
openSUSE 12.3 Release Notes

Version:

12.3.4 (2013-02-27)

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If you upgrade from an older version to this openSUSE release, see previous release notes listed here: http://en.opensuse.org/openSUSE:Release_Notes

These release notes cover the following areas:

- Section 1, “Miscellaneous”: These entries are automatically included from openFATE, the Feature- and Requirements Management System (<http://features.opensuse.org>).

N/A

- Section 2, “Installation”: Read this if you want to install the system from scratch.
- Section 3, “General”: Information that everybody should read.
- Section 4, “System Upgrade”: Issues related to the process if you run a system upgrade from the previous release to this openSUSE version.
- Section 5, “Technical”: This section contains a number of technical changes and enhancements for the experienced user.

1. Miscellaneous

N/A

2. Installation

2.1. For Detailed Installation Information

For detailed installation information, see Section 3.1, “openSUSE Documentation”.

3. General

3.1. openSUSE Documentation

- In *Start-Up*, find step-by-step installation instructions, as well as introductions to the KDE and Gnome desktops and to the LibreOffice suite. Also covered are basic administration topics such as deployment and software management and an introduction to the bash shell.

- *Reference* covers administration, and system configuration in detail and explains how to set up various network services.
- The *Security Guide* introduces basic concepts of system security, covering both local and network security aspects.
- The *System Analysis and Tuning Guide* helps with problem detection, resolution and optimization.
- *Virtualization with KVM* offers an introduction to setting up and managing virtualization with KVM, libvirt and QEMU tools.

Find the documentation in `/usr/share/doc/manual/opensuse-manuals_${LANG}` after installing the package `opensuse-manuals_${LANG}`, or online on <http://doc.opensuse.org>.

3.2. UEFI—Unified Extensible Firmware Interface

Prior to installing openSUSE on a system that boots using UEFI (Unified Extensible Firmware Interface) you are urgently advised to check for any firmware updates the hardware vendor recommends and, if available, to install such an update. A pre-installed Windows 8 is a strong indication that your system boots using UEFI.

Background: Some UEFI firmware has bugs that cause it to break if too much data gets written to the UEFI storage area. Nobody really knows how much "too much" is, though. openSUSE minimizes the risk by not writing more than the bare minimum required to boot the OS. The minimum means telling the UEFI firmware about the location of the openSUSE boot loader. Upstream Linux Kernel features that use the UEFI storage area for storing boot and crash information (`pstore`) have been disabled by default. Nevertheless it is recommended to install any firmware updates the hardware vendor recommends.

4. System Upgrade

4.1. systemd: Activating NetworkManager with a network.service Alias Link

By default, you use the YaST Network Settings dialog (**yast2 network**) to activate NetworkManager. If you want to activate NetworkManager, proceed as follows.

The `NETWORKMANAGER` sysconfig variable in `/etc/sysconfig/network/config` to activate NetworkManager has been replaced with a `systemd network.service` alias link, which will be created with the

```
systemctl enable NetworkManager.service
```

command. It causes the creation of a `network.service` alias link pointing to the `NetworkManager.service`, and thus deactivates the `/etc/init.d/network` script. The command

```
systemctl -p Id show network.service
```

allows to query the currently selected network service.

To enable NetworkManager, use:

- First, stop the running service:

```
systemctl is-active network.service && \
```

```
systemctl      stop      network.service
```

- Enable the NetworkManager service:

```
systemctl --force      enable NetworkManager.service
```

- Start the NetworkManager service (via alias link):

```
systemctl      start      network.service
```

To disable NetworkManager, use:

- Stop the running service:

```
systemctl      is-active network.service && \  
systemctl      stop      network.service
```

- Disable the NetworkManager service:

```
systemctl disable NetworkManager.service
```

- Start the **/etc/init.d/network** service:

```
systemctl      start      network.service
```

To query the currently selected service, use:

```
systemctl -p Id show      network.service
```

It returns "Id=NetworkManager.service" if the NetworkManager service is enabled, otherwise "Id=network.service" and **/etc/init.d/network** is acting as the network service.

4.2. SYSLOG_DAEMON Variable Removed

The SYSLOG_DAEMON variable has been removed. Previously, it was used to select the syslog daemon. Starting with openSUSE 12.3, only one syslog implementation can be installed at a time on a system and will be selected automatically for usage.

For details, see the `syslog(8)` manpage.

5. Technical

5.1. Initializing Graphics with KMS (Kernel Mode Setting)

With openSUSE 11.3 we switched to KMS (Kernel Mode Setting) for Intel, ATI and NVIDIA graphics, which now is our default. If you encounter problems with the KMS driver support (intel, radeon, nouveau), disable KMS by adding `nomodeset` to the kernel boot command line. To set this permanently using Grub 2, the default boot loader, add it to the `GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX_DEFAULT` kernel default load options line in your `/etc/default/grub` text file as root and running the terminal command

```
sudo /usr/sbin/grub2-mkconfig --output=/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

for the changes to take effect. Else, for Grub Legacy, add it to the kernel command line in `/boot/grub/menu.lst`, also done as root. This option makes sure the appropriate kernel module (intel, radeon, nouveau) is loaded with `modeset=0` in `initrd`, i.e. KMS is disabled.

In the rare cases when loading the DRM module from `initrd` is a general problem and unrelated to KMS, it is even possible to disable loading of the DRM module in `initrd` completely. For this set the `NO_KMS_IN_INITRD` sysconfig variable to `yes` via YaST, which then recreates `initrd` afterwards. Reboot your machine.

On Intel without KMS the Xserver falls back to the `fbdev` driver (the `intel` driver only supports KMS); alternatively, for legacy GPUs from Intel the "intellegacy" driver (`xorg-x11-driver-video-intel-legacy` package) is available, which still supports UMS (User Mode Setting). To use it, edit `/etc/X11/xorg.conf.d/50-device.conf` and change the driver entry to `intellegacy`.

On ATI for current GPUs it falls back to `radeonhd`. On NVIDIA without KMS the `nv` driver is used (the nouveau driver supports only KMS). Note, newer ATI and NVIDIA GPUs are falling back to `fbdev`, if you specify the `nomodeset` kernel boot parameter.

5.2. systemd: Cleaning Directories (/tmp and /var/tmp)

By default, `systemd` cleans `tmp` directories daily as configured in `/usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/tmp.conf`. Users can change it by copying `/usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/tmp.conf` to `/etc/tmpfiles.d/tmp.conf` and modifying the copied file. It will override `/usr/lib/tmpfiles.d/tmp.conf`.

Note: `systemd` does not honor obsolete sysconfig variables in `/etc/sysconfig/cron` such as `TMP_DIRS_TO_CLEAR`.

5.3. Configuring Postfix

The `SuSEconfig.postfix` was renamed as `/usr/sbin/config.postfix`. If you set sysconfig variables in `/etc/sysconfig/postfix` or `/etc/sysconfig/mail`, you must manually run `/usr/sbin/config.postfix` as root.

5.4. GNOME: Workaround to Set Shift or Ctrl+Shift as Shortcut Keys for Input Source Selection

In Gnome 3.6 use the following workaround to set Shift or Ctrl+Shift as shortcut keys for input source selection:

1. Install `gnome-tweak-tools`.
2. Then in the 'Typing' section, at the very bottom, find the 'Modifiers-only input source switch' option, where you can set `Ctrl Shift_L`, for example (meaning, Ctrl key and left shift) or `Shift_L Shift_R` (meaning both Shift Keys).

This is also being tracked in the upstream bug report https://bugzilla.gnome.org/show_bug.cgi?id=689839.