

Customizing SUSE Linux Micro on Premises

WHAT?

Describe your topic in one sentence.

WHY?

State the reason why one should read this.

EFFORT

What's the effort one has to put in?

GOAL

What's the reader's take-away from this article?

REQUIREMENTS

List the requirements to accomplish the task(s) described below.



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1 Introduction

This article explains how to transform the provided raw OS image into a purpose-built system. The process may involve installing necessary software from RPMs and applying custom configurations for standard deployments. For specialized hardware not supported by the default image, we will also cover how to build and integrate custom kernel modules and drivers to ensure full system functionality.

2 Identifying SUSE OEM

Products based on SLE support more than 7,000 software applications and the widest range of hardware platforms and architectures in the industry. Partnering with SUSE enables OEMs to build and deliver solutions that help customers reduce costs, manage complexity, and mitigate risk. However, when SLE family products are being bundled with a system or integrated into a solution by an OEM, the system or solution needs to state the OEM status to customers, users and any compliance team. An important reason for this is that the terms and conditions of an OEM license agreement usually differ from a common end user license agreement (EULA).

To mark a system as containing an OEM version of a SUSE Linux Enterprise family product, follow the instructions detailed below.

2.1 Modification of `/etc/os-release`

The file `/etc/os-release` is part of the `*-release` package for each product of the SUSE Linux Enterprise family. It is used to identify the respective product.

If the OEM does not rebrand SLE when integrating it into the OEM solution, the file `/etc/os-release` shall be amended. For details about the file structure, refer to the [SLE OS identification \(https://documentation.suse.com/sles/16.0/html/SLE-os-identification\)](https://documentation.suse.com/sles/16.0/html/SLE-os-identification) .

The definition of `/etc/os-release` does not cover OEM identification. However, custom values can be added when correctly prefixed. We suggest OEMs to introduce:

SUSE_OEM_NAME

A mandatory clear identifier for the OEM solution/appliance.

SUSE_OEM_SUPPORT_URL

The attribute refers to the main support page for the OEM operating system.

SUSE_OEM_BUG_REPORT_URL

The attribute refers to the main bug reporting page for the OEM operating system.

2.2 Modification of `/etc/issue`

The file `/etc/issue` provides a banner to a system on login. As the default on SLE, `/etc/issue` identifies the version, architecture, kernel and currently running network configuration of the respective product. An example follows.

```
Welcome to SUSE Linux Micro 6.2 (x86_64) - Kernel \r (\l).  
  
eth0: \4{eth0} \6{eth0}
```

OEMs shall adjust `/etc/issue` to identify the OEM solution instead of SUSE Linux Enterprise.

2.3 Completely rebranded systems

An OEM can decide to completely rebrand a SUSE Linux Enterprise system. In this case, the OEM needs to create an individual `*-release` package including the `/etc/issue` and `/etc/os-release` files. The `*-release` package from the respective product provided by SUSE may be used as a template.

It is important for the OEM to make sure **no** SUSE originated files can be found in `/etc/products.d/` that would identify the system as a SLE system. Instead, the information contained in the file needs to come from the OEM and explicitly identify the OEM system.

3 Building custom images based on SUSE Linux Micro

This section provides a brief guide for creating custom images based on SUSE Linux Micro, allowing you to build a system tailored to your solution's needs. The entire process relies on the KIWI NG image builder and can be summarized into the following key stages:

- *Section 3.1, "Creating the directory structure"*
- *Section 3.2, "Downloading files for image customization"*

- *Section 3.3, “Modifying image definitions files”*
- *Section 3.4, “Building the custom image”.*

For a complete description of how KIWI GN works, refer to the [KIWI documentation \(https://osinside.github.io/kiwi/overview.html\)](https://osinside.github.io/kiwi/overview.html) ↗.

3.1 Creating the directory structure

Before building, we recommend to prepare a project directory structure. Create a working directory that contains the following directories:

- the `root` directory: the directory stores custom configuration files. You can use this directory to replace files installed from the packages or to introduce new ones.
- the build output directory: you can name the directory according to your needs as this path is provided to KIWI during the KIWI invocation.

3.2 Downloading files for image customization

To get the necessary files that define the custom image, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the [openSUSE build service \(https://build.opensuse.org/project/show/SUSE:SL-FO:Products:SL-Micro:6.2\)](https://build.opensuse.org/project/show/SUSE:SL-FO:Products:SL-Micro:6.2) ↗.
2. Download the package `SL-Micro`.
3. Unpack it to your working directory.

3.3 Modifying image definitions files

In the `SL-Micro` package, there is the build definition file `SL-Micro.kiwi`. You can modify the file to suit your needs as described below:

- the type of image to be built. For details, refer to the [preferences definition \(https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.preferences\)](https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.preferences) ↗.
- repositories to use either the SUSE open build service ones or your custom repositories. For details, refer to the [repository definition \(https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.repository\)](https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.repository) ↗.

- RPM packages to install. For details, refer to the [packages](https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.packages) definition (<https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.description.packages>) ↗.
- scripts to run during the build process. For details, refer to the [boot image hook-scripts](https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.hooks) (<https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#sec.hooks>) ↗.
- custom configuration. For details, refer to [Section 3.3.1, “Adding custom files”](#).

For a complete specification of the elements, refer to the [KIWI image description](https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#chap.description) (<https://doc.opensuse.org/projects/kiwi/doc/#chap.description>) ↗.

3.3.1 Adding custom files

You can add your custom configuration files to the image. To do so, proceed as follows:

1. Navigate to the [root](#) directory.
2. Inside [root](#), create the directory path where you want your file to be placed.
3. Place your custom configuration file in that directory.

Alternatively, to generate the files during the image build process, use the [config.sh](#) script. For details, refer to the [KIWI documentation](https://osinside.github.io/kiwi/concept_and_workflow/shell_scripts.html) (https://osinside.github.io/kiwi/concept_and_workflow/shell_scripts.html) ↗.

3.4 Building the custom image

After you have prepared all necessary files and the directory structure, you can use **kiwi-ng** to build the image. To build it directly with **kiwi-ng** you need to have version included in SLE 16.0 or higher. Alternatively, you can use a container.

Then to build the image, proceed as follows:

1. Either download the container image from the [registry](https://registry.suse.com/repositories/bci-kiwi10) (<https://registry.suse.com/repositories/bci-kiwi10>) ↗.

Or you can use KIWI directly after installing it:

```
> sudo zypper install python3-kiwi
```

2. Navigate to the [build](#) directory in your working directory.

3. Trigger the build, either directly with KIWI NG:

```
> sudo kiwi-ng system build \  
  --description IMAGE_DESCRIPTION \  
  --target-dir OUTPUT_BUILD_DIRECTORY
```

Or by using the container:

```
> podman run --privileged -v PATH_TO_DESCRIPTION_FILE:/image:Z registry.suse.com/  
bci/kiwi:10.2
```

4. After the build process completes, check the output build directory with the image.

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