

# Getting an Edge on Point of Service

Save money & enhance your POS environment with SUSE Manager for Retail

# Article

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Article

IT Infrastructure Management



**A Point of Service (POS) network is a highly specialized environment that requires specific tools. Traditional solutions depend on proprietary hardware running proprietary software that limits flexibility and enforces vendor lock-in. An alternative approach is to build the retail environment around general-purpose, PC-based client systems and general-purpose management tools. Implementing a retail environment through general-purpose systems solves the lock-in problem, but fails to provide the security, efficiency and convenience of a system specifically designed for the needs of the retail industry.**

If you are looking for a solution that is specifically designed for retail, but avoids the complications and added expense of proprietary tools, try SUSE Manager for Retail. SUSE Manager for Retail is an open source infrastructure management solution that is powerful, flexible, secure and easy to customize.

### What is SUSE Manager for Retail?

SUSE Manager for Retail is an open source infrastructure management solution that is carefully crafted for the retail industry. You can use SUSE Manager for Retail to keep watch over POS terminals, reverse-vending systems, kiosks, self-service systems and even non-retail devices at schools, banks or hospitals. SUSE Manager for Retail can also manage Linux workstations, servers and other assets, thus consolidating POS and conventional infrastructure in a unified management framework.

The SUSE Manager for Retail system offers a comprehensive interface that enables you to:

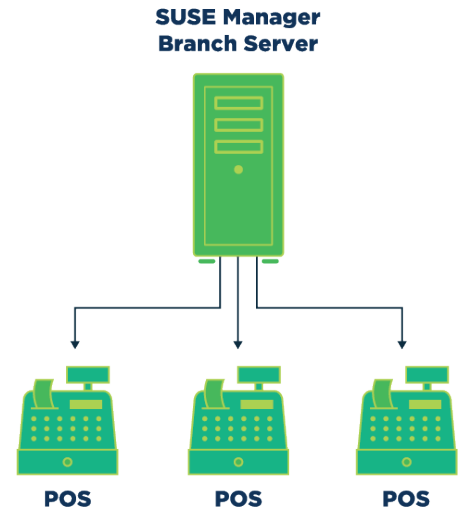
- Create, deploy and maintain images for POS devices that are optimized for retail applications, including support for secure payments protocols.
- Automatically update or patch all retail terminals from one central location.
- Automatically monitor, track and report any deviation from compliance of every Linux-based system in your environments.
- Lower costs by extending the lifetime of legacy hardware.
- Optimize operations through scripting and programming for continuous integration.

If you administer a POS retail environment, SUSE Manager for Retail will help you reduce costs, streamline operations, increase flexibility, enhance reliability and improve uptime.

### The Retail Environment

At the local level, SUSE Manager for Retail enables you to deploy, configure, manage and audit a collection of POS systems (see Figure 1). Ask SUSE about the SUSE Linux Enterprise Point of Service client, which is designed for easy and complete integration with SUSE Manager for Retail.

A multi-site enterprise environment benefits even more from the powers of SUSE Manager for Retail (see Figure 2). The SUSE Manager for Retail server unifies



**Figure 1.** SUSE Manager for Retail operates efficiently at the local level, keeping watch over a collection of POS systems.

dissimilar local environments within a single unified management interface. Branch servers operating at the local level provide proxy, DNS and other services to improve performance and minimize network traffic.

### Why SUSE Manager for Retail?

SUSE Manager for Retail oversees the complete lifecycle of your Linux-based POS systems. You can install system images for these systems from pre-configured image templates. SUSE Manager for Retail also provides remote deployment and provisioning for POS systems. The Salt automated configuration environment included with SUSE Manager for Retail enables you to pre-define complete systems in a declarative format that is easy to adapt for fast and efficient rollout. SUSE

Manager for Retail locks down software installation, forcing client systems to receive updates through managed channels that enhance security and enforce standardization to minimize reconfiguration and lost work time.

SUSE Manager for Retail also simplifies system management. The SUSE Manager for Retail user interface offers a graphical overview of the retail network, enabling the admin to check the configuration and patch status at a glance (see Figure 3). For ease of administration and better security, SUSE Manager for Retail enables you to divide admin responsibilities by role (see Figure 4) or location.

### Efficiency and Cost Savings

SUSE Manager for Retail reduces risk and minimizes hardware and admin expenses. The minimal hardware requirements of the SUSE Linux Enterprise Point of Service operating system enable you to build your retail infrastructure around commodity hardware and even extend the life of older POS terminals that might not be compatible with other systems. The Salt configuration management system at the heart of SUSE Manager enables IT staff to automate rollouts and reconfiguration. SUSE Manager for Retail offers additional time savings through auditing, software updates and automation. An administrator without advanced scripting skills can use the web forms built into SUSE Manager for Retail to describe and implement complex configurations for any store environment.

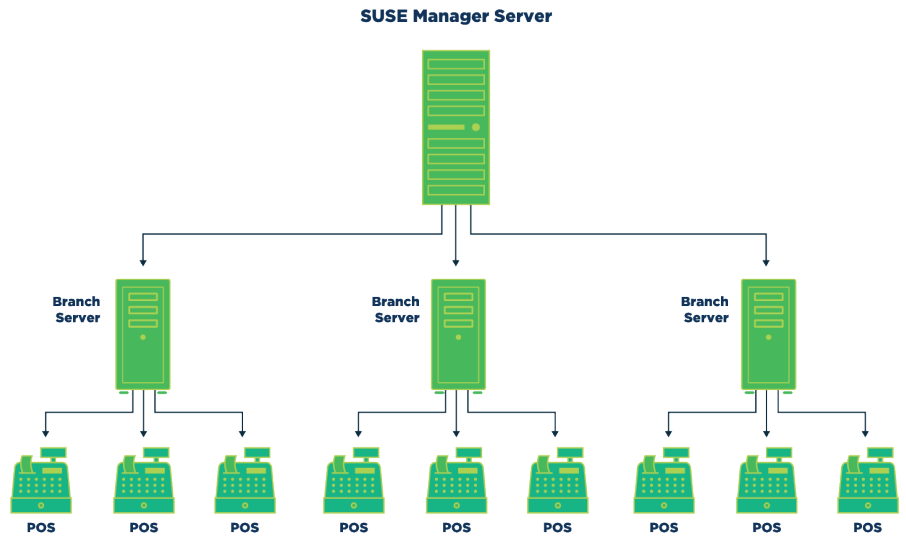


Figure 2. SUSE Manager for Retail offers a unified view even in complex, multi-site scenarios.

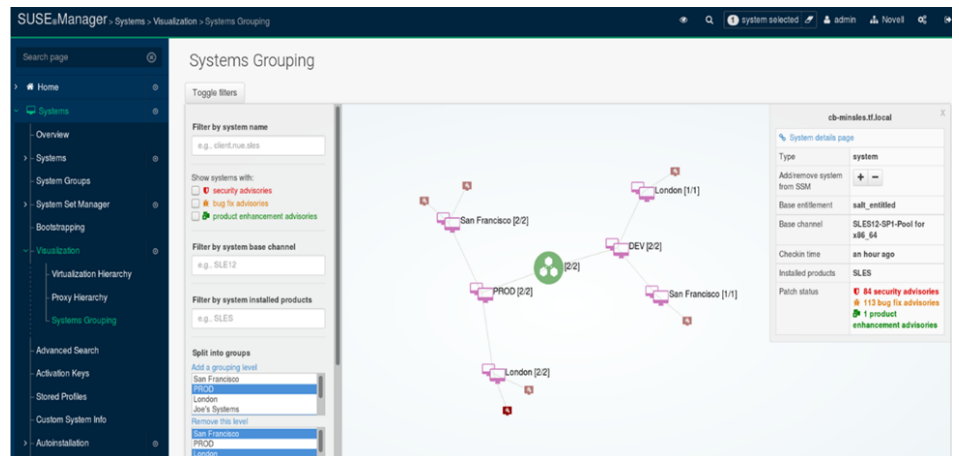
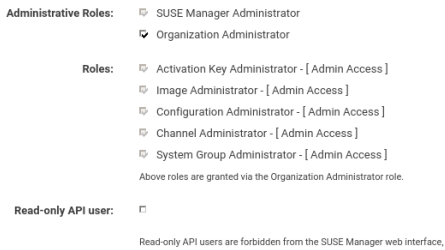


Figure 3. SUSE Manager for Retail provides a convenient map of the network, with configuration settings for managed clients in easy reach.



**Figure 4.** *Minimum privilege: You can assign admin responsibilities to different groups with different roles.*

### Easier Compliance

SUSE Manager for Retail makes it easy to verify that your retail assets are in compliance with internal corporate policies and external regulations. You can view the compliance status of any POS system anywhere in the network (see Figure 5). Your staff can use SUSE Manager for Retail to create an inventory of all managed systems. Once that inventory is available, SUSE Manager for Retail continuously monitors all clients and reports on any deviation from the current patch level or any other compliance requirement.

SUSE Manager for Retail can also monitor your systems automatically to ensure compliance with external standards such as Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) and Open Security Content Automation Protocol (OpenSCAP).

### Automation Edge

You can use the SUSE Manager XML-RPC API to integrate SUSE Manager for Retail with custom applications written in Python, Perl and other programming languages. An optional text-based command interface makes it easy to build SUSE Manager commands into Bash scripts and other admin utilities. This strong support for automation, combined with its powerful configuration and deployment features, make SUSE Manager for Retail a natural fit for continuous integration/continuous delivery scenarios.

### Migration

The initial release of SUSE Manager for Retail 3.2 was targeted at new installations; it was not enabled for migration of legacy installations of the retail server or SUSE Linux Enterprise Point of Service client. A technical preview version of SUSE Manager for Retail 3.2 now supports migration. For more information, see the SUSE Manager for Retail Migration Guide, at [suse.com/documentation/suse-manager-for-retail-3-2/retail-migration/](https://suse.com/documentation/suse-manager-for-retail-3-2/retail-migration/).

### Conclusion

SUSE Manager for Retail enables you to manage the full lifecycle of your POS retail infrastructure from a single interface. You can lock down control of your retail

System Currency Report

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25 items per page

| System                 | Security (Critical) | Security (Important) | Security (Moderate) | Security (Low) | Bug Fixes | Enhancements | Score |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| hggg-12sp1-68          | 4                   | 208                  | 116                 | 4              | 504       | 76           | 5484  |
| testinggg-12sp2-53     | 0                   | 84                   | 150                 | 6              | 840       | 12           | 4260  |
| hggg-cent7-vm1         | 5                   | 80                   | 50                  | 15             | 705       | 155          | 3465  |
| hggg-11sp4-51          | 3                   | 99                   | 114                 | 0              | 81        | 0            | 2754  |
| testinggg-sap-12sp2-49 | 0                   | 72                   | 112                 | 4              | 240       | 0            | 2544  |
| hggg-12sp3-55          | 0                   | 36                   | 72                  | 0              | 120       | 0            | 1382  |
| testinggg-12sp1-50     | 0                   | 15                   | 48                  | 3              | 273       | 33           | 1215  |

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**Figure 5.** *SUSE Manager for Retail makes it easy to spot a system that needs maintenance.*

systems through software channels, automated configuration, auditing and other powerful features. Easy administration and strong support for automation improve efficiency and lower your total cost of ownership.

For more information on SUSE Manager for Retail, contact the experts at SUSE.

Additional contact information and office locations:  
[www.suse.com](http://www.suse.com)

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