



# Installation and Setup Quick Start

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## SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension 15 SP1

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This document guides you through the setup of a very basic two-node cluster, using the bootstrap scripts provided by the `ha-cluster-bootstrap` package. This includes the configuration of a virtual IP address as a cluster resource and the use of SBD on shared storage as a node fencing mechanism.

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# 1 Usage Scenario

The procedures in this document will lead to a minimal setup of a two-node cluster with the following properties:

- Two nodes: `alice` (IP: `192.168.1.1`) and `bob` (IP: `192.168.1.2`), connected to each other via network.
- A floating, virtual IP address (`192.168.2.1`) which allows clients to connect to the service no matter which physical node it is running on.
- A shared storage device, used as SBD fencing mechanism. This avoids split brain scenarios.
- Failover of resources from one node to the other if the active host breaks down (*active/passive* setup).

After setup of the cluster with the bootstrap scripts, we will monitor the cluster with the graphical Hawk2. It is one of the cluster management tools included with SUSE® Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension. As a basic test of whether failover of resources works, we will put one of the nodes into standby mode and check if the virtual IP address is migrated to the second node. You can use the two-node cluster for testing purposes or as a minimal cluster configuration that you can extend later on. Before using the cluster in a production environment, modify it according to your requirements.

## 2 System Requirements

This section informs you about the key system requirements for the scenario described in [Section 1](#). To adjust the cluster for use in a production environment, refer to the full list in *Book "Administration Guide", Chapter 2 "System Requirements and Recommendations"*.

### 2.1 Hardware Requirements

#### Servers

Two servers with software as specified in [Section 2.2, "Software Requirements"](#).

The servers can be bare metal or virtual machines. They do not require identical hardware (memory, disk space, etc.), but they must have the same architecture. Cross-platform clusters are not supported.

## Communication Channels

At least two TCP/IP communication media per cluster node. The network equipment must support the communication means you want to use for cluster communication: multicast or unicast. The communication media should support a data rate of 100 Mbit/s or higher. For a supported cluster setup two or more redundant communication paths are required. This can be done via:

- Network Device Bonding (preferred).
- A second communication channel in Corosync.

## Node Fencing/STONITH

To avoid a “split brain” scenario, clusters need a node fencing mechanism. In a split brain scenario, cluster nodes are divided into two or more groups that do not know about each other (because of a hardware or software failure or because of a cut network connection). A fencing mechanism isolates the node in question (usually by resetting or powering off the node). This is also called STONITH (“Shoot the other node in the head”). A node fencing mechanism can be either a physical device (a power switch) or a mechanism like SBD (STONITH by disk) in combination with a watchdog. Using SBD requires shared storage.

## 2.2 Software Requirements

All nodes that will be part of the cluster need at least the following modules and extensions:

- Base System Module 15 SP1
- Server Applications Module 15 SP1
- SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension 15 SP1

## 2.3 Other Requirements and Recommendations

### Time Synchronization

Cluster nodes must synchronize to an NTP server outside the cluster. Since SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension 15, chrony is the default implementation of NTP. For more information, see the *Administration Guide* for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP1, chapter *Time Synchronization with NTP*. It is available from <http://www.suse.com/documentation/>.

If nodes are not synchronized, the cluster may not work properly. In addition, log files and cluster reports are very hard to analyze without synchronization. If you use the bootstrap scripts, you will be warned if NTP is not configured yet.

#### Host Name and IP Address

- Use static IP addresses.
- List all cluster nodes in the `/etc/hosts` file with their fully qualified host name and short host name. It is essential that members of the cluster can find each other by name. If the names are not available, internal cluster communication will fail.

#### SSH

All cluster nodes must be able to access each other via SSH. Tools like `crm report` (for troubleshooting) and Hawk2's *History Explorer* require passwordless SSH access between the nodes, otherwise they can only collect data from the current node.

If you use the bootstrap scripts for setting up the cluster, the SSH keys will automatically be created and copied.

## 3 Overview of the Bootstrap Scripts

All commands from the `ha-cluster-bootstrap` package execute bootstrap scripts that require only a minimum of time and manual intervention.

- With `ha-cluster-init`, define the basic parameters needed for cluster communication. This leaves you with a running one-node cluster.
- With `ha-cluster-join`, add more nodes to your cluster.
- With `ha-cluster-remove`, remove nodes from your cluster.

All bootstrap scripts log to `/var/log/ha-cluster-bootstrap.log`. Check this file for any details of the bootstrap process. Any options set during the bootstrap process can be modified later with the YaST cluster module. See *Book "Administration Guide", Chapter 4 "Using the YaST Cluster Module"* for details.

Each script comes with a man page covering the range of functions, the script's options, and an overview of the files the script can create and modify.

The bootstrap script `ha-cluster-init` checks and configures the following components:

#### NTP

If NTP has not been configured to start at boot time, a message appears. Since SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension 15, chrony is the default implementation of NTP.

#### SSH

It creates SSH keys for passwordless login between cluster nodes.

#### Csync2

It configures Csync2 to replicate configuration files across all nodes in a cluster.

#### Corosync

It configures the cluster communication system.

#### SBD/Watchdog

It checks if a watchdog exists and asks you whether to configure SBD as node fencing mechanism.

#### Virtual Floating IP

It asks you whether to configure a virtual IP address for cluster administration with Hawk2.

#### Firewall

It opens the ports in the firewall that are needed for cluster communication.

#### Cluster Name

It defines a name for the cluster, by default `hacluster`. This is optional and mostly useful for Geo clusters. Usually, the cluster name reflects the location and makes it easier to distinguish a site inside a Geo cluster.

## 4 Installing SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension

The packages for configuring and managing a cluster with the High Availability Extension are included in the High Availability installation pattern (named `sles_ha` on the command line). This pattern is only available after SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension has been installed as an extension to SUSE® Linux Enterprise Server.

For information on how to install extensions, see the *Deployment Guide* for SUSE Linux Enterprise 15 SP1, chapter *Installing Modules, Extensions, and Third Party Add-On Products*. It is available from <http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles>.

## PROCEDURE 1: INSTALLING THE High Availability PATTERN

If the pattern is not installed yet, proceed as follows:

1. Install it via command line using Zypper:

```
root # zypper install -t pattern ha_sles
```

2. Install the High Availability pattern on *all* machines that will be part of your cluster.



### Note: Installing Software Packages on All Parties

For an automated installation of SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP1 and SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension 15 SP1 use AutoYaST to clone existing nodes. For more information see *Book "Administration Guide", Chapter 3 "Installing the High Availability Extension", Section 3.2 "Mass Installation and Deployment with AutoYaST"*.

3. Register the machines at SUSE Customer Center. Find more information in the *Deployment Guide* for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP1, chapter *Installing or Removing Software*, section *Registering an Installed System*. It is available from <http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles>.

## 5 Using SBD as Fencing Mechanism

If you have shared storage, for example, a SAN (Storage Area Network), you can use it to avoid split brain scenarios. To do so, configure SBD as node fencing mechanism. SBD uses watchdog support and the `external/sbd` STONITH resource agent.

### 5.1 Requirements for SBD

During setup of the first node with `ha-cluster-init`, you can decide whether to use SBD. If yes, you need to enter the path to the shared storage device. By default, `ha-cluster-init` will automatically create a small partition on the device to be used for SBD.

To use SBD, the following requirements must be met:

- The path to the shared storage device must be persistent and consistent across all nodes in the cluster. Use stable device names such as [/dev/disk/by-id/dm-uuid-part1-mpath-abcdef12345](#).
- The SBD device *must not* use host-based RAID, LVM2, nor reside on a DRBD\* instance.

For details of how to set up shared storage, refer to the *Storage Administration Guide* for SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 15 SP1. It is available from <http://www.suse.com/documentation/sles>.

## 5.2 Enabling the Softdog Watchdog for SBD

In SUSE Linux Enterprise Server, watchdog support in the kernel is enabled by default: It ships with several kernel modules that provide hardware-specific watchdog drivers. The High Availability Extension uses the SBD daemon as the software component that “feeds” the watchdog.

The following procedure uses the [softdog](#) watchdog.

### Important: Softdog Limitations

The softdog driver assumes that at least one CPU is still running. If all CPUs are stuck, the code in the softdog driver that should reboot the system will never be executed. In contrast, hardware watchdogs keep working even if all CPUs are stuck.

Before using the cluster in a production environment, we highly recommend to replace the [softdog](#) module with the hardware module that best fits your hardware.

However, if no watchdog matches your hardware, [softdog](#) can be used as kernel watchdog module.

1. Create a persistent, shared storage as described in *Section 5.1, “Requirements for SBD”*.
2. Enable the softdog watchdog:

```
root # echo softdog > /etc/modules-load.d/watchdog.conf
root # systemctl restart systemd-modules-load
```

3. Test if the softdog module is loaded correctly:

```
root # lsmod | grep dog
softdog                16384  1
```



We highly recommend to test the SBD fencing mechanism for proper function to prevent a split scenario. Such a test can be done by blocking the Corosync cluster communication.

## 6 Setting Up the First Node

Set up the first node with the `ha-cluster-init` script. This requires only a minimum of time and manual intervention.

### PROCEDURE 2: SETTING UP THE FIRST NODE (alice) WITH `ha-cluster-init`

1. Log in as `root` to the physical or virtual machine to use as cluster node.
2. Start the bootstrap script by executing:

```
root # ha-cluster-init --name CLUSTERNAME
```

Replace the `CLUSTERNAME` placeholder with a meaningful name, like the geographical location of your cluster (for example, `amsterdam`). This is especially helpful to create a Geo cluster later on, as it simplifies the identification of a site.

If you need unicast instead of multicast (the default) for your cluster communication, use the option `-u`. After installation, find the value `udpu` in the file `/etc/corosync/corosync.conf`. If `ha-cluster-init` detects a node running on Amazon Web Services (AWS), the script will use unicast automatically as default for cluster communication.

The script checks for NTP configuration and a hardware watchdog service. It generates the public and private SSH keys used for SSH access and Csync2 synchronization and starts the respective services.

3. Configure the cluster communication layer (Corosync):
  - a. Enter a network address to bind to. By default, the script will propose the network address of `eth0`. Alternatively, enter a different network address, for example the address of `bond0`.
  - b. Enter a multicast address. The script proposes a random address that you can use as default. Of course, your particular network needs to support this multicast address.
  - c. Enter a multicast port. The script proposes `5405` as default.
4. Set up SBD as node fencing mechanism:
  - a. Confirm with `y` that you want to use SBD.



## ! Important: Secure Password

Replace the default password with a secure one as soon as possible:

```
root # passwd hacluster
```

4. Click *Log In*. After login, the Hawk2 Web interface shows the Status screen by default, displaying the current cluster status at a glance:

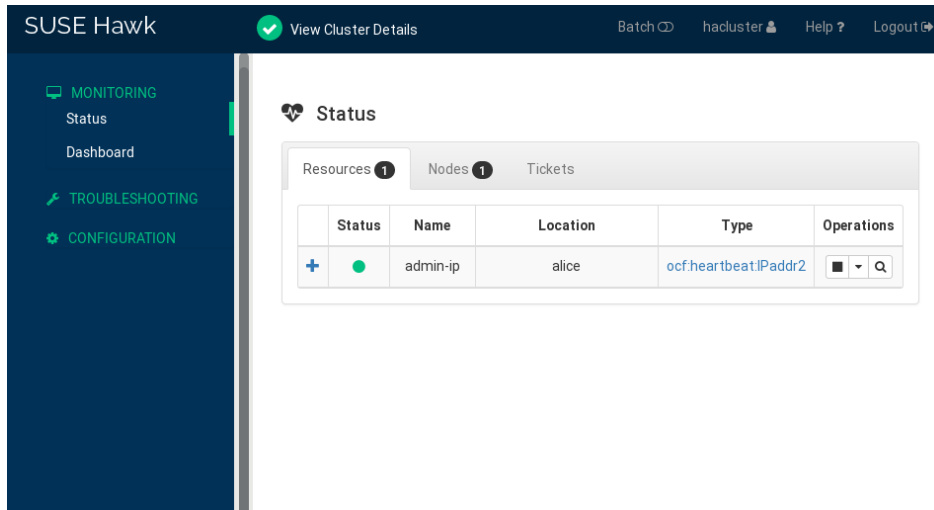


FIGURE 1: STATUS OF THE ONE-NODE CLUSTER IN HAWK2

## 7 Adding the Second Node

If you have a one-node cluster up and running, add the second cluster node with the **ha-cluster-join** bootstrap script, as described in *Procedure 4*. The script only needs access to an existing cluster node and will complete the basic setup on the current machine automatically. For details, refer to the **ha-cluster-join** man page.

The bootstrap scripts take care of changing the configuration specific to a two-node cluster, for example, SBD and Corosync.

### PROCEDURE 4: ADDING THE SECOND NODE (bob) WITH **ha-cluster-join**

1. Log in as root to the physical or virtual machine supposed to join the cluster.

2. Start the bootstrap script by executing:

```
root # ha-cluster-join
```

If NTP has not been configured to start at boot time, a message appears. The script also checks for a hardware watchdog device (which is important in case you want to configure SBD). You are warned if none is present.

3. If you decide to continue anyway, you will be prompted for the IP address of an existing node. Enter the IP address of the first node (alice, 192.168.1.1).
4. If you have not already configured a passwordless SSH access between both machines, you will be prompted for the root password of the existing node.  
After logging in to the specified node, the script will copy the Corosync configuration, configure SSH and Csync2, and will bring the current machine online as new cluster node. Apart from that, it will start the service needed for Hawk2.

Check the cluster status in Hawk2. Under *Status* > *Nodes* you should see two nodes with a green status (see *Figure 2, "Status of the Two-Node Cluster"*).

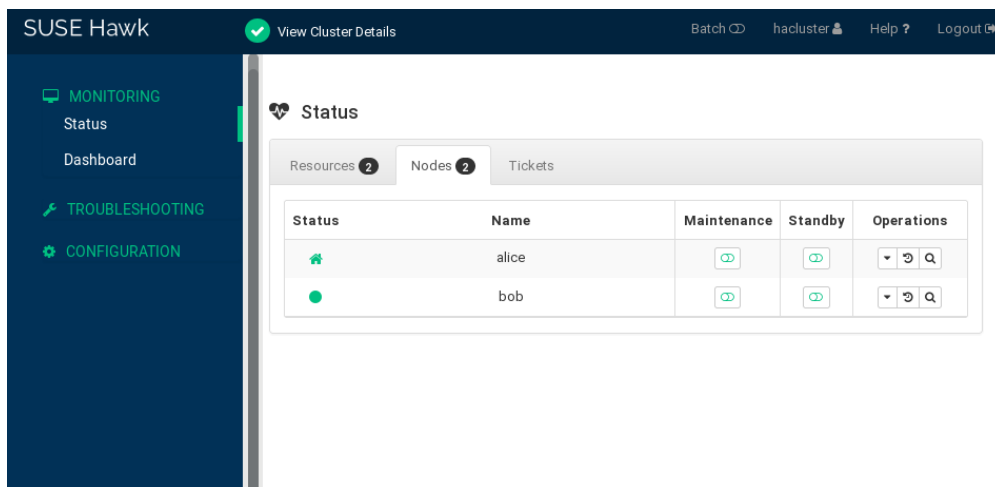


FIGURE 2: STATUS OF THE TWO-NODE CLUSTER

## 8 Testing the Cluster

*Procedure 5, "Testing Resource Failover"* is a simple test to check if the cluster moves the virtual IP address to the other node in case the node that currently runs the resource is set to standby.

However, a realistic test involves specific use cases and scenarios, including testing of your fencing mechanism to avoid a split brain situation. If you have not set up your fencing mechanism correctly, the cluster will not work properly.

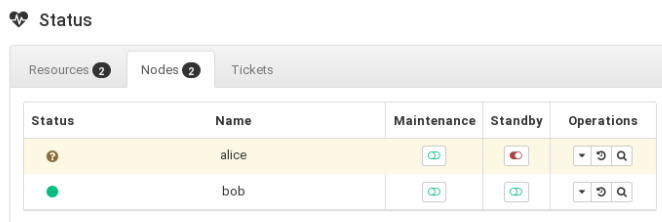
Before using the cluster in a production environment, test it thoroughly according to your use cases.

#### PROCEDURE 5: TESTING RESOURCE FAILOVER

1. Open a terminal and ping `192.168.2.1`, your virtual IP address:

```
root # ping 192.168.2.1
```

2. Log in to your cluster as described in *Procedure 3, "Logging In to the Hawk2 Web Interface"*.
3. In Hawk2 *Status > Resources*, check which node the virtual IP address (resource `admin_addr`) is running on. We assume the resource is running on `alice`.
4. Put `alice` into *Standby* mode (see *Figure 3, "Node alice in Standby Mode"*).



The screenshot shows the Hawk2 Status page with tabs for Resources, Nodes, and Tickets. The Resources tab is active, displaying a table with columns: Status, Name, Maintenance, Standby, and Operations. The table contains two rows: 'alice' and 'bob'. The 'alice' row is highlighted in yellow and shows a red status icon, a green maintenance icon, a red standby icon, and a search icon. The 'bob' row shows a green status icon, a green maintenance icon, a green standby icon, and a search icon.

Status	Name	Maintenance	Standby	Operations
	alice			
	bob			

FIGURE 3: NODE `alice` IN STANDBY MODE

5. Click *Status > Resources*. The resource `admin_addr` has been migrated to `bob`.

During the migration, you should see an uninterrupted flow of pings to the virtual IP address. This shows that the cluster setup and the floating IP work correctly. Cancel the `ping` command with `Ctrl-C`.

## 9 For More Information

Find more documentation for this product at <http://www.suse.com/documentation/sle-ha>. The documentation also includes a comprehensive *Administration Guide* for SUSE Linux Enterprise High Availability Extension. Refer to it for further configuration and administration tasks.

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