8 Start the FCoE Initiator service.

```
rcfcoe start
  Starting FCoE initiator service
```

## 9 Set up the Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent daemon (`lldpad`) and the FCoE Initiator service to start when booting.

```
chkconfig boot.lldpad on
chkconfig boot.fcoe on
```

# 16.5 Managing FCoE Instances with the FCoE Administration Tool

The `fcoeadm` utility is the Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) management tool for the Open-FCoE project. It can be used to create, destroy, and reset an FCoE instance on a given network interface. The `fcoeadm` utility sends commands to a running `fcoemon` process via a socket interface. For information about `fcoemon`, see the `fcoemon(8)` man page.

The `fcoeadm` utility allows you to query the FCoE instances about the following:

- Interfaces
- Target LUNs
- Port statistics

The `fcoeadm` utility is part of the `fcoe-utils` package. It is maintained by the Open-FCoE project [<http://open-fcoe.org/>].

## Syntax

Fiber Channel over Ethernet Administration version 1.0.12.

```
fcoeadm
[-c|--create] [<ethX>]
[-d|--destroy] [<ethX>]
[-r|--reset] [<ethX>]
[-S|--Scan] [<ethX>]
[-i|--interface] [<ethX>]
[-t|--target] [<ethX>]
[-l|--lun] [<ethX>]
[-s|--stats <ethX>] [<interval>]
[-v|--version]
[-h|--help]
```

## Options

`-c` , `--create` <ethX>

Creates an FCoE instance based on the specified network interface. If an `fcoemon` configuration file does not exist for the Open-FCoE service daemon interface (`/etc/fcoe/cfg-ethx`; see `fcoemon(8)` man page), the created FCoE instance does not require Data Center Bridging.

**Example:** To create an FCoE instance on `eth2.101`:

```
fcoeadm -c eth2.101
```

`-d` , `--destroy` <ethX>

Destroys an FCoE instance on the specified network interface. This does not destroy FCoE instances created by `fipvlan`.

**Example:** To destroy an FCoE instance on `eth2.101`:

```
fcoeadm -d eth2.101
```

`-h` , `--help`

Displays the usage message of the `fcoeadm` command.

`-i` , `--interface` [<ethX>]

Shows information about the FCoE instance on the specified network interface. If no network interface is specified, it shows information for all FCoE instances.

## Examples

To show information about all of the adapters and their ports that have FCoE instances created:

```
fcoeadm -i
```

To show information about all of the FCoE instances on interface `eth3`:

```
fcoeadm -i eth3
```

`-l` , `--lun` [`<ethX>`]

Shows detailed information about the discovered SCSI LUNs associated with the FCoE instance on the specified network interface. If no network interface is specified, it shows information about SCSI LUNs from all FCoE instances.

## Examples

To show detailed information about all of the LUNs discovered on all FCoE connections:

```
fcoeadm -l
```

To show detailed information about all of the LUNs discovered on a specific connections, such as `eth3.101`:

```
fcoeadm -l eth3.101
```

`-r` , `--reset` `<ethX>`

Resets the FCoE instance on the specified network interface. This does not reset FCoE instances created by `fipvlan`.

**Example:** To reset the FCoE instance on `eth2.101`:

```
fcoeadm -r eth2.101
```

`-s` , `--stats` `<ethX>` [`interval`]

Shows the statistics (including FC4 statistics) of the FCoE instance on the specified network interface. It displays one line per given time interval. Specify the interval value in whole integers greater than 0. The interval

value is the elapsed time of the interval in seconds. If an interval is not specified, the default interval is 1 second.

### Examples:

You can show statistics information about a specific `eth3` port that has FCoE instances. The statistics are displayed one line per time interval. The default interval of one second is not specified in the command.

```
fcoeadm -s eth3
```

To show statistics information about a specific `eth3` port that has FCoE instances, at an interval of 3 seconds. The statistics are displayed one line per time interval.

```
fcoeadm -s eth3 3
```

`-S` , `--Scan <ethX>`

Rescans for new targets and LUN for the specified network interface. This does not rescan any NPIV (N\_Port ID Virtualization) instances created on the same port, and does not rescan any FCoE instances created by `fipvlan`.

`-t` , `--target [<ethX>]`

Shows information about the discovered targets associated with the FCoE instance on the specified network interface. If no network interface is specified, it shows information about discovered targets from all FCoE instances.

### Examples

You can show information about all of the discovered targets from all of the ports that have FCoE instances. They might be on different adapter cards. After each discovered target, any associated LUNs are listed.

```
fcoeadm -t
```

You can show information about all of the discovered targets from a given `eth3` port having FCoE instance. After each discovered target, any associated LUNs are listed.

```
fcoeadm -t eth3
```

```
-v , --version
```

Displays the version of the `fcoeadm` command.

## FCoE Response Examples

### View FCoE Initiator Status for FC-ID Node/Port Number

```
fcoeadm -i eth0.201
Description:      82599EB 10-Gigabit SFI/SFP+ Network Connection
Revision:        01
Manufacturer:    Intel Corporation
Serial Number:   001B219B258C
Driver:          ixgbe 3.3.8-k2
Number of Ports: 1

Symbolic Name:   fcoe v0.1 over eth0.201
OS Device Name:  host8
Node Name:       0x1000001B219B258E
Port Name:       0x2000001B219B258E
FabricName:      0x2001000573D38141
Speed:           10 Gbit
Supported Speed: 10 Gbit
MaxFrameSize:   2112
FC-ID (Port ID): 0x790003
State:           Online
```

### View FCoE Targets for FC-ID Node/Port Number

```
fcoeadm -t eth0.201
Interface:       eth0.201
Roles:           FCP Target
Node Name:       0x200000D0231B5C72
Port Name:       0x210000D0231B5C72
Target ID:       0
MaxFrameSize:   2048
OS Device Name:  rport-8:0-7
FC-ID (Port ID): 0x79000C
State:           Online
```

LUN ID	Device Name	Capacity	Block Size	Description
40	/dev/sdqi	792.84 GB	512	IFT DS S24F-R2840-4
(rev 386C)				
72	/dev/sdpk	650.00 GB	512	IFT DS S24F-R2840-4
(rev 386C)				
168	/dev/sdgy	1.30 TB	512	IFT DS S24F-R2840-4
(rev 386C)				

## 16.6 Setting Up Partitions for an FCoE Initiator Disk

You can use the `fdisk(8)` command to set up partitions for an FCoE initiator disk.

```
fdisk /dev/sdc
Device contains neither a valid DOS partition table, nor Sun, SGI or OSF
disklabel.
Building a new DOS disklabel with disk identifier 0xfc691889.
Changes will remain in memory only, until you decide to write them.
After that, of course, the previous content won't be recoverable.

Warning: Invalid flag 0x0000 of partition table 4 will be corrected by
w(rite)

Command (n for help): n
Command action
  e   extended
  p   primary partition (1-4)

p
Partition number (1-4): 4
First cylinder (1-1017, default 1):
Using default value 1
Last cylinder, *cylinders or *size(K,M,G) (1-1017, default 1017):
Using default value 1017

Command (n for help): w
The partition table has been altered!

Calling ioctl() to re-read partition table.
Syncing disks.
```

## 16.7 Creating a File System on an FCoE Initiator Disk

You can use the `mkfs(8)` command to create a file system on an FCoE initiator disk.

```
mkfs /dev/sdc
mke2fs 1.41.9 (22-Aug-2011)
/dev/sdc is entire device, not just one partition!
Proceed anyway? (y, n) y
```

```
Filesystem label=  
OS type: Linux  
Block size=4096 (log-2)  
262144 inodes, 1048576 blocks  
52428 blocks (5.00%) reserved for the super user  
First data block=0  
Maximum filesystem blocks=1073741824  
32 block groups  
32768 blocks per group, 32768 fragments per group  
8192 inodes per group  
Superblock backups stored on blocks:  
    32768, 98304, 163840, 229376, 294912, 819200, 804736  
  
Writing inode tables: done  
Writing superblocks and filesystem accounting information: done  
  
This filesystem will be automatically checked every 27 mounts or  
180 days, whichever comes first. Use tune2fs -c or -i to override.
```

## 16.8 Additional Information

For information, see the follow documentation:

- For information about the Open-FCoE service daemon, see the `fcoemon(8)` man page.
- For information about the Open-FCoE Administration tool, see the `fcoeadm(8)` man page.
- For information about the Data Center Bridging Configuration tool, see the `dcbtool(8)` man page.
- For information about the Link Layer Discovery Protocol agent daemon, see the `lldpad(8)` man page.
- *Open Fibre Channel over Ethernet Quick Start* [<http://www.open-fcoe.org/open-fcoe/wiki/quickstart>].



# Volume Snapshots

A file system snapshot is a copy-on-write technology that monitors changes to an existing volume's data blocks so that when a write is made to one of the blocks, the block's value at the snapshot time is copied to a snapshot volume. In this way, a point-in-time copy of the data is preserved until the snapshot volume is deleted.

- Section 17.1, “Understanding Volume Snapshots” (page 317)
- Section 17.2, “Creating Linux Snapshots with LVM” (page 319)
- Section 17.3, “Monitoring a Snapshot” (page 319)
- Section 17.4, “Deleting Linux Snapshots” (page 320)

## 17.1 Understanding Volume Snapshots

A file system snapshot contains metadata about and data blocks from an original volume that have changed since the snapshot was taken. When you access data via the snapshot, you see a point-in-time copy the original volume. There is no need to restore data from backup media or to overwrite the changed data.

In a Xen host environment, the virtual machine must be using an LVM logical volume as its storage back-end, as opposed to using a virtual disk file.

Linux snapshots allow you to create a backup from a point-in-time view of the file system. The snapshot is created instantly and persists until you delete it. You can backup the file system from the snapshot while the volume itself continues to be available for users. The snapshot initially contains some metadata about the snapshot, but no actual data from the original volume. Snapshot uses copy-on-write technology to detect when data changes in an original data block. It copies the value it held when the snapshot was taken to a block in the snapshot volume, then allows the new data to be stored in the original block. As blocks change from their original value, the snapshot size grows.

When you are sizing the snapshot, consider how much data is expected to change on the original volume and how long you plan to keep the snapshot. The amount of space that you allocate for a snapshot volume can vary, depending on the size of the original volume, how long you plan to keep the snapshot, and the number of data blocks that are expected to change during the snapshot's lifetime. The snapshot volume cannot be resized after it is created. As a guide, create a snapshot volume that is about 10% of the size of the original logical volume. If you anticipate that every block in the original volume will change at least one time before you delete the snapshot, then the snapshot volume should be at least as large as the original volume plus some additional space for metadata about the snapshot volume. Less space is required if the data changes infrequently or if the expected lifetime is sufficiently brief.

---

## **IMPORTANT**

During the snapshot's lifetime, the snapshot must be mounted before its original volume can be mounted.

---

When you are done with the snapshot, it is important to remove it from the system. A snapshot eventually fills up completely as data blocks change on the original volume. When the snapshot is full, it is disabled, which prevents you from remounting the original volume.

Remove snapshots in a last created, first deleted order.

## 17.2 Creating Linux Snapshots with LVM

The Logical Volume Manager (LVM) can be used for creating snapshots of your file system.

- Open a terminal console, log in as the `root` user, then enter

```
lvcreate -s -L 1G -n snap_volume source_volume_path
```

For example:

```
lvcreate -s -L 1G -n linux01-snap /dev/lvm/linux01
```

The snapshot is created as the `/dev/lvm/linux01-snap` volume.

## 17.3 Monitoring a Snapshot

- Open a terminal console, log in as the `root` user, then enter

```
lvdisplay snap_volume
```

For example:

```
lvdisplay /dev/vg01/linux01-snap
```

```
--- Logical volume ---
LV Name                /dev/lvm/linux01
VG Name                vg01
LV UUID                QHVJYh-PR3s-A4SG-s4Aa-MyWN-Ra7a-HL47KL
LV Write Access        read/write
LV snapshot status     active destination for /dev/lvm/linux01
LV Status              available
# open                 0
LV Size                80.00 GB
Current LE             1024
COW-table size         8.00 GB
COW-table LE           512
Allocated to snapshot  30%
Snapshot chunk size    8.00 KB
Segments               1
Allocation              inherit
```

```
Read ahead sectors    0
Block device          254:5
```

## 17.4 Deleting Linux Snapshots

- Open a terminal console, log in as the `root` user, then enter

```
lvremove snap_volume_path
```

For example:

```
lvremove /dev/lvm/linux01-snap
```

# Managing Access Control Lists over NFSv4

There is no single standard for Access Control Lists (ACLs) in Linux beyond the simple user-group-others read, write, and execute (*rxw*) flags. One option for finer control are the *Draft POSIX ACLs*, which were never formally standardised by POSIX. Another is the NFSv4 ACLs, which were designed to be part of the NFSv4 network filesystem with the goal of making something that provided reasonable compatibility between POSIX systems on Linux and WIN32 systems on Microsoft Windows.

NFSv4 ACLs are not sufficient to correctly implement Draft POSIX ACLs so no attempt has been made to map ACL accesses on an NFSv4 client (such as using `setfacl`).

When using NFSv4, Draft POSIX ACLs cannot be used even in emulation and NFSv4 ACLs need to be used directly; i.e., while `setfacl` can work on NFSv3, it cannot work on NFSv4. To allow NFSv4 ACLs to be used on an NFSv4 filesystem, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server provides the `nfs4-acl-tools` package which contains the following:

- `nfs4-getfacl`
- `nfs4-setfacl`
- `nfs4-editacl`

These operate in a generally similar way to `getfacl` and `setfacl` for examining and modifying NFSv4 ACLs. These commands are effective only if the file system on the NFS server provides full support for NFSv4 ACLs. Any limitation imposed

by the server will affect programs running on the client in that some particular combinations of Access Control Entries (ACEs) might not be possible.

## Additional Information

For information, see “Introduction to NFSv4 ACLs” on the Linux-nfs.org Web site [[http://wiki.linux-nfs.org/wiki/index.php/ACLs#Introduction\\_to\\_NFSv4\\_ACLs](http://wiki.linux-nfs.org/wiki/index.php/ACLs#Introduction_to_NFSv4_ACLs)].

# Troubleshooting Storage Issues

This section describes how to work around known issues for devices, software RAIDs, multipath I/O, and volumes.

- Section 19.1, “Is DM-MPIO Available for the Boot Partition?” (page 323)
- Section 19.2, “Issues for iSCSI” (page 323)
- Section 19.3, “Issues for Multipath I/O” (page 324)
- Section 19.4, “Issues for Software RAIDs” (page 324)

## 19.1 Is DM-MPIO Available for the Boot Partition?

Device Mapper Multipath I/O (DM-MPIO) is supported for the boot partition, beginning in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10 Support Pack 1.

## 19.2 Issues for iSCSI

See Chapter 19, *Troubleshooting Storage Issues* (page 323).

## **19.3 Issues for Multipath I/O**

See Section 7.19, “Troubleshooting MPIO” (page 158).

## **19.4 Issues for Software RAIDs**

See Section 8.3, “Troubleshooting Software RAIDs” (page 166).





# GNU Licenses

This appendix contains the GNU General Public License Version 2 and the GNU Free Documentation License Version 1.2.

- Section A.1, “GNU General Public License” (page 325)
- Section A.2, “GNU Free Documentation License” (page 328)

## GNU General Public License

Version 2, June 1991

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# B

## Documentation Updates

This section contains information about documentation content changes made to the *SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Storage Administration Guide* since the initial release of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11.

This document was updated on the following dates:

- Section B.1, “May 2013 (SLES 11 SP3)” (page 334)
- Section B.2, “March 11, 2013” (page 336)
- Section B.3, “February 8, 2013” (page 337)
- Section B.4, “January 8, 2013” (page 337)
- Section B.5, “November 14, 2012” (page 339)
- Section B.6, “October 29, 2012” (page 340)
- Section B.7, “October 19, 2012” (page 340)
- Section B.8, “September 28, 2012” (page 341)
- Section B.9, “April 12, 2012” (page 343)
- Section B.10, “February 27, 2012 (SLES 11 SP2)” (page 344)
- Section B.11, “July 12, 2011” (page 348)

- Section B.12, “June 14, 2011” (page 349)
- Section B.13, “May 5, 2011” (page 350)
- Section B.14, “January 2011” (page 350)
- Section B.15, “September 16, 2010” (page 351)
- Section B.16, “June 21, 2010” (page 352)
- Section B.17, “May 2010 (SLES 11 SP1)” (page 354)
- Section B.18, “February 23, 2010” (page 357)
- Section B.19, “December 1, 2009” (page 357)
- Section B.20, “October 20, 2009” (page 359)
- Section B.21, “August 3, 2009” (page 360)
- Section B.22, “June 22, 2009” (page 361)
- Section B.23, “May 21, 2009” (page 363)

## **B.1 May 2013 (SLES 11 SP3)**

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.1.1, “Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI LIO Target Server” (page 335)
- Section B.1.2, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 335)
- Section B.1.3, “Managing Software RAID6 and 10 with mdadm” (page 335)
- Section B.1.4, “Storage Enclosure LED Utilities for Software RAID6” (page 335)
- Section B.1.5, “What’s New for Storage in SLES 11” (page 336)

## B.1.1 Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI LIO Target Server

Chapter 15, *Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI LIO Target Server* (page 263) is new.

## B.1.2 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.6, “Using Multipath with NetApp Devices” (page 93)	This section is new.

## B.1.3 Managing Software RAID6 and 10 with mdadm

Location	Change
Section 10.3.3, “Creating a Complex RAID10 with the YaST Partitioner” (page 190)	This section is new.

## B.1.4 Storage Enclosure LED Utilities for Software RAID6

Chapter 12, *Storage Enclosure LED Utilities for MD Software RAID6* (page 211) is new.

## B.1.5 What's New for Storage in SLES 11

Location	Change
Section 2.1, “What’s New in SLES 11 SP3” (page 23)	This section is new.

## B.2 March 11, 2013

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.2.1, “LVM Configuration” (page 336)
- Section B.2.2, “Overview of File Systems in Linux” (page 336)

### B.2.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.6, “Automatically Activating Non-Root LVM Volume Groups” (page 51)	This section is new.

### B.2.2 Overview of File Systems in Linux

Location	Change
Section 1.2.1, “Btrfs” (page 3)	Multiple device support that allows you to grow or shrink the file system. The feature is planned to be

Location	Change
	available in a future release of the YaST Partitioner.

## B.3 February 8, 2013

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.3.1, “Configuring Software RAID1 for the Root Partition” (page 337)

### B.3.1 Configuring Software RAID1 for the Root Partition

This section has been modified to focus on the software RAID1 type. Software RAID0 and RAID5 are not supported. They were previously included in error. Additional important changes are noted below.

Location	Change
Section 9.1, “Prerequisites for Using a Software RAID1 Device for the Root Partition” (page 169)	You need a third device to use for the <code>/boot</code> partition. The devices should be a local device.
Step 4 (page 171) in Section 9.4, “Creating a Software RAID1 Device for the Root ( <code>/</code> ) Partition” (page 171)	Create the <code>/boot</code> partition. The devices should be a local device.
Step 7b (page 173) in Section 9.4, “Creating a Software RAID1 Device for the Root ( <code>/</code> ) Partition” (page 171)	Under <i>RAID Type</i> , select <i>RAID 1 (Mirroring)</i> .

## B.4 January 8, 2013

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.4.1, “LVM Configuration” (page 338)
- Section B.4.2, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 338)

## B.4.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.1, “Understanding the Logical Volume Manager” (page 40)	<hr/> <p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p>If you add multipath support after you have configured LVM, you must modify the <code>/etc/lvm/lvm.conf</code> file to scan only the multipath device names in the <code>/dev/disk/by-id</code> directory as described in Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90), then reboot the server.</p> <hr/>

## B.4.2 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.1.5, “High-Availability Solutions” (page 87)	Ensure that the configuration settings in the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> file on each node are consistent across the cluster.
Section 7.2.3, “Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipathed Devices” (page 89)	When using links to multipath-mapped devices in the <code>/dev/disk/by-id</code> directory, ensure that

Location	Change
	you specify the <code>dm-uuid*</code> name or alias name, and not a fixed path instance of the device.
Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90)	<p>To accept both raw disks and partitions for Device Mapper names, specify the path as follows, with no hyphen (-) before <code>mpath</code>:</p> <pre>filter = [ "a /dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-.*mpath-.* ", "r .* " ]</pre>
Section 7.2.9, “Partitioning Multipath Devices” (page 95)	<p>Ensure that the configuration files for <code>lvm.conf</code> and <code>md.conf</code> point to the multipath-device names. This should happen automatically if <code>boot.multipath</code> is enabled and loads before <code>boot.lvm</code> and <code>boot.md</code>. Otherwise, the LVM and MD configuration files might contain fixed paths for multipath-devices, and you must correct those paths to use the multipath-device names.</p>
Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119)	<p>Before you begin, review the requirements in Section 7.2.3, “Using WWID, User-Friendly, and Alias Names for Multipath Devices” (page 89).</p>

## B.5 November 14, 2012

Updates were made to the following section. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.5.1, “Overview of File Systems in Linux” (page 340)

## B.5.1 Overview of File Systems in Linux

Location	Change
Section 1.4, “Large File Support in Linux” (page 18)	This section has been updated to be consistent with File System Support and Sizes [ <a href="http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/#FileSystem">http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/#FileSystem</a> ] on the SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Technical Information Web site [ <a href="http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/">http://www.suse.com/products/server/technical-information/</a> ].
Section 1.5, “Linux Kernel Storage Limitations” (page 20)	This section is new.

## B.6 October 29, 2012

Corrections for front matter and typographical errata.

## B.7 October 19, 2012

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.7.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 341)
- Section B.7.2, “Overview of File Systems in Linux” (page 341)



## B.7.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.6, “Creating or Modifying the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> File” (page 112)	Specific examples for configuring devices were moved to a higher organization level.
Section 7.6.3, “Verifying the Multipath Setup in the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> File” (page 114)	It is assumed that the <code>multipathd</code> daemon is already running with the old (or default) multipath settings when you modify the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> file and perform the dry run.

## B.7.2 Overview of File Systems in Linux

Location	Change
Section 1.2.3.4, “Ext3 File System Inode Size and Number of Inodes” (page 10)	To allow space for extended attributes and ACLs for a file on Ext3 file systems, the default inode size for Ext3 was increased from 128 bytes on SLES 10 to 256 bytes on SLES11.

## B.8 September 28, 2012

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.8.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 342)
- Section B.8.2, “Overview of File Systems in Linux” (page 343)

## B.8.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.2, “PRIO Settings in multipath-tools-0.4.9” (page 88)	<p>In SLES 11 SP2, the <code>prio</code> keyword is used to specify the prioritizer, and the <code>prio_args</code> keyword is used to specify its argument if the prioritizer requires an argument.</p> <p>Multipath Tools 0.4.9 and later uses the <code>prio</code> setting in the <code>defaults{}</code> or <code>devices{}</code> section of the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> file. It silently ignores the keyword <code>prio</code> when it is specified for an individual multipath definition in the <code>multipaths{}</code> section.</p>
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	Added information about using <code>prio</code> and <code>prio_args</code> keywords.
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	In SLES 11 SP2, the <code>rr_min_io</code> multipath attribute is obsolete and replaced by the <code>rr_min_io_rq</code> attribute.
Section 7.19.1, “PRIO Settings for Individual Devices Fail After Upgrading to Multipath 0.4.9” (page 159)	This section is new.
Section 7.19.2, “PRIO Settings with Arguments Fail After Upgrading to multipath-tools-0.4.9” (page 159)	This section is new.

Location	Change
Section 7.19.3, “Technical Information Documents” (page 160)	Fixed broken links.

## B.8.2 Overview of File Systems in Linux

Location	Change
Section 1.2.1, “Btrfs” (page 3)	The Btrfs tools package is <code>btrfsprogs</code> .

## B.9 April 12, 2012

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.9.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 343)
- Section B.9.2, “Resizing Software RAID Arrays with `mdadm`” (page 343)

### B.9.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

This section was updated to use the `/dev/disk/by-id` directory for device paths in all examples.

### B.9.2 Resizing Software RAID Arrays with `mdadm`

Location	Change
Section 11.3, “Decreasing the Size of a Software RAID” (page 204)	Revised the order of the procedures so that you reduce the size of the RAID before you

Location	Change
	reduce the individual component partition sizes.

## B.10 February 27, 2012 (SLES 11 SP2)

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.10.1, “Fibre Channel Storage over Ethernet Networks: FCoE” (page 344)
- Section B.10.2, “GNU Licenses” (page 345)
- Section B.10.3, “LVM Configuration ” (page 345)
- Section B.10.4, “Managing Access Control Lists over NFSv4” (page 345)
- Section B.10.5, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 345)
- Section B.10.6, “Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm” (page 346)
- Section B.10.7, “Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI ” (page 346)
- Section B.10.8, “Overview of File Systems on Linux” (page 347)
- Section B.10.9, “Resizing File Systems” (page 348)
- Section B.10.10, “Resizing Software RAID Arrays with mdadm” (page 348)

### B.10.1 Fibre Channel Storage over Ethernet Networks: FCoE

This section is new. Open Fibre Channel over Ethernet (OpenFCoE) is supported beginning in SLES 11.

## B.10.2 GNU Licenses

This section is new.

## B.10.3 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.7, “Tagging LVM2 Storage Objects” (page 52)	This section is new.

## B.10.4 Managing Access Control Lists over NFSv4

This section is new.

## B.10.5 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.7, “Configuring Default Policies for Polling, Queueing, and Failback” (page 117)	The default <code>getuid</code> path for SLES 11 is <code>/lib/udev/scsi_id</code> .
Section 7.17, “Managing I/O in Error Situations” (page 156)	In the <code>dmsetup</code> message commands, the 0 value represents the sector and is used when sector information is not needed.
Section 7.18, “Resolving Stalled I/O” (page 158)	

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	Recommendations were added for the no_path_retry and failback settings when multipath I/O is used in a cluster environment.
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	The path-selector option names and settings were corrected:  round-robin 0 least-pending 0 service-time 0 queue-length 0

## **B.10.6 Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
Section 10.3.1.6, “Offset Layout” (page 188)	This section is new.

## **B.10.7 Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
Section 14.4, “Using iSCSI Disks when Installing” (page 258)	This section is new.

Location	Change
Section 14.5.4, “iSCSI Targets Are Mounted When the Configuration File Is Set to Manual” (page 260)	This section is new.

## B.10.8 Overview of File Systems on Linux

Location	Change
Section 1.2.1, “Btrfs” (page 3)	<p>This section is new.</p> <p>With SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 SP2, the Btrfs file system is supported as root file system, that is, the file system for the operating system, across all architectures of SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 SP2.</p>
Section 1.2.4, “ReiserFS” (page 14)	<hr/> <p><b>IMPORTANT</b></p> <p>The ReiserFS file system is fully supported for the lifetime of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 specifically for migration purposes. SUSE plans to remove support for creating new ReiserFS file systems starting with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12.</p> <hr/>
Section 1.2.6, “File System Feature Comparison” (page 17)	This section is new.
Section 1.4, “Large File Support in Linux” (page 18)	The values in this section were updated to current standards.

Location	Change
Section 1.6, “Managing Devices with the YaST Partitioner” (page 21)	This section is new.

## B.10.9 Resizing File Systems

Location	Change
Section 5.1, “Guidelines for Resizing” (page 67)	The <code>resize2fs</code> command allows only the Ext3 file system to be resized if mounted. The size of an Ext3 volume can be increased or decreased when the volume is mounted or unmounted. The Ext2/4 file systems must be unmounted for increasing or decreasing the volume size.
Section 5.4, “Decreasing the Size of an Ext2 or Ext3 File System” (page 71)	

## B.10.10 Resizing Software RAID Arrays with `mdadm`

Location	Change
Section 11.2.2, “Increasing the Size of the RAID Array” (page 200)	The <code>--assume-clean</code> option is new.

## B.11 July 12, 2011

Updates were made to the following section. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.11.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 349)



## B.11.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90)	Running <code>mkinitrd</code> is needed only if the root ( <code>/</code> ) device or any parts of it (such as <code>/var</code> , <code>/etc</code> , <code>/log</code> ) are on the SAN and multipath is needed to boot.
Section 7.13, “Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID” (page 147)	

## B.12 June 14, 2011

Updates were made to the following section. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.12.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 349)
- Section B.12.2, “What’s New for Storage in SLES 11” (page 349)

### B.12.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	The default setting for <code>path_grouping_policy</code> changed from <code>multibus</code> to <code>failover</code> in SLES 11.

### B.12.2 What’s New for Storage in SLES 11

Location	Change
Section 2.4.13, “Change from Multibus to Failover	This section is new.

Location	Change
as the Default Setting for the MPIO Path Grouping Policy” (page 33)	

## B.13 May 5, 2011

This release fixes broken links and removes obsolete references.

## B.14 January 2011

Updates were made to the following section. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.14.1, “LVM Configuration” (page 350)
- Section B.14.2, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 351)
- Section B.14.3, “Resizing File Systems” (page 351)

### B.14.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.3, “Creating Volume Groups” (page 44)	LVM2 does not restrict the number of physical extents. Having a large number of extents has no impact on I/O performance to the logical volume, but it slows down the LVM tools.

## B.14.2 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Tuning the Failover for Specific Host Bus Adapters	This section was removed. For HBA failover guidance, refer to your vendor documentation.

## B.14.3 Resizing File Systems

Location	Change
Section 11.3.1, “Decreasing the Size of the File System” (page 204)	Decreasing the size of the file system is supported when the file system is unmounted.

## B.15 September 16, 2010

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.15.1, “LVM Configuration” (page 351)

### B.15.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.2, “Creating LVM Partitions” (page 42)	<p>The discussion and procedure were expanded to explain how to configure a partition that uses the entire disk.</p> <p>The procedure was modified to use the Hard Disk partitioning feature in the YaST Partitioner.</p>

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
All LVM Management sections	Procedures throughout the chapter were modified to use Volume Management in the YaST Partitioner.
Section 4.8, “Resizing a Volume Group” (page 60)	This section is new.
Section 4.9, “Resizing a Logical Volume with YaST” (page 62)	This section is new.
Section 4.11, “Deleting a Volume Group” (page 65)	This section is new.
Section 4.12, “Deleting an LVM Partition (Physical Volume)” (page 65)	This section is new.

## **B.16 June 21, 2010**

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.16.1, “LVM Configuration” (page 353)
- Section B.16.2, “Managing Multipath I/O” (page 353)
- Section B.16.3, “Managing Software RAID6 and 10 with mdadm” (page 353)
- Section B.16.4, “Mass Storage on IP NetWork: iSCSI” (page 354)

## B.16.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.2, “Creating LVM Partitions” (page 42)	Details were added to the procedure.

## B.16.2 Managing Multipath I/O

Location	Change
Section 7.9, “Configuring User-Friendly Names or Alias Names” (page 119)	Using user-friendly names for the root device can result in data loss. Added alternatives from <i>TID 7001133: Recommendations for the usage of user_friendly_names in multipath configurations</i> [ <a href="http://www.novell.com/support/search.do?cmd=displayKC&amp;docType=kc&amp;externalId=7001133">http://www.novell.com/support/search.do?cmd=displayKC&amp;docType=kc&amp;externalId=7001133</a> ].

## B.16.3 Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm

Location	Change
Section 10.3.1.5, “Far Layout” (page 187)	Errata in the example were corrected.

## B.16.4 Mass Storage on IP NetWork: iSCSI

Location	Change
Section 14.5.1, “Hotplug Doesn’t Work for Mounting iSCSI Targets” (page 259)	This section is new.

## B.17 May 2010 (SLES 11 SP1)

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.17.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 354)
- Section B.17.2, “Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI” (page 356)
- Section B.17.3, “Software RAID Configuration” (page 356)
- Section B.17.4, “What’s New” (page 356)

### B.17.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90)	The example in Step 3 (page 91) was corrected.
Section 7.2.8, “SAN Timeout Settings When the Root Device Is Multipathed” (page 94)	This section is new.
Section 7.3.2, “Multipath I/O Management Tools” (page 103)	The file list for a package can vary for different server architectures. For a list of files included in the multipath-tools

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
	<p>package, go to the <i>SUSE Linux Enterprise Server Technical Specifications Package Descriptions</i> Web page [<a href="http://www.novell.com/products/server/techspecs.html?tab=1">http://www.novell.com/products/server/techspecs.html?tab=1</a>], find your architecture and select <i>Packages Sorted by Name</i>, then search on “multipath-tools” to find the package list for that architecture.</p>
<p>Section 7.4.1, “Preparing SAN Devices for Multipathing” (page 108)</p>	<p>If the SAN device will be used as the root device on the server, modify the timeout settings for the device as described in Section 7.2.8, “SAN Timeout Settings When the Root Device Is Multipathed” (page 94).</p>
<p>Section 7.6.3, “Verifying the Multipath Setup in the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> File” (page 114)</p>	<p>Added example output for <code>-v3</code> verbosity.</p>
<p>Section 7.12.1.1, “Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Active Multipath Storage LUN” (page 143)</p>	<p>This section is new.</p>
<p>Section 7.12.1.2, “Enabling Multipath I/O at Install Time on an Active/Passive Multipath Storage LUN” (page 143)</p>	<p>This section is new.</p>

## B.17.2 Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI

Location	Change
Step 7g (page 247) in Section 14.2.2, “Creating iSCSI Targets with YaST” (page 243)	In the <i>YaSTNetwork ServicesiSCSI Target</i> function, the <i>Save</i> option allows you to export the iSCSI target information, which makes it easier to provide this information to consumers of the resources.
Section 14.5, “Troubleshooting iSCSI” (page 258)	This section is new.

## B.17.3 Software RAID Configuration

Location	Change
Section 8.4, “For More Information” (page 167)	The Software RAID HOW-TO has been deprecated. Use the <i>Linux RAID</i> wiki [ <a href="https://raid.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Linux_Raid">https://raid.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Linux_Raid</a> ] instead.

## B.17.4 What’s New

Location	Change
Section 2.3, “What’s New in SLES 11 SP1” (page 24)	This section is new.



## B.18 February 23, 2010

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.18.1, “Configuring Software RAID for the Root Partition” (page 357)
- Section B.18.2, “Managing Multipath I/O” (page 357)

### B.18.1 Configuring Software RAID for the Root Partition

Location	Change
Section 9.1, “Prerequisites for Using a Software RAID1 Device for the Root Partition” (page 169)	Corrected an error in the RAID 0 definition..

### B.18.2 Managing Multipath I/O

Location	Change
Section 7.14, “Scanning for New Devices without Rebooting” (page 150)	Added information about using the <code>rescan-scsi-bus.sh</code> script to scan for devices without rebooting.
Section 7.15, “Scanning for New Partitioned Devices without Rebooting” (page 153)	Added information about using the <code>rescan-scsi-bus.sh</code> script to scan for devices without rebooting.

## B.19 December 1, 2009

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.19.1, “Managing Multipath I/O for Devices” (page 358)
- Section B.19.2, “Resizing File Systems” (page 358)
- Section B.19.3, “What’s New” (page 359)

## B.19.1 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.2.4, “Using LVM2 on Multipath Devices” (page 90)	The <code>-f mpath</code> option changed to <code>-f multipath</code> : <code>mkinitrd -f multipath</code>
Section 7.13, “Configuring Multipath I/O for an Existing Software RAID” (page 147)	
<code>prio_callout</code> in Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	Multipath <code>prio_callout</code> programs are located in shared libraries in <code>/lib/libmultipath/lib*</code> . By using shared libraries, the callout programs are loaded into memory on daemon startup.

## B.19.2 Resizing File Systems

Location	Change
Section 5.1.1, “File Systems that Support Resizing” (page 68)	The <code>resize2fs</code> utility supports online or offline resizing for the <code>ext3</code> file system.

## B.19.3 What's New

Location	Change
Section 2.4.11, "Location Change for Multipath Tool Callouts" (page 33)	This section is new.
Section 2.4.12, "Change from mpath to multipath for the mkinitrd -f Option" (page 33)	This section is new.

## B.20 October 20, 2009

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.20.1, "LVM Configuration" (page 359)
- Section B.20.2, "Managing Multipath I/O for Devices" (page 360)
- Section B.20.3, "What's New" (page 360)

### B.20.1 LVM Configuration

Location	Change
Section 4.1, "Understanding the Logical Volume Manager" (page 40)	In the YaST Control Center, select <i>System &gt; Partitioner</i> .

## B.20.2 Managing Multipath I/O for Devices

Location	Change
Section 7.8, “Blacklisting Non-Multipath Devices” (page 118)	The keyword <code>devnode_blacklist</code> has been deprecated and replaced with the keyword <code>blacklist</code> .
Section 7.7, “Configuring Default Policies for Polling, Queueing, and Failback” (page 117)	Changed <code>getuid_callout</code> to <code>getuid</code> .
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	Changed <code>getuid_callout</code> to <code>getuid</code> .
Section 7.11.2.1, “Understanding Priority Groups and Attributes” (page 126)	Added descriptions for <code>path_selector</code> of <code>least-pending</code> , <code>length-load-balancing</code> , and <code>service-time</code> options.

## B.20.3 What’s New

Location	Change
Section 2.4.10, “Advanced I/O Load-Balancing Options for Multipath” (page 32)	This section is new.

## B.21 August 3, 2009

Updates were made to the following section. The change is explained below.

- Section B.21.1, “Managing Multipath I/O” (page 361)

## B.21.1 Managing Multipath I/O

Location	Change
Section 7.2.7, “Using --noflush with Multipath Devices” (page 94)	This section is new.

## B.22 June 22, 2009

Updates were made to the following sections. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.22.1, “Managing Multipath I/O” (page 361)
- Section B.22.2, “Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm” (page 362)
- Section B.22.3, “Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI ” (page 362)

### B.22.1 Managing Multipath I/O

Location	Change
Section 7.12, “Configuring Multipath I/O for the Root Device” (page 142)	Added Step 4 (page 146) and Step 6 (page 146) for System Z.
Section 7.15, “Scanning for New Partitioned	Corrected the syntax for the command lines in Step 2.

Location	Change
Devices without Rebooting” (page 153)	
Section 7.15, “Scanning for New Partitioned Devices without Rebooting” (page 153)	Step 7 (page 154) replaces old Step 7 and Step 8.

## B.22.2 Managing Software RAIDs 6 and 10 with mdadm

Location	Change
Section 10.4, “Creating a Degraded RAID Array” (page 192)	To see the rebuild progress while being refreshed every second, enter  <code>watch -n 1 cat /proc/mdstat</code>

## B.22.3 Mass Storage over IP Networks: iSCSI

Location	Change
Section 14.3.1, “Using YaST for the iSCSI Initiator Configuration” (page 251)	<p>Re-organized material for clarity.</p> <p>Added information about how to use the settings for the Start-up option for iSCSI target devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Automatic:</b> This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected when the iSCSI service itself starts up. This is the typical configuration.</li> </ul>

Location	Change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Onboot:</b> This option is used for iSCSI targets that are to be connected during boot; that is, when root (/) is on iSCSI. As such, the iSCSI target device will be evaluated from the initrd on server boots.</li> </ul>

## B.23 May 21, 2009

Updates were made to the following section. The changes are explained below.

- Section B.23.1, “Managing Multipath I/O” (page 363)

### B.23.1 Managing Multipath I/O

Location	Change
Section 7.2.11.1, “Storage Arrays That Are Automatically Detected for Multipathing” (page 97)	Testing of the IBM zSeries device with multipathing has shown that the <code>dev_loss_tmo</code> parameter should be set to 90 seconds, and the <code>fast_io_fail_tmo</code> parameter should be set to 5 seconds. If you are using zSeries devices, you must manually create and configure the <code>/etc/multipath.conf</code> file to specify the values. For information, see Section 7.10, “Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices” (page 123).
Section 7.3.1, “Device Mapper Multipath Module” (page 100)	Multipathing is supported for the <code>/boot</code> device in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11 and later.
Section 7.10, “Configuring Default Settings for zSeries Devices” (page 123)	This section is new.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Change</b>
Section 7.12, “Configuring Multipath I/O for the Root Device” (page 142)	DM-MP is now available and supported for <code>/boot</code> and <code>/root</code> in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 11.