

Salt Guide

SUSE Manager 4.0

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Introduction

This section introduces you to the Salt features added in SUSE Manager 3. This chapter assumes you have completed all previous Getting Started sections. At a minimum have the following setup:

- A freshly installed SUSE Manager server with a main admin account and a synced product channel
- Preferably two registered Salt minions to experiment with.



This guide does not attempt to cover all that Salt has to offer. This guide is a primer for using Salt with SUSE Manager. For comprehensive Salt documentation, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/contents.html.

The current version of Salt in SUSE Manager is 2018.3.0.

Salt Terminology and Commands

Salt Terminology

Grains

Grains provide information about the hardware of a minion. For example, the operating system, IP addresses, network interfaces, memory, etc. When running a Salt command from keep in mind any modules and functions called are run locally from the system being called. Salt modules are stored on minions and master within the following directory:

/usr/lib/python2.7/site-packages/salt/

List all available grains with the grains. 1s function:

salt '*' grains.ls

List collected grain system data by using the grains. ls function:

salt '*' grains.items

For more information on grains, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/grains/.

States

States are templates which place systems into a known configuration, for example which applications and services are installed and running on those systems. States are a way for you to describe what each of your systems should look like. Once written, states are applied to target systems automating the process of managing and maintaining a large numbers of systems into a known state. For more information on states, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/starting_states.html.



Updating Salt

Do not update salt itself using Salt states. First update all other system packages using Salt states then update salt as a separate stand-alone step from the SUSE Manager Web UI.

Pillar

Pillars unlike grains are created on the master. Pillar files contain information about a minion or group of minions. Pillars allow you to send confidential information to a targeted minion or group of minions. Pillars are useful for sensitive data, configuration of minions, variables, and any arbitrary data which should be defined. For more information on pillars, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/tutorials/pillar.html.

Beacons

Beacons allow an admin to use the event system in Salt to monitor non-Salt processes. Minions may

use beacons to hook into many types of system proceses for constant monitoring. Once a targeted monitored activity occurs an event is sent on the Salt event bus that may be used to trigger a reactor.



Enabling Beacons

To work with beacons on Salt minions the package python-pyinotify must be installed for SUSE systems. For RES systems install python-inotify. This package is not installed automatically during the salt minion package installation.

Peer Communication with salt-broker



The salt-broker acts like a switch and not like a hub, therefore Peer communication will only work for minions behind the same broker/Proxy. For more information on Salt and peer communication see: https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/peer.html

Salt Calls

Salt Calls

Salt calls are defined by three main properties:

```
salt 'target' <function> [arguments]
```

Target

Use the second property in a Salt call to target a single machine or group of machines. Specify the minion or group of minions you would like to run a function on.

General Targeting

List available grains on all minions:

```
salt '*' grains.ls
```

Ping a specific minion:

```
salt 'web1.example.com' test.ping
```

Glob Targeting

Ping all minions using a domain:

```
salt '*example.com' test.ping
```

Display the OS name of all minions with the webserver label:

salt 'webserver*' grains.item oscodename

List Targeting

salt -L 'webserver.example.com,db.example.com' test.ping

Regular Expression Targeting

You may use PCRE-compliant regular expressions:

salt -E '(?!web)' test.ping

IP Address Targeting

List minion IP addresses:

salt '*' network.ip_addrs

Ping a specific minion IP address:

salt -S '172.31.60.74' test.ping

Ping all minions on a subnet:

salt -S 172.31.0.0/16 test.ping

Lookup a Subnet Using the 1D Command



You can use the ip command to find the subnet mask in the format of 192,168,1,1/24:

ip -o -f inet addr show | awk '/scope global/ {print \$4}'

Function

Once you have specified a target, provide the function you would like to call. Functions also accept arguments. Arguments are space-delimited, for example:

salt '*' cmd.run 'echo "Hello: \$FIRST_NAME"' env='{FIRST_NAME: "John"}'

Locating Additional Minion Functions

Find more functions which can be called on minions by running:

```
salt '*' sys.doc
```

For a full list of callable functions, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/modules/all/index.html

Arguments

Provides the extra data needed by a function you are calling. The command pkg.install requires an argument specifying a package to install. YaST has been selected for installation, for example:

```
salt '*' pkg.install yast2
```

Salt Commands

The following list provides several useful Salt commands.

salt-run

Print a list of all minions that are up:

```
salt-run manage.up
```

Print a list of all minions that are down:

```
salt-run manage.down
```

Print a list with the current status of all Salt minions:

```
salt-run manage.status
```

Check the version of Salt running on the master and active minions:

```
salt-run manage.versions
```

salt-cp

Copy a file to a minion or set of minions.

```
salt-cp '*' foo.conf /root
```

For more information, see https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/ref/cli/salt-cp.html.



List public keys:

salt-key -l

salt-key -A

Accept all pending keys:

salt-key -A

Configuration Management with Salt

Configuration Management Overview

Salt is capable of applying states by matching minions with relevant state data. This data comes from SUSE Manager in the form of package and custom states.

State Data: Levels of Hierarchy

State data comes from SUSE Manager in the form of package and custom states and targets minions at three specific levels of hierarchy. The state hierarchy is defined by the following order or priority: individual minions have priority on packages and custom states over groups; next a group has priority over the organization.

• Minion Level

Systems > Specific Minion > States

Group Level

Systems > System Groups

· Organization Level

Systems > Manage System Types: > My Organization

For example:

- Org1 requires that vim version 1 is installed
- Group1 requires that vim version 2 is installed
- Group2 requires any version installed

This would lead to the following order of hierarchy:

- Minion1 part of [Org1, Group1] wants vim removed, vim is removed (Minion Level)
- Minion2 part of [Org1, Group1] wants vim version 2 gets version 2 (Group Level)
- Minion3 part of [Org1, Group1] wants any version, gets version 2 (Org Level)
- Minion4 part of[Org1, Group2] wants any version, gets vim version 1 (Org Level)

Salt States Storage Locations

The SUSE Manager salt-master reads its state data from three file root locations.

The directory /usr/share/susemanager/salt is used by SUSE Manager and comes from the

susemanager-sls. It is shipped and updated together with SUSE Manager and includes certificate setup and common state logic to be applied to packages and channels.

The directory /Srv/Susemanager/salt is generated by SUSE Manager and based on assigned channels and packages for minions, groups and organizations. This file will be overwritten and regenerated. This could be thought of as the SUSE Manager database translated into salt directives.

The third directory /Srv/salt is for custom state data, modules etc. SUSE Manager does not operate within or utilize this directory. However the state data placed here affects the Highstate of minions and is merged with the total state result generated by SUSE Manager.

SUSE Manager States

All sls files created by users will be saved to disk on the salt-master server. These files will be placed in /srv/susemanager/salt/ and each organization will be placed within its own directory. Although these states are custom, these states are created using SUSE Manager. The following provides an overview of directory structure:

```
manager_org_DEVEL

files

... files needed by states (uploaded by users)...

state.sls

... other sls files (created by users)...

E.g.:

manager_org_TESTING

files

motd # user created

... other files needed by states ...

motd.sls # user created

... other sls files ...
```

Pillar Data

SUSE Manager exposes a small amount of internal data as Pillars which can be used with custom SUSE Linux Enterprise Server states. Data that is exposed includes group membership, organization membership, and file roots. These are managed either automatically by SUSE Manager, or manually by the user.

To avoid hard-coding organization IDs within SUSE Linux Enterprise Server files, a pillar entry is added for each organization:

```
org-files-dir: relative_path_to_files
```

The specified file is available for all minions which belong to the organization.

This is an example of a Pillar located at /etc/motd:

```
file.managed:
    - source: salt://{{ pillar['org-files-dir']}}/motd
    - user: root
    - group: root
    - mode: 644
```

Group States

Pillar data can be used to perform bulk actions, like applying all assigned states to minions within the group. This section contains some example of bulk actions that you can take using group states.

In order to perform these actions, you will need to determine the ID of the group that you want to manipulate. You can determine the Group ID by using the Spacecmd command:

```
spacecmd group_details
```

In these examples we will use an example Group ID of GID.

To apply all states assigned to the group:

```
salt -I 'group_ids:GID' state.apply custom.group_GID
```

To apply any state (whether or not it is assigned to the group):

```
salt -I 'group_ids:GID' state.apply ``state``
```

To apply a custom state:

```
salt -I 'group_ids:2130' state.apply manager_org_1.``customstate``
```

Apply the highstate to all minions in the group:

```
salt -I 'group_ids:GID' state.apply
```

Salt Formulas

This chapter provides an introduction for using Salt Formulas with SUSE Manager. Creation of custom formulas will also be introduced.

What are Salt Formulas?

Formulas are collections of Salt States that have been pre-written by other Salt users and contain generic parameter fields. Formulas allow for reliable reproduction of a specific configuration again and again. Formulas can be installed from RPM packages or an external git repository.

This list will help you decide whether to use a state or a formula:

Formula Tips

- When writing states for trivial tasks, formulas are probably not worth the time investment.
- For large, non-trivial configurations use formulas.
- Formulas and States both act as a kind of configuration documentation. Once written and stored you will have a snapshot of what your infrastructure should look like.
- Pre-written formulas are available from the Saltstack formula repository on Github. Use these as a starting point for your own custom formulas.
- Formula data can be managed via the XMLRPC API.

Formula with Forms Improvements



Forms are a graphical representation of the formulas parameter data. You can customize these configuration data in the SUSE Manager Web UI, with entry fields, drop-down, check boxes, etc.

For more information, see https://www.suse.com/c/forms-formula-success/.

Installing Salt Formulas via RPM

SUSE releases formulas as RPM packages. Available formulas can be located within the SUSE-Manager-Server-3.2-Pool channel.

Salt State Name Clashes



If a Salt Formula uses the same name as an existing Salt State, the two names will collide, and could result in the formula being used instead of the state. Always check states and formulas to avoid name clashes.

Procedure: Installing Salt Formulas from an RPM

1. To search for available formulas, execute the following command on your SUSE Manager server:

```
zypper se --type package formula
```

You will see a list of available Salt formulas:

2. For more information about a formula, run the following command:

```
zypper info locale-formula
```

3. To install a formula run as root:

```
zypper in locale-formula
```

File Structure Overview

RPM-based formulas must be placed in a specific directory structure to ensure proper functionality. A formula always consists of two separate directories: The States directory and the metadata directory. Folders in these directories need to have an exactly matching name, for example locale.

The Formula State Directory

The formula states directory contains anything necessary for a Salt state to work independently. This includes .sls files, a map.jinja file and any other required files. This directory should only be modified by RPMs and should not be edited manually. For example, the locale-formula states directory is located in:

/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states/locale/

The Formula Metadata Directory

The metadata directory contains a form.yml file which defines the forms for SUSE Manager and an optional metadata.yml file that can contain additional information about a formula. For example, the locale-formula metadata directory is located in:

/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/locale/

Custom Formulas

Custom formula data or (non-RPM) formulas need to be placed into any state directory configured as a Salt file root:

State directory

Custom state formula data needs to be placed in:

/srv/salt/<custom-formula-name>/

Metadata Directory

Custom metadata (information) needs to be placed in:

/srv/formula_metadata/<custom-formula-name>/

All custom folders located in the following directories need to contain a form.yml file. These files are detected as form recipes and may be applied to groups and systems from the Web UI:

/srv/formula_metadata/<custom-formula-name>/form.yml

Editing Pillar Data in SUSE Manager

SUSE Manager requires a file called form.yml, to describe how formula data should look within the Web UI. form.yml is used by SUSE Manager to generate the desired form, with values editable by a user.

For example, the form.yml that is included with the locale-formula is placed in:

/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/locale/form.yml

See part of the following locale-formula example:

```
# This file is part of locale-formula.
# Foobar is free software: you can redistribute it and/or modify
# it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by
# the Free Software Foundation, either version 3 of the License, or
# (at your option) any later version.
# Foobar is distributed in the hope that it will be useful,
# but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of
# MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the
# GNU General Public License for more details.
# You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License
# along with Foobar. If not, see <a href="http://www.gnu.org/licenses/">http://www.gnu.org/licenses/</a>.
timezone:
  $type: group
  name:
    $type: select
    $values: ["CET",
"CST6CDT",
               "EET",
               "EST5EDT",
               "GMT"
               "GMT+0"
               "GMT-0",
               "GMT0",
               "Greenwich",
               "HST",
"MET",
"MST",
               "MST7MDT",
               "NZ"
               "NZ-CHAT",
               "Navajo"
               "PST8PDT",
               "UCT",
               "Universal",
               "W-SU",
               "WET"
               "Zulu"
               "Etc/GMT+1"
               "Etc/GMT+2",
               "Etc/GMT+3",
               "Etc/GMT+4",
               "Etc/GMT+5"
               "Etc/GMT+6"
               "Etc/GMT+7"
               "Etc/GMT+8",
               "Etc/GMT+9",
               "Etc/GMT+10"
               "Etc/GMT+11"
               "Etc/GMT+12"
               "Etc/GMT-1"
               "Etc/GMT-2"
               "Etc/GMT-3",
               "Etc/GMT-4"
               "Etc/GMT-5",
               "Etc/GMT-6"
               "Etc/GMT-7"
               "Etc/GMT-8"
               "Etc/GMT-9",
               "Etc/GMT-10"
               "Etc/GMT-11",
               "Etc/GMT-II",
"Etc/GMT-12",
```

```
"Etc/GMT-13",
    "Etc/GMT-14",
    "Etc/GMT",
    "Etc/GMT+0",
    "Etc/GMT0",
    "Etc/GMT0",
    "Etc/Greenwich",
    "Etc/UCT",
    "Etc/UTC",
    "Etc/Zulu"
    ]
    $default: CET

hardware_clock_set_to_utc:
    $type: boolean
    $default: True
...
```

form.yml contains additional information that describes how the form for a pillar should look for SUSE Manager. This information is contained in attributes that always start with a \$ sign.



Ignored Values

All values that start with a \$ sign are annotations used to display the UI that users interact with. These annotations are not part of pillar data itself and are handled as metadata.

The following are valid attributes.

\$type

The most important attribute is the **\$type** attribute. It defines the type of the pillar value and the form-field that is generated. The following represent the supported types:

- text
- password
- number
- url
- email
- date
- time
- datetime
- boolean
- color
- select
- group

- edit-group
- namespace
- hidden-group (obsolete, renamed to namespace)



Text Attribute

The text attribute is the default and does not need to be specified explicitly.

Many of these values are self-explanatory:

- The text type generates a simple text field
- The password type generates a password field
- The color type generates a color picker

The group, edit-group, and namespace (formerly hidden-group) types do not generate an editable field and are used to structure form and pillar data. All these types support nesting. For providing default values with nesting, see edit-group Example with Nesting. The difference between group and namespace is group generates a visible border with a heading, and namespace shows nothing visually (and is only used to structure pillar data). The difference between group and edit-group is: edit-group allows to structure and restrict editable fields in a more flexible way. edit-group is a collection of items of the same kind; collections can have the following four "shapes":

- A list of primitive items
- A list of dictionaries
- A dictionary of primitive items
- A dictionary of dictionaries

The size of each collection is variable; users can add or remove elements.

For example, edit-group supports the \$minItems and \$maxItems attributes, and thus it simplifies complex and repeatable input structures. These, and also itemName, are optional. For an edit-group example, see Simple edit-group Example.

\$default

\$default allows you to specify a default value that is displayed and used, if no other value is entered. In an edit-group it allows to create initial members of the group and populate them with specified data.

\$optional

\$optional is a boolean attribute. If it is **true** and the field is empty in the form, then this field will not be generated in the formula data and the generated dictionary will not contain the field name key. If **\$optional** is **false** and the field is empty, the formula data will contain a **<field** name>: null entry.

\$ifEmpty

The value to be used if the field is empty (because the user did not input any value). if Empty can only be used when <code>\$optional</code> is <code>false</code> or not defined at all! If <code>\$optional</code> is <code>true</code>, then <code>\$ifEmpty</code> is ignored. In the following example, the DP2 string would be used if user leaves the field empty:

```
displayName:

$type: string

$ifEmpty: DP2
```

\$name

\$name allows you to specify the name of a value that is shown in the form. If this value is not set, the pillar name is used and capitalized without underscores and dashes. You reference it in the same section with \${name}.

\$help and \$placeholder

The \$help and \$placeholder attributes are used to give a user a better understanding of what the value should be.

- \$help defines the message a user sees when hovering over a field
- \$placeholder displays a gray placeholder text in the field

\$placeholder may only be used with text fields like text, password, email or date. It does not make sense to add a placeholder if you also use **\$default** as this will hide the placeholder.

\$key

\$key is applicable if the **edit-group** has the "shape" of a dictionary; you use it when the pillar data is supposed to be a dictionary. The **\$key** attribute then determines the key of an entry in the dictionary. Example:

```
user_passwords:
   $type: edit-group
$minItems: 1
$prototype:
   $key:
   $type: text
   $type: text
$default:
   alice: secret-password
   bob: you-shall-not-pass
```

Pillar:

```
user_passwords:
alice:
secret-password
bob:
you-shall-not-pass
```

\$minItems and \$maxItems

In an edit-group, \$minItems and \$maxItems allow you to specify the lowest and highest number the group can occur.

\$itemName

In an edit-group, \$itemName allows you to define a template for the name to be used for the members of the group.

\$prototype

In an edit-group, \$prototype is mandatory and allows to define default (or pre-filled) values for newly added members in the group.

\$scope

\$scope allows you to specify a hierarchy level at which a value may be edited. Possible values are system, group, and readonly.

The default \$scope: system allows values to be edited at group and system levels. A value can be entered for each system but if no value is entered the system will fall back to the group default.

If using \$scope: group, a value may only be edited for a group. On the system level you will be able to see the value, but not edit it.

The \$scope: readonly option makes a field read-only. It can be used to show a user data which should be known, but should not be editable. This option only makes sense in combination with the \$default attribute.

\$visibleIf

\$visibleIf allows you to show a field or group if a simple condition is met. A condition always looks similar to the following example:

```
some_group#another_group#my_checkbox == true
```

The left part of the above statement is the path to another value, and groups are separated by \$ signs. The middle section of the command should be either == for a value to be equal or != for values that should be not equal. The last field in the statement can be any value which a field should have or not have.

The field with this attribute associated with it will now be shown only when the condition is met. In this example the field will be shown only if my_checkbox is checked. The ability to use conditional

statements is not limited to check boxes. It may also be used to check values of select-fields, text-fields, etc.

A check box should be structured like the following example:

```
some_group:
    $type: group

another_group:
    $type: group

my_checkbox:
    $type: boolean
```

Relative paths can be specified using prefix dots. One dot means sibling, 2 dots mean parent, etc. This is mostly useful for edit-group.

```
some_group:
    $type: group

another_group:
    $type: group

my_checkbox:
    $type: boolean

my_text:
    $visibleIf: .my_checkbox

yet_another_group:
    $type: group

my_text2:
    $visibleIf: ..another_group#my_checkbox
```

By using multiple groups with the attribute, you can allow a user to select an option and show a completely different form, dependent upon the selected value.

Values from hidden fields may be merged into the pillar data and sent to the minion. A formula must check the condition again and use the appropriate data. For example:

```
show_option:
   $type: checkbox
some_text:
   $visibleIf: show_option == true
```

```
{% if pillar.show_option %}
do_something:
  with: {{ pillar.some_text }}
{% endif %}
```

\$values

\$values can only be used together with \$type: select to specify the different options in the select-

field. \$values must be a list of possible values to select. For example:

```
select_something:
   $type: select
   $values: ["option1", "option2"]
```

Or alternatively:

```
select_something:
$type: select
$values:
- option1
- option2
```

Simple edit-group Example

See the following **edit-group** example:

```
partitions:
  $name: "Hard Disk Partitions"
$type: "edit-group"
  $minItems: 1
  $maxItems: 4
  $itemName: "Partition ${name}"
  $prototype:
    name:
       $default: "New partition"
    mountpoint:
       $default: "/var"
    size:
       $type: "number"
       $name: "Size in GB"
  $default:
    - name: "Boot"
    mountpoint: "/boot"
- name: "Root"
      mountpoint: "/"
       size: 5000
```

After clicking [Add] for one time you will see edit-group Example in the Web UI filled with the default values. The formula itself is called hd-partitions and will appear as Hd Partitions in the Web UI.

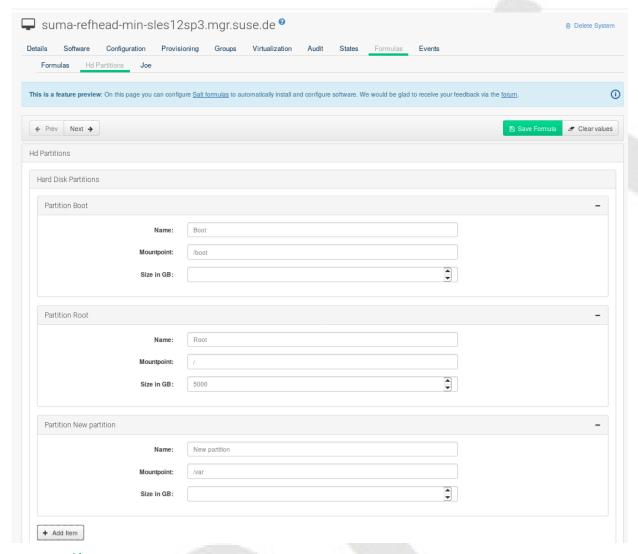


Figure 1. edit-group Example in the Web UI

To remove the definition of a partition click the minus symbol in the title line of an inner group. When form fields are properly filled confirm with clicking [Save Formula] in the upper right corner of the formula.

edit-group Example with Nesting

See the following **edit-group** example:

```
users:
  $name: "Users"
  $type: edit-group
  $minItems: 2
  $maxItems: 5
  $prototype:
    name:
      $default: "username"
    password:
      $type: password
    groups:
      $type: edit-group
      $minItems: 1
      $prototype:
        group_name:
          $type: text
  $default:
    - name: "root"
      groups:
        - group name: "users"
        - group_name: "admins"
    - name: "admin"
      groups:
        - group_name: "users"
```

Writing Salt Formulas

Salt formulas are pre-written Salt states, which may be configured with pillar data. You can parametrize state files using Jinja. Jinja allows you to access pillar data by using the following syntax. This syntax works best when you are uncertain whether a pillar value exists as it will throw an error:

```
pillar.some.value
```

When you are sure a pillar exists you may also use the following syntax:

```
salt['pillar.get']('some:value', 'default value')
```

You may also replace the pillar value with grains (for example, grains.some.value) allowing access to grains.

Using data this way allows you to make a formula configurable. The following code snippet will install a package specified in the pillar package_name:

```
install_a_package:
   pkg.installed:
     - name: {{ pillar.package_name }}
```

You may also use more complex constructs such as if/else and for-loops to provide greater functionality:

```
{% if pillar.installSomething %}
something:
  pkg.installed
{% else %}
anotherPackage:
  pkg.installed
{% endif %}
```

Another example:

```
{% for service in pillar.services %}
start_{{ service }}:
    service.running:
    - name: {{ service }}
{% endfor %}
```

Jinja also provides other helpful functions. For example, you can iterate over a dictionary:

```
{% for key, value in some_dictionary.items() %}
do_something_with_{{ key }}: {{ value }}
{% endfor %}
```

You may want to have Salt manage your files (for example, configuration files for a program), and you can change these with pillar data. For example, the following snippet shows how you can manage a file using Salt:

```
/etc/my_program/my_program.conf:
    file.managed:
      - source: salt://my_state/files/my_program.conf
      - template: jinja
```

Salt will copy the file salt-file_roots/my_state/files/my_program.conf on the salt master to /etc/my_program/my_program.conf on the minion and template it with Jinja. This allows you to use Jinja in the file, exactly like shown above for states:

```
some_config_option = {{ pillar.config_option_a }}
```

Separating Data

It is often a good idea to separate data from a state to increase its flexibility and add re-usability value. This is often done by writing values into a separate file named map.jinja. This file should be placed within the same directory as your state files.

The following example will set data to a dictionary with different values, depending on which system the state runs on. It will also merge data with the pillar using the Some.pillar.data value so you can access Some.pillar.data.value by just using data.value.

You can also choose to override defined values from pillars (for example, by overriding some.pillar.data.package in the example).

After creating a map file like the above example, you can maintain compatibility with multiple system types while accessing "deep" pillar data in a simpler way. Now you can import and use data in any file. For example:

```
{% from "some_folder/map.jinja" import data with context %}
install_package_a:
   pkg.installed:
   - name: {{ data.package }}
```

You can also define multiple variables by copying the {% set …%} statement with different values and then merge it with other pillars. For example:

To import multiple variables, separate them with a comma. For Example:

```
{% from "map.jinja" import server, client with context %}
```

Formulas utilized with SUSE Manager should follow formula conventions listed in the official documentation:

• https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/development/conventions/formulas.html

SUSE Manager Generated Pillar Data

When pillar data is generated (for example, after applying the highstate) the following external pillar script

generates pillar data for packages, group ids, etc. and includes all pillar data for a system:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/modules/pillar/suma_minion.py
```

The process is executed as follows:

- 1. The suma_minion.py script starts and finds all formulas for a system (by checking the group_formulas.json and server_formulas.json files).
- 2. Suma_minion.py loads the values for each formula (groups and from the system) and merges them with the highstate (default: if no values are found, a group overrides a system if \$scope: group etc.).
- 3. suma_minion.py also includes a list of formulas applied to the system in a pillar named formulas. This structure makes it possible to include states. The top file (in this case specifically generated by the mgr_master_tops.py script) includes a state called formulas for each system. This includes the formulas.sls file located in:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states/
```

The content looks similar to the following:

```
include: {{ pillar["formulas"] }}
```

This pillar includes all formulas, that are specified in pillar data generated from the external pillar script.

Formula Requirements

Formulas should be designed/created directly after a SUSE Manager installation, but if you encounter any issues check the following:

- The external pillar script (Suma_minion.py) must include formula data.
- Data is saved to /srv/susemanager/formula_data and the pillar and group_pillar sub-directories. These should be automatically generated by the server.
- Formulas must be included for every minion listed in the top file. Currently this process is initiated by the mgr_master_tops.py script which includes the formulas.sls file located in:

```
/usr/share/susemanager/formulas/states/
```

This directory must be a salt file root. File roots are configured on the salt-master (SUSE Manager) located in:

/etc/salt/master.d/susemanager.conf

Using Salt Formulas with SUSE Manager

The following procedure provides an overview on using Salt Formulas with SUSE Manager.

- 1. Official formulas may be installed as RPMs. Place the custom states within /srv/salt/your-formula-name/ and the metadata (form.yml and metadata.yml) in /srv/formula_metadata/your-formula-name/. After installing your formulas they will appear in Salt > Formula Catalog.
- 2. To begin using a formula, apply it to a group or system. Apply a formula to a group or system by selecting the **System Details** > **Formulas** tab of a **System Details** page or **System Group**. From the **System Details** > **Formulas** page you can select any formulas you wish to apply to a group or system. Click the [**Save**] button to save your changes to the database.
- 3. After applying one or more formulas to a group or system, additional tabs will become available from the top menu, one for each formula selected. From these tabs you may configure your formulas.
- 4. When you have finished customizing your formula values you will need to apply the highstate for them to take effect. Applying the highstate will execute the state associated with the formula and configure targeted systems. You can use the [Apply Highstate] button from any formulas page of a group.
- 5. When a change to any of your values is required or you need to re-apply the formula state because of a failure or bug, change values located on your formula pages and re-apply the highstate. Salt will ensure that only modified values are adjusted and restart or reinstall services only when necessary.

This conclude your introduction to Salt Formulas. For additional information, see:

• https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/development/conventions/formulas.html

Formulas

Formulas are pre-written Salt states, that are used to configure your SUSE Manager for Retail installation.

This section lists the primary formulas shipped with SUSE Manager for Retail and their configuration options.

All the formulas in this section must be accurately configured for your SUSE Manager for Retail installation to function correctly. If you are unsure of the correct formula configuration details, run the retail_branch_init command before you begin to create the recommended formula configuration. You can then manually edit the formulas as required.



State and formula name collisions

If a formula uses the same name as an existing Salt state, the two names will collide, and could result in the formula being used instead of the state. Always check the names of states and formulas to avoid name collisions.

Most formulas can be updated using the SUSE Manager Web UI. Once you have made changes to your formula, ensure you apply the highstate to propagate your changes to the appropriate services.

Bind Formula

The Bind formula is used to configure the Domain Name System (DNS) on the branch server. POS terminals will use the DNS on the branch server for name resolution of saltboot specific hostnames.

When you are configuring the bind formula for a branch server with a dedicated internal network, check that you are using the same fully qualified domain name (FQDN) on both the external and internal branch networks. If the FQDN does not match on both networks, the branch server will not be recognized as a proxy server.



The following procedure outlines a standard configuration with two zones. Adjust it to suit your own environment.

Zone 1 is a regular domain zone. Its main purpose is to resolve saltboot hostnames such as TFTP, FTP, or Salt. It can also resolve the terminal names if configured.

Zone 2 is the reverse zone of Zone 1. Its main purpose is to resolve IP addresses back to hostnames. Zone 2 is primarily needed for the correct determination of the FQDNs of the branch.

Procedure: Configuring Bind with Two Zones

- 1. Check the Bind formula, and click Save.
- 2. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Bind** tab, and set these parameters for Zone 1:
 - ° In the Config section, select Include Forwarders.
 - ° In the Name field, enter the domain name of your branch network (for example: branch1.example.org).
 - ° In the Type field, select master.
- 3. Click Add item to save your changes.
- 4. Set these parameters for Zone 2:
 - o In the Name field, use the reverse zone for the configured IP range (for example: 1.168.192.in-addr.arpa).
 - ° In the Type field, select master
- 5. In the Available Zones section, use these parameters for Zone 1:

- ° In the Name field, enter the domain name of your branch network (for example: branch1.example.org).
- ° In the File field, type the name of your configuration file.
- 6. In the Start of Authority (SOA) section, use these parameters for Zone 1:
 - ° In the Nameserver (Ns) field, use the FQDN of the branch server (for example: branchserver.branch1.example.org).
 - ° In the Contact field, use the email address for the domain administrator.
 - Keep all other fields as their default values.
- 7. In the Records section, in subsection A, click [Add Item] and use these parameters to set up an A record for Zone 1:
 - In the Hostname field, use the hostname of the branch server (for example: branchserver).
 - In the IP field, use the IP address of the branch server (for example, 192.168.1.1).
- 8. In the Records section, subsection NS, click [Add Item] and use these parameters to set up an NS record for Zone 1:
 - ° In the input box, use the hostname of the branch server (for example: branchserver).
- 9. In the Records section, subsection CNAME, click on [Add Item] and add the hostname of the branch server in each of these fields:
 - ° tftp
 - o ftp
 - ° dns
 - ° dhcp
 - ° salt. The salt CNAME should be the FQDN of the branch server's external interface for proxy functionality to work correctly.
- 10. Set up Zone 2 using the same parameters as for Zone 1, but ensure you use the reverse details:
 - The same SOA section as Zone 1.
 - Empty A and CNAME records.
 - Additionally, configure in Zone 2:
 - Generate Reverse field by the network IP address set in branch server network formula (for example, 192.168.1.1/24).
 - For Zones should specify the domain name of your branch network (for example, branch1.example.org).
- 11. Click [Save Formula] to save your configuration.
- 12. Apply the highstate.

Reverse name resolution on terminals might not work for networks that are inside one of these IPv4 private address ranges:



- 10.0.0.0/8
- 172.16.0.0/12
- 192.168.0.0/16

If you encounter this problem, go to the <code>Options</code> section of the Bind formula, and click [<code>Add item</code>]: * In the <code>Options</code> field, enter <code>empty-zones-enable</code>. * In the <code>Value</code> field, select <code>No</code>.

Branch Network Formula

The branch network formula is used to configure the networking services required by the branch server, including DHCP, DNS, TFTP, PXE, and FTP.

The branch server can be configured to use networking in many different ways. The most common ways provide either a dedicated or shared LAN for terminals.

Set up a branch server with a dedicated LAN

In this configuration, the branch server requires at least two network interfaces: one acts as a WAN to communicate with the SUSE Manager server, and the other one acts as an isolated LAN to communicate with terminals.

This configuration allows for the branch server to provide DHCP, DNS, TFTP, PXE and FTP services to terminals, which are configured through SUSE Manager for Retail formulas in the SUSE Manager Web UI.

Procedure: Setting up a branch server with a dedicated LAN

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. In the Branch Network section, set these parameters:
 - Keep Dedicated NIC checked
 - In the NIC field, enter the name of the network device that is connected to the internal LAN.
 - In the IP field, enter the static IP address to be assigned to the branch server on the internal LAN.
 - In the Netmask field, enter the network mask of the internal LAN.
- 3. Check Enable Route if you want the branch server to route traffic from internal LAN to WAN.
 - ° Check Enable NAT if you want the branch server to convert addresses from internal LAN to WAN.

- ° Select the bind DNS forwarder mode.
- · Check DNS forwarder fallback if you want to rely on an external DNS if the branch DNS fails.
- Specify the working directory, and the directory owner and group.
- 4. Click [Save] to save your changes.
- 5. Apply the highstate.

Set up a branch server with a shared network

In this configuration, the branch server has only one network interface card, which is used to connect to the SUSE Manager server as well as the terminals.

This configuration allows for the branch server to provide DNS, TFTP, PXE and FTP services to terminals, which are configured through SUSE Manager for Retail formulas in the SUSE Manager Web UI. Optionally, the branch server can also provide DHCP services in this configuration.

If DHCP services are not provided by the branch server, ensure that your external DHCP configuration is set correctly:



- The next-server option must point to the branch server for PXE boot to work
- The filename option must correctly identify the network boot program (by default, this is /boot/pxelinux)
- The domain-name-servers option must point to the branch server for correct host name resolution

Procedure: Setting up a branch server with a shared network

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. In the Branch Network section, set these parameters:
 - Keep Dedicated NIC unchecked
 - Select which services to enable on the branch server's firewall. Ensure you include DNS, TFTP and FTP services.
 - Select the bind DNS forwarder mode.
 - · Check DNS forwarder fallback if you want to rely on an external DNS if the branch DNS fails.
 - Specify the working directory, and the directory owner and group.
- 3. Click [Save] to save your changes.
- 4. Apply the highstate.

DHCPd Formula

The DHCPd formula is used to configure the DHCP service on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring DHCP

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Check the **Dhcpd** formula, and click [**Save**].
- 3. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Dhcpd** tab, and set these parameters:
 - ° In the Domain Name field, enter the domain name for the branch server (for example: branch1.example.com).
 - In the Domain Name Server field, enter either the IP address or resolvable FQDN of the branch DNS server (for example: 192.168.1.1).
 - In the Listen Interfaces field, enter the name of the network interface used to connect to the local branch network (for example: eth1).
- 4. Navigate to the Network Configuration (subnet) section, and use these parameters for Network1:
 - In the Network IP field, enter the IP address of the branch server network (for example: 192.168.1.0).
 - In the Netmask field, enter the network mask of the branch server network (for example: 255.255.25.0).
 - In the Domain Name field, enter the domain name for the branch server network (for example: branch1.example.com).
- 5. In the Dynamic IP Range section, use these parameters to configure the IP range to be served by the DHCP service:
 - ° In the first input box, set the lower bound of the IP range (for example: 192.168.1.51).
 - ° In the second input box, set the upper bound of the IP range (for example: 192.168.1.151).
- 6. In the Broadcast Address field, enter the broadcast IP address for the branch network (for example: 192.168.1.255).
- 7. In the Routers field, enter the IP address to be used by routers in the branch server network (for example: 192.168.1.1).
- 8. In the Next Server field, enter the hostname or IP address of the branch server (for example: 192.168.1.1).
- 9. In the Filename field, keep the default value of /boot/pxelinux.0.
- 10. Click [Save Formula] to save your configuration
- 11. Apply the highstate.

Image Synchronization Formula

The Image Synchronization formula is used to configure when OS images are synchronized to the branch server, and to specify which images to synchronize.

If this formula is not enabled, synchronization must be started manually, and all images will be synchronized.

Procedure: Configuring Image Synchronization

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Check the Image Synchronize formula, and click [Save].
- 3. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Image Synchronize** tab, and set these parameters:
 - ° Check the Include Image Synchronization in Highstate field to have image synchronization occur every time highstate is applied. This ensures that you do not have to perform image synchronization manually, however it requires a high bandwidth environment.
 - o In the Synchronize only the listed images field, click [Add item] to add the images you want to have synchronized automatically. Alternatively, you can leave this list blank to have all images synchronized.
- 4. Click [Save Formula] to save your configuration.
- 5. Apply the highstate.

PXE Formula

The PXE formula is used to configure PXE booting on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring PXE booting

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Select the Pxe formula, and click Save.
- 3. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Pxe** tab, and set these parameters:
 - ° In the Kernel filename field, keep the default value.
 - ° In the Initrd filename field, keep the default value.
 - o In the Kernel commandline parameters field, keep the default value.
 - In the PXE root directory field, enter the path to the saltboot directory (for example, /srv/saltboot).
 - o In the Branch id field, type a name to use as a branch identifier (for example: Branch0001). Use only alphanumeric characters for the branch identifier.
- 4. Click Save Formula to save your configuration

5. Apply the highstate.

Saltboot Formula

The Saltboot formula is used to configure disk images and partitioning for the selected hardware type.



Saltboot formula is meant to be used as a group formula. Enable and configure saltboot formula for hardware type groups.

Procedure: Configuring the hardware type group with saltboot

- 1. Open the details page for your new hardware type group, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Select the saltboot-formula and click [Save].
- 3. Navigate to the new **Formulas** > **Saltboot** tab.
- 4. In the Disk 1 section, set these parameters:
 - ° In the Disk symbolic ID field, enter a custom name for the disk (for example, disk1).
 - ° In the Device type field, select DISK.
 - In the Disk device field, select the device that corresponds to the device name on the target machine (for example, /dev/sda).
 - ° In the RAID level field, leave it empty.
 - ° In the Disk Label field, select gpt.
- 5. In the Partition section, set these parameters for Partition 1:
 - ° In the Partition symbolic ID field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, p1).
 - ° In the Partition size field, specify a size for the partition in Mebibytes (MiB).
 - In the Device mount point field, select a location to mount the partition (for example, /data).
 - In the Filesystem format field, select your preferred format (for example, xfs).
 - ° In the OS Image to deploy field, leave it empty.
 - ° In the Partition encryption password field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
 - In the Partition flags field, leave it empty.
- 6. In the Partition section, set these parameters for Partition 2:
 - In the Partition symbolic ID field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, p2).
 - ° In the Partition Size field, specify a size for the partition in Mebibytes (MiB).

- ° In the Device mount point field, leave it empty.
- ° In the Filesystem format field, select SWap.
- ° In the OS Image to deploy field, leave it empty.
- In the Partition encryption password field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
- ° In the Partition flags field, select Swap.
- 7. In the Partition section, set these parameters for Partition 3:
 - ° In the Partition symbolic ID field, enter a custom name for the partition (for example, p3).
 - ° In the Partition size field, leave it empty. This will ensure the partition uses up all remaining space.
 - ° In the Device mount point field, select /.
 - ° In the Filesystem format field, leave it empty.
 - ° In the OS Image to deploy field, enter the name of the image to deploy.
 - o In the Image version field, leave it empty. This will ensure you use the latest available version.
 - ° In the Partition encryption password field, enter a password if you want to encrypt the partition.
 - ° In the Partition flags field, leave it empty.
- 8. Click [Save Formula] to save your formula.

TFTPd Formula

The TFTPd formula is used to configure the TFTP service on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring TFTP

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Select the Tftpd formula, and click [Save].
- 3. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Tftpd** tab, and set these parameters:
 - ° In the Internal Network Address field, enter the IP address of the branch server (for example: 192.168.1.1).
 - In the TFTP Base Directory field, enter the path to the saltboot directory (for example, /srv/saltboot).
 - ° In the Run TFTP Under User field, enter saltboot.

- 4. Click [Save Formula] to save your configuration.
- 5. Apply the highstate.

VsFTPd Formula

The VsFTPd formula is used to configure the FTP service on the branch server.

Procedure: Configuring VsFTPd

- 1. In the SUSE Manager Web UI, open the details page for the branch server, and navigate to the Formulas tab.
- 2. Select the Vsftpd formula, and click [Save].
- 3. Navigate to the **Formulas** > **Vsftpd** tab, and set these parameters:
 - ° In the Internal Network Address, enter IP address of branch server (for example: 192.168.1.1).
 - All other fields can retain their default values.
- 4. Click [Save Formula] to save your configuration
- 5. Apply the highstate.

Salt Formulas Coming with SUSE Manager

For general information, see the Salt Formulas installation and usage instructions at https://docs.saltstack.com/en/latest/topics/development/conventions/formulas.html.

Locale

The locale formula allows setting Timezone and [quimenu] Keyboard and Language.

Domain Name System (Bind)

With the bind formula you set up and configure a Domain Name System (DNS) server. For technical information about the bind formula and low-level pillar data, see the README.rst file on the SUSE Manager server: /usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/bind/README.rst.

DNS is needed to resolve the domain names and host names into IP addresses. For more information about DNS, see the SLES Administration Guide, Services, The Domain Name System.

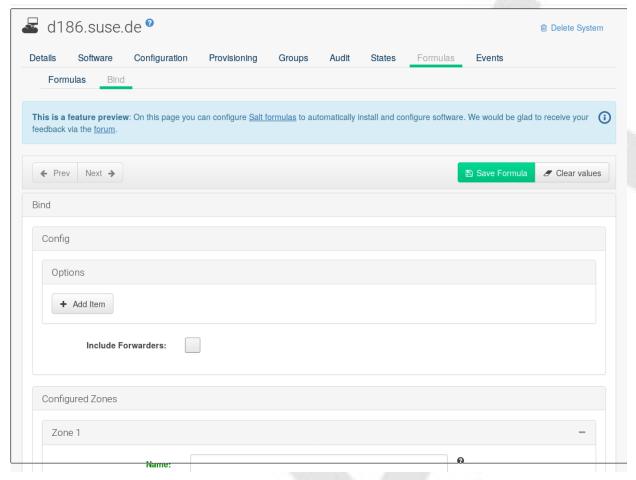


Figure 2. Bind Formula

In the Config group you can set arbitrary options such as directory where are the zone data files (usually /var/lib/named/) or forwarders. Click [Add Item] to provide more Key/Value fields for configuration.

Check Include Forwarders if you want to rely on an external DNS server if your DNS is down (or is otherwise not able to resolve an address).

At least, you will configure one zone. In Configured Zones define your zone; for example, example.com. Then in Available Zones configure this zone: as Name enter your zone (in this case example.com) and the File to which this configuration should be written (example.com.txt). Enter the mandatory SOA record (start of authority), and the A, NS, and CNAME Records you need.

On the other hand, if no records entry exists, the zone file is not generated by this state rather than taken from salt://zones. For how to overwrite this URL, see pillar.example.

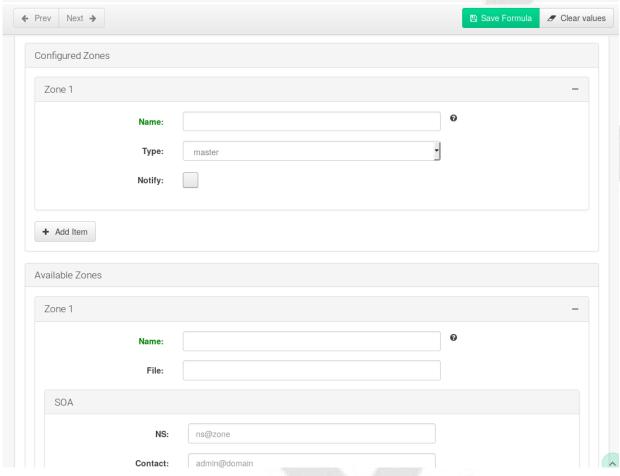


Figure 3. bind-02-zones

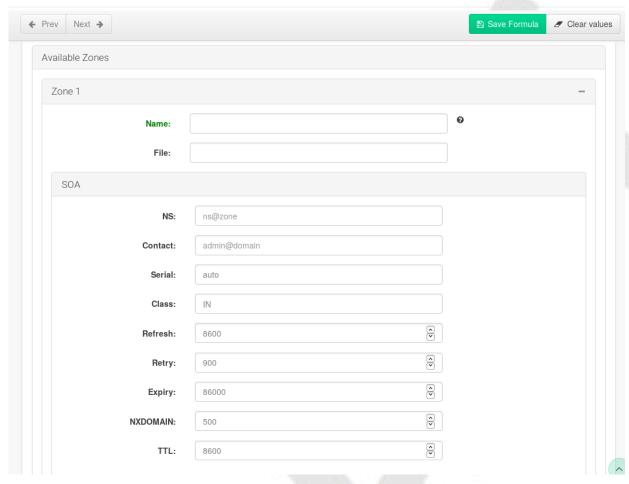


Figure 4. bind-03-records

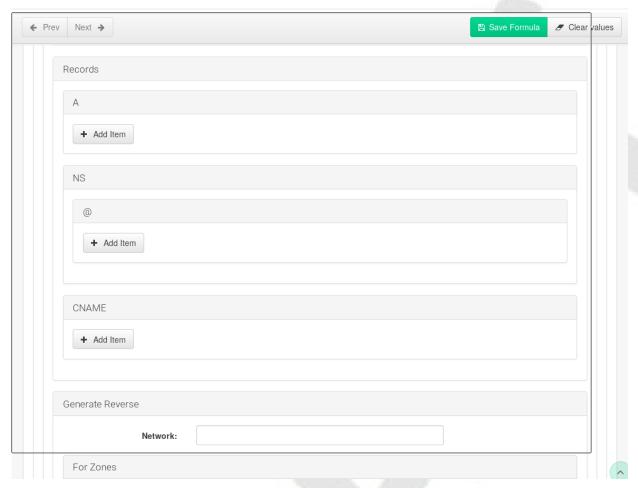


Figure 5. bind-03-records2

In Generate Reverse, and define reverse mapping and for which zones:

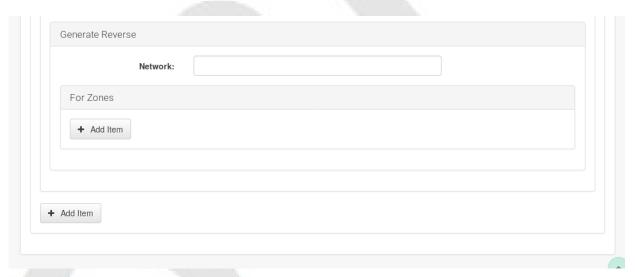


Figure 6. bind-04-reverse

When saved, data is written to /srv/susemanager/formula_data/pillar/<salt-minion.example.com>_bind.json.

If you apply the highstate (**System Details** > **States** > **Highstate**), it first ensures that bind and all required packages will get installed. Then it will start the DNS service (named).

Dhcpd

With the dhcpd formula you set up and configure a DHCP server (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol). For technical information about the dhcpd formula and low-level pillar data, see the Pillar example file /usr/share/susemanager/formulas/metadata/dhcpd/pillar.example.

DHCP is needed to define network settings centrally (on a server) and let clients retrieve and use this information for local host configuration. For more information about DHCP, see the SLES Administration Guide, Services, DHCP.

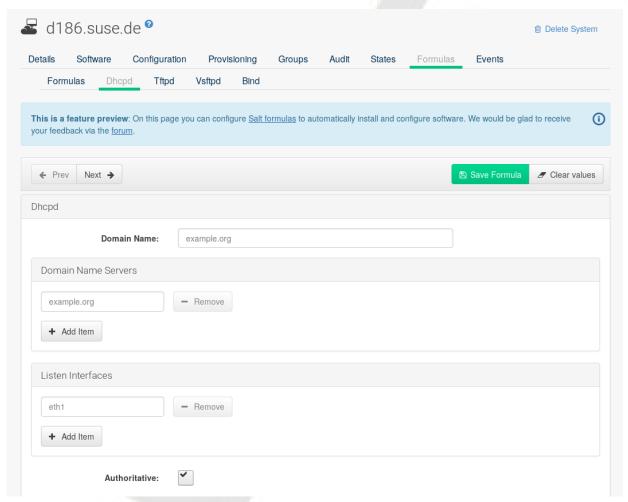


Figure 7. dhcpd formula

Domain Name.

Domain Name Servers. One or more Domain Name Service (DNS) servers.

On which interface(s) the DHCP server should listen (Listen interfaces). Set option for this interface: Authoritative: Max Lease Time: Default Lease Time:

Next is at least one network in the Network configuration (subnet) group (with IP address, netmask, etc.). You define every network with Dynamic IP range, Routers, and Hosts with static IP addresses (with defaults from subnet) (optionally).

And finally Hosts with static IP addresses (with global defaults).

If you apply the highstate (**System Details** > **States** > **Highstate**), it first ensures that dhcp-server and all required packages will get installed. Then it will start the DHCP service (dhcpd).

Tftpd

With the tftpd formula you set up and configure a TFTP server (Trivial File Transfer Protocol). A TFTP server is a component that provides infrastructure for booting with PXE.

For more information about setting up TFTP, see the SLES Deployment Guide, Preparing Network Boot Environment, Setting Up a TFTP Server.

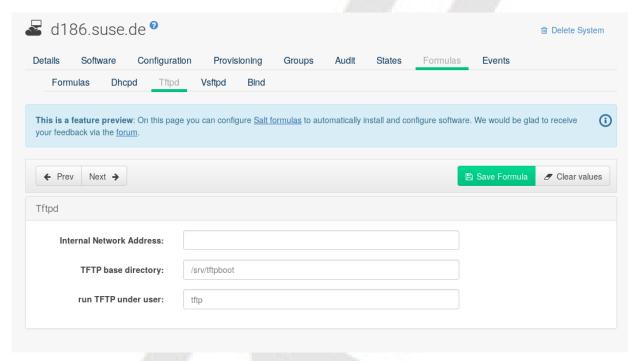


Figure 8. tftpd formula

For setting up a TFTP server, specify the Internal Network Address, TFTP base directory (default: /srv/tftpboot), and run TFTP under user (default: sftp).

If you apply the highstate (**System Details** > **States** > **Highstate**), it first ensures that atftp and all required packages will get installed. Then it will start TFTP (atftpd).

Vsftpd

With the vsftpd formula you set up and configure Vsftpd. Vsftpd is an FTP server or daemon, written with security in mind. "vs" in its name stands for "Very Secure".

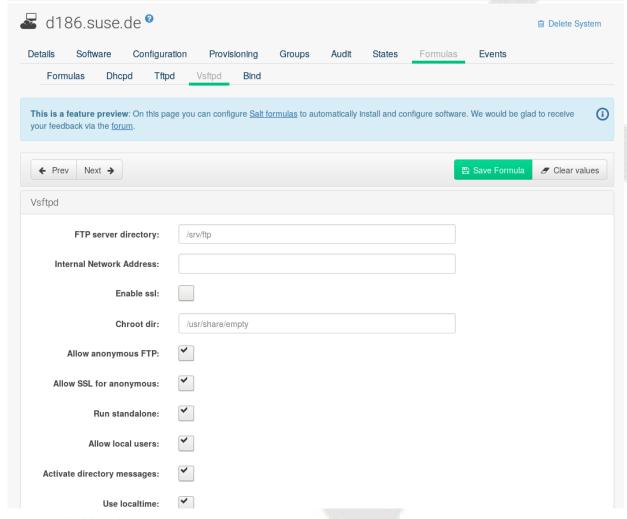


Figure 9. vsftpd formula

For configuring a VSFTP server, specify the settings and options in the Vsftpd formula. There are settings such as FTP server directory, Internal Network Address Enable ssl, etc.

If you apply the highstate (**System Details** > **States** > **Highstate**), it first ensures that **VSftpd** and all required packages will get installed. Then it will start the VSFTP service (**VSftpd**).

For more information about setting up and tuning Vsftpd, see the documentation coming with the vsftpd package (/usr/share/doc/packages/vsftpd/ when the package is installed).

Install the SUSE Manager Locale Formula

The following section provides guidance on installing and using SUSE provided Salt formulas.

Procedure: Installing the Locale Formula

1. Install the locale formula with:

zypper install locale-formula



This installs the package contents to /usr/share/susemanager/formulas/{metadata,states}

- 2. After installing the RPM, log in to the SUSE Manager Web UI.
- 3. Browse to the **Main Menu** > **System Details** page of any minion you would like to apply the formula to.
- 4. On the **Main Menu** > **System Details** page you will see a new [**Formulas**] tab. Select it to view a list of installed formulas.
- 5. From the [Formulas] list select Formulas > Locale and click [Save].
- 6. A new tab will appear next to the **Formula > Locale** subtab. Select the new **Formulas > Locale** tab.
- 7. The **Formalas** > **Locale** tab contains options for setting the language, keyboard layout, timezone, and whether hardware clock is set to UTC. Select the desired options and click [**Save**].
- 8. Run the following command to verify pillar settings. The output has been truncated.

```
salt '$your_minion' pillar.items
```

9. Apply this state to your minion by applying the highstate from the command line with:

```
salt '$your_minion' state.highstate
```



You can also apply the highstate from the previous formula tab from the SUSE Manager Web UI by selecting **System Details** > **States** and clicking [**Apply Highstate**].