

Setting Up a PXE Boot Server

WHAT?

Set up a PXE boot server with support for UEFI Secure Boot and the Agama installer.

WHY?

Automate and streamline the installation of multiple SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 systems over the network.

EFFORT

For a system or network administrator, it typically takes 30 to 45 minutes to read and understand this article.

GOAL

A functioning PXE server that can boot multiple architectures into the Agama installer.

REQUIREMENTS

- A SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 system with administrative

- privileges

- Internet connection to fetch ISO images

-

- Static IP configuration for the PXE server

-

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1 Overview of PXE booting with SUSE Linux Enterprise Server16.0

PXE booting enables machines to boot over the network into an installation or runtime environment without local storage. This section explains how PXE works in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 Agama and live installer images with a focus on GRUB 2.

1.1 What is PXE booting?

PXE (Preboot Execution Environment) is a method that allows systems to retrieve bootloaders and OS installers from a network server using DHCP and TFTP or HTTP. It is widely used for provisioning machines without physical media or preinstalled operating systems.

1.2 Benefits of PXE booting

PXE booting simplifies provisioning by removing the need for local installation media or manual setup. It enables:

- Unattended installation of many systems over the network
- Centralized management of installer versions and boot configurations
- Support for diverse architectures and firmware types, including UEFI Secure Boot
- Dynamic selection of installers or installation parameters using GRUB 2 menus

1.3 How PXE booting works in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server16.0

PXE booting in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 uses GRUB 2 as the bootloader and the Agama installer as the installation interface. Boot loaders and installer files are provided over the network using HTTP or TFTP, with GRUB 2 fetching the kernel, initrd and live image. PXE clients can use a variety of firmware (including the most common ones such as BIOS or UEFI), bootloader executable or image formats, as required by their architectures such as AMD64/Intel 64, AArch64, ppc64le and s390x. In addition, they must work in both IPv4 and IPv6 networks.

The bootloader passes kernel parameters such as `root=live`: to load the squashfs-based root file system from a live ISO image, starting the Agama interface either locally or as a Web service for a remote Web UI.

1.3.1 Backward compatibility with SLES 15.x

The information in this article applies primarily to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 and later. It focuses on PXE booting workflows that integrate with the Agama installer and rely on live installation images. In the context and scope of this article, SLES 16.0 and later versions differ from SLES 15.x in the following ways:

Installer

Uses `dracut` and Agama instead of `linuxrc` and YaST.

DHCP server

Use of ISC DHCP is discontinued (EOL 2022). For a DHCP server, use either Kea or dnsmasq instead.

Boot parameters

Uses `root=live:` parameter to load the agama installer image and the optional `inst.install_url=` for the non-default installation repository, instead of the `install=` parameter.

The bootloader choice (GRUB 2, pxelinux, etc.) remains flexible and is not version-dependent.

1.3.2 Different possible setups and steps

This article consists of mandatory setup steps and optional or alternative configurations. Follow only the sections relevant to your deployment and skip any alternatives that do not apply to your deployment.

Mandatory

Tasks like installing components, preparing the installer image, configuring GRUB 2, and validating the server must be completed in all setups.

File delivery method

An HTTP server (recommended with Agama) like `nginx` and/or a TFTP server like `tftp` or `dnsmasq`.

DHCP server

Choose either Kea or dnsmasq.



Note: Limitations and features of your chosen method

- Use **Kea**—the new DHCP server from ISC—as a modern replacement for ISC DHCP. For more information on Kea, refer to <https://www.isc.org/kea/>. For the ISC DHCP EOL notice, see <https://www.isc.org/dhcp/>. Kea is a DHCP server and requires separate TFTP server software. The Kea DHCP server supports options for TFTP/PXE boot over IPv4 and IPv6 as well as for HTTP boot via IPv4. The HTTP boot via IPv6 requires that the DHCPv6 server can send the Vendor Class Option (see [RFC3315, Section 22.16](#)), supposed to be used “by a client to identify the vendor,” back to the client and is currently not supported.
- **dnsmasq** as a combination of a DNS server, a DHCP server, and a TFTP server. You can use it to serve the bootloader, kernel, initrd (and other files) over TFTP. For more information on dnsmasq, refer to <https://thekelleys.org.uk/dnsmasq/doc.html>. The dnsmasq DHCP server supports options for TFTP/PXE boot over IPv4 and IPv6 as well as for HTTP boot via IPv4. The HTTP boot via IPv6 requires that the DHCPv6 server can send the Vendor Class Option (see [RFC3315, Section 22.16](#)), supposed to be used “by a client to identify the vendor,” back to the client and is currently not supported.

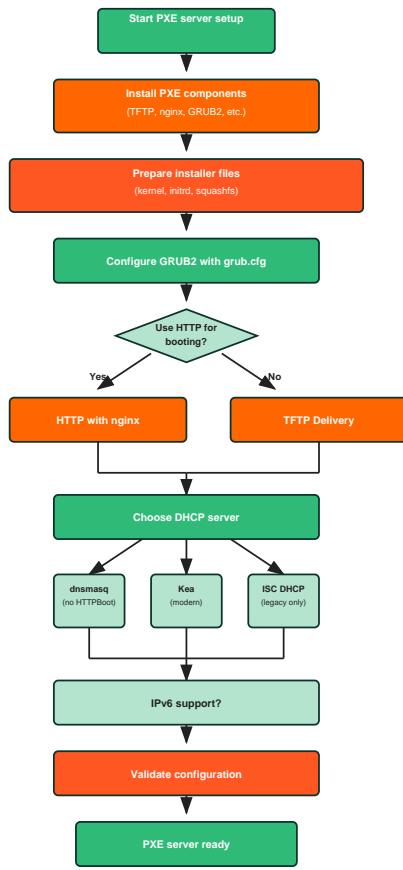


FIGURE 1: SAMPLE PXE SERVER SETUP WORKFLOW

2 Preparing the network for PXE boot services

This module describes the network infrastructure requirements for deploying PXE boot services on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0.

2.1 Introduction

A PXE server comprises three servers: a DHCP server providing the address and boot file (bootloader) location and a TFTP and/or HTTP server to retrieve the files. In addition, there might be a DNS server, an NTP server and a router with IPv6 support—usually they are separate from the PXE server in a production

network. A PXE server running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 may also need a specific network interface setup, certain persistent rules added to the firewall, and some permissions in SELinux. This section illustrates a sample network with suitable IP ranges, and the necessary rules for firewall and SELinux.

2.2 Assumptions and sample network configuration

In this article, we assume the following:

- The PXE server is running on the en01 network interface with the following network configuration:

TABLE 1: SAMPLE PXE NETWORK CONFIGURATION

	IPv4	IPv6	DNS Name
PXE Network	192.168.1.0/24	2001:db8:0:1::/64	example.net
PXE Server	192.168.1.200	2001:db8:0:1::200	pxe.example.net
PXE Gateway	192.168.1.1	2001:db8:0:1::1	
DNS Server	192.168.1.200	2001:db8:0:1::200	
NTP Server	192.168.1.1	2001:db8:0:1::1	

- By default, the router, NTP and DNS servers are external and running on another machine. This article provides some hints, but does not cover their complete configuration.

2.3 Configure network interface, firewall and SELinux for PXE services

Configure the network interface and firewall to allow network services required by the PXE server. Adjust SELinux settings to enable installation testing and define persistent local policies.

1. Verify and assign the PXE network interface to the appropriate firewalld zone.

- a. Check the currently active zones and their assigned interfaces:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --get-active-zones
```

- b. If en01 is not assigned to the public zone, assign it:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --change-interface=en01
```

- c. Make the interface assignment persistent across reboots:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-interface=en0
```

2. Configure the firewall for DNS service access.

- a. Allow DNS service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=dns
```

- b. Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=dns
```

3. Configure the firewall for NTP service access.

- a. Allow NTP service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=ntp
```

- b. Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=ntp
```

4. Configure the firewall for DHCP (IPv4) service access.

- a. Allow DHCP service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=dhcp
```

- b. Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=dhcp
```

5. Configure the firewall for DHCPv6 service access.

- a. Allow DHCPv6 service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=dhcpv6
```

- b. Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=dhcpv6
```

6. Configure the firewall for TFTP service access.

- Allow TFTP service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=tftp
```

- Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=tftp
```

7. Configure the firewall for HTTP service access.

- Allow HTTP service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=http
```

- Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=http
```

8. Configure the firewall for HTTPS service access.

- Allow HTTPS service for the current session:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --zone=public --add-service=https
```

- Make the change persistent:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --zone=public --add-service=https
```

2.4 Summary

This procedure ensured that the PXE server's network interface, firewall, and SELinux policy were correctly configured for secure and functional operation.

- Verified and assigned the PXE-serving interface (`en01` in this example) to the `public` firewalld zone.
- Opened the required firewall services for PXE operation, including `dns`, `ntp`, `dhcp`, `dhcpv6`, `tftp`, `http`, and `https`.

With these steps complete, the PXE server is securely configured and ready to serve client machines over the network using either IPv4 or IPv6.

3 Installing the required PXE server components

This section explains how to install the necessary packages to support PXE booting in SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0, including GRUB 2, DHCP, TFTP and/or HTTP components.

3.1 Introduction

To configure a PXE boot server on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0, you need to install several services and tools. Depending on your setup, you may need the following:

- The `dnsmasq` package provides a combination of a DNS server, a TFTP server and a DHCP server (DHCPv4 and DHCPv6) with limited IPv6 router advertisement (RA) support. It offers the following:
 - dnsmasq DHCP server: Supports conditional delivery of DHCP options depending on request and client architecture for:
 - PXE boot requests using DHCPv4 and DHCPv6
 - HTTP boot requests using DHCPv4



Note: Limitations of dnsmasq for HTTP boot over DHCPv6

Currently, dnsmasq does not support sending the required `vendor-class` DHCPv6 option.

- dnsmasq TFTP server: Delivers bootloader files, kernel and initrd over TFTP during PXE boot.

- `dnsmasq` DNS server: Provides recursive resolution of domain names and IP addresses for client firmware and `/etc/resolv.conf` in the Installer/OS.
- `dnsmasq` IPv6 RA: Supports sending IPv6 RA when the PXE server is also acting as a router (configurability limited to a “common RA pattern”).
- The `kea` package is a DHCP server and a successor of the ISC DHCP server. It supports conditional delivery of DHCP options depending on request and client architecture for:
 - PXE boot requests using DHCPv4 and DHCPv6
 - HTTP boot requests using DHCPv4



Note: Limitations of Kea for HTTP Boot over DHCPv6

Currently, Kea does not support sending the required `vendor-class` DHCPv6 option. For more information, see <https://kea.readthedocs.io/en/latest/arm/dhcp6-srv.html#id4>.

- A TFTP server delivers the bootloader files, kernel and initrd over TFTP, while PXE boot with `kea` is provided by the `tftp` package and not required for HTTP Boot. If you are using `dnsmasq`, you do not need the `tftp` package.
- A Web server such as the `nginx` package to serve installer images over HTTP.



Note: Necessity for HTTP servers

An HTTP/HTTPS server like `nginx` is almost always required. Its use extends beyond just HTTP Boot. In particular, you may need it in the following scenarios:

- It is a basic requirement for HTTP Boot.
- It is recommended for providing the `squashfs.img`. You can use `root=live:tftp://.../squashfs.img` in the boot command line.
- It is also recommended for providing RPMs to Agama in the `inst.install_url=http://.../install/` boot command-line parameter on a `SLES-16.0-Full-*.inline.iso`, along with installation profiles and other files for unattended installation.

- The GRUB 2 bootloader packages provide network boot for supported architectures and methods. For example, the AMD64/Intel 64 architecture offers two methods for network boot: BIOS and UEFI. Additionally, UEFI generally supports PXE (TFTP) and HTTP Boot. Other bootloaders, such as pxelinux, do not support UEFI and HTTP Boot.
- Optionally, a router advertisement daemon for IPv6, such as the `radvd` package. It is required on SLES if it is also acting as a router for an installer network to perform the following:
 - Configure routing on a network for PXE or HTTP Boot clients.
 - Enable DHCPv6 use on a network for PXE or HTTP Boot clients.

3.2 Requirements

- A system running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 with administrative privileges, registered to the SUSE Customer Center and configured with access to the appropriate online repositories using SUSEConnect.
- Enabled SLE modules: Server Applications Module, Legacy Module and Base System Module.
- Access to the SLE module repositories for network services and bootloaders.
- A working internet connection to fetch packages.

3.3 Installing the packages

Use the following steps to install the core packages required for the PXE boot server.

PROCEDURE 1: INSTALLING NECESSARY PACKAGES FOR A PXE BOOT SERVER

1. Install the GRUB 2 boot loader and the nginx HTTP server as common requirements.

```
> sudo zypper install grub2 nginx
```

2. Run any of the following commands to install the essential packages for your approach:

- `kea` for the DHCP server, `tftp` for the TFTP server

```
> sudo zypper install kea tftp
```

- `dnsmasq` as the common provider for DHCP, DNS, and TFTP servers

```
> sudo zypper install dnsmasq
```



Note: Limitations of DHCP servers provided by Kea and dnsmasq

HTTP boot over IPv6 is *currently* not supported by DHCP servers provided by the `kea` and `dnsmasq` packages. It does not support sending a `vendor-class` option back to the HTTP client, as required by the UEFI specification.

3. Optionally, install additional architecture-specific GRUB 2 targets if you plan to support other platforms.

- For AMD64/Intel 64 architecture:

```
> sudo zypper install grub2-x86_64-efi grub2-i386-pc
```

- For AArch64 architecture:

```
> sudo zypper install grub2-aarch64-efi
```

- For ppc64le architecture:

```
> sudo zypper install grub2-ppc64le-ieee1275
```



Note: How the PXE server delivers GRUB 2 packages to clients that are different from the server machine's architecture

The GRUB 2 architecture-specific `noarch.rpm` packages are included in the `noarch` subdirectory of the installation media/repository, regardless of the architecture of the machine on which the PXE server is set up. That is, you can install `grub2-arm64-efi` and `grub2-powerpc-ieee1275` packages in a PXE server running on an AMD64/Intel 64 machine, in order to support clients with other architectures.

4. Optionally, you may install the `shim` package if you need UEFI Secure Boot for AMD64/Intel 64 or AArch64, but do not want to use the files from the installation media ISO.

```
> sudo zypper install shim
```

5. Optionally, install the router advertisement daemon `radvd` if you want to use the PXE server as a router (not recommended for production networks).

```
> sudo zypper install radvd
```

6. Install the `rsync` utility to conveniently copy or sync the ISO and directory tree.

```
> sudo zypper install rsync
```

7. Ensure the services are installed but not yet started. Configuration will be covered in later sections.

4 Creating GRUB 2 NetBoot directories for PXE server

This section explains creating GRUB 2 NetBoot directories for PXE servers using `grub2-mknetdir`, which generates architecture-specific directories for AMD64/Intel 64 (UEFI and BIOS), AArch64, and ppc64le systems. For UEFI Secure Boot support, administrators must copy signed EFI files from installation media or use the `shim` package to replace the default unsigned bootloader files.

4.1 Introduction

This section describes how to set up GRUB 2 NetBoot directories for PXE server deployment across multiple architectures. The `grub2-mknetdir` command creates architecture-specific directories under `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/` for different platforms. For example, AMD64/Intel 64 systems generate both UEFI (`x86_64-efi`) and legacy BIOS (`i386-pc`) directories, while AArch64 and ppc64le systems create their respective UEFI directories (`arm64-efi` and `powerpc-ieee1275`).

For UEFI Secure Boot support, which is not provided by the default unsigned `core.efi` files, administrators can either copy signed EFI files from installation media or install the `shim` package and manually copy the required bootloader files (`shim.efi`, `grub.efi`, `MokManager.efi`) to the appropriate architecture directories, ensuring proper symbolic link resolution to keep all files within the TFTP root directory.

4.2 Requirements

- Ensure that you have installed the following packages: `grub2`, `tftp`, and any other architecture-specific GRUB 2 package such as `grub2-x86_64-efi` and `grub2-i386-pc`.
- Ensure that you have either the installation media (ISO) available for mounting, or the `shim` package installed on the system. You can download the installation media (ISO) for your target architecture from the SUSE Customer Center.

4.3 Preparing NetBoot directories and UEFI Secure Boot

This procedure creates the required GRUB 2 directory structure for PXE network booting and optionally configures UEFI Secure Boot support across multiple architectures.

1. Create a GRUB 2 NetBoot directory structure.

```
> sudo grub2-mknetdir --net-directory=/srv/tftpboot  
--subdir=/boot/grub2
```

This creates architecture-specific directories:

- AMD64/Intel 64: `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi` and `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/i386-pc`
- AArch64: `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/arm64-efi`
- ppc64le: `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275`



Warning

Do not manually overwrite the `grub.cfg` file created by `grub2-mknetdir`.

2. Copy other architecture-independent directories, such as `fonts/` and `locale/` that are available under the `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/` directory to the TFTP server.

3. You can use the `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/ARCH-efi/core.efi` file installed by the `grub2-mknetdir` command for AMD64/Intel 64 or AArch64 architectures for UEFI PXE as well. However, they are *not signed* and do not support UEFI Secure Boot. To optionally enable UEFI Secure Boot for the supported AMD64/Intel 64 and AArch64 architectures, perform any of the following steps:

- Copy the necessary files from the installation media ISO:

- a. Mount the ISO image.

```
> sudo mount -o loop /PATH/TO/SLES.ISO /mnt
```

- b. Copy EFI files.

```
> sudo cp -v /mnt/EFI/BOOT/*.efi  
/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/ARCH-efi/ ①
```

① Replace `ARCH-efi` with `x86_64-efi` or `arm64-efi`—the supported architectures for UEFI Secure Boot.

- c. Unmount the installation media ISO.

```
> sudo umount /mnt
```

- Use the `shim` package if you do not want to use the files from the installation media ISO:

- a. If not already installed, install the `shim` package.

```
> sudo zypper install shim
```

- b. Copy the signed bootloader files for the necessary architecture:

- i. Copy the `shim.efi` file.

- For AMD64/Intel 64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/x86_64/shim.efi /srv/tftpboot/  
boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

- For AArch64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/aarch64/shim.efi /srv/  
tftpboot/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi
```

ii. Copy the grub.efd file.

- For AMD64/Intel 64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/x86_64/grub.efd /srv/tftpboot/
boot/grub2/x86_64-efd/
```

- For AArch64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/aarch64/grub.efd /srv/
tftpboot/boot/grub2/arm64-efd/
```

iii. Copy the MokManager.efd file.

- For AMD64/Intel 64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/x86_64/MokManager.efd /srv/
tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efd/
```

- For AArch64 architecture:

```
> sudo cp -v -p -L /usr/share/efi/aarch64/MokManager.efd /srv/
tftpboot/boot/grub2/arm64-efd/
```



Note

The -L flag resolves symbolic links to ensure files stay within TFTP root.

5 Preparing the installer image content

This section describes how to extract and organize installer files from SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installation media for PXE boot environments. It covers both .install.iso images and RPM packages, with specific instructions for different architectures and installation types.

5.1 Introduction

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 provides installer files in multiple formats to support different PXE boot scenarios. The Agama installer requires three essential files: the kernel image (`linux`), the initial RAM disk (`initrd`), and the compressed root file system (`squashfs.img`). These files must be extracted from the installation media and organized in a directory structure accessible via TFTP and HTTP.

This section covers preparation methods for both `.install.iso` images and RPM packages, ensuring compatibility with various architectures and installation types supported by SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0.

5.2 Requirements

- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installation media, as available in SUSE Customer Center.
Choose from:
 - Online ISO: Installer-only for network installations ([SLES-16.0-Online-ARCH-BUILD.install.iso](#))
 - Full ISO: Installer with installation repository ([SLES-16.0-Full-ARCH-BUILD.install.iso](#))
 - RPM packages: [tftpboot-agama-installer-SUSE_SLE_16_PXE-ARCH](#)
- A temporary mount point, such as `/mnt`.
- Sufficient disk space under `/srv/tftpboot` and `/srv/install` for your chosen installation method.
- Administrative privileges to create directories and copy files.

5.3 Preparing installer files from ISO images

ISO images provide a straightforward method for extracting installer files. The following procedures cover both Online and Full ISO types for different architectures.

5.3.1 Using Online ISO images

Online ISO images contain only the installer components, requiring network access to installation repositories during system installation. This corresponds with the SLES-16.0 Online Installation boot menu entry in GRUB.

PROCEDURE 2: EXTRACTING FILES FROM ONLINE ISO (X86_64 AND AARCH64)

1. Create the directory structure for installer files:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

2. Mount the Online ISO image:

```
> sudo mount -oro,loop /srv/install/iso/SLES-16.0-Online-ARCH-BUILD.install.iso /mnt
```

3. Copy the kernel and initrd files:

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ARCH/loader/linux /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ARCH/loader/initrd /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

4. Copy the compressed root file system:

```
> sudo cp /mnt/LiveOS/squashfs.img /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

5. Unmount the ISO image:

```
> sudo umount /mnt
```

PROCEDURE 3: EXTRACTING FILES FROM ONLINE ISO (PPC64LE)

1. Create the directory structure:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ppc64le/
```

2. Mount the ISO image:

```
> sudo mount -oro,loop /srv/install/iso/SLES-16.0-Online-ppc64le-BUILD.install.iso /  
mnt
```

3. Copy the kernel and initrd files (note the different path structure for ppc64le):

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ppc64le/linux /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ppc64le/
```

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ppc64le/initrd /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ppc64le/
```

4. Copy the compressed root file system:

```
> sudo cp /mnt/LiveOS/squashfs.img /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ppc64le/
```

5. Unmount the ISO image:

```
> sudo umount /mnt
```

5.3.2 Using Full ISO images

Full ISO images include both the installer and installation repositories, enabling local installations without external network dependencies. It corresponds with the SLES-16.0 Local Installation boot menu entry in grub with the additional inst.install_url=http://pxe.example.net/install/SLES-16.0/\${arch} parameter.

PROCEDURE 4: EXTRACTING FILES FROM FULL ISO

1. Create directories for both installer files and the installation repository:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/install/SLES-16.0
```

2. Mount the Full ISO image:

```
> sudo mount -oro,loop /srv/install/iso/SLES-16.0-Full-ARCH-BUILD.install.iso /mnt
```

3. Copy the kernel and initrd files (adjust paths for ppc64le as shown in previous procedures):

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ARCH/loader/linux /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

```
> sudo cp /mnt/boot/ARCH/loader/initrd /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

4. Copy the compressed root file system:

```
> sudo cp /mnt/LiveOS/squashfs.img /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

5. Copy the installation repository for local HTTP server access:

```
> sudo rsync -avP /mnt/install/ /srv/install/SLES-16.0/ARCH/
```

6. Unmount the ISO image:

```
> sudo umount /mnt
```

5.4 Preparing installer files from RPM packages

RPM packages provide an alternative method for obtaining Online Installer files.

PROCEDURE 5: INSTALLING AND USING TFTPBOOT RPM PACKAGES

1. Install the required packages:

```
> sudo zypper in tftpboot-agama-installer-SUSE_SLE_16-ARCH
```

2. Copy the linux,initrd,squashfs.img into tftpboot:

```
> sudo mkdir -p  
/srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH
```

```
> sudo cd  
/srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH
```

```
> sudo cp -v /usr/share/tftpboot-installation/agama-installer-SUSE_SLE_16/ARCH/  
loader/linux .
```

```
> sudo cp -v /usr/share/tftpboot-installation/agama-installer-SUSE_SLE_16/ARCH/  
loader/initrd .
```

```
> sudo cp -v /usr/share/tftpboot-installation/agama-installer-SUSE_SLE_16/ARCH/  
loader/squashfs.img .
```

5.5 Recommended directory structure

Organize the extracted files according to the following directory layout to ensure consistency and ease of maintenance. This structure supports multiple architectures and installation types.

EXAMPLE 1: COMPLETE PXE SERVER DIRECTORY LAYOUT

```
/srv/tftpboot/  
└── boot/  
    ├── grub2/  
    │   ├── x86_64-efi/  
    │   │   ├── bootx64.efi  
    │   │   └── grub.cfg  
    │   ├── i386-pc/  
    │   │   └── core.0  
    │   ├── arm64-efi/  
    │   │   └── boota64.efi
```

```
|   |   └── powerpc-ieee1275/
|   |       └── core.elf
|   └── images/
|       └── SLES-16.0/
|           ├── x86_64/
|           |   ├── linux ①
|           |   ├── initrd ②
|           |   └── squashfs.img ③
|           ├── aarch64/
|           └── ppc64le/
/srv/install/
└── SLES-16.0/
    ├── x86_64/ ④
    ├── aarch64/
    └── ppc64le/
```

- ① Kernel image extracted from installation media
- ② Initial RAM disk image
- ③ Compressed root file system for Agama installer
- ④ Installation repository from install directory from the Full ISO (optional)

5.6 Reset SELinux labels

Reset the SELinux labels of the /srv/tftpboot to the one defined in the policy.

```
> sudo restorecon -Rv /srv/tftpboot
```

5.7 Verifying the installation

After extracting and organizing the installer files, verify that all required components are present and accessible.

PROCEDURE 6: VERIFICATION STEPS

1. Check that essential files are present:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/*
```

2. Ensure proper file permissions:

```
> sudo find /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/ -type d -exec chmod 0755 {} \;
```

```
> sudo find /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/ -type f -exec chmod 0644 {} \;
```

Important: File accessibility

Ensure that all extracted files are readable by the TFTP and HTTP services. The files will be accessed by PXE clients during the boot process, so proper permissions and service configuration are essential for successful deployments.

5.8 Next steps

With the installer files properly prepared and organized, you can proceed to:

- Configure GRUB 2 for PXE boot with menu entries referencing these files
- Set up HTTP and TFTP services to serve the extracted content
- Configure DHCP to direct PXE clients to the appropriate bootloaders

The extracted files will be referenced in GRUB 2 configuration using paths such as `root=live:http://pxe.example.net/boot/images/SLES-16.0/ARCH/squashfs.img`.

6 Configuring GRUB 2 for PXE boot

This section describes how to configure the GRUB 2 bootloader for PXE-based booting on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0. It covers creating the network boot directory structure, setting up architecture-specific bootloaders, and implementing a flexible configuration system that supports multiple architectures and installation scenarios.

6.1 Introduction

GRUB 2 serves as the network bootloader for PXE clients, loading kernel and initrd files to start the Agama installer. This section demonstrates how to create a sophisticated GRUB 2 configuration that automatically detects client architecture, manages network interface selection, and provides a unified boot menu supporting multiple installation types and target architectures.

The configuration approach uses a modular design with separate files for architecture detection, variable definitions, and boot menu entries. This enables support for machine-specific configurations and automated installation profiles while maintaining consistency across different hardware platforms.

6.2 Requirements

- Ensure that the GRUB 2 network boot directory structure is in place, as described in the previous sections.
- Ensure that the installer files are properly organized as described in the previous sections.
- GRUB 2 packages for all target architectures must be installed: `grub2-x86_64-efi`, `grub2-i386-pc`, `grub2-aarch64-efi`, and `grub2-ppc64le-ieee1275`
- The `shim` package for UEFI Secure Boot support (optional).
- Administrative access to `/srv/tftpboot` or equivalent PXE root.

6.3 Creating the GRUB 2 configuration

The GRUB 2 configuration file handles three main tasks: detecting the client's architecture, managing network interfaces and loading other configuration files. This modular approach provides flexibility for different deployment scenarios.

PROCEDURE 7: SETTING UP THE MAIN `grub.cfg` FILE

- Create the main GRUB 2 configuration file at `/srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg`:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg << 'EOF'
# Architecture detection and mapping
if [ "$grub_cpu" == "i386" ]; then
    set arch='x86_64'
elif [ "$grub_cpu" == "x86_64" ]; then
    set arch='x86_64'
elif [ "$grub_cpu" == "arm64" ]; then
    set arch='aarch64'
elif [ "$grub_cpu" == "powerpc" ]; then
    set arch='ppc64le'
fi

if [ "X$arch" == "X" ]; then
    echo "ERROR: No architecture found for ${grub_cpu}"
    exit
```

```

else
    echo "Running on $arch CPU architecture"
fi
export arch

# Network interface configuration for PXE-selected NIC
# - dracut based images on SLE-16:
set ipcfg="ifname=pxe0:${net_default_mac} ip=pxe0:dhcp"
export ipcfg
# - linuxrc installer on SLE-15:
set ifcfg="${net_default_mac}=dhcp"
export ifcfg

# Define typical serial console kernel parameter
#set sconsole="console=tty0 console=ttyS0,115200n8"
#export sconsole

# Load machine-specific configuration if available
if [ -s "${config}/${net_default_mac}/grub.cfg" ]; then
    ## Source a host specific configuration of grub menu:
    source "${config}/${net_default_mac}/grub.cfg"
else
    ## Source default grub boot menu:
    source "${prefix}/menu.cfg"
fi
EOF

```

KEY CONFIGURATION ELEMENTS

Architecture detection

Maps GRUB 2 CPU types to distribution architectures, enabling unified menu entries that work across different hardware platforms

Network interface management

Defines an `${ipcfg}` variable using the grub2 variable `${net_default_mac}` to activate dhcp only on the PXE boot interface named `pxe0`, avoiding network probing issues on multi-interface systems.

Utility definitions

Defines a typical `${sconsole}` variable with serial console parameters.

Machine-specific configuration

Loads optional per-machine configuration files based on MAC address, enabling customized per-machine boot parameters and automated installation profiles

6.4 Creating the unified boot menu

The boot menu uses variables from the main configuration to provide architecture-agnostic menu entries that automatically adapt to different hardware platforms and installation types.

PROCEDURE 8: SETTING UP THE MENU.CFG FILE

- Create the unified boot menu at /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg << 'EOF'
menuentry 'SLES-16.0 Online Installation' {
    linux /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/linux showopts root=live:http://
pxe.example.net/boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/squashfs.img ${ipcfg} ${sconsole}
${autoinstall}
    initrd /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/initrd
}

menuentry 'SLES-16.0 Local Installation' {
    linux /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/linux showopts root=live:http://
pxe.example.net/boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/squashfs.img inst.install_url=http://
pxe.example.net/install/SLES-16.0/${arch} ${ipcfg} ${sconsole} ${autoinstall}
    initrd /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/initrd
}
EOF
```



Note: Menu entry flexibility

The menu entries use variables that are automatically populated based on the client architecture and configuration. The \${arch} variable ensures the correct files are loaded.

The optional \${ipcfg} variable causes only the PXE-selected network interface to be set up.

The optional \${sconsole} variable enables a serial console in the installer system.

6.5 Machine-specific configurations

For advanced deployments, you can create machine-specific configuration files that override default settings or provide automated installation parameters.

PROCEDURE 9: CREATING MACHINE-SPECIFIC CONFIGURATION

1. Create a directory for machine-specific configurations:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot/boot/config
```

2. For a machine with a MAC address aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff, create a specific configuration:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot/boot/config/aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff
```

3. Create the machine-specific grub.cfg:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/config/aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff/grub.cfg << 'EOF'  
# Machine-specific configuration for aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff  
set default='SLES-16.0 Full Installation'  
  
# Activate the menu-entry after 5sec timeout  
set timeout=5  
  
# Use known predictable network interface name  
set ipcfg="ip=en0:dhcp"  
  
# Set the autoinstall variable for this machine  
set autoinstall="inst.auto=http://pxe.example.net/install/profiles/  
aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff/sles16.json"  
export autoinstall  
  
# Load the default menu  
source "/boot/grub2/menu.cfg"  
EOF
```

Alternatively, provide own menu entry in the host-specific grub.cfg (e.g. generated for a specific boot attempt):

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/config/aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff/grub.cfg << 'EOF'  
set default='SLES-16.0 Auto-Installation'  
set timeout=5  
  
menuentry 'SLES-16.0 Auto-Installation' {  
    linux /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/linux showopts root=live:http://  
pxe.example.net/boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/squashfs.img inst.install_url=http://  
pxe.example.net/install/SLES-16.0/${arch} inst.auto=http://pxe.example.net/install/  
profiles/${net_default_mac}/sles16.json ip=en0:dhcp  
    initrd /boot/images/SLES-16.0/${arch}/initrd  
}  
EOF
```

EXAMPLE 2: COMMON MACHINE-SPECIFIC PARAMETERS

default

Specifies which menu entry to boot automatically

timeout

Sets the boot timeout in seconds

ipcfg

Overrides network interface configuration for specific hardware

autoinstall

Provides machine-specific automated installation profile URLs

6.6 Verifying GRUB 2 configuration

After creating the configuration files, verify that the setup is correct, and all required files are in place.

PROCEDURE 10: VERIFICATION STEPS

1. Check the GRUB 2 directory structure:

```
> find /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2 -type f -name "*.cfg" -o -name "*.efi" -o -name "core.*"
```

2. Verify the configuration file syntax by testing with GRUB 2 tools:

```
> grub2-script-check /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

```
> grub2-script-check /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg
```

3. Ensure proper file permissions:

```
> sudo chmod -R 644 /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/*.cfg
```

```
> sudo find /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2 -type d -exec chmod 0755 {} \;
```



Important: Configuration testing

Test the GRUB 2 configuration with actual PXE clients to ensure proper architecture detection and menu functionality. The `${net_default_mac}` variable is only available during actual network boot scenarios.

6.7 Troubleshooting GRUB 2 configuration

Common issues and their solutions when working with GRUB 2 PXE configurations. Each problem includes diagnostic steps and specific commands to resolve the issue.

6.7.1 Architecture detection fails

When GRUB 2 fails to detect the correct architecture, clients may boot with incorrect binaries or fail to load altogether.

PROCEDURE 11: DEBUGGING ARCHITECTURE DETECTION

1. Add debug output to the GRUB 2 configuration to see detected values:

```
> sudo cat >> /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg << 'EOF'  
# Debug architecture detection  
echo "Detected grub_cpu: ${grub_cpu}"  
echo "Mapped arch: ${arch}"  
sleep 3  
EOF
```

2. Test the configuration syntax:

```
> grub2-script-check /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

3. If architecture mapping is incomplete, extend the detection logic:

```
> sudo sed -i '/elif \[ "$grub_cpu" == "powerpc" \]/a\\n elif [ "$grub_cpu" ==  
"riscv64" ]; then\n  set arch='\''riscv64'\''\\' /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

4. Verify the architecture-specific directories exist:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/
```

6.7.2 Network interface not found

Some firmware implementations may not set the `$_net_default_mac` variable correctly, causing network configuration failures.

PROCEDURE 12: DIAGNOSING NETWORK INTERFACE ISSUES

1. Add debug output to check network variables:

```
> sudo sed -i '/set ipcfg=/i\\n echo "Default MAC: ${net_default_mac}"\\n echo "Network variables set"\\nsleep 2' /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

2. Create a fallback network configuration:

```
> sudo cat >> /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg << 'EOF'

# Fallback network configuration if net_default_mac is empty
if [ "X${net_default_mac}" == "X" ]; then
    set ipcfg="ip=dhcp"
    set ifcfg="ifcfg=*=dhcp"
    echo "WARNING: Using fallback network configuration"
    sleep 2
fi
EOF
```

3. Test network configuration with a specific interface:

```
> sudo echo 'set ipcfg="ip=en0:dhcp"' > /srv/tftpboot/boot/config/test-network.cfg
```

4. Verify network interface names on the target system:

```
> ip link show
```

6.7.3 File paths not found

Incorrect file paths prevent GRUB 2 from loading kernel and initrd files, causing boot failures.

PROCEDURE 13: VERIFYING FILE PATH ACCESSIBILITY

1. Check if the installer files exist in the expected locations:

```
> find /srv/tftpboot/boot/images -name "linux" -o -name "initrd" -o -name "squashfs.img"
```

2. Verify TFTP access to boot files:

```
> tftp localhost -c get /boot/grub2/grub.cfg /tmp/test-grub.cfg
```

3. Test HTTP access to installer files:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/linux
```

4. Check file permissions and ownership:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/SLES-16.0/*/
```

5. Fix permissions if needed:

```
> sudo chmod -R 644 /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/
```

```
> sudo find /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/ -type d -exec chmod 755 {} \;
```

6. Verify symbolic links are not broken:

```
> find /srv/tftpboot/boot/images/ -type l -exec ls -la {} \;
```

6.7.4 EFI boot failures

EFI and Secure Boot issues can prevent proper bootloader initialization or cause authentication failures.

PROCEDURE 14: DIAGNOSING EFI BOOT PROBLEMS

1. Verify Secure Boot files are present:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/*.efi
```

2. Check that shim (bootx64.efi or shim.efi), grub.efi and MokManager.efi files are properly copied:

```
> file /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

3. Verify EFI file integrity:

```
> sha256sum /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/*.efi
```

4. Test if files are accessible via TFTP:

```
> tftp localhost -c get /boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi /tmp/test-shim.efi
```

5. For aarch64 systems, verify ARM64 EFI files:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/*.efi
```

6. Check that the DHCP configuration provides the correct bootloader paths:

```
> grep -n "bootx64.efi\|shim.efi\|bootaa64.efi"
```

```
/etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf /etc/kea/kea-dhcp?.conf /etc/dhcpd?.conf
```

7. If files are missing, recopy from the ISO mounted to /mnt or from the shim package files:

```
> sudo cp -v /mnt/EFI/BOOT/*.efi /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
```

```
> sudo cp -pL /usr/share/efi/x86_64/*.efi /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
```

6.7.5 Menu entries not loading

When GRUB 2 loads but menu entries fail or display errors, the issue is often related to variable expansion or file references.

PROCEDURE 15: DEBUGGING MENU ENTRY PROBLEMS

1. Test menu configuration syntax:

```
> grub2-script-check /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg
```

2. Add debug output to menu entries:

```
> sudo sed -i '/linux_kernel.*{images}/i\\necho "Loading: ${images}/SLES-16.0/\$[arch]/linux"\n\\necho "Architecture: \$[arch]"' /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg
```

3. Verify variable expansion works correctly:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/debug-menu.cfg << 'EOF'  
menuentry 'Debug Variables' {  
    echo "arch = \$[arch]"  
    echo "images = ${images}"  
    echo "ipcfg = ${ipcfg}"  
    sleep 5  
}  
EOF
```

4. Test with a simplified menu entry:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/simple-menu.cfg << 'EOF'  
menuentry 'Simple Test' {  
    linux /boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/linux  
    initrd /boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/initrd  
}  
EOF
```

5. Load the test menu temporarily:

```
> sudo sed -i 's|source "${prefix}/menu.cfg"|source "${prefix}/simple-menu.cfg|' /  
srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

6. Restore the original menu after testing:

```
> sudo sed -i 's|source "${prefix}/simple-menu.cfg"|source "${prefix}/menu.cfg|' /  
srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

6.7.6 Enabling detailed logging

For persistent issues, enable comprehensive logging to capture detailed information about the boot process.

PROCEDURE 16: SETTING UP GRUB 2 DEBUG LOGGING

1. Create a debug version of the main configuration:

```
> sudo cp /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg.backup
```

2. Add comprehensive debug output:

```
> sudo cat > /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/debug.cfg << 'EOF'  
# Debug configuration for GRUB troubleshooting  
set debug=all  
set pager=1  
  
echo "==== GRUB Debug Information ==="  
echo "grub_cpu: ${grub_cpu}"  
echo "grub_platform: ${grub_platform}"  
echo "net_default_mac: ${net_default_mac}"  
echo "net_default_server: ${net_default_server}"  
echo "===== "  
sleep 5  
EOF
```

3. Include debug configuration in main file:

```
> sudo sed -i 'li\source "${prefix}/debug.cfg"' /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

4. Monitor TFTP logs during boot attempts:

```
> sudo journalctl -f -u tftp.socket
```

5. Monitor DHCP logs for PXE requests:

```
> sudo journalctl -f -u dhcpcd
```

6. Disable debug mode after troubleshooting:

```
> sudo sed -i '/source "${prefix}\/debug.cfg"/d' /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

6.8 Next steps

With GRUB 2 properly configured, you can proceed to:

- Configure HTTP and TFTP services to serve the boot files and installer content
- Set up DHCP services to direct PXE clients to the appropriate bootloaders
- Test the complete PXE boot process on target hardware

The flexible GRUB 2 configuration system provides a foundation for sophisticated PXE deployment scenarios, supporting multiple architectures and installation types through a unified interface.

7 Configuring TFTP for PXE booting

This section explains how to configure TFTP services to serve GRUB 2 bootloaders and PXE boot content for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations. It covers the traditional in.tftpd server and the integrated TFTP functionality provided by dnsmasq.

7.1 Introduction

TFTP serves bootloader files to PXE clients during the network boot process. SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 supports two TFTP server implementations: the traditional in.tftpd server from the tftp package, and the integrated TFTP functionality within dnsmasq.

7.2 Requirements

- Either the `tftp` package or the `dnsmasq` package installed
- PXE boot files organized under `/srv/tftpboot`
- Administrative privileges to configure services

7.3 Configuring in.tftpd server

The `in.tftpd` server uses the configuration file `/etc/sysconfig/tftp` to define the TFTP root directory and server options.

PROCEDURE 17: SETTING UP IN.TFTPD TFTP SERVER

1. Optionally, enable verbose logging by setting TFTP options:

```
> sudo sed -i 's/^TFTP_OPTIONS=.*/TFTP_OPTIONS="-v"/' /etc/sysconfig/tftp
```

The `-v` option enables verbose logging to see the file names fetched via TFTP.

2. Enable and start the TFTP service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now tftp.service
```

7.4 Configuring dnsmasq TFTP server

`dnsmasq` provides a built-in TFTP server that can be enabled and configured to use the `/srv/tftpboot` directory.

PROCEDURE 18: SETTING UP DNSMASQ TFTP FUNCTIONALITY

1. Create the TFTP configuration file:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/dnsmasq.d/tftp.conf << 'EOF'  
enable-tftp  
tftp-root=/srv/tftpboot  
EOF
```

2. Enable and start the dnsmasq service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now dnsmasq
```

7.5 Verifying TFTP configuration

Test the TFTP server functionality to ensure it can serve files to PXE clients.

PROCEDURE 19: TESTING TFTP SERVER FUNCTIONALITY

1. Create a test file:

```
> echo "test file" | sudo tee /srv/tftpboot/test.txt
```

2. Retrieve the test file via TFTP:

```
> tftp localhost -c get test.txt /tmp/tftp-test.txt
```

3. Verify the file was retrieved successfully:

```
> cat /tmp/tftp-test.txt
```

4. Clean up test files:

```
> sudo rm /srv/tftpboot/test.txt /tmp/tftp-test.txt
```

7.6 Troubleshooting TFTP configuration

Common issues when configuring TFTP services for PXE boot environments.

7.6.1 Service conflicts on port 69

Both in.tftpd and dnsmasq use UDP port 69 for TFTP services and cannot run simultaneously.

PROCEDURE 20: RESOLVING TFTP SERVICE CONFLICTS

1. Check which services are running:

```
> systemctl status tftp.service dnsmasq
```

2. Check what is using port 69:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :69
```

3. Stop the conflicting service (example for dnsmasq):

```
> sudo systemctl stop dnsmasq
```

4. Start your preferred TFTP service:

```
> sudo systemctl start tftp.service
```

7.6.2 TFTP directory issues

Problems accessing the TFTP root directory can prevent file serving.

PROCEDURE 21: VERIFYING TFTP DIRECTORY CONFIGURATION

1. Verify the TFTP directory setting for in.tftpd:

```
> grep TFTP_DIRECTORY /etc/sysconfig/tftp
```

2. Verify the TFTP directory setting for dnsmasq:

```
> grep tftp-root /etc/dnsmasq.d/tftp.conf
```

3. Check if the directory exists:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/
```

4. Create the directory if missing:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/tftpboot
```

7.6.3 Enabling TFTP logging

Verbose logging helps identify file access issues with TFTP transfers.

PROCEDURE 22: ENABLING VERBOSE TFTP LOGGING

1. Check the current TFTP options:

```
> grep TFTP_OPTIONS /etc/sysconfig/tftp
```

2. Enable verbose logging:

```
> sudo sed -i 's/^TFTP_OPTIONS=.*/TFTP_OPTIONS="-v"/' /etc/sysconfig/tftp
```

3. Restart the TFTP service:

```
> sudo systemctl restart tftp.service
```

4. Monitor TFTP logs:

```
> journalctl -u tftp.service -f
```

7.7 Next steps

With TFTP configured, you can proceed to configure HTTP services for serving installer files and DHCP services for directing PXE clients to the appropriate bootloaders.

8 Configuring nginx for HTTP delivery

This section explains how to configure nginx to serve PXE boot content over HTTP, allowing clients to load installer files like kernel, initrd, and squashfs images from a central location. HTTP delivery provides better performance than TFTP for large files and is required for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 Agama installations.

8.1 Introduction

nginx serves as the HTTP server for PXE boot environments, providing access to installer files through Web-based delivery. The HTTP server exposes the TFTP boot directory and installation repositories, enabling PXE clients to download kernel images, initrd files, and the Agama installer components over HTTP rather than the slower TFTP protocol.

8.2 Requirements

- The nginx package installed
- PXE boot files organized under /srv/tftpboot/boot
- Installation repositories available under /srv/install
- Administrative privileges to modify nginx configuration

8.3 Configuring nginx for PXE boot

The nginx configuration defines location aliases that expose the TFTP boot directory and installation repositories through HTTP URLs.

PROCEDURE 23: SETTING UP NGINX HTTP SERVER

1. Edit the nginx configuration file:

```
> sudo vim /etc/nginx/nginx.conf
```

2. Configure the HTTP server block in the http section:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/nginx/nginx.conf << 'EOF'
http {

    include          mime.types;
    default_type    application/octet-stream;

    charset         utf-8;
    sendfile        on;
    keepalive_timeout 65;

    server {
        listen       80 default_server;
        listen     [::]:80 default_server;

        location / {
            root   /srv/www/htdocs/;
            index index.html index.htm;
        }

        error_page  500 502 503 504  /50x.html;
        location = /50x.html {
            root   /srv/www/htdocs/;
        }

        # Expose TFTP boot directory for HTTP boot
        location /boot {
            alias    /srv/tftpboot/boot;
            autoindex on;
        }

        # Expose installation repositories and profiles
        location /install {
            alias   /srv/install;
            autoindex on;
        }
    }
}
```

```
        }
    }

events {
    worker_connections  1024;
}
EOF
```

3. Test the nginx configuration syntax:

```
> sudo nginx -t
```

4. Allow nginx to serve files from the directory:

```
> sudo setsebool -P httpd_serve_cobbler_files=1
```

5. Enable and start the nginx service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now nginx.service
```

8.4 Verifying nginx configuration

Test the HTTP server functionality to ensure it can serve PXE boot files and installation content to clients.

PROCEDURE 24: TESTING NGINX HTTP SERVER

1. Test HTTP access to boot files:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/boot/
```

2. Test access to the installation directory:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/install/
```

3. Verify a specific installer file is accessible:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/liveiso/LiveOS/squashfs.img
```

8.5 Troubleshooting nginx configuration

Common issues when configuring nginx for PXE boot HTTP delivery.

8.5.1 Configuration syntax errors

Incorrect nginx configuration syntax prevents the service from starting or reloading properly.

PROCEDURE 25: RESOLVING NGINX CONFIGURATION ISSUES

1. Test the configuration syntax:

```
> sudo nginx -t
```

2. Check nginx service status if startup fails:

```
> systemctl status nginx.service
```

3. View detailed error logs:

```
> journalctl -u nginx.service -f
```

4. Check nginx error log file:

```
> tail -f /var/log/nginx/error.log
```

8.5.2 File access and permission issues

nginx may fail to serve files due to incorrect permissions or missing directories.

PROCEDURE 26: RESOLVING FILE ACCESS PROBLEMS

1. Check if the boot directory exists and is accessible:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/
```

2. Check if the install directory exists:

```
> ls -la /srv/install/
```

3. Verify nginx can read the directories:

```
> sudo -u nginx ls /srv/tftpboot/boot/
```

4. Create missing directories if needed:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /srv/install
```

- Set appropriate permissions:

```
> sudo chmod -R 755 /srv/tftpboot/boot /srv/install
```

8.5.3 Port binding conflicts

nginx may fail to start if another service is using port 80.

PROCEDURE 27: RESOLVING PORT CONFLICTS

- Check what is using port 80:

```
> ss -tlnp | grep :80
```

- Stop conflicting services if needed:

```
> sudo systemctl stop apache2
```

- Start nginx service:

```
> sudo systemctl start nginx.service
```

- Verify nginx is listening on port 80:

```
> ss -tlnp | grep :80
```

8.6 Next steps

With nginx configured for HTTP delivery, you can proceed to configure DHCP services for directing PXE clients to the appropriate bootloaders and HTTP resources.

9 Configuring a DNS server using dnsmasq

This section explains how to configure DNS services using dnsmasq to provide host name resolution for PXE clients accessing SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installation resources. DNS configuration enables clients to use host names instead of IP addresses in boot URLs and DHCP configurations.

9.1 Introduction

DNS services enable PXE clients to resolve host names in boot URLs and installation sources. While full DNS server configuration is beyond the scope of this document, this section provides a basic DNS configuration using dnsmasq that allows clients to resolve the PXE server host name (*PXE.EXAMPLE.NET*) to its IP addresses.

Without DNS configuration, boot URLs must use IP addresses directly, such as `http://192.168.1.200/` or `http://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/`. Some BIOS/UEFI firmware implementations do not support host names in DHCP TFTP URLs and require IP addresses like `tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/`.

9.2 Requirements

- The `dnsmasq` package installed
- Static IP addresses configured for the PXE server
- Administrative privileges to configure DNS services

9.3 Configuring dnsmasq DNS services

The dnsmasq DNS configuration provides local host name resolution and uses upstream name servers for external queries.

PROCEDURE 28: SETTING UP DNSMASQ DNS SERVER

1. Create the DNS configuration file for dnsmasq:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/dnsmasq.d/dns.conf << 'EOF'  
# DNS configuration file for dnsmasq  
  
# Log DNS queries  
log-queries  
  
# DNS cache behavior  
cache-size=10000  
local-ttl=60  
neg-ttl=10  
  
# Never forward A or AAAA queries for plain names to upstream name servers  
domain-needed
```

```
# Add local domain to simple names in /etc/hosts and DHCP  
expand-hosts  
  
# Specifies DNS domain and networks including local forward and reverse declarations  
domain=EXAMPLE.NET,192.168.1.0/24,local  
domain=EXAMPLE.NET,2001:db8:0:1::/64,local  
EOF
```

2. Add host name entries to the system hosts file:

```
> sudo cat >> /etc/hosts << 'EOF'  
192.168.1.200 PXE.EXAMPLE.NET  
2001:db8:0:1::200 PXE.EXAMPLE.NET  
EOF
```

3. Test the dnsmasq configuration:

```
> sudo dnsmasq --test
```

4. Enable and start the dnsmasq service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now dnsmasq
```



Note: DNS forwarding behavior

By default, dnsmasq uses the name servers in `/etc/resolv.conf` as forwarders and provides records from `/etc/hosts`. This allows the PXE server to resolve external host names while providing local resolution for PXE-related services.

9.4 Verifying DNS configuration

Test the DNS server functionality to ensure host name resolution works for PXE clients.

PROCEDURE 29: TESTING DNS SERVER FUNCTIONALITY

1. Test IPv4 host name resolution:

```
> nslookup PXE.EXAMPLE.NET localhost
```

2. Test IPv6 host name resolution:

```
> nslookup PXE.EXAMPLE.NET localhost | grep 2001:db8
```

3. Test reverse DNS lookup for IPv4:

```
> nslookup 192.168.1.200 localhost
```

4. Verify external DNS forwarding still works:

```
> nslookup google.com localhost
```

9.5 Troubleshooting DNS configuration

Common issues when configuring dnsmasq for DNS services in PXE environments.

9.5.1 Configuration and service issues

dnsmasq may fail to start due to configuration errors or port conflicts.

PROCEDURE 30: RESOLVING DNS CONFIGURATION PROBLEMS

1. Test the dnsmasq configuration syntax:

```
> sudo dnsmasq --test
```

2. Check dnsmasq service status:

```
> systemctl status dnsmasq
```

3. Check what is using DNS port 53:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :53
```

4. View dnsmasq logs for errors:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq -f
```

5. Stop conflicting DNS services if needed:

```
> sudo systemctl stop systemd-resolved
```

9.5.2 Host name resolution failures

DNS queries may fail due to incorrect configuration or missing host name entries.

PROCEDURE 31: DIAGNOSING DNS RESOLUTION ISSUES

1. Check if host name entries exist in hosts file:

```
> grep PXE.EXAMPLE.NET /etc/hosts
```

2. Verify domain configuration in dnsmasq:

```
> grep domain= /etc/dnsmasq.d/dns.conf
```

3. Test DNS query with verbose output:

```
> dig @localhost PXE.EXAMPLE.NET
```

4. Monitor dnsmasq query logs:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq | grep "query"
```

5. Restart dnsmasq to reload the configuration:

```
> sudo systemctl restart dnsmasq
```

9.5.3 DNS forwarding problems

External DNS queries may fail if the upstream name server configuration is incorrect.

PROCEDURE 32: TROUBLESHOOTING DNS FORWARDING ISSUES

1. Check the upstream name server configuration:

```
> cat /etc/resolv.conf
```

2. Test direct query to the upstream name server:

```
> nslookup google.com 8.8.8.8
```

3. Check dnsmasq forwarding configuration:

```
> grep -E "server=|no-resolv" /etc/dnsmasq.d/dns.conf
```

4. Add a specific upstream name server if needed:

```
> sudo echo "server=8.8.8.8" >> /etc/dnsmasq.d/dns.conf
```

5. Restart dnsmasq service:

```
> sudo systemctl restart dnsmasq
```

9.6 Next steps

With DNS services configured, PXE clients can now resolve host names in boot URLs and installation sources. You can proceed to configure DHCP services that reference the DNS server for client configuration.

10 Configuring an NTP server using chrony

This section explains how to configure NTP services using chrony to provide accurate time synchronization for PXE clients during SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations. Proper time synchronization is essential for certificate validation and system logging during network-based installations.

10.1 Introduction

NTP services ensure accurate time synchronization across network infrastructure. For PXE boot environments, synchronized time is crucial for certificate validation during HTTPS connections, proper log timestamps, and coordinated system operations. This section provides basic NTP server configuration using chrony.

10.2 Requirements

- The chrony package installed
- ```
> sudo zypper install chrony
```
- Network connectivity to upstream NTP servers
  - Administrative privileges to configure NTP services

## 10.3 Configuring chrony NTP service

The chrony service provides NTP functionality with automatic time synchronization to upstream servers and local time-serving capabilities for network clients.

### PROCEDURE 33: SETTING UP chrony NTP SERVER

- Enable and start the chrony service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now chronyd.service
```

## 10.4 Verifying NTP configuration

Test the NTP service functionality to ensure time synchronization works correctly.

### PROCEDURE 34: TESTING NTP SERVER FUNCTIONALITY

1. Check chrony service status:

```
> systemctl status chronyd.service
```

2. View the current time synchronization status:

```
> chronyc tracking
```

3. List configured NTP sources:

```
> chronyc sources
```

4. Check NTP server statistics:

```
> chronyc sourcestats
```

## 10.5 Troubleshooting NTP configuration

Common issues when configuring chrony for NTP services in PXE environments.

### 10.5.1 Service startup issues

chrony service may fail to start due to configuration errors or network connectivity problems.

#### PROCEDURE 35: RESOLVING NTP SERVICE PROBLEMS

1. Check chrony service status and logs:

```
> systemctl status chronyd.service
```

2. View detailed service logs:

```
> journalctl -u chronyd.service -f
```

3. Test chrony configuration:

```
> sudo chronyd -Q
```

4. Restart the service if needed:

```
> sudo systemctl restart chronyd.service
```

#### 10.5.2 Time synchronization failures

Time synchronization may fail due to network issues or incorrect server configuration.

#### PROCEDURE 36: DIAGNOSING TIME SYNCHRONIZATION ISSUES

1. Check the current synchronization status:

```
> chronyc tracking
```

2. View NTP source connectivity:

```
> chronyc sources -v
```

3. Force immediate synchronization:

```
> sudo chronyc makestep
```

4. Check system time against hardware clock:

```
> timedatectl status
```

5. Verify network connectivity to NTP servers:

```
> chronyc activity
```

### 10.5.3 Firewall and network issues

NTP traffic may be blocked by firewall rules, preventing time synchronization.

#### PROCEDURE 37: RESOLVING NTP NETWORK CONNECTIVITY

1. Check if NTP port is open in firewall:

```
> firewall-cmd --list-services | grep ntp
```

2. Add NTP service to firewall if needed:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=ntp
```

3. Reload firewall configuration:

```
> sudo firewall-cmd --reload
```

4. Test NTP connectivity manually:

```
> ntpdate -q pool.ntp.org
```

5. Check chrony port usage:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :123
```

## 10.6 Next steps

With NTP services configured, the PXE server and clients will maintain accurate time synchronization. This ensures proper certificate validation and coordinated system operations during network-based installations.

## 11 Configuring IPv6 router advertisement

This section describes how to configure IPv6 router advertisement functionality to provide adequate router advertisements for PXE clients. IPv6 RA enables IPv6 routing configuration and stateful DHCPv6 address automatic configuration for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations.

## 11.1 Introduction

IPv6 router advertisement (RA) provides essential network configuration information to PXE clients, including IPv6 routing and DHCPv6 address automatic configuration settings. This section assumes that an IPv6 router is configured to provide adequate router advertisements to configure IPv6 routing to the network and default route, and enable stateful DHCPv6 address automatic configuration using AdvManagedFlag on.

## 11.2 Requirements

- The radvd package installed
- IPv6 network configuration on the server interface
- Administrative privileges to configure router advertisement services

## 11.3 Configuring radvd for IPv6 router advertisement

The radvd service provides IPv6 router advertisement functionality using configuration defined in /etc/radvd.conf.

PROCEDURE 38: **SETTING UP radvd IPV6 ROUTER ADVERTISEMENT**

1. Configure the radvd service:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/radvd.conf << 'EOF'
interface en0
{
 # radvd options
 IgnoreIfMissing on; # Do not fail and exit when interface is
missed
 AdvSendAdvert on; # Sending RAs on the interface is not
disabled

 # Configuration settings

 AdvManagedFlag on; # Request IPv6 address and dns options via
DHCPv6
 AdvOtherConfigFlag off; # Request only dns info via DHCPv6, IP via
SLAAC

 AdvDefaultLifetime 1800; # Add default route via this router for
1800sec
```

```
 prefix 2001:db8:0:1::/64 # Add direct route for this local network/
prefix
{
 AdvAutonomous off; # Assign IPv6 address via SLAAC
 AdvValidLifetime 7200;
 AdvPreferredLifetime 3600;
}
};

EOF
```

2. Enable and start the radvd service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now radvd
```

## 11.4 Verifying IPv6 router advertisement

Test the IPv6 RA functionality to ensure proper configuration and operation.

### PROCEDURE 39: TESTING IPV6 ROUTER ADVERTISEMENT

1. Check radvd service status:

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

2. Review and verify IPv6 RA settings using radvdump

```
> radvdump
```

The radvdump utility displays IPv6 RA settings sent by the IPv6 router every few minutes.

## 11.5 Configuring IP forwarding for router functionality

If the PXE server also acts as a router, IP forwarding must be enabled to allow the system to function in a router role.

### PROCEDURE 40: ENABLING IP FORWARDING ON THE PXE SERVER

1. Create the network configuration file:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/sysctl.d/90-network.conf << 'EOF'
This machine is a router
net.ipv4.conf.all.forwarding = 1
net.ipv6.conf.all.forwarding = 1
EOF
```

```
Accept host autoconf on router uplink
net.ipv6.conf.uplink.accept_ra = 2
EOF
```

2. Apply the network configuration settings:

```
> sudo sysctl -p /etc/sysctl.d/90-network.conf
```



## Note: Router configuration considerations

A router does not process IPv6 RAs for host automatic configuration by default. To accept IPv6 RA on a router uplink interface, the `accept_ra = 2` sysctl setting is required. Consult the Network Configuration section in the Administration Guide for further details on router configuration, including firewall adjustments and other required steps.

## 11.6 Troubleshooting IPv6 router advertisement

Common issues when configuring IPv6 router advertisement for PXE environments.

### 11.6.1 radvd service issues

The `radvd` service may fail to start due to configuration errors or interface problems.

#### PROCEDURE 41: RESOLVING radvd SERVICE PROBLEMS

1. Check `radvd` service status and logs:

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

2. View detailed service logs:

```
> journalctl -u radvd -f
```

3. Test `radvd` configuration syntax:

```
> sudo radvd -C /etc/radvd.conf
```

4. Check if the specified interface exists:

```
> ip link show eno1
```

5. Restart the service after fixing configuration:

```
> sudo systemctl restart radvd
```

## 11.6.2 IP forwarding configuration issues

Incorrect IP forwarding settings can prevent proper router functionality.

### PROCEDURE 42: DIAGNOSING IP FORWARDING PROBLEMS

1. Check current IP forwarding status:

```
> sysctl net.ipv4.conf.all.forwarding
```

2. Check IPv6 forwarding status:

```
> sysctl net.ipv6.conf.all.forwarding
```

3. Verify sysctl configuration file:

```
> cat /etc/sysctl.d/90-network.conf
```

4. Apply configuration if values are incorrect:

```
> sudo sysctl -p /etc/sysctl.d/90-network.conf
```

5. Check accept\_ra setting on uplink interface:

```
> sysctl net.ipv6.conf.uplink.accept_ra
```

## 11.6.3 Router advertisement reception issues

Clients may not receive or process IPv6 router advertisements correctly.

### PROCEDURE 43: TROUBLESHOOTING RA RECEPTION PROBLEMS

1. Monitor router advertisements using radvdump:

```
> radvdump -d
```

2. Check IPv6 interface configuration on clients:

```
> ip -6 addr show
```

3. Verify IPv6 routing table on clients:

```
> ip -6 route show
```

4. Test IPv6 connectivity to the router:

```
> ping6 2001:db8:0:1::1
```

5. Check firewall rules for ICMPv6:

```
> firewall-cmd --list-protocols | grep ipv6-icmp
```

## 11.7 Next steps

With IPv6 router advertisement configured, PXE clients can receive a proper IPv6 network configuration. This enables DHCPv6 functionality and IPv6 connectivity for network-based installations.

# 12 Configuring a DHCP server using dnsmasq

This section explains how to configure DHCP services using dnsmasq to provide network configuration and PXE boot information for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations. The dnsmasq DHCP server uses tag-based configuration to support both IPv4 and IPv6 PXE clients with UEFI and BIOS boot capabilities.

## 12.1 Introduction

The dnsmasq DHCP server provides network configuration and boot file information to PXE clients using a tag-based system to match client types and provide appropriate bootloaders. This configuration supports both PXEClient and HTTPClient matches that work for DHCPv4 and DHCPv6, enabling boot via UEFI and BIOS systems across multiple architectures.



### Important: HTTPClient limitations in dnsmasq

dnsmasq version 2.90 and earlier does not support sending the vendor-class option6:16 back to DHCPv6 clients for HTTPClient configurations. For full HTTPClient support, consider using Kea or ISC DHCP servers.

## 12.2 Requirements

- The `dnsmasq` package installed
- PXE boot files properly organized under `/srv/tftpboot`
- Network interface configured for DHCP service
- Administrative privileges to configure DHCP services

## 12.3 Configuring dnsmasq DHCP services

The dnsmasq DHCP configuration includes client type matching, network ranges, and boot file assignments for both IPv4 and IPv6 networks.

### PROCEDURE 44: SETTING UP DNSMASQ DHCP SERVER

1. Create the DHCP configuration file for dnsmasq:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf << 'EOF'
DHCP configuration file for dnsmasq

Log DHCP processing
log-dhcp

This is the only DHCP server, don't ignore unknown clients/send NAK
dhcp-authoritative

Disable re-use of the DHCPv4 servername and filename fields as extra
option space, which may confuse old or broken clients
dhcp-no-override

IPv4 PXE/HTTP boot client matches (no enterprise number)
Match client type in PXEClient:Arch and map to a tag
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_bios_x86_pc,PXEClient:Arch:00000
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_uefi_x86_64,PXEClient:Arch:00007
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_ieee_ppc_64,PXEClient:Arch:0000e
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_uefi_arm_64,PXEClient:Arch:00011
Match client type in HTTPClient:Arch and map to a tag
dhcp-vendorclass=set:http_uefi_x86_64,HTTPClient:Arch:00016
dhcp-vendorclass=set:http_uefi_arm_64,HTTPClient:Arch:00019

IPv6 PXE/HTTP boot client matches (enterprise:343 intel)
Match client type in PXEClient:Arch and map to a tag
```

```
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_bios_x86_pc,enterprise:343,PXEClient:Arch:00000
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_uefi_x86_64,enterprise:343,PXEClient:Arch:00007
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_ieee_ppc_64,enterprise:343,PXEClient:Arch:0000e
dhcp-vendorclass=set:tftp_uefi_arm_64,enterprise:343,PXEClient:Arch:00011
Match client type in HTTPClient:Arch and map to a tag
dhcp-vendorclass=set:http_uefi_x86_64,enterprise:343,HTTPClient:Arch:00016
dhcp-vendorclass=set:http_uefi_arm_64,enterprise:343,HTTPClient:Arch:00019
EOF
```

## 2. Configure IPv4 DHCP range and options:

```
> sudo cat >> /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf << 'EOF'

IPv4 range and options
dhcp-range=set:net0v4,192.168.1.100,192.168.1.199,255.255.255.0,1h
dhcp-option=tag:net0v4,option:domain-search,example.net
dhcp-option=tag:net0v4,option:dns-server,192.168.1.200
dhcp-option=tag:net0v4,option:ntp-server,192.168.1.1
dhcp-option=tag:net0v4,option:router,192.168.1.1
EOF
```

## 3. Configure IPv4 PXE boot options:

```
> sudo cat >> /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf << 'EOF'

IPv4 PXEClient boot
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:tftp_bios_x86_pc,/boot/grub2/i386-pc/core.0,192.168.1.200
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:tftp_uefi_x86_64,/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
bootx64.efi,192.168.1.200
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:tftp_ieee_ppc_64,/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275/
core.elf,192.168.1.200
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:tftp_uefi_arm_64,/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/
bootaa64.efi,192.168.1.200

IPv4 HTTPClient boot
dhcp-option-force=tag:net0v4,tag:http_uefi_x86_64,option:vendor-class,HTTPClient
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:http_uefi_x86_64,http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/x86_64-
efi/bootx64.efi
dhcp-option-force=tag:net0v4,tag:http_uefi_arm_64,option:vendor-class,HTTPClient
dhcp-boot=tag:net0v4,tag:http_uefi_arm_64,http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/
bootaa64.efi
EOF
```

## 4. Configure IPv6 DHCP range and options:

```
> sudo cat >> /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf << 'EOF'
```

```
IPv6 range and options
dhcp-range=set:net0v6,2001:db8:0:1:d::,2001:db8:0:1:d::ffff,64,1h
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,option6:domain-search,example.net
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,option6:dns-server,[2001:db8:0:1::200]
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,option6:sntp-server,[2001:db8:0:1::1]
EOF
```

## 5. Configure IPv6 PXE boot options:

```
> sudo cat >> /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf << 'EOF'

IPv6 PXEClient boot
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,tag:tftp bios_x86_pc,option6:bootfile-url,tftp://
[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/i386-pc/core.0
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,tag:tftp uefi_x86_64,option6:bootfile-url,tftp://
[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,tag:tftp ieee_ppc_64,option6:bootfile-url,tftp://
[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275/core.elf
dhcp-option>tag:net0v6,tag:tftp uefi_arm_64,option6:bootfile-url,tftp://
[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi

IPv6 HTTPClient boot
Note: dnsmasq <= 2.90 does not support sending vendor-class option6:16 back to
client
EOF
```

## 6. Test the dnsmasq configuration:

```
> sudo dnsmasq --test
```

## 7. Enable and start the dnsmasq service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now dnsmasq
```

## 12.4 Verifying DHCP configuration

Test the DHCP server functionality to ensure proper network configuration and boot file delivery to PXE clients.

### PROCEDURE 45: TESTING DNSMASQ DHCP SERVER

#### 1. Check dnsmasq service status:

```
> systemctl status dnsmasq
```

- Verify DHCP port binding:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :67
```

- Monitor DHCP lease assignments:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq -f
```

- Check active DHCP leases:

```
> cat /var/lib/dhcp/dhcpd.leases
```

## 12.5 Troubleshooting dnsmasq DHCP configuration

Common issues when configuring dnsmasq for DHCP services in PXE environments.

### 12.5.1 Service startup and configuration issues

dnsmasq may fail to start due to configuration errors or port conflicts with other DHCP services.

#### PROCEDURE 46: RESOLVING DNSMASQ DHCP SERVICE PROBLEMS

- Test dnsmasq configuration syntax:

```
> sudo dnsmasq --test
```

- Check for DHCP port conflicts:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :67
```

- Stop conflicting DHCP services:

```
> sudo systemctl stop dhcpcd
```

- View detailed service logs:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq -f
```

- Restart dnsmasq after resolving conflicts:

```
> sudo systemctl restart dnsmasq
```

## 12.5.2 DHCP lease assignment problems

Clients may fail to receive IP addresses due to range configuration or network connectivity issues.

### PROCEDURE 47: DIAGNOSING DHCP LEASE ISSUES

1. Check DHCP range configuration:

```
> grep dhcp-range /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

2. Monitor DHCP requests in real-time:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq -f | grep DHCP
```

3. Check network interface status:

```
> ip addr show
```

4. Verify DHCP authoritative setting:

```
> grep dhcp-authoritative /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

5. Test DHCP response with dhcpping:

```
> dhcpping -s 192.168.1.200
```

## 12.5.3 PXE boot file delivery issues

PXE clients may receive IP addresses but fail to boot due to incorrect boot file configuration or client type matching problems.

### PROCEDURE 48: TROUBLESHOOTING PXE BOOT CONFIGURATION

1. Check client vendor class matching:

```
> grep dhcp-vendorclass /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

2. Verify boot file paths:

```
> grep dhcp-boot /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

3. Test TFTP access to boot files:

```
> tftp 192.168.1.200 -c get /boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

4. Monitor PXE-specific DHCP logs:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq | grep -E "PXE|HTTP"
```

5. Check tag assignment in logs:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq | grep "tags:"
```

#### 12.5.4 IPv6 DHCP configuration issues

IPv6 DHCP clients require proper router advertisement configuration and may have different addressing requirements than IPv4.

##### PROCEDURE 49: RESOLVING IPV6 DHCP PROBLEMS

1. Verify IPv6 DHCP range configuration:

```
> grep "2001:db8" /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

2. Check IPv6 router advertisement status:

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

3. Monitor DHCPv6 requests:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq | grep "DHCPv6"
```

4. Test IPv6 connectivity:

```
> ping6 2001:db8:0:1::200
```

5. Check IPv6 option configuration:

```
> grep option6 /etc/dnsmasq.d/dhcp.conf
```

#### 12.6 Next steps

With dnsmasq DHCP services configured, PXE clients can receive network configuration and boot file information for both IPv4 and IPv6 environments. The tag-based system provides flexible boot file assignment based on client architecture and boot method requirements.

# 13 Configuring a DHCP server using Kea

This section explains how to configure DHCP services using Kea to provide network configuration and PXE boot information for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations. Kea is a modern DHCP server that supports both IPv4 and IPv6 with client class matching for PXE and HTTP boot scenarios.

## 13.1 Introduction

Kea is the modern DHCP server developed by ISC as the successor to the legacy ISC DHCP server. It provides robust support for both DHCPv4 and DHCPv6 with client classification capabilities that enable proper boot file delivery based on client architecture and boot method. Kea uses JSON-based configuration files and supports advanced features like vendor class identification for HTTP boot.

## 13.2 Requirements

- Kea DHCP packages installed: `kea-dhcp4` and `kea-dhcp6`
- PXE boot files properly organized under `/srv/tftpboot`
- Network interface configured for DHCP service
- Administrative privileges to configure DHCP services

## 13.3 Configuring the Kea DHCPv4 server

The Kea DHCPv4 configuration uses client classes to match PXE and HTTP client types and provide appropriate boot files for different architectures.

### PROCEDURE 50: SETTING UP KEA DHCPV4 SERVER

1. Configure the Kea DHCPv4 server:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf << 'EOF'
{
 "Dhcp4": {
 "interfaces-config": {
 "interfaces": [
 "en0"
]
 }
 }
}
EOF
```

```

},
"control-socket": {
 "socket-type": "unix",
 "socket-name": "/tmp/kea4-ctrl-socket"
},
"lease-database": {
 "type": "memfile",
 "persist": true,
 "name": "/var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases",
 "lfc-interval": 3600
},
"expired-leases-processing": {
 "reclaim-timer-wait-time": 10,
 "flush-reclaimed-timer-wait-time": 25,
 "hold-reclaimed-time": 3600,
 "max-reclaim-leases": 100,
 "max-reclaim-time": 250,
 "unwarned-reclaim-cycles": 5
},
"renew-timer": 1800,
"rebind-timer": 3150,
"valid-lifetime": 3600,
"option-data": [],
"client-classes": [
{
 "name": "pxeclients#00000",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00000'",
 "next-server": "192.168.1.200",
 "boot-file-name": "/boot/grub2/i386-pc/core.0"
},
{
 "name": "pxeclients#00007",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00007'",
 "next-server": "192.168.1.200",
 "boot-file-name": "/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi"
},
{
 "name": "pxeclients#0000e",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:0000e'",
 "next-server": "192.168.1.200",
 "boot-file-name": "/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275/core.elf"
},
{
 "name": "pxeclients#00011",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00011'",
 "next-server": "192.168.1.200",
 "boot-file-name": "/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi"
}
]
}

```

```

},
{
 "name": "httpclients#00016",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,21) == 'HTTPClient:Arch:00016''",
 "boot-file-name": "http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi",
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "vendor-class-identifier",
 "data": "HTTPClient"
 }
]
},
{
 "name": "httpclients#00019",
 "test": "substring(option[60].hex,0,21) == 'HTTPClient:Arch:00019''",
 "boot-file-name": "http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi",
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "vendor-class-identifier",
 "data": "HTTPClient"
 }
]
},
"subnet4": [
 {
 "id": 1,
 "subnet": "192.168.1.0/24",
 "pools": [
 {
 "pool": "192.168.1.100 - 192.168.1.199"
 }
],
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "routers",
 "data": "192.168.1.1"
 },
 {
 "name": "ntp-servers",
 "data": "192.168.1.1"
 },
 {
 "name": "domain-name-servers",
 "data": "192.168.1.200"
 },
 {

```

```

 "name": "domain-search",
 "data": "example.net"
 },
],
"reservations": []
},
],
"loggers": [
{
 "name": "kea-dhcp4",
 "output-options": [
 {
 "output": "/var/log/kea/dhcp4.log"
 }
],
 "severity": "INFO",
 "debuglevel": 0
}
]
}
EOF

```

2. Create the Kea log directory:

```
> sudo mkdir -p /var/log/kea
```

3. Test the Kea DHCPv4 configuration:

```
> sudo kea-dhcp4 -t /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

4. Enable and start the Kea DHCPv4 service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now kea-dhcp4
```

## 13.4 Configuring Kea DHCPv6 server

The Kea DHCPv6 configuration provides IPv6 address assignment and boot file information using vendor class matching for different client architectures.

### PROCEDURE 51: SETTING UP KEA DHCPV6 SERVER

1. Configure the Kea DHCPv6 server:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/kea/kea-dhcp6.conf << 'EOF'
```

```
{
 "Dhcp6": {
 "interfaces-config": {
 "interfaces": [
 "en0"
],
 "control-socket": {
 "socket-type": "unix",
 "socket-name": "/tmp/kea6-ctrl-socket"
 },
 "lease-database": {
 "type": "memfile",
 "persist": true,
 "name": "/var/lib/kea/dhcp6.leases",
 "lfc-interval": 3600
 },
 "expired-leases-processing": {
 "reclaim-timer-wait-time": 10,
 "flush-reclaimed-timer-wait-time": 25,
 "hold-reclaimed-time": 3600,
 "max-reclaim-leases": 100,
 "max-reclaim-time": 250,
 "unwarned-reclaim-cycles": 5
 },
 "renew-timer": 1800,
 "rebind-timer": 2880,
 "preferred-lifetime": 3600,
 "valid-lifetime": 7200,
 "option-data": [],
 "option-def": [],
 "client-classes": [
 {
 "name": "pxeclients#00000",
 "test": "substring(option[16].hex,6,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00000'",
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "bootfile-url",
 "data": "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/i386-pc/core.0"
 }
]
 },
 {
 "name": "pxeclients#00007",
 "test": "substring(option[16].hex,6,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00007'",
 "option-data": [
 {

```

```

 "name": "bootfile-url",
 "data": "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi"
 }
]
},
{
 "name": "pxeclients#0000e",
 "test": "substring(option[16].hex,6,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:0000e'",
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "bootfile-url",
 "data": "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275/
core.elf"
 }
]
},
{
 "name": "pxeclients#00011",
 "test": "substring(option[16].hex,6,20) == 'PXEClient:Arch:00011'",
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "bootfile-url",
 "data": "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi"
 }
]
},
],
"subnet6": [
 {
 "id": 1,
 "subnet": "2001:db8:0:1::/64",
 "interface": "en01",
 "pools": [
 {
 "pool": "2001:db8:0:1:d::/112"
 }
],
 "option-data": [
 {
 "name": "ntp-servers",
 "data": "2001:db8:0:1::1"
 },
 {
 "name": "dns-servers",
 "data": "2001:db8:0:1::200"
 },
 {

```

```
 "name": "domain-search",
 "data": "example.net"
 },
],
"reservations": []
},
"loggers": [
{
 "name": "kea-dhcp6",
 "output-options": [
 {
 "output": "/var/log/kea/dhcp6.log"
 }
],
 "severity": "INFO",
 "debuglevel": 0
}
]
}
EOF
```

2. Test the Kea DHCPv6 configuration:

```
> sudo kea-dhcp6 -t /etc/kea/kea-dhcp6.conf
```

3. Enable and start the Kea DHCPv6 service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now kea-dhcp6
```

## 13.5 Verifying Kea DHCP configuration

Test the Kea DHCP server functionality to ensure proper network configuration and boot file delivery to PXE clients.

### PROCEDURE 52: TESTING KEA DHCP SERVERS

1. Check Kea DHCPv4 service status:

```
> systemctl status kea-dhcp4
```

2. Check Kea DHCPv6 service status:

```
> systemctl status kea-dhcp6
```

3. Verify DHCP port binding:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep -E ":67|:547"
```

4. Monitor DHCPv4 logs:

```
> tail -f /var/log/kea/dhcp4.log
```

5. Monitor DHCPv6 logs:

```
> tail -f /var/log/kea/dhcp6.log
```

6. Check active DHCP leases:

```
> cat /var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases
```

## 13.6 Troubleshooting Kea DHCP configuration

Common issues when configuring Kea DHCP servers for PXE boot environments.

### 13.6.1 Configuration and service issues

Kea services may fail to start due to JSON configuration errors or network interface problems.

#### PROCEDURE 53: RESOLVING KEA CONFIGURATION PROBLEMS

1. Test DHCPv4 configuration syntax:

```
> sudo kea-dhcp4 -t /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

2. Test DHCPv6 configuration syntax:

```
> sudo kea-dhcp6 -t /etc/kea/kea-dhcp6.conf
```

3. Check for JSON syntax errors:

```
> python3 -m json.tool /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

4. Verify network interface configuration:

```
> ip addr show eno1
```

5. Check Kea service logs:

```
> journalctl -u kea-dhcp4 -f
```

### 13.6.2 DHCP lease assignment problems

Clients may fail to receive IP addresses due to subnet configuration or pool exhaustion issues.

#### PROCEDURE 54: DIAGNOSING KEA LEASE ISSUES

1. Check subnet and pool configuration:

```
> grep -A 10 "subnet4\|pools" /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

2. Monitor lease assignments in real-time:

```
> tail -f /var/log/kea/dhcp4.log | grep -E "ALLOC|DISCOVER"
```

3. Check lease database for conflicts:

```
> cat /var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases | tail -20
```

4. Verify interface binding:

```
> grep interfaces /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

5. Clear lease database if needed:

```
> sudo systemctl stop kea-dhcp4
```

```
> sudo mv /var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases /var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases.backup
```

```
> sudo systemctl start kea-dhcp4
```

### 13.6.3 PXE client class matching issues

PXE clients may receive IP addresses but fail to get correct boot files due to client class configuration problems.

## PROCEDURE 55: TROUBLESHOOTING KEA CLIENT CLASSIFICATION

1. Check client class definitions:

```
> grep -A 5 "client-classes" /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

2. Monitor client class matching in logs:

```
> tail -f /var/log/kea/dhcp4.log | grep -i class
```

3. Verify vendor class identifier patterns:

```
> grep "PXEClient\|HTTPClient" /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

4. Test boot file accessibility:

```
> curl -I http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

5. Enable debug logging for detailed client analysis:

```
> sudo sed -i 's/"debuglevel": 0/"debuglevel": 99/' /etc/kea/kea-dhcp4.conf
```

```
> sudo systemctl restart kea-dhcp4
```

### 13.6.4 DHCPv6 specific issues

IPv6 DHCP clients require proper router advertisement configuration and have different vendor class option handling than IPv4.

## PROCEDURE 56: RESOLVING KEA DHCPV6 PROBLEMS

1. Check DHCPv6 subnet configuration:

```
> grep -A 10 "subnet6" /etc/kea/kea-dhcp6.conf
```

2. Verify IPv6 router advertisement status:

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

3. Monitor DHCPv6 vendor class matching:

```
> tail -f /var/log/kea/dhcp6.log | grep "option\[16\]"
```

4. Check IPv6 bootfile-url option format:

```
> grep "bootfile-url" /etc/kea/kea-dhcp6.conf
```

5. Test IPv6 connectivity to boot server:

```
> ping6 2001:db8:0:1::200
```

## 13.7 Next steps

With Kea DHCP services configured, PXE clients can receive comprehensive network configuration and boot file information for both IPv4 and IPv6 environments. The client classification system provides precise boot file assignment based on client architecture and supports both traditional PXE and modern HTTP boot methods.

# 14 Configuring a DHCP server using ISC DHCP

This section explains how to configure the ISC DHCP server to provide network configuration and PXE boot information for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 installations. The ISC dhcp-server package is not available on SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 anymore. ISC DHCP uses class and subclass matching to support PXE and HTTP boot scenarios across different client architectures.

## 14.1 Introduction

ISC DHCP is the traditional DHCP server that provides network configuration and boot file information to PXE clients using a class and subclass system. While ISC has declared this server end-of-life as of 2022, it remains widely used in existing deployments and provides robust support for PXE and HTTP boot scenarios with vendor class identification.

### Important: ISC DHCP end-of-life status

ISC DHCP has been declared end-of-life by ISC in 2022. For new deployments, consider using Kea or dnsmasq instead. This configuration is provided for compatibility with existing ISC DHCP installations.

## 14.2 Requirements

- ISC DHCP packages installed: `dhcp-server`
- PXE boot files properly organized under `/srv/tftpboot`
- Network interface configured for DHCP service
- Administrative privileges to configure DHCP services

## 14.3 Configuring the ISC DHCPv4 server

The ISC DHCPv4 configuration uses class and subclass declarations to match PXE and HTTP client types and provide appropriate boot files for different architectures.

### PROCEDURE 57: SETTING UP ISC DHCPV4 SERVER

1. Configure the ISC DHCPv4 server:

```
> sudo cat > /etc/dhcpd.conf << 'EOF'
/etc/dhcpd.conf
#
Sample configuration file for ISC dhcpcd
#
*** PLEASE CONFIGURE IT FIRST ***
#
Don't forget to set the DHCPPD_INTERFACE in the
/etc/sysconfig/dhcpd file.
#
#
if you want to use dynamical DNS updates, you should first read
read /usr/share/doc/packages/dhcp-server/DDNS-howto.txt
#
ddns-updates off;

Use this to enable / disable dynamic dns updates globally.
ddns-update-style none;

default lease time
default-lease-time 3600;
max-lease-time 7200;

##
PXE / HTTP boot option declarations
##
class "pxeclients" {
```

```

PXEClient:Arch:00000:UNDI:002001
 match substring (option vendor-class-identifier, 0, 20);
}

class "httpclients" {
 # HTTPClient:Arch:00016:UNDI:003001
 match substring (option vendor-class-identifier, 0, 21);
}

PXE / HTTP boot subclass request matches
##
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00000" {
 next-server 192.168.1.200;
 filename "/boot/grub2/i386-pc/core.0";
}
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00007" {
 next-server 192.168.1.200;
 filename "/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi";
}
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:0000e" {
 next-server 192.168.1.200;
 filename "/boot/grub2/powerpc-ieee1275/core.elf";
}
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00011" {
 next-server 192.168.1.200;
 filename "/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi";
}

subclass "httpclients" "HTTPClient:Arch:00016" {
 option vendor-class-identifier "HTTPClient";
 filename "http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi";
}
subclass "httpclients" "HTTPClient:Arch:00019" {
 option vendor-class-identifier "HTTPClient";
 filename "http://192.168.1.200/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/bootaa64.efi";
}

##
Subnet declaration for the pxe network
##
subnet 192.168.1.0 netmask 255.255.255.0 {
 authoritative;

 range dynamic-bootp 192.168.1.100 192.168.1.199;

 option subnet-mask 255.255.255.0;
}

```

```

 option routers 192.168.1.1;
 option ntp-servers 192.168.1.1;
 option domain-name-servers 192.168.1.200;
 option domain-name "example.net";
 option domain-search "example.net";

 }
EOF

```

- Configure the DHCP interface in sysconfig:

```
> sudo echo 'DHCPD_INTERFACE="eno1"' > /etc/sysconfig/dhcpd
```

- Test the DHCPv4 configuration:

```
> sudo dhcpcd -t -cf /etc/dhcpcd.conf
```

- Enable and start the ISC DHCPv4 service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now dhcpcd
```

## 14.4 Configuring the ISC DHCPv6 server

The ISC DHCPv6 configuration provides IPv6 address assignment and boot file information using vendor class matching with proper DHCPv6 option handling.

### PROCEDURE 58: SETTING UP ISC DHCPV6 SERVER

- Configure the ISC DHCPv6 server:

```

> sudo cat > /etc/dhcpcd6.conf << 'EOF'
/etc/dhcpcd6.conf
#
Sample DHCPv6 configuration file for ISC dhcpcd
#
*** PLEASE CONFIGURE IT FIRST ***
#
Don't forget to set the DHCPD6_INTERFACE in the
/etc/sysconfig/dhcpcd file.
#
#
if you want to use dynamical DNS updates, you should first
read /usr/share/doc/packages/dhcp-server/DDNS-howto.txt
ddns-updates off;

Use this to enable / disable dynamic dns updates globally.

```

```

ddns-update-style none;

IPv6 address valid lifetime
(at the end the address is no longer usable by the client)
(set to 30 days, the usual IPv6 default)
default-lease-time 7200;

IPv6 address preferred lifetime
(at the end the address is deprecated, i.e., the client should use
other addresses for new connections)
(set to 7 days, the usual IPv6 default)
preferred-lifetime 3600;

##

PXE / HTTP boot option declarations
##

The dhcp6 option 16 is in fact an:
{ uint32 enterprise-number, array of { uint16 len, string tag} vendor-class-
data }
this declaration is using the whole option data as string for substring match:
option dhcp6.vendor-class-as-string code 16 = string;

this declaration is using the enterprise-number with 1st tag length and string:
option dhcp6.vendor-class-en-len-tag code 16 = {integer 32, integer 16, string};

class "pxeclients" {
 # PXEClient:Arch:00000:UNDI:002001
 # note: +6 to skip the enterprise-number+len until the PXEClient string
 match substring (option dhcp6.vendor-class-as-string, 6, 20);
}

class "httpclients" {
 # HTTPClient:Arch:00016:UNDI:003001
 # note: +6 to skip the enterprise-number+len until the HTTPClient string
 match substring (option dhcp6.vendor-class-as-string, 6, 21);
}

##

PXE / HTTP boot subclass request matches
##
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00000" {
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/i386-pc/
core.0";
}
subclass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00007" {
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
bootx64.efi";
}

```

```

}
subklass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:0000e" {
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/powerpc-
ieee1275/core.elf";
}
subklass "pxeclients" "PXEClient:Arch:00011" {
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "tftp://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/
bootaa64.efi";
}

subklass "httpclients" "HTTPClient:Arch:00016" {
 option dhcp6.vendor-class-en-len-tag 343 10 "HTTPClient";
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "http://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
bootx64.efi";
}
subklass "httpclients" "HTTPClient:Arch:00019" {
 option dhcp6.vendor-class-en-len-tag 343 10 "HTTPClient";
 option dhcp6.bootfile-url "http://[2001:db8:0:1::200]/boot/grub2/arm64-efi/
bootaa64.efi";
}

##
Subnet declaration for the pxe network
##
subnet6 2001:db8:0:1::/64 {
 authoritative;

 range6 2001:db8:0:1:d:: 2001:db8:0:1:d::ffff;

 option dhcp6.sntp-servers 2001:db8:0:1::1;
 option dhcp6.name-servers 2001:db8:0:1::200;
 option dhcp6.domain-search "example.net";
}
EOF

```

- Configure the DHCPv6 interface in sysconfig:

```
> sudo echo 'DHCPD6_INTERFACE="eno1"' >> /etc/sysconfig/dhcpd
```

- Test the DHCPv6 configuration:

```
> sudo dhcpcd -6 -t -cf /etc/dhcpd6.conf
```

- Enable and start the ISC DHCPv6 service:

```
> sudo systemctl enable --now dhcpcd6
```

## 14.5 Verifying the ISC DHCP configuration

Test the ISC DHCP server functionality to ensure proper network configuration and boot file delivery to PXE clients.

### PROCEDURE 59: TESTING ISC DHCP SERVERS

1. Check ISC DHCPv4 service status:

```
> systemctl status dhcpcd
```

2. Check ISC DHCPv6 service status:

```
> systemctl status dhcpcd6
```

3. Verify DHCP port binding:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep -E ":67|:547"
```

4. Monitor DHCP logs:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd -f
```

5. Check active DHCP leases:

```
> cat /var/lib/dhcp/dhcpd.leases
```

6. Monitor DHCPv6 activity:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd6 -f
```

## 14.6 Troubleshooting ISC DHCP configuration

Common issues when configuring ISC DHCP servers for PXE boot environments.

### 14.6.1 Configuration and service issues

ISC DHCP services may fail to start due to configuration syntax errors or interface binding problems.

### PROCEDURE 60: RESOLVING ISC DHCP CONFIGURATION PROBLEMS

1. Test DHCPv4 configuration syntax:

```
> sudo dhcpcd -t -cf /etc/dhcpcd.conf
```

2. Test DHCPv6 configuration syntax:

```
> sudo dhcpcd -6 -t -cf /etc/dhcpd6.conf
```

3. Check interface configuration:

```
> cat /etc/sysconfig/dhcpcd
```

4. Verify network interface status:

```
> ip addr show eno1
```

5. Check for port conflicts:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :67
```

6. View detailed service logs:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd -xe
```

## 14.6.2 DHCP lease assignment problems

Clients may fail to receive IP addresses due to subnet configuration or authorization issues.

### PROCEDURE 61: DIAGNOSING ISC DHCP LEASE ISSUES

1. Check subnet and range configuration:

```
> grep -A 10 "subnet\|range" /etc/dhcpd.conf
```

2. Verify authoritative setting:

```
> grep authoritative /etc/dhcpd.conf
```

3. Monitor lease assignments in real time:

```
> tail -f /var/log/messages | grep dhcpcd
```

4. Check lease database for errors:

```
> tail -20 /var/lib/dhcp/dhcpd.leases
```

5. Test DHCP response manually:

```
> dhcpping -s 192.168.1.200 -h aa:bb:cc:dd:ee:ff
```

### 14.6.3 Class and subclass matching issues

PXE clients may receive IP addresses but fail to get correct boot files due to class matching configuration problems.

#### PROCEDURE 62: TROUBLESHOOTING ISC DHCP CLASS MATCHING

1. Check class definitions:

```
> grep -A 3 "class.*clients" /etc/dhcpd.conf
```

2. Verify subclass entries:

```
> grep -A 5 "subclass" /etc/dhcpd.conf
```

3. Monitor vendor class identification:

```
> tail -f /var/log/messages | grep -E "PXEClient|HTTPClient"
```

4. Test boot file accessibility:

```
> tftp 192.168.1.200 -c get /boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

5. Enable detailed logging:

```
> sudo sed -i 'li\log-facility local7;' /etc/dhcpd.conf
```

```
> sudo systemctl restart dhcpd
```

### 14.6.4 DHCPv6 vendor class option issues

IPv6 DHCP clients have complex vendor class option handling that may require specific configuration for proper PXE boot support.

#### PROCEDURE 63: RESOLVING ISC DHCPV6 PROBLEMS

1. Check DHCPv6 option definitions:

```
> grep -A 3 "option dhcp6" /etc/dhcpd6.conf
```

2. Verify vendor class string parsing:

```
> grep "substring.*6.*20\|21" /etc/dhcpd6.conf
```

3. Monitor DHCPv6 vendor class matching:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd6 | grep -i vendor
```

4. Check IPv6 bootfile-url format:

```
> grep "bootfile-url" /etc/dhcpcd6.conf
```

5. Verify router advertisement dependency:

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

6. Test IPv6 connectivity:

```
> ping6 2001:db8:0:1::200
```

## 14.7 Next steps

With ISC DHCP services configured, PXE clients can receive network configuration and boot file information using the traditional class and subclass system. While ISC DHCP is end-of-life, this configuration provides compatibility for existing deployments that require PXE and HTTP boot functionality across multiple client architectures.

# 15 Validating PXE server setup

This section describes how to validate and test the complete PXE server setup to ensure all components are working correctly for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 network installations. It covers service verification, network connectivity testing, and end-to-end PXE boot validation.

## 15.1 Introduction

After configuring all PXE server components, including TFTP, HTTP, DNS, DHCP, and GRUB 2 boot-loader services, it is essential to validate that the complete system functions correctly. This validation ensures that PXE clients can successfully boot into the Agama installer and perform network-based installations of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0.

## 15.2 Requirements

- All PXE server components configured and running
- Test client systems capable of PXE booting
- Network connectivity between the PXE server and clients
- Administrative access to monitor server services

## 15.3 Validating PXE server services

Verify that all essential PXE server services are running and properly configured before testing with PXE clients.

### PROCEDURE 64: CHECKING PXE SERVER SERVICE STATUS

1. Verify TFTP service status:

```
> systemctl status tftp.socket
```

Expected result: Service should be active and listening on port 69.

2. Check nginx HTTP service:

```
> systemctl status nginx
```

Expected result: Service should be active and listening on port 80.

3. Verify DNS service (if using dnsmasq):

```
> systemctl status dnsmasq
```

Expected result: Service should be active and listening on port 53.

4. Check DHCP service status (choose appropriate service):

```
> systemctl status dhcpcd
```

For dnsmasq DHCP:

```
> systemctl status dnsmasq
```

For Kea DHCP:

```
> systemctl status kea-dhcp4 kea-dhcp6
```

Expected result: DHCP service should be active and listening on appropriate ports.

5. Verify IPv6 router advertisement (if configured):

```
> systemctl status radvd
```

Expected result: Service should be active for IPv6 environments.

6. Check NTP service:

```
> systemctl status chronyd
```

Expected result: Service should be active and synchronized.

## 15.4 Testing network connectivity and file access

Validate that PXE clients can access boot files and installation content over the network using both TFTP and HTTP protocols.

### PROCEDURE 65: TESTING NETWORK FILE ACCESS

1. Test TFTP access to bootloader files:

```
> tftp localhost -c get /boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi /tmp/test-bootx64.efi
```

Verify the file was retrieved:

```
> file /tmp/test-bootx64.efi
```

Clean up test file:

```
> rm /tmp/test-bootx64.efi
```

2. Test HTTP access to GRUB 2 configuration:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/boot/grub2/grub.cfg
```

Expected result: HTTP 200 OK response.

3. Verify HTTP access to installer files:

```
> curl -I http://localhost/boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/liveiso/LiveOS/squashfs.img
```

Expected result: HTTP 200 OK response with appropriate content length.

4. Test DNS resolution (if local DNS configured):

```
> nslookup pxe.example.net localhost
```

Expected result: Proper A and AAAA record resolution.

5. Verify directory browsing for autoindex locations:

```
> curl http://localhost/boot/
```

Expected result: Directory listing showing boot files.

## 15.5 Validating DHCP functionality

Test DHCP server responses and verify that proper boot information is provided to different client types.

### PROCEDURE 66: TESTING DHCP SERVER RESPONSES

1. Check DHCP port binding:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep -E ":67|:547"
```

Expected result: DHCP services listening on ports 67 (IPv4) and 547 (IPv6).

2. Monitor DHCP requests in real-time:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd -f
```

Or for dnsmasq:

```
> journalctl -u dnsmasq -f
```

Leave this running to observe DHCP activity during testing.

3. Test DHCP response using dhcpping (if available):

```
> dhcpping -s 192.168.1.200
```

Expected result: Successful DHCP response from server.

4. Check active DHCP leases:

```
> cat /var/lib/dhcp/dhcpd.leases
```

Or for Kea:

```
> cat /var/lib/kea/dhcp4.leases
```

Expected result: Lease entries for test clients.

## 15.6 End-to-end PXE boot testing

Perform complete PXE boot tests with actual client systems to validate the entire boot process from DHCP to Agama installer startup.

### PROCEDURE 67: TESTING COMPLETE PXE BOOT PROCESS

1. Prepare a test client system:

- Configure BIOS/UEFI to enable network boot
- Set network boot as first boot priority
- Connect the client to the same network as PXE server

2. Monitor PXE server logs during client boot:

```
> journalctl -f | grep -E "dhcp|tftp|nginx"
```

3. Boot the test client and observe the following sequence:

1. Client should receive IP address via DHCP
2. Client should download bootloader via TFTP
3. GRUB 2 menu should appear with installation options
4. Kernel and initrd should load via HTTP
5. Agama installer should start successfully

4. Verify client architecture detection by testing different client types:

- Legacy BIOS x86\_64 systems (should get core.0)
- UEFI x86\_64 systems (should get bootx64.efi)
- UEFI aarch64 systems (should get bootaa64.efi)

5. Test IPv6 PXE boot (if IPv6 configured):

- Enable IPv6-only network configuration on test client
- Verify DHCPv6 address assignment
- Confirm IPv6 bootfile-url delivery

## 15.7 Validating Agama installer functionality

Verify that the Agama installer starts correctly and can access installation sources for completing SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations.

### PROCEDURE 68: TESTING AGAMA INSTALLER STARTUP

1. Verify Agama Web interface accessibility:

During client boot, note the IP address assigned and access:

```
http://CLIENT_IP_ADDRESS
```

Expected result: Agama Web interface should load successfully.

2. Check Agama installer logs on the client:

Switch to the console (Alt+F2) and run:

```
journalctl -u agama-web-server -f
```

Expected result: No critical errors in Agama startup.

3. Verify installation source accessibility:

For Full ISO installations, check repository access:

```
curl -I http://192.168.1.200/install/SLES-16.0/x86_64/
```

Expected result: HTTP 200 OK response with directory listing.

#### 4. Test package installation capability:

In Agama interface, verify that:

- The system can detect available disks
- Network configuration is preserved
- Package repository is accessible
- Installation can proceed to completion

## 15.8 Troubleshooting validation failures

Common issues during PXE server validation and their resolution steps.

### 15.8.1 DHCP assignment failures

Clients fail to receive IP addresses during PXE boot.

#### PROCEDURE 69: RESOLVING DHCP VALIDATION ISSUES

##### 1. Check DHCP service conflicts:

```
> ss -ulnp | grep :67
```

##### 2. Verify network interface is up:

```
> ip addr show eno1
```

##### 3. Check DHCP range availability:

```
> nmap -sn 192.168.1.100-199
```

##### 4. Monitor DHCP logs for errors:

```
> journalctl -u dhcpcd | tail -50
```

### 15.8.2 Boot file delivery failures

Clients receive IP addresses but fail to download boot files.

#### PROCEDURE 70: RESOLVING BOOT FILE ISSUES

1. Verify TFTP service accessibility:

```
> tftp 192.168.1.200 -c get /boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/bootx64.efi
```

2. Check file permissions:

```
> ls -la /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/x86_64-efi/
```

3. Monitor TFTP access logs:

```
> journalctl -u tftp.socket -f
```

4. Verify client architecture detection:

```
> grep -E "PXEClient|HTTPClient" /var/log/messages
```

### 15.8.3 Agama installer startup failures

Boot files load successfully but Agama installer fails to start.

#### PROCEDURE 71: RESOLVING AGAMA STARTUP ISSUES

1. Check HTTP access to installer files:

```
> curl -I http://192.168.1.200/boot/images/SLES-16.0/x86_64/liveiso/LiveOS/
squashfs.img
```

2. Verify kernel parameter syntax in GRUB 2 configuration:

```
> grep "root=live:" /srv/tftpboot/boot/grub2/menu.cfg
```

3. Monitor client boot process:

```
> journalctl -f | grep -E "kernel|initrd|agama"
```

4. Check network configuration persistence:

```
ip addr show
```

### 15.9 PXE server validation checklist

Use this checklist to systematically verify all aspects of your PXE server configuration.

TABLE 2: PXE SERVER VALIDATION CHECKLIST

| Component            | Validation Step                                             | Status                   |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| TFTP Service         | Service active, port 69 listening, files accessible         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HTTP Service         | nginx active, port 80 listening, installer files accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DNS Service          | Host name resolution working, port 53 listening             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DHCP Service         | IP assignment working, boot options delivered               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRUB 2 Configuration | Menu loads, architecture detection working                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| IPv6 Support         | Router advertisement active, DHCPv6 functioning             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| PXE Boot             | Client boots successfully, receives correct bootloader      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agama Installer      | Installer starts; Web interface accessible                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Installation Source  | Repository accessible, packages installable                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Network Persistence  | Network configuration maintained during installation        | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## 15.10 Validation conclusion

A properly validated PXE server should demonstrate successful end-to-end functionality from client network boot through Agama installer startup. All services should operate without errors, and clients should be able to complete SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 16.0 installations over the network. Regular validation testing ensures the continued reliability of the PXE infrastructure for automated deployments.

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