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# SUSE® Linux® 10.1

## KICK START

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With the release of SUSE Linux 10.1 in early 2006, Novell provided users, technical professionals, and Linux enthusiasts around the world with the most full-featured and powerful version of SUSE Linux yet. But every new software release has its quirks, bugs, and complexities—on top of the usual array of new features and changes—and SUSE Linux 10.1 is no exception.

This Digital Short Cut is designed to help you, the Linux user or technical professional, sort all this out so you can quickly and efficiently install and configure SUSE Linux 10.1 for desktop computing. The Adobe PDF format, with linked indexes and navigation tools, allows quick, random-access to exactly the information you need in order to learn about a new feature, troubleshoot a problem, or walk through a particularly tricky process.

So let's get started. Either find a topic of interest within the bookmarks on the left and then click on a link, or just hit Page Down on your keyboard to start at the beginning.

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# Introduction: Conventions Used in This Digital Short Cut

*SUSE Linux 10.1 Kick Start* is laid out in a task-oriented fashion, meaning you can easily skip directly to the sections that you need. If you are new to SUSE, you should start at the beginning and follow the guide in order unless you come to a heading that looks like this:

## Skip Ahead

If that heading has information that applies to you, skip to the section or chapter that it indicates.

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If you're in danger of making a choice that could ruin your software environment, you'll see a heading that looks like this:

## Warning

Don't skip the warnings—they're there to save you from disaster.

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Lastly, a few headings look like this:

## Tip

These contain extra information that will help you fine-tune your operating environment. Unlike warnings, tips are optional.

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## 2.10 Finalizing Your Settings

### ► WARNING

This is the point of no return. If you're overwriting your old operating system, this might be a good time to get up, get yourself a cup of coffee, and think about any data you might have on the drive that you forgot to back up.

### ► TIP

There is a bug in the installer that prompts it to ask you for the non-OSS add-on CD twice—you have to switch discs two times in a row.

When the dependencies are calculated and added, you're brought back to the Installation Settings screen. Click Accept to begin the installation. A warning screen will pop up to inform you that you're now finalizing your settings and actually installing the software.

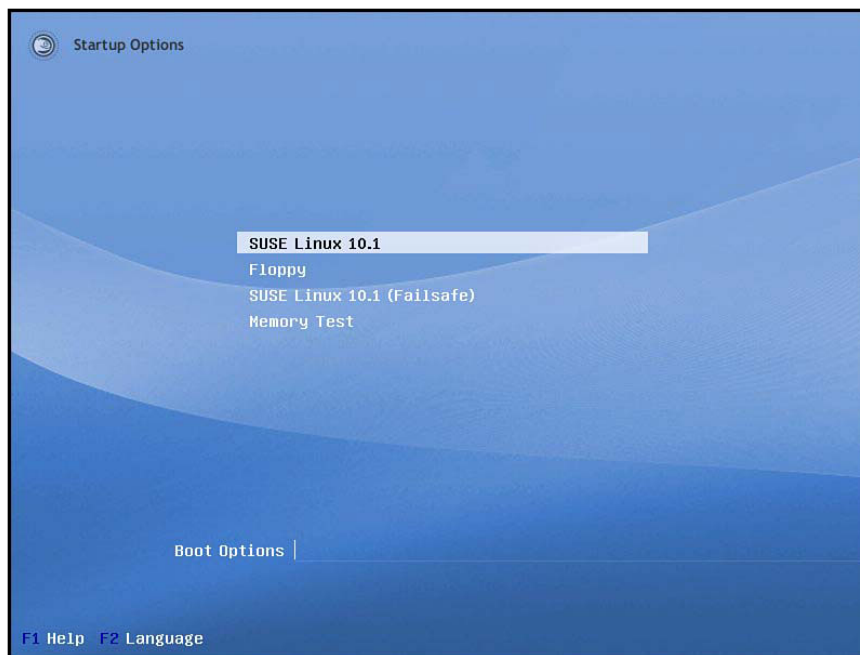
When you're ready to proceed, click the Install button. The first stage is drive partitioning and formatting, and it won't take very long. The second stage involves copying files over from the CDs or DVD to the hard drive.

### Skip Ahead

If you're installing from the DVD, the entire installation will take place presently. When the DVD finishes, you'll be asked for the non-OSS CD. After that, you'll restart the computer and boot into your new operating system. Move down to the [next section](#).

For those installing from the CD set, the first disc will take only about twenty minutes to complete. Although it might appear otherwise, only the first and last segments of this process are performed at this time. That includes CD 1 and the non-OSS CD. After these two discs are complete, the computer will restart. Make sure that disc 1 is in the drive (not the non-OSS disc) when you restart the computer. When the SUSE boot menu appears, just press the Enter key to select the default option, which is Boot from Hard Drive. Shortly thereafter, you'll see a second, similar menu with two options. Press the Enter key again to select the default, SUSE Linux 10.1 (if you don't press any keys, after a few seconds the default options execute on their own). After that, the system begins to boot into your new operating system to complete the installation process.

This is the screen you'll see when you boot your computer.



The continuation of the second installation stage can take anywhere from 20 minutes to 2 hours, depending on how many packages you're installing and how fast your computer is. If you're installing from a DVD, it's safe to walk away from the computer and do something else for a while. If you're installing from CDs, you'll want to check back every 15 minutes to see whether it's time to change discs. After about 5 minutes, the installer will give you a basic idea of how long each disc—and the overall process—will take in the form of countdown timers, although they are not always accurate. When a disc finishes, a pop-up message will inform you. You can either click the Eject button in the window or press the button on your CD/DVD drive—it doesn't matter which. After you've replaced the disc with the requested one, click the OK button.

## 2.11 Hostname, Root Password, Networking, and Users

After all the SUSE Linux files are copied to your hard drive, you have a few final configuration steps to go through before you can boot into your new operating system.

### 2.11.1 Hostname and Domain Name

The first thing you'll see in the third stage of installation is the Hostname and Domain Name screen. These names don't matter unless you maintain a network of computers—such as if you have several computers that need to communicate with one another. If that's your goal, give this machine a unique, descriptive hostname so that you can identify each machine on the network. Some examples of good, descriptive hostnames are as follows:

- ▶ thinkpad
- ▶ officedesktop
- ▶ amd64laptop

Uncheck the Change Hostname via DHCP option, and erase the default entry in the Domain Name field, if there is one—it applies only to people providing network services. Click the Next button to continue.

### 2.11.2 Setting the Root Password

The next screen asks you for a root password. The root user is the most powerful user account on the system; it has the power to make any kind of change to any

**► WARNING**

If a malicious user were to take control of the root account, your computer would be entirely under his control. Therefore, you will not generally log in to the system as the root user, and your root password should be something that can't be easily guessed.

**► TIP**

Strong passwords do not contain names or dictionary words, and are composed of numbers, symbols, and upper- and lower-case letters.

file, directory, or service on the computer. When you need to add or remove software, or change any files or directories on the computer that your everyday user account (you'll set one of these up shortly) did not create, you have to switch to root permissions to do so.

There are two password fields here because, to prevent against mistyping it, you have to put the same password in twice. Click the Next button when you're done.

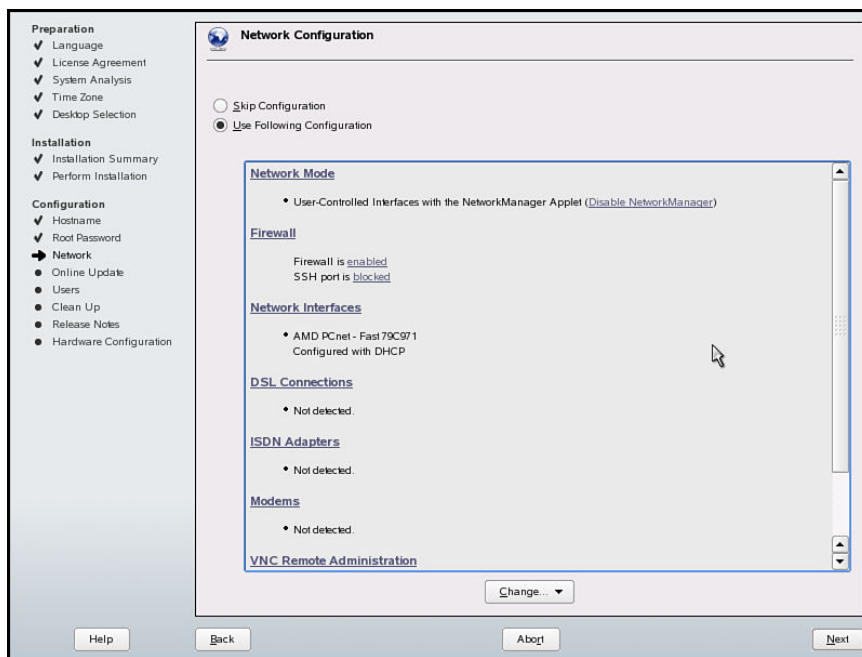
### 2.11.3 Network Configuration

After some probing and analysis, the Network Configuration screen appears. If you have a wired Internet connection (as opposed to wireless), you can generally leave these settings alone. Advanced users will usually want to unblock the SSH port, but if you need SSH (OpenSSH is a program that allows you to log into other computers from yours and vice versa), you can enable it later through the YaST setup tool.

The first option in the Network Configuration screen is for NetworkManager, and all you have to do to enable it is to click Enable NetworkManager. This is an *applet* (a small program that runs in the background) that helps you connect to dial-up and wireless networks. There is no harm in enabling this applet, even if you think you won't need it in the future. As with most things, you can also enable or disable it later if you prefer.

If your wireless access point requires special configuration—such as encryption, a special ESSID, or other manual settings—click the Change link next to the red warning message. The settings in the screen that follows should be self-explanatory; click the Next button when you're done.

Connect SUSE to your home network or the Internet.



### 2.11.4 DSL Connections

You might notice a section for DSL Connections. This setting applies only to people using internal DSL modems, which are extremely rare. If you have one, you, your Internet service provider, or your system administrator probably know more about how it is configured with your service than anyone else does.

If you have a DSL Internet connection, you almost certainly are using an external modem, which should not require any manual configuration on your computer because it connects directly to your network card.

### 2.11.5 Dial-Up Internet Connections

If you are connecting to the Internet via dial-up, click in the Modems section, select your modem, click Edit, and then the Next button, and then enter your ISP's dial-up information. If you don't know what these settings are, you'll have to either examine the documentation that you received when you signed up for your Internet service or call your ISP's technical support line.

### 2.11.6 Testing Your Internet Connection

#### Skip Ahead

If you don't have Internet access or if your wireless network card can't be configured until after SUSE Linux is installed, move on to [the next section](#).

After you've clicked the Next button, you're asked whether you would like to test your connection to the Internet. If you have more than one network device in your computer (this is rare on computers that do not have wireless network cards), one will be selected for you. If you'd prefer to use a different device, click Change Device. Click the Next button to test the connection to the Internet by downloading the SUSE Linux 10.1 release notes.

Unfortunately, the Internet connection test in SUSE Linux is not always reliable. If the server you're trying to contact is unavailable or overloaded, the installation