18 Creating Add-on Products With Add-on Product Creator

An add-on is a special designed media, usually a CD or DVD, to extend SUSE Linux Enterprise Server with your product. The Add-on Product Creator was developed to support customers and partners and simplify third-party software distribution for all SUSE products.

To be able to use the Add-on Product Creator you need to install the package `yast2-add-on-creator` from the SUSE Software Development Kit. The SDK is a module for SUSE Linux Enterprise and is available via an online channel from the SUSE Customer Center. Alternatively, go to http://download.suse.com/, search for `SUSE Linux Enterprise Software Development Kit` and download it from there. Refer to *Chapter 8, Installing Modules, Extensions, and Third Party Add-On Products* for details.

18.1 Creating Images

To create an image of an add-on product, proceed as follows:

1. Start YaST and open the *Add-on Creator* module.

2. If you have not created an add-on before, click *Create an Add-on from the Beginning* to start. Alternatively, you may create the add-on based on an existing add-on product.Specify the path to the directory containing the data—this may also be a mounted ISO image or a CD/DVD.
   In case you have already created an add-on, the window lists all existing add-ons. You may *Edit* or *Delete* them. Choose *Add* to create a new one.
   This tutorial explains how to *Create an Add-on from the Beginning.*

3. Enter the name (*Add-on Product Label*) and the version of your add-on and provide additional information:

   - Under *Required Product* choose the SUSE Linux product for which to create the add-on.

   - Select the path to a directory containing the add-on product packages.

   - Optionally, choose the path to a directory containing RPM packages from the *Required Product*. Typically, these packages originate in the required product (already chosen) and are not part of the add-on itself, but other packages from the add-on depend on them. These packages will not be added to the add-on product, but can be used to create patterns.

   Proceed with *Next.*

4. Each installation media contains a content file and a product file defining the add-on product. Use this dialog to provide the data for both files. Select an entry and choose *Edit* to set or change a value. Alternatively, double-click an entry. See *Help* for more information and possible values.
   To import values from an existing content or product file, choose the respective *Import* button.
   You need to at least enter values for *Product architectures*, *Product name* and *Vendor name* of the content file. Proceed with *Next.*

5. Enter or change the package descriptions on the next screen. Use *Add Language* to insert a new language and add translated descriptions (this step is optional). You may also *Import* existing package descriptions.
   Proceed with *Next.*

6. Optionally, add patterns in the next step. With patterns you can group your RPM packages. Use *New* to add a new pattern name and change the respective attributes in the list below. Check *Required Pattern* for patterns that will automatically be selected for installation when installing the add-on product.
   Proceed with *Next.*

7. Provide a path to the output directory. If you rather want to create an ISO image, check *Create ISO Image* and provide a file name. Select *Create Changelog* to create a file containing the changelog entries of all packages included in your product. Additionally, you can modify the workflow and add files:

   - Use *Configure Workflow* to enter files to customize your product workflow. This way you can, for example, insert additional dialogs with options into the add-on installation process that are needed for the correct product operation. See *Help* for more information.

   - Use *Optional Files* to the following files to your add-on product:

     info.txt

     > A text file containing general information about the add-on product.

     License Files

     > Add files containing license information in various languages. The files are named `license.LANGUAGE`, for example `license.en_US`.

     README Files

     > Add README files with a name of your choice.

     Enter the content of the files in the respective text boxes. Alternatively, *Import* the content from an existing file.

   Proceed with *Next*.

8. Sign your add-on product with your GPG key to provide evidence of the origin of your product. If you do not have a key, create one first and enter the respective passphrase twice.

9. Check your settings in the configuration summary and proceed with *Finish*. Choose the *Back* buttons to change a setting.

18.2 Add-on Structure

An add-on product contains the following files and directories:

`ARCHIVES.gz`

> Contains information about all packages included (the output of `rpm -qil` for each package). This file is compressed with gzip.

`Changelog`

> Contains all the changes of the RPM files ordered by date of change.

`content`

> The content file created during the add-on setup.

`content.asc`

> The GPG signature file.

`content.key,` `gpg-pubkey-`*NUMBER*`.asc`

> The public GPG key.

`INDEX.gz`

> A list of all RPM files. This file is compressed with gzip.

`ls-lR.gz`

> A list of all files and directories of the add-on product medium. This file is compressed with gzip.

`media.`*N/*

> Contains files with basic information about the add-on media set. The directory is numbered, so `media.1/` is for the first add-on medium (for example DVD1). Additional media have a consecutive number.

`suse/`

> Contains sub directories with architecture-specific information. Exceptions are `noarch/` for architecture-independent packages, and `src/` for source packages. Proprietary software packages are stored under `nosrc/`.