

# Administering SUSE Linux Micro using Cockpit

## WHAT?

From basic system overview, over storage management to keeping your system up to date, Cockpit enables you to perform a number of administration tasks in a convenient way.

## WHY?

This article is intended to provide a complete overview of tasks that can be performed from the Cockpit Web interface.

## EFFORT

What's the effort one has to put in?

## GOAL

You will be able to administer your system using Cockpit;.

## REQUIREMENTS

To fully administer the system using Cockpit, you must have root access or sudo privileges.

Publication Date: 20 May 2024

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# 1 About Cockpit

Cockpit is a Web-based graphical interface that enables you to manage most administration tasks from one place. You do not need to create credentials for Cockpit as, by default, Cockpit uses the same credentials that you use to log in to your server. Cockpit uses APIs that already exist on the system without adding a layer to the system.

Cockpit enables you to perform the following tasks:

- download container images and run containers
- update the server
- inspect and change network settings
- manage user accounts
- view system logs
- inspect and interact with systemd services
- use a terminal on a remote server in your web browser

## 2 Installing Cockpit

### 2.1 Introduction

Cockpit is included in the delivered pre-built images by default, or can be installed if you are installing your own instances manually

### 2.2 Installing additional Cockpit plugins

Though Cockpit is present in the pre-built images, as described below.



#### Tip

You can also use the following command in case Cockpit is not installed on your system.

1. Install the pattern:

```
#  
transactional-update pkg install -t pattern
```

2. Reboot your machine to switch to the latest snapshot.
3. If the Cockpit instance is intended to serve as a primary one, you need to enable the Cockpit socket in `systemd` by running:

```
# systemctl enable --now cockpit.socket
```

After running the command, the server exposes the default `9090` port and `systemd` starts the `cockpit-ws` service that listens on the `9090` port.

4. In case you have enabled the firewall, proceed as follows:

- a. Open the firewall for Cockpit

```
# firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=cockpit
```

- b. Reload the firewall configuration by running:

```
# firewall-cmd --reload
```

5. Now you can access the Cockpit Web interface by opening the following address in your Web browser:

```
https://IP_ADDRESS_OF_MACHINE:9090
```

## 3 Cockpit authentication

Cockpit enables you to log in directly to each machine that can expose the `9090` port. This machine is sometimes referred to as the primary server. It is the primary server that runs the `cockpit-ws` through which connections to additional servers are established.

If the port cannot be accessed on the particular machine, you can still use Cockpit to administer the machine by using it as a secondary server. For a procedure of adding a server as secondary, refer to [Procedure 2, “Adding a server as secondary”](#).



## Note: A limited number of secondary servers

The number of secondary servers that you can administer from one primary server is limited to 20. If you need to administer more servers, add other primary servers or use another tool for cluster administration.

### 3.1 Logging in to the primary server directly

Whenever you have a direct network access to the 9090 port, you can directly log in to the server using your credentials. To do so, follow the *Procedure 1, "Logging in to the primary server"*.



## Note: No dedicated credentials for Cockpit needed.

By default, the access is controlled by a Cockpit-specific PAM stack located at `/etc/pam.d/cockpit`. The default configuration allows logging in with the same user names and passwords that are used for any local account on the system.

#### PROCEDURE 1: LOGGING IN TO THE PRIMARY SERVER

1. Go to the Cockpit login page by opening the following address in a browser:

```
https://IP_ADDRESS_OF_MACHINE:9090
```

2. Enter the credentials.

### 3.2 Logging in to secondary servers

If your machine does not have a direct access to the 9090 port, you can use this machine as a secondary server. Bear in mind that the machine needs to have Cockpit installed.

There are two ways of logging in to a secondary server: you can log in to a secondary server directly or you can use the primary server.

### 3.2.1 Logging in to secondary servers directly

You can log in to any secondary server without logging in to the primary server first. This solution can be useful when you do not have credentials for the primary server. The primary server will be used as a bridge, and you will be connected to the secondary server using SSH.

To connect to the secondary server, proceed as follows:

1. Go to the Cockpit login page by opening the following address in a browser:

```
https://IP_ADDRESS_OF_MACHINE:9090
```

2. Fill in the credentials for the secondary server.
3. Expand *Other options* on the login screen.
4. Fill in the IP address of the secondary server.
5. Proceed by clicking *Login*.
6. If you are trying to log in for the first time, you are asked to verify the fingerprint. After this, click *Accept and connect*.

### 3.2.2 Accessing secondary servers from the primary server

If you have credentials for the primary server, you can access secondary servers from the primary one. Bear in mind that you have to add the secondary servers first as described in [Procedure 2, "Adding a server as secondary"](#).

#### PROCEDURE 2: ADDING A SERVER AS SECONDARY

1. Log in to the primary server using the account with the *system administrator* role.
2. Click the USERNAME @ HOSTNAME in the upper-left corner.
3. Click *Add new host*.
4. Fill in the host identification and optionally user name that will be used to log in to the server. You can assign a color to the machine. When the details are complete, click *Add*.
5. Verify a fingerprint on the server you want to add. If the fingerprint matches or if you have not set up the SSH connection, click *Accept and connect* to proceed.
6. Fill in the password and, if needed, check *Automatic login*. Cockpit will generate a new SSH key for the user, and next time you will be logged in automatically.

### 3.3 Switching to the administration mode

By default, a regular user can log in to Cockpit with limited access that does not enable the user to perform administration tasks like managing user accounts, updating the system, and so on.

To switch to administrative access, proceed as follows:

1. Click the *Limited access* button.
2. Fill in the root password.
3. Click *Authenticate* to confirm.

To turn off administrative mode, proceed as follows:

1. Click *Administrative access*.
2. To confirm, click *Limit access*.

## 4 Configuring servers using Cockpit

Using the Cockpit *Overview* part, you can perform changes to the default server configuration or the configuration you provided during the manual installation. In this part you can change the host name or change the system date or time zone.

### 4.1 Changing the sever host name

To change the host name, proceed as follows:

#### PROCEDURE 3: CHANGING HOST NAME

1. Navigate to the *Overview* page.
2. In the *Configuration* part, click *edit*.
3. Fill in the following:
  - *Pretty host name*—a user-defined free-form host name
  - *Real host name*—the name of the device in the network

## 4.2 Changing the system time or time zone

To change the system time or time zone, proceed as follows:

### PROCEDURE 4: CHANGING SYSTEM TIME OR TIME ZONE

1. Navigate to the *Overview* page.
2. Click the *System time* value.
3. In the pop-up window you can change the following:
  - *Time zone*—the value set during the manual installation or, in case of raw images, set to UTC.
  - *Set time*—by default, NTP is used for time synchronization. You can set the time manually or, if you defined alternative NTP servers, you can use those NTP servers for time synchronization.

## 4.3 Changing the cryptographic policy

To change the cryptographic policy, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Overview* page.
2. Click *Default* next to *Cryptographic policy*.
3. In the pop-up window, click on one of the following policy types:

### Default

It allows the TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3 protocols, as well as IKEv2 and SSH2. The Diffie-Hellman parameters are accepted if they are at least 2048 bits long. The level provides at least 112-bit security with the exception of allowing SHA-1 signatures in DNSSEC, where they are still prevalent.

### DEFAULT:SHA1

Is a subpolicy of the default that enables using the SHA-1 algorithm.

### LEGACY

This policy ensures maximum compatibility with legacy systems. It is less secure and includes support for TLS 1.0, TLS 1.1 and SSH2 protocols or later. The algorithms DSA, 3DES and RC4 are allowed, while RSA and Diffie-Hellman parameters are accepted if larger than 1023 bits. The level provides at least 64-bit security.



#### LEGACY:AD-SUPPORT

Is a subpolicy of [LEGACY](#) with Active Directory interoperability.

#### FIPS

A level that conforms to the FIPS 140-2 requirements. This policy is used internally by the **fips-mode-setup** tool that can switch the system into the FIPS 140-2 compliance mode. The level provides at least 112-bit security.

#### FIPS:OSPP

A subpolicy of FIPS with further Common Criteria restrictions.

#### FUTURE

A conservative security level that is believed to withstand any near-term future attacks. This level does not allow the use of SHA-1 in signature algorithms. The level also provides some (not complete) preparation for post-quantum encryption support as a 256-bit symmetric encryption requirement. The RSA and Diffie-Hellman parameters are accepted if larger than 3071 bits. This level provides at least 128-bit security.

4. To apply the changes, click *Apply and reboot*.

## 5 Filtering Cockpit logs

You can filter the logs according to the following criteria:

- *Time*. For details, refer to [Section 5.1, “Filtering according to time”](#).
- *Priority*. For details, refer to [Section 5.2, “Filtering according to priority”](#).
- *Identifier*. You can filter logs for a particular service, daemon or process. Available identifiers are parsed from the logs currently displayed according to the set filters.
- Free-form filters. For details, refer to [Section 5.3, “Logs filters”](#).



### Note: The filter criteria are combined

Bear in mind that when changing any of the time, priority or identifier criteria, the other ones are still applied. For example, if you change the time criterion to *Last 24 hours*, the priority and identifier criteria remain the same.

## 5.1 Filtering according to time

To filter the logs according to a specific time, you can choose from the following values:

### Current boot

Displays logs for the current boot only. The *Resume* button enables continuous refreshing of currently displayed logs.

### Previous boot

Displays logs relevant to the previous boot.

### Last 24 hours

Displays logs that were recorded within the last 24 hours.

### Last 7 days

Displays logs that were recorded within the last 7 days.

## 5.2 Filtering according to priority

The standard **syslog** severity levels are used (sorted from most to least severe):

### Only emergency

The system is unusable. This is a panic condition.

### Alert and above

This log requires your immediate action.

### Critical and above

Failures in primary systems. You should correct the problem immediately.

### Error and above

Not an urgent error but should be handled within a specific time.

### Warning and above

Not an error but indicates that an error might occur if no action is taken.

### Notice and above

Unusual events that are not errors. No immediate actions are required.

### Info and above

Normal operational messages that serve as a confirmation that the system is working properly.

## Debug and above

These messages are used just to debug the system.

## 5.3 Logs filters

You can refine the logs view here according to the following criteria:

### Since

Logs for the specified date or newer will be displayed. You can specify the time in the following way:

- using the absolute date in the format *YYYY-MM-DD*
- using any of the terms: yesterday, today, tomorrow and now
- using relative time by prefixing the value with - or + and specifying units. You can use the following units: seconds or s, minutes or min, hours or h, days or d, weeks or w, months or m, and years or y.

### Until

Logs for the specified date or older will be displayed. You can specify the time in the following way:

- using the absolute date in the format *YYYY-MM-DD*
- using any of the terms: yesterday, today, tomorrow and now
- using relative time by prefixing the value with - or + and specifying units. You can use the following units: seconds or s, minutes or min, hours or h, days or d, weeks or w, months or m, and years or y.

### Boot

Enter an integer: 0 means the current boot, -1 is for the previous boot, 1 for the first boot, 2 for the second, etc.

### Unit

Specify a systemd unit for which you want to display logs. Use one of the formats:

- \_SYSTEMD\_UNIT=NAME.service
- COREDUMP\_UNIT=NAME.service
- UNIT=NAME.service

## Free-form search

Enter a string that you want to find in the log messages. You can also use [PERL-compatible regular expressions](https://www.freedesktop.org/software/systemd/man/journalctl.html#-g) (<https://www.freedesktop.org/software/systemd/man/journalctl.html#-g>). Alternatively, you can filter messages according to message log fields in the format `FIELD=VALUE`. For example, `CODE_LINE=349` displays logs with this value.

# 6 Managing storage using Cockpit

The *Storage* page enables you to monitor traffic on your drives, repartition your system, manage NFS mount, view storage logs, and create RAIDs or LVM.

## 6.1 Monitoring data flow on disks

The graphs on the *Storage* page display reading and writing data flow to devices. Each device in the graph has a different color. Hover over the displayed data flow peak to identify the device name.

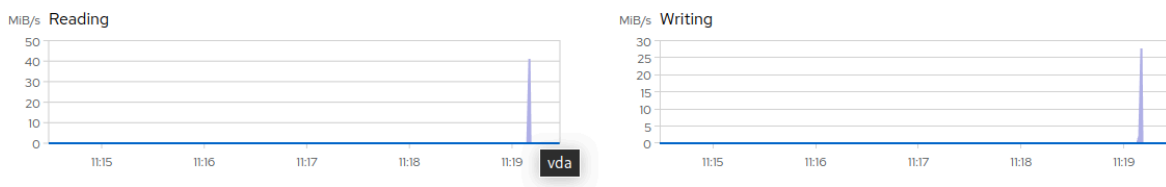


FIGURE 1: DATA FLOW VIEW

## 6.2 Managing file systems

The *Filesystems* view enables you to create a partition table and to format or mount file systems. You can sort the mounted partition according to *Name* or *Mount point*.

### 6.2.1 Formatting partitions using Cockpit

To format the partition, proceed as follows:

#### PROCEDURE 5: FORMATTING PARTITIONS

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.

2. In the *Filesystem* view click the partition you want to format.
3. Click *Format* next to the particular partition description to open the format window.
4. Enter a unique name of the partition.
5. In *Mount point*, specify to which directory the partition will be mounted. Bear in mind that the *Mount point* field is mandatory.
6. In *Type*, select the file system type. Btrfs is mandatory for the `/` partition.
7. If needed, configure the encryption:

#### Passphrase and Confirm

Enter a passphrase to unlock the encrypted partition.

#### Store passphrase

The passphrase is stored in `/etc/luks-keys` and you are not asked for the passphrase on next boot.

#### Custom encryption options

You can pass a list of options described in [supported encrypted options \(https://www.man7.org/linux/man-pages/man5/crypttab.5.html#SUPPORTED\\_OPTIONS\)](https://www.man7.org/linux/man-pages/man5/crypttab.5.html#SUPPORTED_OPTIONS).

8. Select the *Mount options*. In the *Custom mount options* text field, you can enter a comma-separated list of options. For common options, refer to [File system Independent Mount Options \(https://linux.die.net/man/8/mount\)](https://linux.die.net/man/8/mount). Those options are used in the `options` part of the `/etc/fstab` file.

## 6.2.2 Mounting partitions using Cockpit




### Note: The partition must be formatted

Before you try to mount a partition or disk, you need to format the device first. For details, refer to [Procedure 5, "Formatting partitions"](#).

To mount a partition, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.

2. In the *Filesystems* view, click the device to mount.
3. Click *Mount* to open the *Mount filesystem* window.
4. Specify the *Mount point*.
5. Select the mount options in the *Custom mount options* text field, you can enter a comma-separated list of options. For common options, refer to [File system Independent Mount Options \(https://linux.die.net/man/8/mount\)](https://linux.die.net/man/8/mount) . Those options are used in the options part of the /etc/fstab file.
6. Select at which booting stage the partition must be mounted.
7. Click *Mount* to proceed.

## 6.3 Managing NFS mount points

The *NFS mounts* view under the *Storage* page enables you to add, edit or delete NFS mounts.

### 6.3.1 Adding an NFS mount point

To add an NFS mount point, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. Click the plus icon in the *NFS mounts* view.
3. Specify the following values:

**Server address**

Provide the IP address or name of the NFS server.

**Path on server**

Select the available path on the NFS server that can be mounted.

**Local mount point**

Specify a directory on the local system where the path will be mounted to.

## Mount options

Check any of the options:

- *Mount at boot* – to mount the path automatically after each start or restart of the system.
- *Mount read only* – you will not be able to perform changes to the data on the NFS path.
- *Custom mount options* is a comma-separated list of the **mount** command options.

### 6.3.2 Editing existing NFS mount points

To edit an NFS mount, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. In the *NFS mounts* view click on the particular NFS mount.
3. On the next screen, click *Edit* and specify the details described in *NFS mount details*.

## 6.4 Managing RAIDS using Cockpit

Using Cockpit you can create or modify software RAIDS of different levels.

### 6.4.1 Creating RAIDs using Cockpit



#### Note: Sufficient number of disks

Make sure that you have enough disks available according to the RAID level.

To create a software RAID, proceed as follows:

#### PROCEDURE 6: CREATING A RAID

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.

2. Select the *Create RAID device* option in the hamburger menu in the *Devices* view.
3. Enter the following parameters of the RAID:

**Name**

Enter a unique name of the RAID.

**RAID level**

Select one of the RAID levels. For more details about RAID levels, refer to [RAID levels \(https://documentation.suse.com/smart/systems-management/html/raids/index.html#concept-raid-levels\)](https://documentation.suse.com/smart/systems-management/html/raids/index.html#concept-raid-levels).

**Chunk size**

The size of chunks in KBs. A chunk is the minimum amount of data read or written to each data disk in the array during a single read/write operation.

**Disks**

Select the disks that should be included in the RAID. The required number of disks depends on the selected RAID level.

4. Confirm the parameters by clicking *Create*. The RAID then appears in the *Devices* part.

## 6.4.2 Modifying RAIDs

Using the *Storage* plugin of Cockpit you can stop or delete a RAID. Here you can also remove or add disk to the array.

To modify an existing RAID, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. Click the RAID in *Devices* to open the RAID details view.
3. In the detailed view, you can stop or delete the RAID, add or remove disks and format the device.

With certain RAID levels, you can switch on the *Bitmap* option that enables you to synchronize only the changes after a disk is temporarily disconnected. If the *Bitmap* is off, all data on the disk will be synchronized.





## Note: Removing or adding disks

After any change to the disks number of the array, the system undergoes resynchronization that may take some time. Keep in mind that each RAID level requires a minimum number of disks, therefore, Cockpit does not allow removing the disks that are required by the particular RAID level.

## 6.5 Managing volume groups and LVM

### 6.5.1 Creating volume groups

To create a volume group of disks, proceed as follows:

1. Click *Storage*.
2. Under the hamburger menu in *Devices*, select *Create LVM2 volume group*.
3. Enter the volume group name.
4. Select disks that will be part of the volume group.
5. Confirm the data with *Create*. The volume group appears in the *Devices* view.

### 6.5.2 Creating logical block volumes

If you have a volume group, you can create a logical block volume from it. To do so, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. In the *Devices*, click the volume group you want to use.
3. Click *Create new logical volume*
4. Specify a logical volume name. select a block device and select the size to use.
5. Select the *Block device for filesystems*.
6. Select the size to use.

7. Click *Create* to confirm the details.
8. Format the block volume by clicking *Format* and filling the details as described in [Step 4](#).

### 6.5.3 Creating a thin logical volumes

If you have a volume group, you can create a thin logical volume as described below:

#### PROCEDURE 7: CREATING A THIN LOGICAL VOLUME

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. Click the volume group in *Devices*.
3. In the volume group details, click *Create new logical volume*.
4. Specify a logical volume name.
5. Select a pool of thinly provisioned volumes.
6. Select the size to use.
7. Click *Create* to confirm the details.
8. Create a thin volume by clicking *Create thin volume*.
9. Enter a unique name.
10. Select the size of the volume.
11. Click *Create* to confirm the thin volume.
12. You can create several volumes of the particular volume group by clicking *Create thin volume* again and repeating the steps above.
13. Format the volumes by clicking *Format* and filling the details as described in [Step 4](#).

### 6.5.4 Managing logical volumes

To perform any administration task on an existing logical volume, perform the following steps:

1. Navigate to the *Storage* page.
2. In the *Filesystems* view, click the logical volume.

3. Here you can perform the following actions with existing logical volumes:

**Deactivate/Activate**

In the three-dots menu select *Deactive* or *Activate*.

**Mount**

By clicking *Mount* and fill in the mount point and options, the volume will be mounted.

**Shrink/Grow**

Bear in mind, that the shrink/grow function is not available for all file systems.

In the expanded details about the volume, click *Shrink* or *Grow*.

**Delete**

In the three-dots menu select *Delete*.

## 7 Managing networking using Cockpit

After clicking *Networking*, you can view traffic on your system, manage firewall, manage network interfaces, or view network logs.

### 7.1 Managing firewall rules and zones

Cockpit enables you to create new zones or update the existing ones. In the firewall settings, you can add services to a zone or allow access to ports.



#### Note: Cockpit service is mandatory

Do not remove the Cockpit service from the default firewall zone as the Cockpit service may get blocked, and you may get disconnected from the server.

#### 7.1.1 Adding firewall zones

The *public zone* is the default firewall zone. To add a new zone, proceed as follows:

##### PROCEDURE 8: ADDING NEW FIREWALL ZONES

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.

2. Click *Edit rules and zones*.
3. Click *Add zone*.
4. Select *Trust level*. Each trust level of network connections has a predefined set of included services (the Cockpit service is included in all trust levels).
5. Define allowed addresses within the zone. Select one of the values:
  - *Entire subnet* to allow all addresses in the subnet.
  - *Range*—a comma-separated list of IP addresses with the routing prefix, for example, 192.0.2.0/24, 2001:db8::/32.
6. Proceed with *Add zone*.

### 7.1.2 Adding allowed services and ports to a zone

You can add services to an existing firewall zone as described below:

#### PROCEDURE 9: ADDING SERVICES TO A FIREWALL ZONE

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. Click *Edit rules and zones*.
3. Click *Add services*.
4. To add a service, check *Services* and select the services from the list.
5. To allow custom ports, check *Custom ports* and specify the port value for UDP and/or TCP. You can assign an identifier to this port.
6. To confirm the changes, click *Add services* or *Add ports*, respectively.

## 7.2 About network bonds

A bond interface is a combination of several network interfaces into one bond. Depending on the *Mode* (described further), network bonding can improve performance by increasing the network throughput and bandwidth. Network bonding can also increase fault tolerance by keeping overall connectivity even if some of the bonded interfaces stopped working.

## 7.2.1 Managing bonds

### 7.2.1.1 Adding bonds

To add a bond, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. Click *Add bond*.
3. Specify the following parameters of the bond interface:

#### **Name**

Enter a unique name of the interface.

#### **Interfaces**

Select which network interfaces should be grouped in the bond.

#### **MAC**

You can either select a specific MAC address of the underlying interface, or you can use any of the following options:

##### **Permanent**

Use the permanent hardware address if the device has a MAC address.

##### **Preserve**

During the bond activation, the MAC address is not changed.

##### **Random**

A random MAC address is created on each connection attempt.

##### **Stable**

Creates a hashed MAC address.

#### **Mode**

Keep the default mode or select any of the following modes:

##### **Round Robin**

Transfers packets from the first available interface to the last. The mode offers fault tolerance and load balancing.

### Active Backup

Only one interface in the bonding is active. If the active interface fails, the backup will be activated.

### Balance XOR

Balancing using a transmit hash policy. The default is a modulo device count. To select a different policy, specify the `xmit_hash_policy` option in the *Option* field.

### Broadcast

Everything is transmitted on all interfaces.

### 802.3ad Dynamic Link Aggregation

Creates aggregation groups that share the same speed and duplex settings.

### Adaptive Transmit Load Balancing

A channel bonding that does not require any special switch support. The outgoing traffic is distributed according to the current load on each interface.

### Adaptive Load Balancing

Includes adaptive transmit load balancing and receive load balancing, no special switch support is required.

### Primary

This selection is available only for the *Active Backup* mode. You can select a particular interface that will be used as primary, while other interfaces in the bond are used as secondary.

### Link monitoring

Select the type of link monitoring.

### Monitoring interval

Specifies the intervals at which the particular link monitor performs checks. The value is in ms.

### Link up delay

Define the time in ms for how long the bond is disabled after a link has been activated. The value should be a multiple of the *Monitoring interval* value, otherwise it will be rounded to the nearest value. Available only for the MII link monitor.

#### Link down delay

Define the time in ms for how long the bond is disabled if a link failure has been detected. The value should be a multiple of the *Monitoring interval* value, otherwise it will be rounded to the nearest value. Available only for the MII link monitor.

#### Monitoring targets

Specify the list of host IP addresses that you want to monitor. Available only for the ARP link monitor.

4. Proceed with *Apply*.

### 7.2.1.2 Modifying bonds

To modify a bond, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. Click on the particular bond name to open the details.
3. You can modify the following bond parameters:

#### Bond

Select a MAC address from the list.

#### Connect automatically

The bond connects automatically by default. Uncheck the box to disable the automatic connection.

#### IPv4 and IPv6

After clicking *edit*, you can set an IP address and configure a specific DNS, DNS search domain and Routes.

#### MTU

After clicking *edit*, you can specify a particular value of the maximum transmission unit in bytes.

#### Bond

After clicking *edit*, you can edit the same parameters as when you were creating the bond interface.

## 7.3 Managing network bridges

A network bridge is a device that creates a single aggregated network from multiple networks.

### 7.3.1 Creating network bridges

To create a network bridge, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. In the *Interfaces* view, click *Add bridge*.
3. Specify the following:

#### **Name**

Specify a unique name of the bridge.

#### **Ports**

Select interfaces to be included in the bridge.

#### **Spanning tree protocol (STP)**

STP is a network protocol used for Ethernet networks that prevents bridge loops by setting a preferred link whenever network switches are connected with several links. This preferred link is used for all Ethernet traffic unless it fails. In that case, a redundant link is used instead. For details regarding STP, see [STP \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanning\\_Tree\\_Protocol\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanning_Tree_Protocol).

If you enable the STP protocol, you can edit the following settings:

#### **STP priority**

The lower the priority, the higher the probability of the switch to become the root switch.

#### **STP forward delay**

Specify the time spent in the listening and learning state (in seconds). The default value is 15 s, but you can use any value between 4 and 30 s.



#### STP hello time

Specify the time between each bridge protocol data unit (BDPU) that is sent on a port (in seconds). The default value is 2 s, but the recommended range is 1 to 10 s.

#### STP maximum message age

Specify the maximum length of time that passes before a bridge port saves its configuration BPDU information.

### 7.3.2 Modifying or deleting existing bridges

To modify or delete a bridge, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. In the *Interfaces* view, click the bridge name to open the details.
3. There you can delete the bridge by clicking *Delete*, or modify it by changing any of the following details:

#### General

The bridge connects automatically by default. To disable the automatic connection, uncheck the option.

#### IPv4 and IPv6

After clicking *edit*, you can set the IP address and configure a specific DNS, DNS search domain and Routes.

#### Bridge

By clicking *edit*, you can edit all parameters of the bridge.

## 7.4 Managing VLANs using Cockpit

A virtual local area network is a logical subnetwork that groups devices from different physical LANs.

### 7.4.1 Creating virtual local area network

To add a VLAN, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. In the *Interfaces* view, click *Add VLAN*.
3. Fill in the VLAN details:
  - Parent**  
Select the parent network interface.
  - VLAN ID**  
Specify an ID in the range 1–4094.
  - Name**  
Enter the name of the VLAN.

### 7.4.2 Modifying or deleting existing VLANs

To modify or delete an existing VLAN, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Networking* page.
2. In the *Interface* view, click the VLAN name.
3. Either delete the VLAN by clicking *Delete*, or change any of the VLAN details:
  - Parent**  
Select the parent network interface.
  - VLAN ID**  
Specify an ID in the range 1–4094.
  - Name**  
Enter the name of the VLAN.

## 8 Working with containers

After the first login to Cockpit, you need to start Podman. Keep the default check box selected to start Podman automatically on each boot.

The *Podman containers* page enables you to pull images from registries and manage your container. You can also filter the view by entering a filter criterion into the filter field.

## 8.1 Getting container images



### Note: openSUSE registry and Docker Hub not enabled by default

The openSUSE registry and Docker Hub are not configured in the default installation. To download container images from those registries, you need to add the registries to the `/etc/containers/registries.conf` file as follows:

```
unqualified-search-registries = ["registry.suse.com", "registry.opensuse.org",  
                                "docker.io"]
```

To start a container, you need a container image. To get a container image, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Podman containers* page.
2. In the *Images* view, select under the three-dots menu *Download new image*.
3. Select the *Owner* to define who can see the downloaded image. The *System* restricts the image visibility for users with administrative access. Image downloaded under the *User* owner is visible to the regular user and also for all other users with the administrative access.
4. Choose a preferred image registry or proceed with All registries.
5. Define the *Tag*. The default value is latest.
6. Fill in the image name or description in the *Search for* field to start the search. Cockpit suggests possible images according to the entered name, registry and tag.
7. Select the desired image and click *Download*.

## 8.2 Managing containers using Cockpit

### 8.2.1 Running new containers from images



#### Note: Image required to run a container

To run a container, you need a container image, either pulled by using Cockpit or by Podman. For details about Podman, refer to the [Podman guide \(https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/html/SLE-Micro-all/article-podman.html\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/html/SLE-Micro-all/article-podman.html).

To run a new container from an image, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Podman containers* page.
2. In the *Images* view, click *Show images*.
3. Click *Create container* next to the image you want to use.
4. In the *Create container* window, enter the container details as described below. Bear in mind that some options are available only for system administrators.

In the *Details* tab, enter the following details:

#### Owner

Select whether the container will be visible only for users with **sudo** privileges by selecting *system*. The *user* defines that the container is visible to privileged users and regular users.

#### Name

Specify a unique name for the container.

#### Pull the latest image

If selected, the latest image version is pulled before the container is started.

#### Command

You can specify a command to run in the container.

#### With terminal

Select the option to have access to the container using a terminal. If not selected, the container will be in the detached state.

### Memory limit

You can limit maximum memory consumption of the container by checking the box and specifying the limit.

### CPU shares

Specify the weight of the container to use CPU time. The default weight is 1024. The weight applies only if containers are under high load. If the tasks in one container are idle, other containers may use its CPU time.

If you have four containers, two of them have CPU shares of 512 and the other two have 1024. Thus, under high load, the containers with lower CPU shares get only 16,5% of CPU time, while those with 1024 CPU shares get 33% of CPU time.

### Restart policy

Specify when the container is restarted after it exits.

### Volumes

This field maps a path in a container onto a path on the host machine. Fill in the host path, the container path and select the SELinux label.

The SELinux label *private* defines that the volume is accessible only from the particular container. The *shared* label means that all containers can access the volume.

### Environment variables

To define environment variables in the container, click *Add variable* and fill in *Key* and *Value*. You can enter multiple variables by adding more lines.

In the *Integration* tab, you can enter the following parameters:

### Port mapping

After you click the *Add port mapping* button, specify the host IP address, the host port to map the container port onto, the container port and select the protocol. If you do not set the host IP address or set the value to 0.0.0.0, the port is bound to ALL host IP addresses. If you omit the host port, a random one is used for the mapping.

### Volumes

This field maps a path in a container onto a path on the host machine. Fill in the host path, the container path and select the SELinux label.

The SELinux label *private* defines that the volume is accessible only from the particular container. The *shared* label means that all containers can access the volume.

### Environment variables

To define environment variables in the container, click *Add variable* and fill in *Key* and *Value*. You can enter multiple variables by adding more lines.

In the *Health check* tab, you can set a time period of commands triggering to check the status of the container. Fill in the following parameters:

### Command

Specify the command that is triggered to check the container status.

### Interval

Specify the interval of checks in seconds.

### Timeout

The maximum time in seconds to wait before the interval is considered failed.

### Start period

The time interval after the container is started when the health check is not performed.

### Retries

Specify how many times the check can be performed before the status is considered as unhealthy.

### When unhealthy

Select the action to take after a container is considered unhealthy.

5. To create the container, click *Create* or *Create and run* to create and start the container.

## 8.2.2 Further actions with running containers

Under the three-dots menu, you can perform the following actions:

- delete the container
- pause the container
- commit changes performed to the container, for example, installing packages to the container
- checkpoint the container—write the state of the container to disk and stop the container

- restart the container, either by regular *Restart*, where processes running inside the container are stopped, or by *Force restart*, where the processes are killed, and you may lose data
- stop the container, either by regular *Stop*, *Force stop* or *Checkpoint*. When using *Checkpoint*, the state of all processes in the container is written to the disk, and after the next start, the container is restored to the same point before stopping.

By expanding the container details, you can access the container's terminal in the *Console* tab and view its information in other tabs. tab and view the container information in corresponding tabs.

## 8.3 Pods management

### 8.3.1 Creating pods

Cockpit enables you to create pods in which you can then create containers. To create a pod, follow the steps:

1. Navigate to the *Podman containers* page.
2. Click *Create pod*.
3. Fill in the pod details:

#### Name

Enter a unique name of the pod.

#### Owner

Specify whether the pod will be visible only under root privileges or also to regular users.

#### Port mapping

After clicking *Add port mapping*, you can map a pod port onto a host port. Specify the containers port, assign the desired host port and IP address. If the host IP address is not set or set to 0.0.0.0, the port is bonded to all host IP addresses. If you omit the host port number, a random port number is assigned to the mapping.

## Volumes

After clicking *Add volume*, you can map a directory on the host onto a containers' volume. Select the host path, enter the path in containers and select the SELinux labeling.

4. Click *Create* to confirm the pod creation.

### 8.3.2 Creating containers in pods



#### Important: Existing containers cannot be added to pods

During the planning, bear in mind that only new containers can be run in a pod. You cannot add an already created container that has not been run under a pod to any pod.

To create containers in a pod, follow the steps:

1. Navigate to the *Podman containers* page.
2. In the desired pod group, click *Create container in pod*.
3. Fill in the container details as described in [Section 8.2.1, "Running new containers from images"](#). Remember that the owner of new containers is the same as the owner of the particular pod.

## 9 Users administration using Cockpit



#### Note: Users administration only for server administrators

Only users with *Administrative access* can edit other users.

Using the *Accounts* Cockpit screen, you can perform the following tasks:

- Creating new users of the system as described in [Section 9.2, "Creating user accounts using Cockpit"](#)
- Creating new user groups as described in [Section 9.3, "Creating user groups"](#).



- Assigning **sudo** privileges to user accounts as described in [Section 9.1, “Modifying existing user accounts”](#)
- Forcing a change of a user's password as described in [Section 9.1, “Modifying existing user accounts”](#)
- Locking a particular user account as described in [Section 9.1, “Modifying existing user accounts”](#).

## 9.1 Modifying existing user accounts

To modify a user account, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Accounts* page.
2. Click the account you want to modify.
3. In the user details view, you can perform the following actions:

### Delete the user

Click *Delete* to remove the user from the system.

### Terminate user's session

By clicking *Terminate session*, you can log a particular user out of the system.

### Manage access to the account

You can set a date when the account will expire. The default is to never expire.

You can disallow the user to use their password to log in. The user then must use a different method of authentication.

### Manage the user's password

Click *Set password* to set a new password for the account.

By clicking *Force change*, the user will have to change the password on the next login.

Click *edit* to set whether or when the password expires.

### Add SSH key

You can add an SSH key for passwordless authentication via SSH. Click *Add key*, paste the contents of the public SSH key and confirm it by clicking *Add*.

## 9.2 Creating user accounts using Cockpit

Cockpit enables you to add users to a running system and assign system administrator privileges to accounts.

To add a new user to the system, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Accounts* page.
2. Click *Create new account* to open the window that enables you to add a new user.
3. Fill in the user account details. You can assign a different home directory to the user in the drop-down *Home directory* menu. If you do not specify a directory, the standard `/home/USERNAME` path is used.  
If you select *Disallow password authentication*, the user will have to use an authentication method other than filling in password, for example, SSH login.
4. Click *Create* to confirm the account.
5. To add an SSH key to the account, you need to modify the account as described in [Section 9.1, “Modifying existing user accounts”](#).

## 9.3 Creating user groups

The topic covers the creation of user groups.

To create a user group, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Accounts* page.
2. Click *Create new group*.
3. Enter a unique name of the group and specify or leave the default one.



### Note

The already existing group ID cannot be overwritten. Group IDs under 1000 are usually reserved for system accounts, services, and so on. If you create a group with an ID less than 1000, the group cannot be later deleted using Cockpit.

## 10 Managing services using Cockpit

The following sections describe how to start, stop and restart a service, target, socket, timer or path.

### 10.1 Managing systemd units

To manage a `systemd` unit, proceed as follows:

1. Click the *Services* page.
2. Select the appropriate tab (*System services*, *Targets*, *Sockets*, *Timers* or *Paths*).
3. Click the unit you want to administer.
4. In the unit details, you can view relations to other `systemd` units, the status of the unit, or you can perform the following actions that can be found in the three-dot menu:
  - *Start* if the unit is not running
  - *Restart* the running unit
  - *Stop* the running unit
  - *Disallow running*—that will stop the service permanently including all its dependencies. Keep in mind that the dependent service can be used by other units, and disallowing the unit may cause serious troubles for the system.

### 10.2 Creating new timers

`systemd` timers help you to automate recurring tasks. A `systemd` timer can control triggering of `systemd` services and handling of events.



#### Note: Overriding existing timers

The default set of `systemd` timers is stored in `/usr/lib/systemd`. If you create a timer with already existing names, the default unit file is not overwritten, but a new one is created in `/etc/systemd/system/` that overrides the default unit file. To restore the timer to the default one, delete the timer unit file in `/etc/systemd/system/`.

If you try to create a timer that already exists in the `/etc/systemd/system/` directory, the unit file will be overwritten, and the previous changes are lost.

To create a `systemd` timer using Cockpit, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to *Services*.
2. In the *Timers* tab, click *Create timer*.
3. Fill in the details:

**Name**

The name of the timer that will be used in the unit name and in the service unit name as well. For example, specifying the name *example* will create the following unit files: `/etc/systemd/system/example.timer` and `/etc/systemd/system/example.service`.

**Description**

You can provide a short description of the timer.

**Command**

The command to be invoked when the timer is triggered.

**Trigger**

The timer can be triggered each time you reboot your machine or at a specific time. For the *After system boot* option, you can define the delay of the service invocation. For the *At specific time* option, specify when the service should be invoked.

## 11 SELinux mode and policy

The SELinux tool enables you to switch between SELinux modes and view current modifications of the SELinux policy.

On SUSE Linux Micro, SELinux is in the enforcing mode by default. To temporarily switch to the permissive mode, click the button with the `Enforcing` label. Bear in mind that the change persists only until the next boot. If you need to perform a persistent change of the mode, edit the configuration file `/etc/selinux/config`. For details, refer to the [security guide \(https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/html/SLE-Micro-all/cha-SELinux-slemicro.html#\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/html/SLE-Micro-all/cha-SELinux-slemicro.html#).

The *System modifications* lists all modifications performed on the default SELinux policy. If you want to export the modifications and reuse them on different servers, click *View automation script*. In the new window, you can copy a shell script or the ansible configuration file that can be applied on other servers.

## 11.1 Solving SELinux access issues

In the *SELinux* page, you can view access denial messages from the audit log. On top of that, Cockpit provides possible ways of solving the access denial. To do so, follow the steps:

1. Navigate to the *SELinux* page.
2. In *SELinux access control errors*, expand the details regarding access denial.
3. To view the audit log record, click *Audit log*.
4. To view possible solutions, click *Solutions*. Some solutions may be applied directly through Cockpit by clicking *Apply this solution*.

## 12 Updates and snapshots

You can use Cockpit to search for new system updates and then apply them directly from the Web interface. On top of that, Cockpit enables you to perform a rollback to a previous snapshot.



### Important: No system updates without registering your system

If your system is not registered, the updates are not available and the check for updates fails. Therefore, register your system to view available updates.



### Note: Snapshots and updates management only for system administrators

Only users with the *Server administrator* role can update the system or perform a rollback to another snapshot.

Cockpit enables you to update your SUSE Linux Micro instance or perform a rollback from the Software Updates menu.

## 12.1 Updating SUSE Linux Micro using Cockpit

To update your system, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the *Software Updates* page.
2. Click *Check for Updates* to get a list of new package updates and patches available for your system. We recommend installing the patches marked as important as soon as possible.
3. Now you can update your system either with immediate reboot, or the reboot might be postponed:
  - a. Click *Update and Reboot* to apply patches and updates. After the update is complete, your system will be restarted and will boot into the new snapshot.
  - b. To postpone reboot after the update, select *Update without Reboot* from the three-dot menu. Bear in mind that you need to reboot the system to activate the snapshot with updates. If you perform further changes without rebooting the system beforehand, a new snapshot will be created from the same point as the snapshots with updates. Therefore, the new snapshot will not include the updates.

## 12.2 Performing rollbacks

To perform a rollback of your system, proceed as follows:


1. Navigate to the *Software Updates* page.
2. Click *Rollback and Reboot*, or *Rollback without Reboot* in the three-dot menu next to the snapshot you want to perform a rollback to.

After rebooting the system, the snapshot you rolled back to will be set as active. Do not make any changes (install updates, packages, etc.) before rebooting your system as the snapshot you rolled back to is not active. Any changes performed before you reboot your system will start from the currently active snapshot.

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