



# Reference Configuration - Rancher Kubernetes Engine

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SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro 5.0, Rancher  
Kubernetes Engine 1.2.7

## Reference Configuration - Rancher Kubernetes Engine: Including integration content from Dell Technologies

SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro 5.0, Rancher Kubernetes Engine 1.2.7

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview and procedure of implementing SUSE (R) and partner offerings for Rancher Kubernetes Engine ( RKE ), a Kubernetes distribution that runs entirely within containers on bare-metal and virtualized nodes. RKE solves the problem of installation complexity and the operation is both simplified and easily automated, while entirely accommodating the operating system and platform it is running on.

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Motivation	1
1.2	Scope	2
1.3	Audience	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Business aspect</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Business problem	3
2.2	Business value	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Architectural overview</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1	Solution architecture	7
<b>4</b>	<b>Component model</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Component overview	9
4.2	Software - Rancher Kubernetes Engine	9
4.3	Software - SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro	11
4.4	Compute Platform	12
	Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers	12 • SUSE YES Certified Process
	Rack Servers	13 • R740 Rack Servers
		16
<b>5</b>	<b>Deployment</b>	<b>19</b>
5.1	Deployment overview	19
5.2	Compute Platform	19
5.3	SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro	20
5.4	K3s	22
5.5	Rancher Kubernetes Engine	25

6	Summary	30
7	References	31

## Glossary 33

## A Appendix 36

A.1	Compute Platform Bill of Materials	36
A.2	Software Bill of Materials	39
A.3	Documentation Configuration / Attributes	39

## 8 Legal Notice 40

## 9 GNU Free Documentation License 41

# 1 Introduction

On the digital transformation journey to a full cloud native landscape, utilization of microservices becomes the main approach with the dominant technology for such container orchestration being Kubernetes<sup>1</sup> With its large community of developers and abundant features and capabilities, Kubernetes has become the defacto standard and is included across most container-as-a-service platforms. With all of these technologies in place, both developer and operation teams can effectively deploy, manage and deliver functionality to their end users in a resilient and agile manner.

## 1.1 Motivation

As developers and organizations continue their journey from simple, containerized microservices towards having these workloads orchestrated and deployed where ever they need, being able to install, monitor and use such Kubernetes infrastructures is a core need. Such deployments, being Cloud Native Computing Foundation ( CNCF<sup>2</sup> ) conformant<sup>3</sup> and certified<sup>4</sup> are essential for both development and production workloads.

Solving common frustrations around installation complexity, Rancher Kubernetes Engine reduces many host dependencies and provides a stable path for deployment, upgrades, and roll-backs for core use cases.

Once on such a digital transformation journey, some of the next focus areas are:

- Compute Platform


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<sup>1</sup> <https://kubernetes.io/> 

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cncf.io/> 

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cncf.io/certification/software-conformance> 

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cncf.io/certification/cka/> 

- To optimize availability, performance, scalability and integrity, assess current system platforms or acquire and utilize new variations from:
  - Independent Hardware Vendors ( IHV ), like [Dell Technologies \(https://www.dell.com/en-us\)](https://www.dell.com/en-us)  ® , as the platform for physical, baremetal, hypervisors and virtual machines

## 1.2 Scope

The scope of this document is to provide a layered *reference configuration* for Rancher Kubernetes Engine. This can be done in a variety of scenarios to create an enterprise Kubernetes cluster deployment anywhere.

## 1.3 Audience

This document is intended for IT decision makers, architects, system administrators and technicians who are implementing a flexible, software-defined Kubernetes platform. One should still be familiar with the traditional IT infrastructure pillars — networking, computing and storage — along with the local use cases for sizing, scaling and limitations within each pillars' environments.

## 2 Business aspect

Agility is the name of the game in modern application development. This is driving developers toward more cloud native methodologies that focus on microservices architectures and streamlined workflows. Container technologies, like Kubernetes, embody this agile approach and help enable cloud native transformation.

By unifying IT operations with Kubernetes, organizations realize key benefits like increased reliability, improved security and greater efficiencies with standardized automation. Therefore, Kubernetes infrastructure platforms are adopted by enterprises to deliver:

### Cluster Operations

Improved Production and DevOps efficiencies with simplified cluster usage and robust operations

### Security Policy & User Management

Consistent security policy enforcement plus advanced user management on any Kubernetes infrastructure

### Access to Shared Tools & Services

A high level of reliability with easy, consistent access to a broad set of tools and services

## 2.1 Business problem

Many organizations are deploying Kubernetes clusters everywhere – in the cloud, on-premises, and at the edge - to unify IT operations. Such organizations can realize dramatic benefits, including:

- Consistently deliver a high level of reliability on any infrastructure
- Improve DevOps efficiency with standardized automation
- Ensure enforcement of security policies on any infrastructure

However, simply relying on upstream Kubernetes alone can introduce extra overhead and risk because Kubernetes clusters are typically deployed:

- Without central visibility
- Without consistent security policies
- And must be managed independently



Deploying a scalable kubernetes infrastructure requires consideration of a larger ecosystem, encompassing many software and infrastructure components and providers. Further, the ability to continually address the needs and concerns of:

### Developers

For those who just focus on writing code to build their apps securely using a preferred workflow, providing a simple, push-button deployment mechanism of their containerized workloads where needed.

### IT Operators

General infrastructure requirements still rely upon traditional IT pillars are for the stacked, underlying infrastructure. Ease of deployment, availability, scalability, resiliency, performance, security and integrity are still core concerns to be addressed for administrative control and observability.

Beyond just the core infrastructure software layers of managed Kubernetes clusters, organizations may be also be impacted by:

### Compute Platform

Potential inconsistencies and impacts of multiple target system platforms for the distributed deployments of the cluster elements, across:

- physical, baremetal, hypervisors and virtual machines

## 2.2 Business value

With Rancher Kubernetes Engine, the operation of Kubernetes is easily automated and entirely independent of the operating system and platform running. Using a supported version of the container runtime engine, one can deploy and run Kubernetes with Rancher Kubernetes Engine. It builds a cluster from a single command in just a few minutes, and its declarative configuration makes Kubernetes upgrades atomic and safe.

By allowing operation teams to focus on infrastructure and developers to deploy code the way they want too, SUSE and the Rancher offerings helps bring products to market faster and accelerate an organization's digital transformation.

SUSE Rancher is a fundamental part of the complete software stack for teams adopting containers. It provides DevOps teams with integrated tools for running containerized workloads while also addressing the operational and security challenges of managing multiple Kubernetes clusters across any targeted infrastructure.

### Developers

SUSE Rancher makes it easy to securely deploy containerized applications no matter where the Kubernetes infrastructure runs -- in the cloud, on-premises, or at the edge. Using Helm or the App Catalog to deploy and manage applications across any or all these environments, ensuring multi-cluster consistency with a single deployment process.

### IT Operators

SUSE Rancher not only deploys and manages production-grade Kubernetes clusters from datacenter to cloud to the edge, it also unites them with centralized authentication, access control and observability. Further, it streamlines cluster deployment on bare metal or virtual machines and maintains them using defined security policies.

With this increased consistency of the managed Kubernetes infrastructure clusters, organizations benefit from an even higher level of the Cloud Native Computing model where each layer only relies upon the API and version of the adjacent layer. For example:

### Compute Platform

Utilizing the above software application and technology solutions with the server platforms offered by Dell Technologies ( [Dell \(https://www.dell.com/en-us\)](https://www.dell.com/en-us) ) provides many alternative for scale, cost-effectiveness and performance options that could align with local IT staff platform preferences:

- density-optimized - high performance and efficiency for big data and the most demanding workloads
- mission-critical - systems of intelligence to fuel your digital transformation in a world where time and data are the new currency and business continuity is expected
- composable - fully adaptable and ready for Hybrid-IT to future-proof your data center for today's workloads and tomorrow's disruptors
- IoT - realize the potential of the Internet of Things to provide compute at the network edge

- cloud - high-capacity, mass-compute open infrastructure with security and software to match
- and virtualized use cases.

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## 3 Architectural overview

This section outlines the core elements of the Rancher Kubernetes Engine solution, along with the suggested target platforms and components.

### 3.1 Solution architecture

The figure below illustrates the high-level architecture of Rancher Kubernetes Engine:



FIGURE 3.1: ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW - RANCHER KUBERNETES ENGINE

#### FixMe-Authentication Proxy

A user is authenticated via Rancher Kubernetes Engine and then, if authorized, can access both the Rancher Kubernetes Engine environment and the downstream clusters and workloads.

#### FixMe-API Server

This provides the programmatic interface backend for user, command-line interactions with Rancher Kubernetes Engine and the managed clusters.

#### FixMe-Data Store

The purpose of this service is to capture the configuration and state of Rancher Kubernetes Engine and the managed clusters to aid in backup and recovery processes.

#### FixMe-Cluster Controller

Interacting with a cluster agent on the downstream cluster, the cluster controller allows the communication path for users and services to leverage for workloads and cluster management.

FixMe-Once setup, users can potentially interact with Rancher Kubernetes Engine through the web-based user interface (UI), the command-line interface ( CLI ), and programatically through the application programming interface ( API ). Depending upon the assigned roles, group membership and privileges, a user could:

- manage all clusters, users, roles, projects
- deploy new clusters, import other clusters, or remove existing ones
- manage workloads across respective or labeled clusters
- simply view clusters or workloads, or just benefit from what is running

FixMe-For the best performance and security, the recommended deployment is a dedicated Kubernetes cluster for the Rancher management server. Running user workloads on this cluster is not advised. After deploying Rancher, you can create or import clusters for running workloads.

FixMe-NOTE: Regardless of the deployment target, Rancher Kubernetes Engine should always run on a node or cluster that is separate from the downstream clusters that it manages. Running user workloads on this cluster is not advised.

## 4 Component model

FixMe-This section describes the various components being used to create a Rancher Kubernetes Engine deployment, in the perspective of top to bottom ordering. Once completed, the Rancher Kubernetes Engine instance enables the management of multiple Kubernetes clusters, as shown in the following figure:

### 4.1 Component overview

By utilizing:

- Kubernetes Platform - Rancher Kubernetes Engine
- Operating System - `ifdef::iSLES[SUSE Linux Enterprise Server] ifdef::iSLEMicro[SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro]`
- Compute Platform

one can create the necessary infrastructure and services. Further details for these components are described in the following sections.

### 4.2 Software - Rancher Kubernetes Engine

FixMe-Rancher Kubernetes Engine is packaged as a single binary, which is about 50 megabytes in size. Bundled in that single binary is everything needed to run Kubernetes anywhere, including low-powered IoT and Edge-based devices. The binary includes:

- the container runtime
- any important host utilities like
  - iptables, socat and du.

FixMe-The only OS dependencies are the Linux kernel itself and a proper dev, proc and sysfs mounts (this is done automatically on all modern Linux distributions). `{pn_K3s}` bundles the Kubernetes components:

- kube-apiserver,
- kube-controller-manager,

- kube-scheduler,
- kubelet and
- kube-proxy

into combined processes that are presented as a simple server and agent model, as represented in the following figure:



FIGURE 4.1: FIXME-OVERVIEW OF RANCHER KUBERNETES ENGINE

Rancher Kubernetes Engine can run as a complete cluster on a single node or can be expanded into a multi-node cluster. Besides the core Kubernetes components, these are also included:

- containerd,
- Flannel,
- CoreDNS,
- ingress controller and
- a simple host port-based service load balancer.

FixMe-All of these components are optional and can be swapped out for your implementation of choice. With these included components, you get a fully functional and CNCF-conformant cluster so you can start running apps right away. Rancher Kubernetes Engine is now a CNCF Sandbox project, being the first Kubernetes distribution ever to be adopted into sandbox.

Learn more information about Rancher Kubernetes Engine at <https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/>.

As Rancher Kubernetes Engine relies upon being deployed on a Kubernetes platform, the next section describes such a suggested component layer.

## 4.3 Software - SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro

SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro combines the assurance of enterprise-grade security and compliance with the immutability and portability of a modern, lightweight operating system. The top 4 features are:

### Immutable OS

Immutable design ensures the OS is not altered during runtime and runs reliably every single time. Security signed and verified transactional updates are easy to rollback if things go wrong.

### Security and Compliance

Fully open source and built using open standards, SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro leverages SUSE Linux Enterprise common code base, to provide FIPS 140-2, DISA SRG/STIG, integration with CIS and Common Criteria certified configurations. Includes fully supported security framework (SELinux) with policies.

### Architectural Flexibility

Both Arm and x86-64 architectures are supported so you can deploy edge applications with confidence across multiple architectures.

### Kubernetes-Ready

You can easily combine SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro with the latest cloud-native technologies including SUSE Rancher, Rancher Kubernetes Engine, Longhorn persistent block storage, and K3s, the world's most popular Kubernetes distribution for use in low resource, distributed edge locations.

As a result, you get an ultra-reliable infrastructure platform that is also simple to use and comes out-of-the-box with best-in-class compliance. Furthermore, SUSE's flexible subscription model ensures enterprise assurance for any edge, embedded or IoT deployment without vendor lock-in. A free, evaluation copy can be [downloaded \(https://www.suse.com/download/sle-micro/\)](https://www.suse.com/download/sle-micro/) or if the organization already has subscriptions, both install media and updates can be obtained from [SUSE Customer Center \(https://scc.suse.com/login\)](https://scc.suse.com/login).

With the flexibility of SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro, multiple compute platform variants can be considered, as outlined in the next section.



## 4.4 Compute Platform

Leveraging the enterprise grade functionality of the operating system mentioned in the previous section, many compute platforms can be the foundation of the deployment:



### Tip

Any [SUSE YES \(https://www.suse.com/yessearch/\)](https://www.suse.com/yessearch/) certified platform can be used for the nodes of this deployment, as long as the certification refers to the major version of the underlying SUSE operating system required by its release. :modelDell-server-node-R740: R740 :modelDell-server-node-R740-URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740> :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640: R640 :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640\_URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/poweredge-r640> :modelDell-server-node-all: Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers :modelDell-server-node-all-URL: [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch: SUSE YES Certified Bulletin Search :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch-URL: <https://www.suse.com/yessearch> :SUSEYesCertifiedProcess: SUSE YES Certified Process :SUSEYesCertified-Process-URL: <https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process> :DellIDRAC: Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller :DellIDRAC-URL: <https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm> :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia: Virtual Media :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia-URL: <https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9>

### 4.4.1 Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers

Dell EMC PowerEdge rack servers ([https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) ) help you build a modern infrastructure that minimizes IT challenges and drives business success. Choose from a complete portfolio of 1, 2, and 4-socket rack servers to deliver high core density for your traditional applications, virtualization, and cloud-native workloads. Enhanced memory speeds, faster NVMe storage options, and BIOS tuning allows you to match performance to your workload for ultimate efficiency :modelDell-server-node-R740: R740 :modelDell-server-node-R740-URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740> :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640: R640 :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640\_URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/poweredge-r640> :modelDell-server-node-all: Dell PowerEdge Rack

Servers :modelDell-server-node-all-URL: [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch: SUSE YES Certified Bulletin Search :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch-URL: <https://www.suse.com/yessearch> :SUSEYesCertifiedProcess: SUSE YES Certified Process :SUSEYesCertified-Process-URL: <https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process> :DellIDRAC: Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller :DellIDRAC-URL: <https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm> :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia: Virtual Media :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia-URL: <https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9>

## 4.4.2 SUSE YES Certified Process

Self Testing Hardware with SUSE Linux Enterprise (<https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process>): To conduct YES self testing, download and install the latest versions and supports packs of SUSE Linux Enterprise and the YES TestConsole with the appropriate YES certification test kit. Test your product per the instructions in the test kit, fix any problems encountered and once corrected, re-run all tests to obtain clean test results. Submit the test results into the SUSE Bulletin System (SBS) for review and validation. :modelDell-server-node-R740: R740 :modelDell-server-node-R740-URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740> :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640: R640 :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640\_URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/poweredge-r640> :modelDell-server-node-all: Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers :modelDell-server-node-all-URL: [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch: SUSE YES Certified Bulletin Search :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch-URL: <https://www.suse.com/yessearch> :SUSEYesCertifiedProcess: SUSE YES Certified Process :SUSEYesCertified-Process-URL: <https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process> :DellIDRAC: Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller :DellIDRAC-URL: <https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm> :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia: Virtual Media :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia-URL: <https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9>

## 4.4.3 R640 Rack Servers

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/poweredge-r640>

The PowerEdge R640 is SUSE YES Certified Hardware.

Uncompromising performance and density:

The PowerEdge R640 is the ideal dual-socket, 1U platform for dense scale-out data center computing. The R640 combines density, performance and scalability to optimize application performance and data center density

- CPU: Up to two 2nd Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors with up to 28 cores per processor
- Accelerators: Up to one single-width FPGA, Up to three single-width GPU (NVIDIA T4)
- Memory Speed: DIMM Speed (Up to 2933MT/s)
- Memory Type: RDIMM, LRDIMM, NVDIMM, DCPMM (Intel® Optane™ DC persistent memory)
- Memory Module Slots: 24 DDR4 DIMM slots (12 NVDIMM or 12 DCPMM only) Supports registered ECC DDR4 DIMMs only
- Memory RAM: RDIMM 1.53TB, LRDIMM 3TB, NVDIMM 192GB, DCPMM 6.14TB (7.68TB with LRDIMM)
- Storage - Front Bays: Up to 10 x 2.5" with up to 8 NVMe, SAS/SATA/SSD/NVMe, max 76.8TB Up to 10 NVMe, max 64TB Up to 4 x 3.5" SAS/SATA, max 56T
- Storage - Read Bays: Up to 2 x 2.5" SAS/SATA/SSD/NVMe, max 15.36TB

Maximize application performance and density:

The scalable business architecture of the R640 is designed to maximize application performance and provide the flexibility to optimize configurations based on the application and use case. With the R640 you can create an NVMe cache pool and use either 2.5" or 3.5" drives for data storage. Combined with up to 24 DIMM's, 12 of which can be DCPMMs or NVDIMMs, you have the resources to maximize application performance with the optimum configuration in only a 1U chassis.

- Simplify deployments and speed deployments with Dell EMC ready nodes for ScaleIO and VSAN.
- Maximize storage performance with up to 10 NVMe drives or 12 2.5" drives.
- Scale compute resources with 2nd Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors and tailor performance based on your unique workload requirements.

## Automate maintenance with Dell EMC OpenManage:

The Dell EMC OpenManage™ portfolio helps deliver peak efficiency for PowerEdge servers, delivering intelligent, automated management of routine tasks. Combined with unique agent-free management capabilities, the R640 is simply managed, freeing up time for high profile projects.

- Simplify management with the OpenManage Enterprise™ console, with customized reporting and automatic discovery.
- Take advantage of QuickSync 2 capabilities and gain access to your servers easily through your phone or tablet.

## Guard your data center with built in security:

Every PowerEdge server is designed as part of a cyber resilient architecture, integrating security into the full server life cycle. The R640 leverages new security features built-into every new PowerEdge server strengthening protection so you can reliably and securely deliver accurate data to your customers no matter where they are. By considering each aspect of system security, from design to retirement, Dell EMC ensures trust and delivers a worry-free, secure infrastructure without compromise.

- Rely on a secure component supply chain to ensure protection from factory to the data center.
- Maintain data safety with cryptographically signed firmware packages and Secure Boot.
- Prevent unauthorized or malicious change with Server Lockdown.
- Wipe all data from storage media including hard drives, SSDs and system memory quickly and securely with System Erase. :modelDell-server-node-R740: R740 :modelDell-server-node-R740-URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740> :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640: R640 :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640\_URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/poweredge-r640> :modelDell-server-node-all: Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers :modelDell-server-node-all-URL: [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/poweredge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch: SUSE YES Certified Bulletin Search :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch-URL: <https://www.suse.com/yessearch> :SUSEYesCertifiedProcess: SUSE YES Certified Process :SUSEYesCertified-Process-URL: <https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process> :DellIDRAC:

Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller :DellIDRAC-URL: <https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm> :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia: Virtual Media :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia-URL: <https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9>

#### 4.4.4 R740 Rack Servers

<https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740>

The PowerEdge R740 is SUSE YES Certified Hardware.

Optimized for workload acceleration:

The PowerEdge R740 was designed to accelerate application performance leveraging accelerator card and storage scalability. The 2-socket, 2U platform has the optimum balance of resources to power the most demanding environments

- CPU: Up to two 2nd Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors with up to 28 cores per processor
- Accelerator: Up to three 300W or six 150W GPUs, Up to three double-width or four single-width FPGAs
- Memory RDIMM, LRDIMM, NVDIMM, DCPMM (Intel® Optane™ DC persistent memory)
- Memory Module Slots: 24 DDR4 DIMM slots (12 NVDIMM or 12 DCPMM only), Supports registered ECC DDR4 DIMMs only
- Memory RAM: RDIMM 1.53TB, LRDIMM 3TB, NVDIMM 192GB, DCPMM 6.14TB (7.68TB with LRDIMM)
- Storage - Front Bays: Up to 16 x 2.5" SAS/SATA/SSD, max 122.88TB, Up to 8 x 3.5" SAS/SATA, max 128TB

Expand and optimize application performance:

The scalable business architecture of the R740 can scale up to three 300W or six 150W GPUs, or up to three double-width or four single-width FPGAs. With up to 16 2.5" drives or 8 3.5" drives the R740 provides the versatility to adapt to virtually any application and provides the perfect platform for VDI deployments.

- Scale your VDI deployments with 3 double-width GPUs, supporting up to 50% more users when compared to R730.
- Free up storage space using internal M.2 SSDs optimized for boot.
- Scale compute resources with 2nd Generation Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors and tailor performance based on your unique workload requirements.

Automate systems management with OpenManage:

The Dell EMC OpenManage™ portfolio helps deliver peak efficiency for PowerEdge servers, delivering intelligent, automated management of routine tasks. Combined with unique agent-free management capabilities, the R740 is simply managed, freeing up time for high profile projects.

- Simplify management with the New OpenManage Enterprise™ console, with customized reporting and automatic discovery.
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Rely on PowerEdge with built-in security:

Every PowerEdge server is designed as part of a cyber resilient architecture, integrating security into the full server lifecycle. The R740 leverages new security features built-into every new PowerEdge server strengthening protection so you can reliably and securely deliver accurate data to your customers no matter where they are. By considering each aspect of system security, from design to retirement, Dell EMC ensures trust and delivers a worry-free, secure infrastructure without compromise.

- Rely on a secure component supply chain to ensure protection from factory to the data center.
- Maintain data safety with cryptographically signed firmware packages and Secure Boot.
- Prevent unauthorized or malicious change with Server Lockdown.
- Wipe all data from storage media including hard drives, SSDs and system memory quickly and securely with System Erase :modelDell-server-node-R740: R740 :modelDell-server-node-R740-URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/povw/poweredge-r740> :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640: R640 :modelDell\_server\_node\_R640\_URL: <https://www.dell.com/en-us/work/shop/productdetailstxn/pow>

eredge-r640 [↗](#) :modelDell-server-node-all: Dell PowerEdge Rack Servers :modelDell-server-node-all-URL: [https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product\\_Docs/en/powerededge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf](https://i.dell.com/sites/csdocuments/Product_Docs/en/powerededge-rack-servers-quick-reference-guide.pdf) [↗](#) :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch: SUSE YES Certified Bulletin Search :SUSEYesCertifiedBulletinSearch-URL: <https://www.suse.com/yessearch> [↗](#) :SUSEYesCertifiedProcess: SUSE YES Certified Process :SUSEYesCertified-Process-URL: <https://www.suse.com/partners/ihv/yes/yes-certified-process> [↗](#) :DellIDRAC: Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller :DellIDRAC-URL: <https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm> [↗](#) :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia: Virtual Media :DellIDRAC-VirtualMedia-URL: <https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9> [↗](#)



## Note

A sample bill of materials, in the *Appendix A, Appendix*, cites the necessary quantities of all components, along with a reference to the minimum resource requirements needed by the software components.



## 5 Deployment

This section describes the process steps for the deployment of the Rancher Kubernetes Engine solution. It describes the process steps to deploy each of the component layers starting as a base functional *proof-of-concept*, having considerations on migration towards *production*, providing *scaling* guidance that is needed to create the solution.

### 5.1 Deployment overview

The deployment stack is represented in the following figure:  
and details are covered for each layer in the following sections.



#### Note

The following section's content is ordered and described from the bottom layer up to the top.

### 5.2 Compute Platform

The base, starting configuration can reside all within a single server. Based upon the relatively small resource requirements for a SUSE Rancher deployment, a viable approach is to deploy as a virtual machine (VM) on the target nodes, on top of an existing hypervisor, like KVM. For physical host, there are tools that can be used during the setup of the server, see below.

The Integrated Dell Remote Access Controller (iDRAC) (<https://www.delltechnologies.com/en-ca/solutions/openmanage/idrac.htm>) is designed for secure local and remote server management and helps IT administrators deploy, update and monitor Dell EMC PowerEdge servers anywhere, anytime.

The Virtual Media function (<https://dell.com/support/kbdoc/en-ca/000124001/using-the-virtual-media-function-on-idrac-6-7-8-and-9>) allows the remote usage of software image files (ISO-files), which can be used for installing operating systems or updating servers.



## 5.3 SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro

Utilize an enterprise-grade Linux operating system , like SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro, as the base software layer.

### Preparation(s)


To meet the solution stack prerequisites and requirements, SUSE operating system offerings, like [SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro \(https://www.suse.com/products/micro/\)](https://www.suse.com/products/micro/) can be utilized.

#### 1. Ensure these services are in place and configured for this node to use:

- Domain Name Service ( DNS ) - an external network-accessible service to map IP Addresses to hostnames
- Network Time Protocol ( NTP ) - an external network-accessible service to obtain and synchronize system times to aid in timestamp consistency
- Software Update Service - access to a network-based repository for software update packages. This can be accessed directly from each node via registration to
  - the general, internet-based [SUSE Customer Center \(https://scc.suse.com/login\)](https://scc.suse.com/login) ( SCC ) or
  - an organization's [SUSE Manager \(https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/\)](https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/) infrastructure or
  - a local server running an instance of [Repository Mirroring Tool \(https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt) ( RMT )





## Note

During the node's installation, it can be pointed to the respective update service. This can also be accomplished post-installation with the command-line tool named **SUSEConnect** (<https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=000018564>) .

## Deployment Process

On the compute platform node, install the noted SUSE operating system, by following these steps:

1. Download the **SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro** (<https://www.suse.com/download/sle-micro/>)  product (either for the ISO or Virtual Machine image)
2. The installation process is described and can be performed with default values by following steps from the SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro product documentation, see **Installation Quick Start** (<https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/single-html/SLE-Micro-installation/#article-installation>) 



## Tip

Adjust both the password and the local network addressing setup to comply with local environment guidelines and requirements.

## Deployment Consideration(s)

To further optimize deployment factors, leverage the following practices:

- *Automation*
  - To reduce user intervention, unattended deployments of SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro can be automated

- for ISO-based installations, by referring to the [AutoYaST Guide](https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/single-html/SLE-Micro-autoyast/#book-autoyast) (<https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/single-html/SLE-Micro-autoyast/#book-autoyast>) ↗
- for raw-image based installation, by configuring the Ignition and Combustion tooling as described in the [Installation Quick Start](https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/single-html/SLE-Micro-installation/#article-installation) (<https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/single-html/SLE-Micro-installation/#article-installation>) ↗

## 5.4 K3s

Utilize an enterprise-grade Linux operating system , like SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro, as the base software layer.

### Preparation(s)

To meet the solution stack prerequisites and requirements, SUSE operating system offerings, like [SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro](https://www.suse.com/products/micro/) (<https://www.suse.com/products/micro/>) ↗ can be utilized.

#### 1. Ensure these services are in place and configured for this node to use:

- Domain Name Service ( DNS ) - an external network-accessible service to map IP Addresses to hostnames
- Network Time Protocol ( NTP ) - an external network-accessible service to obtain and synchronize system times to aid in timestamp consistency
- Software Update Service - access to a network-based repository for software update packages. This can be accessed directly from each node via registration to

- the general, internet-based [SUSE Customer Center \(https://scc.suse.com/login\)](https://scc.suse.com/login) ( SCC ) or
- an organization's [SUSE Manager \(https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/\)](https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/) infrastructure or
- a local server running an instance of [Repository Mirroring Tool \(https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt) ( RMT )



### Note

During the node's installation, it can be pointed to the respective update service. This can also be accomplished post-installation with the command-line tool named [SUSEConnect \(https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=000018564\)](https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=000018564).

2. Identify the appropriate, desired version of the K3s binary (e.g. vX.YY.ZZ + k3s1), by reviewing the "Releases" on the [Download \(https://github.com/k3s-io/k3s/\)](https://github.com/k3s-io/k3s/) web page.

## Deployment Process

The primary steps for deploying this K3s Kubernetes are:

1. Set the following variable with the noted version of K3s, as found during the preparation steps.

```
K3s_VERSION=""
```

2. Install the version of K3s with embedded Etcd enabled:

```
curl -sfL https://get.k3s.io | INSTALL_K3S_VERSION=${K3s_VERSION}
INSTALL_K3S_EXEC='server --cluster-init --write-kubeconfig-mode=644' sh -s -
```



### Tip

To address *Availability* and possible *scaling* to a multiple node cluster, Etcd is enabled instead of using the default SQLite datastore.

- Monitor the progress of the installation: `watch -c "kubectl get deployments -A"`
- The deployment is complete when elements of all the deployments (coredns, local-path-provisioner, metrics-server, and traefik) show at least "1" as "AVAILABLE"
- Use Ctrl + c to exit the watch loop after all deployment pods are running

## Deployment Consideration(s)

To further optimize deployment factors, leverage the following practices:

- *Availability*
    - While a single K3s node works perfectly fine, a full high-availability K3s cluster is recommended for production workloads. The Etcd key/value store (aka database) requires an odd number of nodes be allocated to the K3s plane (aka master nodes). In this case, two additional control-plane nodes should be added; for a total of three.
1. Deploy the same operating system on the new compute platform nodes, then log into the new nodes as root or as a user with sudo privileges.
  2. Execute the following sets of commands on each of the remaining control-plane nodes:

```
FIRST_SERVER_IP=""      # Private IP preferred, if available
NODE_TOKEN=""           # From the /var/lib/rancher/k3s/server/node-
                        token file on the first server
K3s_VERSION=""          # Match the first of the first server
```

```
curl -sfL https://get.k3s.io | INSTALL_K3S_VERSION=${K3s_VERSION}
K3S_URL=https://${FIRST_SERVER_IP}:6443 K3S_TOKEN=${NODE_TOKEN}
K3S_KUBECONFIG_MODE="644" INSTALL_K3S_EXEC='server' sh -
```



## Note

This can be changed to the normal Kubernetes default by adding a taint to each server node. See the official Kubernetes documentation for more information on how to do that.

3. (Optional) In cases where agent nodes are desired, execute the following sets of commands on each of the agent nodes to add it to the K3s cluster:

```
FIRST_SERVER_IP=""      # Private IP preferred, if available
NODE_TOKEN=""           # From the /var/lib/rancher/k3s/server/node-
                        token file on the first server
K3s_VERSION=""          # Match the first of the first server
```

```
curl -sfL https://get.k3s.io | INSTALL_K3S_VERSION=${K3s_VERSION}
K3S_URL=https://${FIRST_SERVER_IP}:6443 K3S_TOKEN=${NODE_TOKEN}
K3S_KUBECONFIG_MODE="644" sh -
```

include::.../SUSE/RKE1/SA\_vars.adoc

## 5.5 Rancher Kubernetes Engine

Utilize an enterprise-grade Linux operating system , like SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro, as the base software layer.

### Preparation(s)

To meet the solution stack prerequisites and requirements, SUSE operating system offerings, like [SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro \(https://www.suse.com/products/micro/\)](https://www.suse.com/products/micro/)  can be utilized.

1. Ensure these services are in place and configured for this node to use:

- Domain Name Service ( DNS ) - an external network-accessible service to map IP Addresses to hostnames
- Network Time Protocol ( NTP ) - an external network-accessible service to obtain and synchronize system times to aid in timestamp consistency
- Software Update Service - access to a network-based repository for software update packages. This can be accessed directly from each node via registration to
  - the general, internet-based [SUSE Customer Center](https://scc.suse.com/login) ( <https://scc.suse.com/login> ) ( SCC ) or
  - an organization's [SUSE Manager](https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/) ( <https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/> ) infrastructure or
  - a local server running an instance of [Repository Mirroring Tool](https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt) ( <https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt> ) ( RMT )



### Note

During the node's installation, it can be pointed to the respective update service. This can also be accomplished post-installation with the command-line tool named [SUSEConnect](https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=000018564) ( <https://www.suse.com/support/kb/doc/?id=000018564> ).

2. Identify the appropriate, desired version of the Rancher Kubernetes Engine binary (e.g. vX.Y.Z), by reviewing the "Releases" on the [Download](https://github.com/k3s-io/k3s/) ( <https://github.com/k3s-io/k3s/> ) web page.

## Deployment Process

NOTE: Installing Rancher Kubernetes Engine requires a client system (i.e. admin workstation) that has been configured with kubectl.

The primary steps for deploying this Rancher Kubernetes Engine Kubernetes are:

+ . Download the Rancher Kubernetes Engine binary according to the instructions on this web-page: <https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/installation/>. Follow the directions on that page, but with the following exceptions:

- Create the cluster.yml file with the command `rke config`



## Note

See <https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/example-yamls/> and <https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/config-options/> for full descriptions of the cluster.yml parameters

- It is recommended to create a unique SSH key for this Rancher Kubernetes Engine cluster with the command `ssh-keygen`
  - Provide the path to that key for the option "Cluster Level SSH Private Key Path"
- The option "Number of Hosts" refers to the number of hosts to configure at this time
  - Additional hosts can be added very easily after Rancher Kubernetes Engine cluster creation
  - For this implementation, it is recommended to configure one, three, or five hosts
- Give all hosts the roles of "Control Plane", "Worker", and "etcd"
- Answer "n" for the option "Enable PodSecurityPolicy"
- Update the cluster.yml file before continuing with the step "Deploying Kubernetes with RKE"
  1. If a load balancer has been deployed for the Rancher Kubernetes Engine control-plane nodes, update the cluster.yml file (created with the command `rke config`) before deploying RKE to include the IP address or FQDN of the load balancer. The appropriate location is under authentication.sans. For example:

```
authentication:
  strategy: x509
  sans: ["rancher.susealliances.com"]
```



1. Update the cluster.yml file to work with the SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro read-only filesystem as shown below:

- Update the network.options block:

```
network:
  plugin: canal
  options: {
    canal_flex_volume_plugin_dir: /opt/kubernetes/kubelet-plugins/volume/exec/
nodeagent~uds,
    flannel_backend_type: vxlan
  }
```

- Update the service.kube-controller.extra\_args blocks:

```
kube-controller:
  image: ""
  extra_args: {flex-volume-plugin-dir: /opt/kubernetes/kubelet-plugins/volume/exec/}
```

- Verify password-less SSH is available from the system with the `rke` utility to each of the cluster hosts, as the user specified in the cluster.yml file
- When ready, run `rke up` to create the RKE cluster
- After the `rke up` command completes, the RKE cluster will continue the Kubernetes installation process
- Monitor the progress of the installation:
  - Export the variable KUBECONFIG to the absolute pathname of the kube\_config\_cluster.yml file. I.e. `export KUBECONFIG=~/.rke-cluster/kube_config_cluster.yml`
  - Run the command: `watch -c "kubectl get deployments -A"`
    - The cluster deployment is complete when elements of all the deployments show at least "1" as "AVAILABLE"
    - Use Ctrl + c to exit the watch loop after all deployment pods are running



### Tip

To address *Availability* and possible *scaling* to a multiple node cluster, Etcd is enabled instead of using the default SQLite datastore.

## Deployment Consideration(s)

To further optimize deployment factors, leverage the following practices:

- *Availability*
  - While a single Rancher Kubernetes Engine node works perfectly fine, a full high-availability Rancher Kubernetes Engine cluster is recommended for production workloads. The Etcd key/value store (aka database) requires an odd number of nodes be allocated to the Rancher Kubernetes Engine etcd nodes. In this case, two additional etcd nodes should be added; for a total of three.

After this successful deployment of the Rancher Kubernetes Engine solution, review the [product documentation \(https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/\)](https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/) for details on how to directly utilize this Kubernetes cluster. Furthermore, by reviewing the SUSE Rancher [product documentation \(https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/\)](https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/) this solution can also be:

- imported ( refer to sub-section "Importing Existing Clusters" ), then
- managed ( refer to sub-section "Cluster Administration" ) and
- accessed ( refer to sub-section "Cluster Access" ) to address orchestration of workloads, maintaining security and many more functions are readily available.

## 6 Summary

Using components and offerings from SUSE and the Rancher portfolio streamlines the ability to quickly and effectively engage in a digital transformation, taking advantage of cloud native resources and disciplines. Using such technology approaches lets you deploy and leverage transformations of infrastructure into a durable, reliable enterprise-grade environment.

### Simplify

Simplify and optimize your existing IT environments

- FixMe-Using Rancher Kubernetes Engine enables you to simplify Kubernetes cluster deployment and management of the the infrastructure components.

### Modernize

Bring applications and data into modern computing

- FixMe-With Rancher Kubernetes Engine, the digital transformation to containerized applications can benefit from the ability both to manage many target clusters, for each of the respective user bases and to facilitate the actual workload deployments.

### Accelerate

Accelerate business transformation through the power of open source software

- FixMe-Given the open source nature of Rancher Kubernetes Engine and the underlying software components, you can simplify management and make significant IT savings as you scale orchestrated, microservice deployments anywhere you need to and for whatever use cases are needed in an agile and innovative way.

## 7 References

### WHITE PAPERS

- A Buyer's Guide to Enterprise Kubernetes Management Platforms - <https://info.rancher.com/enterprise-kubernetes-management-buyers-guide>
- How to Build an Enterprise Kubernetes Strategy - <https://info.rancher.com/how-to-build-enterprise-kubernetes-strategy>

### BOOKS







- Kubernetes Management - <https://info.rancher.com/kubernetes-management-for-dummies-rancher-and-suse-0-0>

### TRAINING

- SUSE - <https://training.suse.com/>
- Rancher - <https://rancher.com/training/>

### WEBSITES

- SUSE - <https://www.suse.com>
- SUSE Customer Center ( SCC ) - <https://scc.suse.com/login>
- Products
  - SUSE Rancher - <https://rancher.com/products/rancher/> ( documentation (<https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/>) )
  - Rancher Kubernetes Engine ( RKE ) - <https://rancher.com/products/rke/> ( documentation (<https://rancher.com/docs/rke/latest/en/>) )
  - K3s - <https://rancher.com/products/k3s/> ( documentation (<https://rancher.com/docs/k3s/latest/en/>) )
  - SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro ( SLEMicro ) - <https://www.suse.com/products/micro/> ( documentation (<https://documentation.suse.com/sle-micro/5.0/>) )
  - SUSE Linux Enterprise Server ( SLES ) - <https://www.suse.com/products/server/> ( documentation (<https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/>) )

- SUSE Manager - <https://www.suse.com/products/suse-manager/>  ( documentation (<https://documentation.suse.com/suma/4.1/>)  )
- SUSE Repository Mirroring Tool ( RMT ) - <https://www.suse.com/products/server/>  ( documentation (<https://documentation.suse.com/sles/15-SP2/single-html/SLES-rmt/#book-rmt>)  )
- Projects
  - Rancher Kubernetes Engine Government ( RKE2 ) - <https://github.com/rancher/rke2>  ( documentation (<https://docs.rke2.io/>)  )

# Glossary

- Document Scope

## Reference Configuration

A guide with the basic steps to deploy the layered stack of components from both the SUSE and partner portfolios. This is considered a fundamental basis to demonstrate a specific, tested configuration of components.

## Reference Architectures <sup>1</sup>

A guide with the general steps to deploy and validate the structured solution components from both the SUSE and partner portfolios. This provides a shareable template of consistency for consumers to leverage for similar production ready solutions, including design considerations, implementation suggestions and best practices.

## Best Practice

Information that can overlap both the SUSE and partner space. It can either be provided as a standalone guide that provides reliable technical information not covered in other product documentation, based on real-life installation and implementation experiences from subject matter experts or complementary, embedded sections within any of the above documentation types describing considerations and possible steps forward.

- Factor(s)

## Automation <sup>2</sup>

Infrastructure automation enables speed through faster execution when configuring the infrastructure and aims at providing visibility to help other teams across the enterprise work quickly and more efficiently. Automation removes the risk associated with human error, like manual misconfiguration; removing this can decrease downtime and increase reliability. These outcomes and attributes help the enterprise move towards implementing a culture of DevOps, the combined working of development and operations.

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<sup>1</sup> link: Reference Architecture ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference\\_architecture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reference_architecture)) 

<sup>2</sup> link: Infrastructure-as-Code ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrastructure\\_as\\_code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infrastructure_as_code)) 

### Availability<sup>3</sup>

The probability that an item operates satisfactorily, without failures or downtimes, under stated conditions as a function of its reliability, redundancy and maintainability attributes. Some major objectives to achieve a desired service level objectives are:

- Preventing or reducing the likelihood and frequency of failures via design decisions within the allowed cost of ownership
- Correcting or coping with possible component failures via resiliency, automated failover and disaster-recovery processes
- Estimating and analyzing current conditions to prevent unexpected failures via predictive maintenance

### Integrity<sup>4</sup>

Integrity is the maintenance of, and the insurance of the accuracy and consistency of a specific element over its entire lifecycle. Both physical and logical aspects must be managed to ensure stability, performance, re-usability and maintainability.

### Security<sup>5</sup>

Security is about ensuring freedom from or resilience against potential harm, including protection from destructive or hostile forces. To minimize risks, one must manage governance to avoid tampering, maintain access controls to prevent unauthorized usage and integrate layers of defense, reporting and recovery tactics.

- Deployment Flavor(s)

### Proof-of-Concept<sup>6</sup>

A partial or nearly complete prototype constructed to demonstrate functionality and feasibility for verifying specific aspects or concepts under consideration. This is often a starting point when evaluating a new, transitional technology. Sometimes it starts as a Minimum Viable Product ( MVP<sup>7</sup> ) that has just enough features to satisfy an

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3 link: [Availability \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum\\_viable\\_product\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum_viable_product) ↗

4 link: [Data Integrity \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data\\_integrity\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_integrity) ↗

5 link: [Security \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security) ↗

6 link: [Proof of Concept \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof\\_of\\_concept\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proof_of_concept) ↗

7 link: [Minimum Viable Product \(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum\\_viable\\_product\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimum_viable_product) ↗

initial set of requests. After such insights and feedback are obtained and potentially addressed, redeployments may be utilized to iteratively branch into other realms or to incorporate other known working functionality.

### Production

A deployed environment that target customers or users can interact with and rely upon to meet their needs, plus be operationally sustainable in terms of resource utilization and economic constraints.

### Scaling

The flexibility of a system environment to either vertically scale-up, horizontally scale-out or conversely scale-down by adding or subtracting resources as needed. Attributes like capacity and performance are often the primary requirements to address, while still maintaining functional consistency and reliability.



## A Appendix

The following sections provide a bill of materials listing for each component layer.

### A.1 Compute Platform Bill of Materials

Role	Qty	SKU	Component	Notes
Compute Platform	1-3			<p>Configuration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CPU Cores: 2 x Intel® Xeon® Gold 6248 CPU @ 2.50 GHz</li><li>• Memory RAM: 24 x 32 GB</li><li>• NIC: 2 x Mellanox ConnectX-4 LX 25GbE SFP Adapter, 1 x Intel® Ethernet 10G</li></ul>

Role	Qty	SKU	Component	Notes
				4P X710/ I350 rNDC  • Storage: BOSS S1 Con- troller 2 x 240 GB SATA SSD, Dell HBA730 controller 2 x 900 GB SAS SSD
Compute Plat- form	1-3			Configuration:  • CPU Cores: 2 x Intel® Xeon® Gold 6248 CPU @ 2.50 GHz  • Memory RAM: 24 x 32 GB  • NIC: 2 x Mellanox Connec- tX-4 LX 25GbE

Role	Qty	SKU	Component	Notes
				SFP Adapter, 1 x In- tel® Eth- ernet 10G 4P X710/ I350 rNDC • Storage: BOSS S1 Con- troller 2 x 240 GB SATA SSD, Dell HBA730 controller 2 x 900 GB SAS SSD

## A.2 Software Bill of Materials

Role	Qty	SKU	Component	Notes
Operating System	1-3	874-007864	SUSE Linux Enterprise Micro, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• x86_64,</li><li>• Priority Subscription,</li><li>• 1 Year</li></ul>	Configuration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• per node (up to 16 cores, stackable)</li></ul>
Kubernetes	1	R-0003-PS1	Rancher Kubernetes Engine, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• x86-64,</li><li>• Priority Subscription,</li><li>• 1 Year</li></ul>	Configuration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provides support of 10 nodes</li></ul>



### Note

For the software components, other durations of support terms are also available.

## A.3 Documentation Configuration / Attributes

This document was built using the following [AsciiDoc \(https://github.com/asciidoc/asciidoc\)](https://github.com/asciidoc/asciidoc) and [DocBook Authoring and Publishing Suite \(DAPS \(https://github.com/openSUSE/daps\)\)](https://github.com/openSUSE/daps) attributes:

```
Automation=1@ Availability=1@ FCTR=1@ FLVR=1@ IHV-DELL-PowerEdge=1@ IHV-DELL=1@
Integrity=1@ PoC=1@ Production=1@ RC=1@ Scaling=1@ Security=1@ focusRKE1=1@
iIHV=1@ layerK3s=1@ layerSLEMicro=1@ Appendix=1 Arch0v=1 BP=1 BPBV=1 CompMod=1
DepConsiderations=1 Deployment=1 GFDL=1 Glossary=1 HWComp=1 HWDepCfg=1 LN=1 RA=1
References=1 Requirements=1 SWComp=1 SWDepCfg=1 env-daps=1 iK3s=1 iRKE1=1 iRKE2=1 iRMT=1
iRancher=1 iSLEMicro=1 iSLES=1 iSUMa=1
```

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