

Chapter 9 zypper - Notes

9.2 Introduction

For use on SUSE-based systems, **zypper** program provides higher level of intelligent services for using underlying **rpm** program, plays same role as **yum** on Red Hat-based systems. Can automatically resolve dependencies when installing, updating, removing packages. Accesses external software repositories, synchronizing with them, retrieving/installing software as needed.

9.3 Learning Objectives:

- Explain what **zypper** is.
- Discuss the queries **zypper** can be used for.
- Install, remove, and upgrade packages using **zypper**.
- Learn additional and more advanced **zypper** commands.

9.4 What is zypper?

zypper: command line tool for installing/managing packages in SUSE Linux and openSUSE. Very similar to **yum** in functionality, even in basic command syntax, also works with **rpm** packages.

Retrieves packages from repositories, installs, removes, updates while resolving any dependencies encountered. Equivalent in practice to **yum** and **apt-get** in that it can retrieve packages from repository and also resolve dependencies.

9.5 zypper Queries

Some examples of commonly performed operations involving querying:

- Show a list of available updates:

```
$ zypper list-updates
```

- List available repositories:

```
$ zypper repos
```

- Search repositories for `string`:

```
$ zypper search <string>
```

- List information about package:

```
$ zypper info <package>
```

- Search repositories to ascertain what packages provide a file:

```
$ zypper search --provides <file>
```

- Find which package provides file specified as argument:

```
$ zypper what-provides <file-path>
```

9.6 Installing/Removing/Upgrading

Some examples of commonly performed operations:

- Install or update package(s):

```
$ sudo zypper install package
```

- Do not ask for confirmation when installing or upgrading:

```
$ sudo zypper --non-interactive install <package>
```

This is useful for scripts and is equivalent to running `yum -y`.

- Update all installed packages:

```
$ sudo zypper update
```

Giving package names as an argument will update only those packages and any required dependencies. Do this without asking for confirmation:

```
$ sudo zypper --non-interactive update
```

- Remove a package from the system:

```
$ sudo zypper remove <package>
```

Like with **yum**, have to be careful with removal command, as any package that needs the package being removed would be removed as well.

9.7 Additional zypper Commands

Sometimes, number of **zypper** commands must be run in sequence. To avoid re-reading all databases for each command, can run **zypper** in **shell mode**:

```
$ sudo zypper shell
```

```
> install bash
...
> exit
```

Because **zypper** supports **readline** library, can use all the same command line editing function available in bash shell in zypper shell.

To add new repository:

```
$ sudo zypper addrepo URI alias
```

which is located at the supplied `URI` and will use supplied `alias`.

To remove repository from list:

```
$ sudo zypper removerepo alias
```

using `alias` of repo you want to delete.

To clean up and save space in `/var/cache/zypp`:

```
$ sudo zypper clean [--all]
```

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