

Building a SUSE Linux distro

With SuseStudio and Kiwi

Revision	Author	Date	Description
0.01	D Snider	15/11/30	Initial Outline
0.02	D Snider	15/12/07	Added suseStudio sample session. Retest OpenSuse builds. Setup a git repo.
0.03	D Snider	15/12/08	Retest OpenSuse OEM build. Added testing screenshots.
0.04	D Snider	15/12/08	Added OpenSuse stick build.
0.05	D Snider	15/12/09	Added SLES 12 iso build.
0.06	D Snider	15/12/09	Retested setting OpenSuse build environment. Added screenshots.

Table of Contents

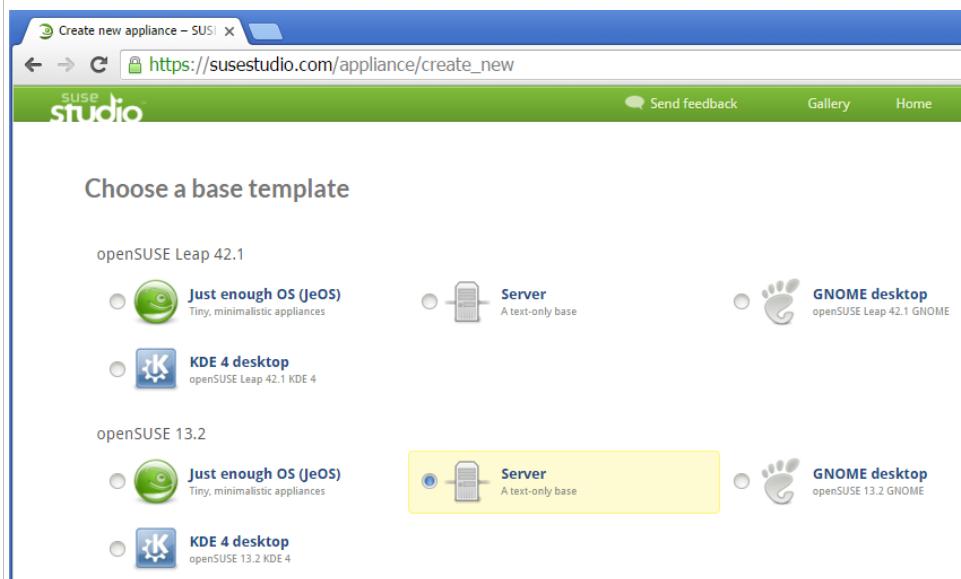
1. FIRST DISTRO WITH SUSESTUDIO.COM – OPENSUSE 13.2.....	3
1.1. ISO TESTING ON VMWARE WORKSTATION.....	6
2. REPRODUCING A SUSESTUDIO BUILD WITH KIWI.....	8
2.1. KIWI DOCUMENTATION.....	8
3. OS BUILDER ENVIRONMENT – OPENSUSE.....	9
3.1. REPOS/ISOs.....	9
3.2. OS INSTALL.....	9
3.3. KIWI INSTALLATION.....	13
4. OPENSUSE 13.2 ISO.....	14
<i>Build:</i>	14
<i>Test:</i>	14
5. OPENSUSE 13.2 STICK.....	16
<i>Build:</i>	16
<i>Test:</i>	17
6. SLES 12 ISO.....	19
<i>Build:</i>	19
<i>Test:</i>	19

NOTE: WHILE THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING REFINED, META INFORMATION WILL BE IN < BRACKETS > .

1. First distro with SuseStudio.com – OpenSUSE 13.2

Register and Login to susestudio.com.

Start with creating an openSUSE 13.2 server:



Scroll down and name the appliance:

Select your architecture

☐ 32-bit ☒ 64-bit

Name your appliance

openSUSE_13.2 This can be changed later


Create appliance

Select: Create appliance

The tabs further configure the new OS.

First there are the off the shelf RPMs that can be installed.

For now, the defaults are sufficient:



openSUSE_13.2
 64-bit x86, based on openSUSE 13.2
 200 MB download, 910 MB uncompressed

[Start](#)
[Software](#)
[Configuration](#)
[Files](#)
[Build](#)

Software information

0 patterns selected
24 packages selected
297 total packages


Software sources

[openSUSE 13.2 Updates](#) ,
 [openSUSE 13.2 OSS](#)
[Add repositories...](#)
[Upload RPMs...](#)

Selected software

Packages: [aaa_base](#), [branding-openSUSE](#), [e2fsprogs](#), [glibc-locale](#), [glibc-locale](#), [grub2](#), [gsettings-backend-dconf](#), [hwinfo](#),
[iputils](#), [kernel-default](#), [less](#), [netcfg](#), [openssh](#), [openSUSE-build-key](#), [patterns-openSUSE-base](#), [plymouth](#),
[polkit-default-privs](#), [rpcbind](#), [SuSEfirewall2](#), [syslog-ng](#), [timezone](#), [vim](#), [yast2](#), [yast2-firstboot](#), [zypper](#)
[Quick add...](#)

Select Configuration:
root password: 123456

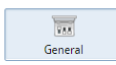
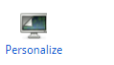

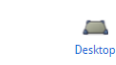
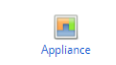




openSUSE_13.2
 64-bit x86, based on openSUSE 13.2
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[Start](#)
[Software](#)
[Configuration](#)
[Files](#)
[Build](#)

Software information

0 patterns selected
24 packages selected
297 total packages

 **General**
 Personalize
  Startup
  Server
  Desktop
  Appliance
  Scripts

Default locale

Language: [English \(US\)](#)
 Keyboard Layout: [English \(US\)](#)

Default time zone

Region: [Global](#)
 Time Zone: [UTC](#)

Network

☐ Do not configure network
☐ Configure network during first boot
☐ Use NetworkManager to configure the network at run-time
☒ Discover network settings automatically (DHCP)
☐ Manually configure network
 Note: Your appliance will always run DHCP in Testdrive.

Firewall

☒ Enable firewall
☒ Open SSH port (22)
☒ Open HTTP ports (80, 443)

Users and groups

Login	UID (optional)	Password	Group	Home directory	Shell
root	0	<input type="password" value="123456"/>	root	/root	/bin/bash

[Add new user...](#)

Select → Build tab

Default format: Live CD / DVD (.iso)

Select → Build

After the build finishes,

Select Download to test the iso file.

1.1. ISO testing on VMware Workstation

Under VMware workstation:

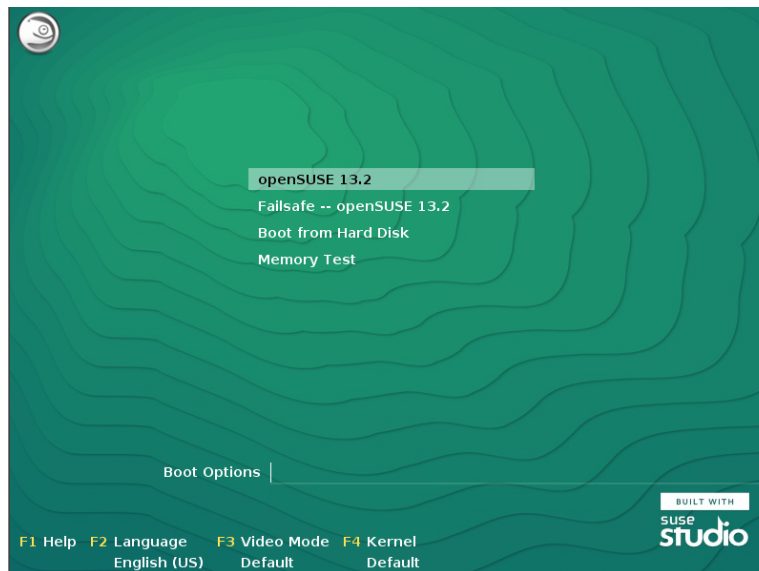
Select:

File→New Virtual Machine

Custom (advanced) configuration

Installer disk image file: <path/to>/openSUSE_13.2.x86_64.iso*

Select “power on this virtual machine”



The GRUB2 menu should show. Then go to a linux login:

```
Welcome to openSUSE 13.2 "Harlequin" – Kernel 3.16.7-29-default (tty1).  
  
linux login:
```

Getting to this point means the ISO build was successful.

Use the configured id: root/123456

Check network interface:

```
> ifconfig
eno167777 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0C:29:E8:23:44
   inet addr:192.168.17.139 Bcast:192.168.17.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
   inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fee8:2344/64 Scope:Link
   UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
   RX packets:57 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
   TX packets:48 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
   collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
   RX bytes:7101 (6.9 Kb) TX bytes:9609 (9.3 Kb)
```

SSH into this IP addr

Verify the OS build:

```
> cat /etc/os-release
NAME=opensuse
VERSION="13.2 (Harlequin)"
VERSION_ID="13.2"
PRETTY_NAME="opensuse 13.2 (Harlequin) (x86_64)"
ID=opensuse
ANSI_COLOR="0;32"
CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:opensuse:opensuse:13.2"
BUG_REPORT_URL="https://bugs.opensuse.org"
HOME_URL="https://opensuse.org/"
ID_LIKE="suse"
```

Check bundled RPMs:

```
> rpm -qa
...
```

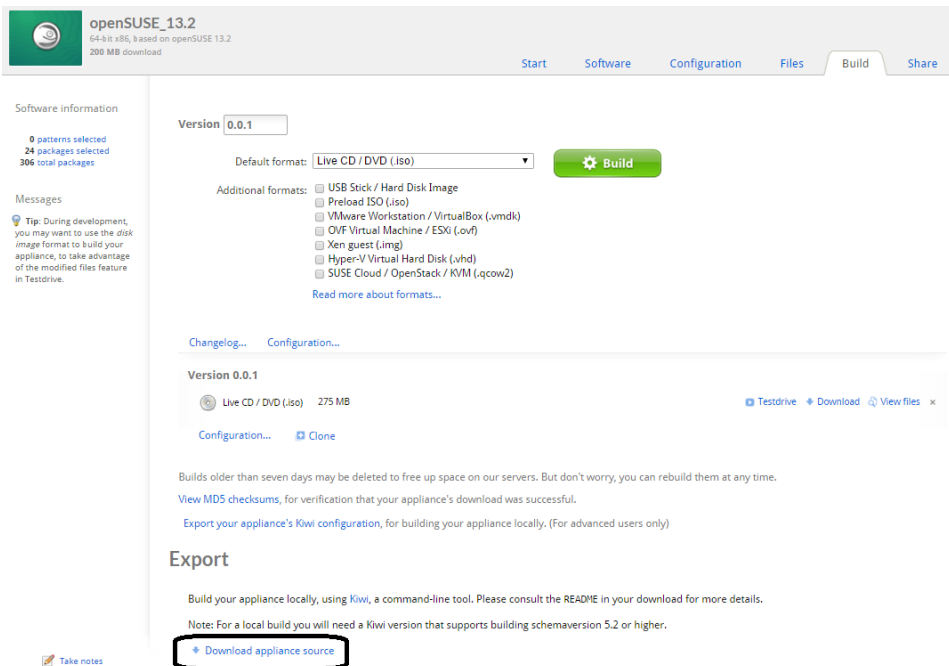
Shutdown the systemd way:

```
> systemctl halt
```


2. Reproducing a suseStudio build with KIWI

The backend of suseStudio is the KIWI imaging system: <https://github.com/openSUSE/kiwi>

And the corresponding configuration files can be downloaded from suseStudio.com:



Software information

0 patterns selected
24 packages selected
306 total packages

Messages

Tip: During development, you may want to use the disk image format to build your appliance, to take advantage of the modified files feature in Testdrive.

Version

Default format:

Additional formats:

- ☐ USB Stick / Hard Disk Image
- ☐ Preload ISO (iso)
- ☐ VMware Workstation / VirtualBox (.vmdk)
- ☐ OVF Virtual Machine / ESXi (.ovf)
- ☐ Xen guest (img)
- ☐ Hyper-V Virtual Hard Disk (.vhd)
- ☐ SUSE Cloud / OpenStack / KVM (.qcow2)

[Read more about formats...](#)

[Changelog...](#) [Configuration...](#)

Version 0.0.1

☐ Live CD / DVD (iso) 275 MB [Testdrive](#) [Download](#) [View files](#) x

[Configuration...](#) [Clone](#)

Builds older than seven days may be deleted to free up space on our servers. But don't worry, you can rebuild them at any time.

[View MD5 checksums](#), for verification that your appliance's download was successful.

[Export your appliance's Kiwi configuration](#), for building your appliance locally. (For advanced users only)

Export

Build your appliance locally, using [Kiwi](#), a command-line tool. Please consult the README in your download for more details.

Note: For a local build you will need a Kiwi version that supports building schemaversion 5.2 or higher.

[Download appliance source](#)

2.1. Kiwi documentation

A high level introduction: <https://www.suse.com/events/susecon/sessions/presentations/SUSECon-2012-TT1307.pdf>

The best general documentation is the Kiwi Cookbook:

html version: <https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/>

pdf version: <https://github.com/openSUSE/kiwi/blob/master/doc/kiwi.pdf>

After the kiwi RPMs are installed, there are a number of example config.xml files:

```
> rpm -ql 'kiwi-doc'
/usr/share/doc/packages/kiwi/kiwi.pdf
...
/usr/share/doc/packages/kiwi/examples/suse-13.2/suse-live-iso/config.xml

> rpm -ql 'kiwi-desc-oemboot'
...
/usr/share/kiwi/image/oemboot/suse-SLES12/config.xml
...

> rpm -ql 'kiwi-desc-isoooot'
...
/usr/share/kiwi/image/isoboot/suse-13.2/config.xml
```

3. OS Builder Environment – OpenSUSE

3.1. Repos/ISOs

Obtain the x86_64 ISO from the official site: <http://download.opensuse.org/distribution/13.2/iso/>

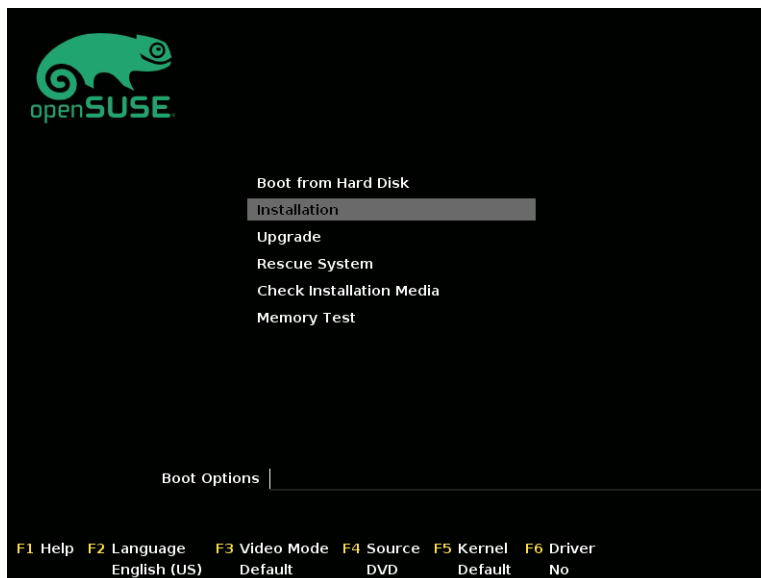
While downloading 'openSUSE-13.2-DVD-x86_64.iso' is possible, it will be slow.

A torrent client with the corresponding *.torrent file is much faster.

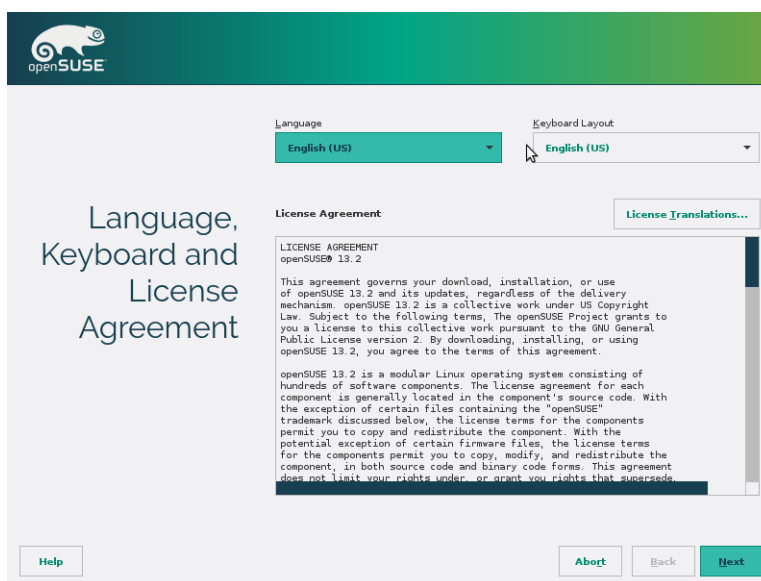
3.2. OS install

Using a virtual environment like Vmware Workstation can speed up the iterations of OS installs. So this document assumes such a tool is being used.

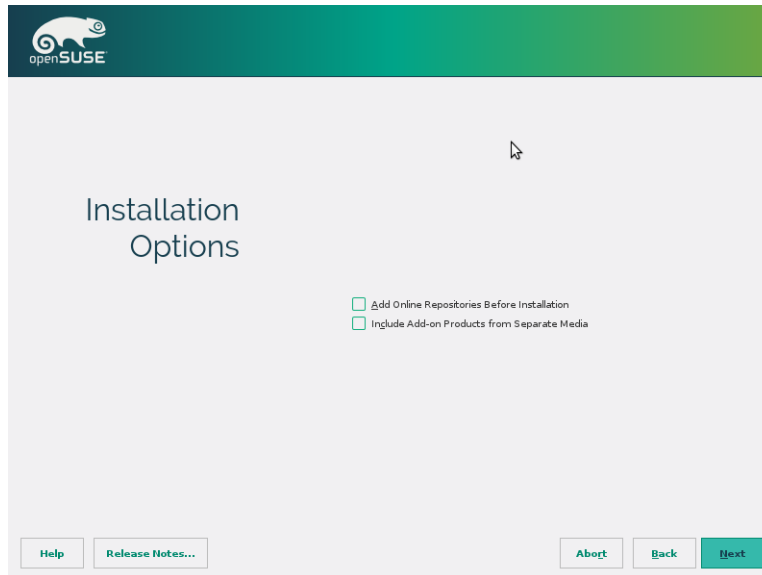
Attach the ISO to a virtual CDROM, power up the virtual machine, and install the OpenSuse 13.2.



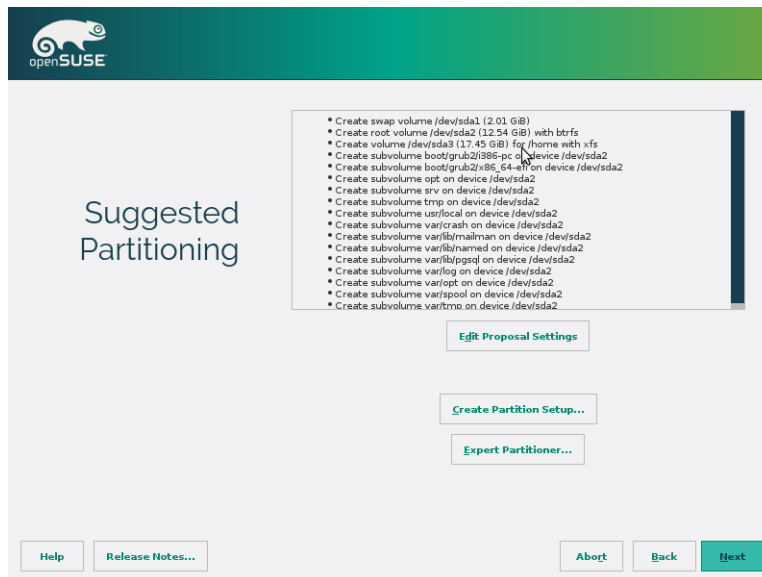
Select: Installation



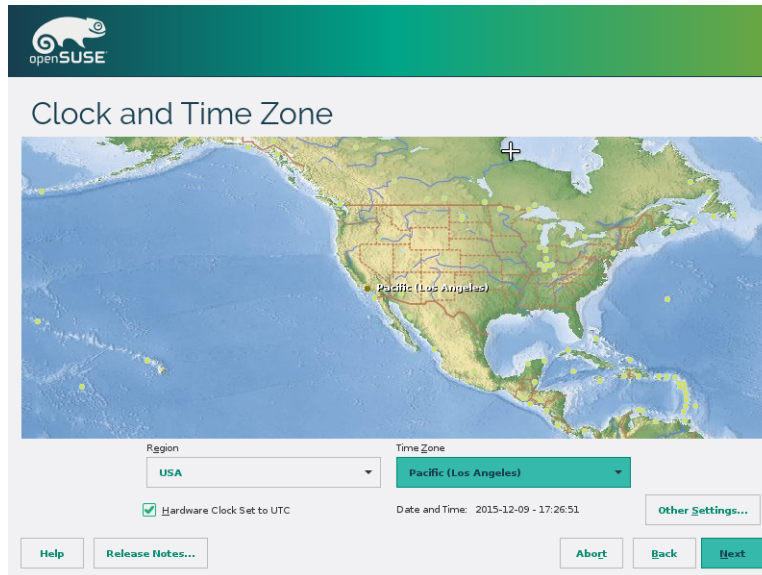
Select: Next



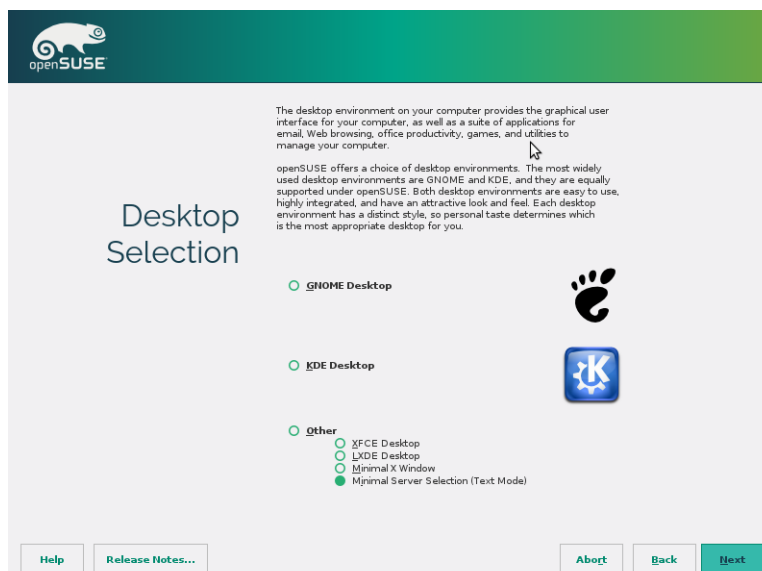
Install repositories later. Select: Next




Default partitioning. Select: Next



Select a timezone.



Select: Minimal Server (Text Mode)



Create New User

User's Full Name
user

Username
user

Password
••••••

Confirm Password
••••••


☒ Use this password for system administrator
☐ Receive System Mail
☒ Automatic Login

Summary
 The authentication method is local /etc/passwd.
 The password encryption method is SHA-512.

[Change...](#)

[Help](#) [Release Notes...](#) [Abort](#) [Back](#) [Next](#)

Select a general user id: user/123456.
This will also be the root password.



Installation Settings

Click a headline to make changes.

- Do not install bootcode into MBR ([install](#))
- Install bootcode into "/*n*" partition ([do not install](#))

Software

- Product: openSUSE
- System Type: Minimal Server Selection (Text Mode)
- Patterns:
 - + Base System
 - + YaST Installation Packages
 - + Software Management
- Size of Packages to install: 848.6 MiB

Default systemd target

- Text mode

System

- System and Hardware Settings

Firewall and SSH

- Firewall will be enabled ([disable](#))
- SSH port will be open ([block](#))
- SSH service will be enabled ([disable](#))

Clone System Configuration

- The AutoYaST profile will not be saved ([write it](#))

[Export Configuration](#)

[Help](#) [Release Notes...](#) [Abort](#) [Back](#) [Install](#)

Select:
Enable SSH port
Enable SSH

Select: Install

There will be a long process of initializing the hard drive, installing RPMs, and then a reboot.

```
Welcome to openSUSE 13.2 "Harlequin" - Kernel 3.16.6-2-default (tty1).

linux-wy1s login:
```

Then a login should come up.
Login: root/123456

Get the IP address:

```
> ifconfig
eno167777 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 00:0C:29:90:0B:74
          inet addr:192.168.17.141 Bcast:192.168.17.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
          inet6 addr: fe80::20c:29ff:fe90:b74/64 Scope:Link
          UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
          RX packets:141 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
          TX packets:139 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
          collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
          RX bytes:15981 (15.6 Kb) TX bytes:17376 (16.9 kb)
...

```

SSH in to allow easier copy/paste from these instructions.

3.3. Kiwi installation

Once the OS is installed, the zypper repositories need to point to the most recent updates:

```
> zypper lr -E -u
# | Alias | Name | Enabled | Refresh | URI
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
1 | openSUSE-13.2-0 | openSUSE-13.2-0 | Yes | No | cd:///devices=/dev/disk/by-
id/ata-Virtual_IDE_CDROM_Drive_100000000000000001
5 | repo-non-oss | openSUSE-13.2-Non-Oss | Yes | Yes |
http://download.opensuse.org/distribution/13.2/repo/non-oss/
6 | repo-oss | openSUSE-13.2-Oss | Yes | Yes |
http://download.opensuse.org/distribution/13.2/repo/oss/
8 | repo-update | openSUSE-13.2-Update | Yes | Yes |
http://download.opensuse.org/update/13.2/
9 | repo-update-non-oss | openSUSE-13.2-Update-Non-Oss | Yes | Yes |
http://download.opensuse.org/update/13.2-non-oss/

```

Note: there is one repo coming in from the original install ISO.

Then the kiwi tools can be installed:

```
> zypper in kiwi kiwi-doc kiwi-templates kiwi-tools kiwi-desc-vmxboot kiwi-desc-isoboot kiwi-
desc-oemboot

> rpm -qa 'kiwi*'
kiwi-tools-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64
kiwi-desc-vmxboot-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64
kiwi-doc-7.01.18-5.1.noarch
kiwi-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64
kiwi-templates-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64
kiwi-desc-oemboot-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64
kiwi-desc-isoboot-7.01.18-5.1.x86_64

# possibly needed
> zypper in clicfs git
> rpm -qa clicfs
clicfs-1.4.6-6.1.3.x86_64

> kiwi --version
Dec-08 09:48:15 <1> : Version:
Dec-08 09:48:15 <1> : --> vnr: 7.01.18

```

These examples used the kiwi RPMs from the existing OpenSUSE 13.2 distro.

If for some reason, a bug is found. The latest kiwi RPMs are here:

http://download.opensuse.org/repositories/Virtualization:/Appliances/openSUSE_13.2/x86_64/

4. OpenSUSE 13.2 ISO

This generates an ISO image that immediately installs Linux to a harddrive.

Build:

```
# checkout
> git clone https://github.com/dsnider0909/suse_builds.git

# build
> cd suse_builds/opensUSE_13.2_iso
> kiwi --build source --destdir /tmp/opensuse_iso
Dec-08 11:37:16 <1> : Find build results at: /tmp/opensuse_iso
done
Dec-08 11:37:16 <1> : KIWI exited successfully
```

Here are the relevant changes to config.xml:

```
=== source/config.xml ===
<type checkprebuilt='true' boot='oemboot/suse-13.2' fsnocheck='true' filesystem='ext3'
bootloader='grub2' installiso='true' installboot='install' kernelcmdline='quiet'
fsmountoptions='acl' image='oem'>
  <oemconfig>
    <oem-swap>true</oem-swap>
    <oem-swapsize>512</oem-swapsize>
    <oem-boot-title>openSUSE_13.2_svr</oem-boot-title>
  </oemconfig>
</type>

<repository type='rpm-md'>
  <source path='http://download.opensuse.org/update/13.2/'/>
</repository>
<repository type='yast2'>
  <source path='http://download.opensuse.org/distribution/13.2/repo/oss/'/>
</repository>
```

Test:

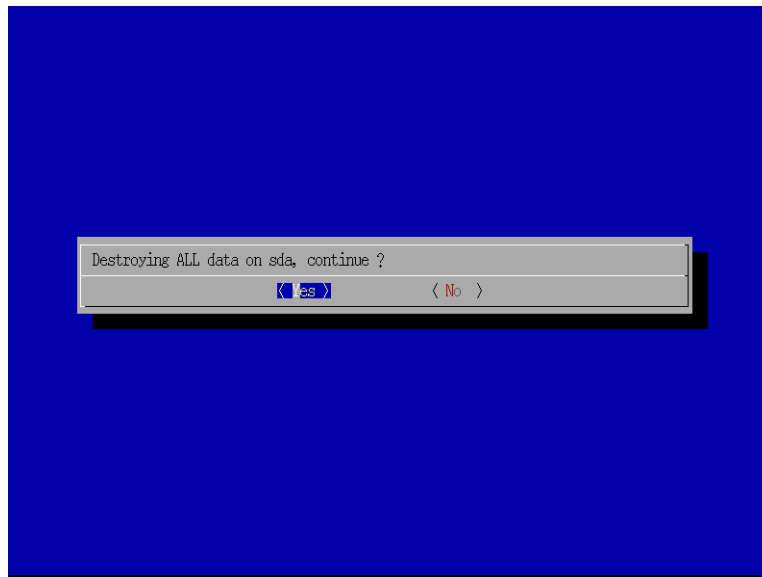
```
# copy out the ISO from the guest build environment
cygwin> scp root@<guest_ip>:/tmp/opensuse_iso/opensUSE_13.2.x86_64-0.0.2.install.iso .
```

Under VMware workstation:

Select:

*File→New Virtual Machine
Custom (advanced) configuration
Installer disk image file: <path/to/>openSUSE_13.2.x86_64-0.0.2.install.iso
Guest OS: Linux
Version: OpenSUSE 64-bit
Processors – number of processors: 2
Memory for this virtual machine: 2048MB
Network connection: NAT
SCSI Controller: LSI Logic
Virtual disk type: SCSI
Create a new virtual disk*

Select “power on this virtual machine”



```
Welcome to openSUSE 13.2 "Harlequin" - Kernel 3.16.7-29-default (tty1).  
  
linux login:
```

Getting to this point means the ISO build was successful.

Use the configured id: root/123456

5. OpenSUSE 13.2 stick

This generates a raw USB image that immediately installs Linux to a harddrive.

Build:

```
# checkout
> git clone https://github.com/dsnider0909/suse_builds.git

# build
> cd suse_builds/opensUSE_13.2_stick
> kiwi --build $PWD/source --destdir /tmp/opensuse_stick
Dec-08 11:37:16 <1> : Find build results at: /tmp/opensuse_stick
done
Dec-08 11:37:16 <1> : KIWI exited successfully
```

Here are the relevant changes to config.xml:

```
=== source/config.xml ===
<type checkprebuilt='true' boot='oemboot/suse-13.2' fsnocheck='true' filesystem='ext3'
bootloader='grub2' installstick='true' installboot='install' kernelcmdline=''
fsmountoptions='acl' image='oem' >
  <oemconfig>
    <oem-swap>>false</oem-swap>
    <oem-boot-title>openSUSE_13.2</oem-boot-title>
  </oemconfig>
</type>

<repository type='rpm-md'>
  <source path='http://download.opensuse.org/update/13.2/'/>
</repository>
<repository type='yast2'>
  <source path='http://download.opensuse.org/distribution/13.2/repo/oss/'/>
</repository>
```

Test:

```
# copy raw image to a USB flash drive
> cd /tmp/opensuse_stick
> dd if=opensuse_13.2_svr.x86_64-0.0.4.raw.install.raw of=/dev/sdb bs=1M
```

Then boot the USB flash drive on real hardware or boot this VM within VMware workstation to then boot a USB stick:
<https://www.plop.at/en/bootmanagers.html>

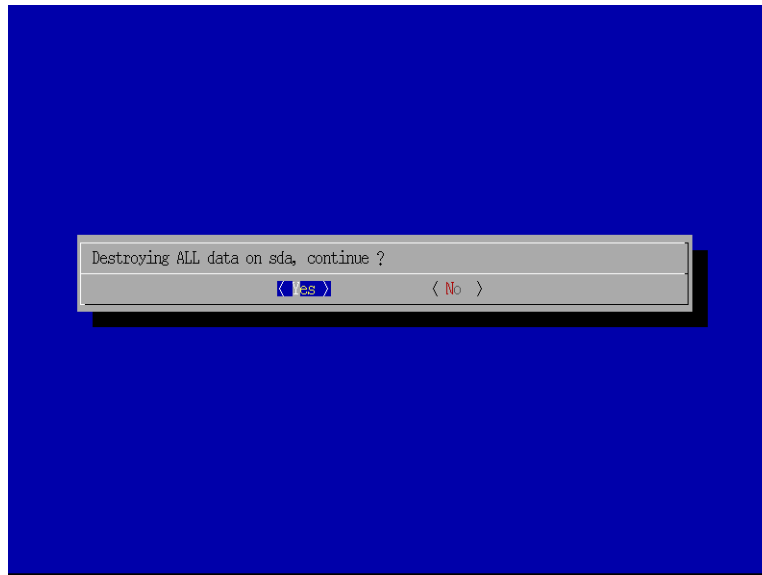
Boot to Plop Boot Manager
Ensure the USB stick is attached
Select: USB



Grub2 screen:



Starting hard drive initialization:



And then the login screen:

```
[ 288.328370] NET: Registered protocol family 17  
Welcome to openSUSE 13.2 "Harlequin" - Kernel 3.16.7-29-default (tty1).  
  
linux login:
```

6. SLES 12 ISO

```
# checkout
> git clone https://github.com/dsnider0909/suse_builds.git
```

SLES 12 requires the following repo files accessible in a local directory. In this case in '/media/flash/suse'.

```
> ls -l /media/flash/suse
SLE-12-SDK-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD1.iso
SLE-12-SDK-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD2.iso
SLE-12-Server-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD1.iso
SLE-12-Server-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD2.iso
```

Official installation ISOs can be obtained with registration here:

<https://www.suse.com/products/server/download/>

The config.xml the following repository parameters to point to the '/media/flash/suse' directory.

```
=== config.xml ===
<repository type='yast2'>
  <!-- source path='{SLE 12 SDK x86_64}'/> -->
  <source path="iso:///media/flash/suse/SLE-12-SDK-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD1.iso "/>
</repository>
<repository type='yast2'>
  <!-- source path='{SLES 12 x86_64}'/> -->
  <source path="iso:///media/flash/suse/SLE-12-Server-DVD-x86_64-GM-DVD1.iso "/>
</repository>
```

Build:

```
# prepare
> cd suse_builds/sles_12_iso
> kiwi --build source --destdir /tmp/sles_iso
Dec-09 10:17:44 <1> : KIWI exited successfully
Dec-09 10:17:44 <1> : Complete logfile at: /tmp/sles_iso/build/image-root.log

# <recheck>
> ls /tmp/sles_iso
SLES_12.x86_64-0.0.4.install.iso
```

Test:

```
# copy out the ISO from the guest build environment
cygwin> scp root@<guest_ip>:/tmp/sles_iso/SLES_12.x86_64-0.0.4.install.iso .
```

Under VMware workstation:

Select:

File→New Virtual Machine

Custom (advanced) configuration

Installer disk image file: <path/to/>SLES_12.x86_64-0.0.4.install.iso

Guest OS: Linux

Version: SUSE Linux Enterprise 64-bit

Processors – number of processors: 2

Memory for this virtual machine: 2048MB

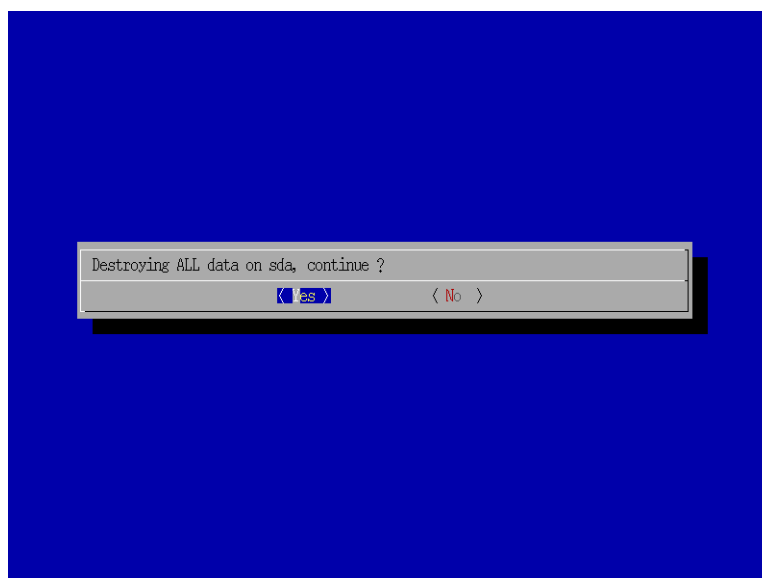
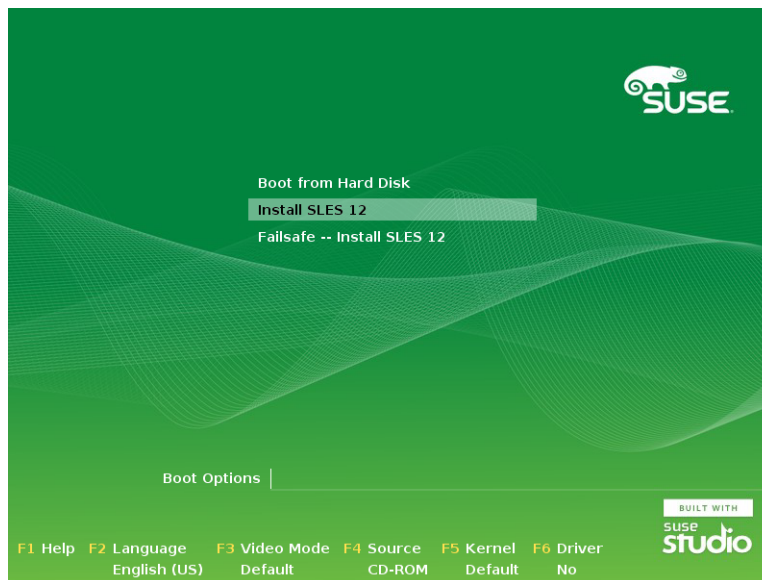
Network connection: NAT

SCSI Controller: LSI Logic

Virtual disk type: SCSI

Create a new virtual disk

Select “power on this virtual machine”



```
Welcome to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 (x86_64) - Kernel 3.12.28-4-default (tty1).
```

```
linux-bqrq login: root
```

login id: root/123456

Check network interface:

```
> ip addr
2: eth0: <BROADCAST,MULTICAST,UP,LOWER_UP> mtu 1500 qdisc pfifo_fast state UP group default qlen 1000
    link/ether 00:0c:29:9b:e5:35 brd ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff
    inet 192.168.17.140/24 brd 192.168.17.255 scope global eth0
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
    inet6 fe80::20c:29ff:fe9b:e535/64 scope link
        valid_lft forever preferred_lft forever
```

SSH into this IP addr

Verify the OS build:

```
> cat /etc/os-release
NAME="SLES"
VERSION="12"
VERSION_ID="12"
PRETTY_NAME="SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12"
ID="sles"
ANSI_COLOR="0;32"
CPE_NAME="cpe:/o:suse:sles:12"
```

Check bundled RPMs:

```
> rpm -qa
...
```

Shutdown

```
> shutdown -H
```