

The software described in this documentation is either no longer supported or is in extended support.
Oracle recommends that you upgrade to a current supported release.

Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux

Release Notes for Release 2.6

ORACLE®

E85209-08
August 2020

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About this document

This document contains information about the Spacewalk 2.6 release available from Oracle. It describes the differences from the upstream version, includes notes on installing and configuring Spacewalk, and provides a statement of what is supported.

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Document generated on: 2020-08-21 (revision: 556)

Table of Contents

Preface	vii
1 Release Notes	1
1.1 About Spacewalk 2.6 for Oracle Linux	1
1.2 Spacewalk 2.6 Known Issues	2
1.2.1 Snapshot Rollback Feature Requires Remote Management Client To Be Installed and Enabled	2
1.2.2 Running spacewalk-repo-sync From crontab With -q or -quiet Breaks After an Upgrade Fails	2
1.2.3 Issues That Require You to Replace the jabber/osa Database	2
1.2.4 SELinux Policy Prevents SQL*Plus From Connecting to Oracle Database	3
1.2.5 Oracle Linux 6 Update 8 Fails to Run yum Commands After Registration	3
1.2.6 Spacewalk Logging Settings	3
1.2.7 Spacewalk Fails to Install Due to the slf4j Package Being Installed	3
1.2.8 Tomcat Fails to Start After Initial Spacewalk Configuration	3
1.2.9 Spacewalk Client Fails to Install on Oracle Linux 5	3
1.2.10 Upgrading Spacewalk Packages on Oracle Linux 7	4
1.2.11 Oracle Linux 5 Does Not Register With Spacewalk After a Kickstart Installation	4
1.2.12 PXE Boot Fails Due to Incorrect Host Name Configuration	4
1.2.13 Out of Memory Issues With Large Repositories or Data Sets	4
1.2.14 Client Registration Issues Due to an Invalid FQDN	4
1.2.15 Clients Might Have to Re-Register After an Upgrade	5
1.2.16 Spacewalk Does Not Work if root User Has a Restrictive umask	5
1.2.17 yum Command Displays HTML	5
1.2.18 Issues With Kickstart After an Upgrade	5

Preface

[Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Release Notes for Release 2.6](#) provides details of the Spacewalk 2.6 release available from Oracle.

Audience

This document is written for system administrators who want to use Spacewalk to manage Oracle Linux systems. It is assumed that readers have a general understanding of the Linux operating system.

Related Documents

The documentation for this product is available at:

[Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux Documentation](#)

Conventions

The following text conventions are used in this document:

Convention	Meaning
boldface	Boldface type indicates graphical user interface elements associated with an action, or terms defined in text or the glossary.
<i>italic</i>	Italic type indicates book titles, emphasis, or placeholder variables for which you supply particular values.
<code>monospace</code>	Monospace type indicates commands within a paragraph, URLs, code in examples, text that appears on the screen, or text that you enter.

Chapter 1 Release Notes

1.1 About Spacewalk 2.6 for Oracle Linux

There are no significant changes in the Oracle version of Spacewalk from the upstream project.

Installation

For information about installing or upgrading Spacewalk 2.6 servers and proxies, see [Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Installation Guide for Release 2.6](#).

Summary of new features and changes since release 2.4

In addition to numerous fixes and other small enhancements, the Spacewalk 2.6 release includes the following features:

- The `taskotop` command-line utility has been added to the `spacewalk-utils` package. This utility monitors Taskomatic activities and provides information about the status of each job.
- Most system entitlements and Software Channel entitlements have been removed.



Note

The Virtualization entitlement is still supported in this release.

- Improved first organization creation.
- `spacewalk-repo-sync` improvements, including the following:
 - Can sync channels with several repositories.
 - Can update a kickstart tree in a repository.
- Improved Python 2/3 compatibility for all tools.
- OSAD now works in failover mode via proxy.
- The 'Select All' button now correctly selects only filtered systems, packages, errata, and so on.
- Changes to the organization of the menus within the Spacewalk web interface. For example, you can configure an organization by selecting the **Organization** menu under the **Admin** tab.
- New API calls:
 - `actionchain.addErrataUpdate`
 - `system.listSuggestedReboot`
 - `packages.listSourcePackages`
 - `packages.removeSourcePackage`
 - `system.scheduleLabelScriptRun`

- `system.schedulePackageInstallByNevra`
- `system.schedulePackageRemoveByNevra`

You can find up-to-date API documentation under the **Help** tab of the web interface by selecting the **API** menu option, then browse the URL https://swksvr_FQDN/rhn/apidoc/index.jsp on the server, or by going to <http://www.spacewalkproject.org/documentation/api/2.6>.

For detailed information, see the release notes for the Spacewalk project at <https://github.com/spacewalkproject/spacewalk/wiki/ReleaseNotes26>.

1.2 Spacewalk 2.6 Known Issues

The following known issues pertain to the Spacewalk 2.6 release.

1.2.1 Snapshot Rollback Feature Requires Remote Management Client To Be Installed and Enabled

To successfully roll back a target system to a previous snapshot by using Spacewalk, the target server must have the Spacewalk Remote Management client installed with at least the `deploy_files` option enabled. However, Oracle recommends enabling all remote configuration options.

For information about administering the Spacewalk Remote Management client, see [Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Client Life Cycle Management Guide for Release 2.6](#).

1.2.2 Running `spacewalk-repo-sync` From crontab With `-q` or `-quiet` Breaks After an Upgrade Fails

If you previously configured a `cronjob` to run the `spacewalk-repo-sync` command with either the `-q` or `-quiet` option, the `cronjob` fails after upgrading to Spacewalk 2.6. You must remove the option from the command line after the upgrade.

Note that the version of the `spacewalk-repo-sync` command in Spacewalk 2.6 is now quiet by default and automatically logs its actions to the `/var/log/rhn/reposync.log` file.

1.2.3 Issues That Require You to Replace the `jabberd/osa` Database

You might need to replace the `jabberd/osa` database on a Spacewalk server or proxy if you encounter any of the following errors:

- OSA status shows "offline as of unknown" for client servers.
- `osa-dispatcher` errors in `/var/log/messages` on the Spacewalk server or proxy.
- "db: corruption detected! close all jabberd processes and run db_recover" message in `/var/log/messages` on the Spacewalk server or proxy.

These problems occur because the default Berkeley database format does not support transactions, and as a result, can become damaged when too many clients attempt to update at the same time. Switching to SQLite provides transactional support for the `jabberd` database and can handle significantly more downstream clients.

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SELinux Policy Prevents SQL*Plus From Connecting to Oracle Database

For detailed instructions on replacing the jabberd/osa database, see [Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Installation Guide for Release 2.6](#).

1.2.4 SELinux Policy Prevents SQL*Plus From Connecting to Oracle Database

If SELinux is enabled, the default SELinux policy prevents the version of SQL*Plus that is installed by the Oracle Instant Client packages from connecting to the Oracle Database.

To work around this issue, use the SQL*Plus binary that is installed by Oracle Database itself, which is located in `$ORACLE_HOME/bin`. Another workaround is to set SELinux to permissive mode.

1.2.5 Oracle Linux 6 Update 8 Fails to Run yum Commands After Registration

Registration of an Oracle Linux 6 Update 8 server succeeds with the built-in packages, but subsequent `yum` commands fail with the error: "KeyError: 'X-RHN-Auth-Expiration'".

Installing the full Spacewalk 2.6 client for Oracle Linux 6 resolves this problem and should be done prior to registration. Follow the steps in *Installing the Spacewalk Client Software and Registering a Client System by Using the `rhnreg_ks` Command* in [Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Client Life Cycle Management Guide for Release 2.6](#).

1.2.6 Spacewalk Logging Settings

Spacewalk generates large numbers of log messages, particularly under `/var/log/httpd`. To avoid running out of disk space, you might need to adjust the `logrotate` settings to implement more active rotation, compression, and archival of log files.

For more information, see the relevant information in [Oracle® Linux 6: Administrator's Guide](#) or [Oracle® Linux 7: Administrator's Guide](#).

1.2.7 Spacewalk Fails to Install Due to the slf4j Package Being Installed

In some circumstances, the Spacewalk installation can fail if the `slf4j` (Simple Logging Facade for Java) package is installed. The workaround is to remove the `slf4j` package. Be aware that Eclipse depends on this package, so you either have to uninstall Eclipse or remove the package with the `rpm -e --nodeps slf4j` command.

1.2.8 Tomcat Fails to Start After Initial Spacewalk Configuration

If the Tomcat service fails to start after the initial configuration of Spacewalk, check that the `geronimo-jta-1.1-api` package is installed. If you installed Oracle Linux using a software set other than **Minimal** or **Basic Server**, the `jta` package might be installed on the system and the presence of this package prevents the `geronimo-jta-1.1-api` package from being installed. The `geronimo-jta-1.1-api` package is required to ensure that all of the Spacewalk services start correctly. If the `geronimo-jta-1.1-api` package is missing from your system, remove the `jta` package, install the `geronimo-jta-1.1-api` package, and then shutdown and reboot the system.

1.2.9 Spacewalk Client Fails to Install on Oracle Linux 5

The Spacewalk client conflicts with the `up2date` client that is installed by default for connectivity to the Unbreakable Linux Network (ULN). Before you install the Spacewalk Client for Oracle Linux 5, remove the `up2date` and `up2date-gnome` packages manually by using the `rpm -e --nodeps` command.

1.2.10 Upgrading Spacewalk Packages on Oracle Linux 7

Before upgrading Spacewalk packages on an Oracle Linux 7 system, run the following commands, which force `cglib` and `python-debian` to stay at `cglib-2.1.3-4.jpp5.*` and `python-debian-0.1.21-10.el7.*`:

```
# yum install yum-versionlock
# yum versionlock cglib-2.1.3-4.jpp5.*
```

This entry is required because the versions of `cglib` and `python-debian` in Oracle Linux 7 are more recent than the versions in Spacewalk 2.6. Otherwise, you see dependency errors such as the following:

```
Error: Package: spacewalk-java-2.4.79-1.0.2.el7.noarch (@ol7_spacewalk24_server)
        Requires: cglib < 2.2
Error: Package: spacewalk-taskomatic-2.4.79-1.0.2.el7.noarch (@ol7_spacewalk24_server)
        Requires: cglib < 2.2
```

1.2.11 Oracle Linux 5 Does Not Register With Spacewalk After a Kickstart Installation

If Oracle Linux 5 does not register with Spacewalk after a kickstart installation, add `-up2date` and `-up2date-gnome` to the kickstart profile on the **Software, Package Group** screen during the installation.

1.2.12 PXE Boot Fails Due to Incorrect Host Name Configuration

If the Spacewalk server was installed without a fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) specified, or with a name that cannot be resolved in DNS, Spacewalk creates invalid Preboot eXecution Environment (PXE) boot configuration files.

You can validate that Cobbler is configured correctly by checking that the IP address that is used in the `ks=` parameter in the `/var/lib/tftpboot/pxelinux.cfg/default` file is correct.

To reconfigure a Spacewalk server after an installation, do the following:

1. Edit the `/etc/cobbler/settings` file and change all instances of incorrect host names, such as `localhost.localdomain`.
2. Restart Spacewalk by running the `spacewalk-service restart` command.
3. Resynchronise Cobbler by running the `cobbler sync` command.

1.2.13 Out of Memory Issues With Large Repositories or Data Sets

When building repository metadata, Spacewalk can fail with an *Out of Memory* error that is linked to default Java memory settings. For a detailed discussion about this issue and its resolution, see *Memory Considerations When Building Repositories* in [Spacewalk for Oracle® Linux: Client Life Cycle Management Guide for Release 2.6](#).

1.2.14 Client Registration Issues Due to an Invalid FQDN

During installation, Spacewalk generates a CA certificate. This certificate is used in the client registration process. If a Spacewalk server does not have a valid FQDN, Spacewalk does not generate a valid CA certificate. Note that Spacewalk does not consider `.local` and `.localdomain` to be valid domain names.

1.2.15 Clients Might Have to Re-Register After an Upgrade

After a Spacewalk server is upgraded, Spacewalk clients might have to re-register with the Spacewalk server. The web interface shows these clients as registered, but when you run the `rhncfg-client` command on the client, errors such as `Authentication failed: Invalid digital server certificate` are displayed.

If this problem occurs, use either the `rhncfg-client` command or the `rhncfg-client --force` command to re-register the client.

1.2.16 Spacewalk Does Not Work if root User Has a Restrictive umask

If the `root` user's `umask` is too restrictive (for example, `0077` or similar, instead of `0022`), Apache, Tomcat, and Java processes cannot read some files that are written during a Spacewalk installation or written by commands such as `spacewalk-repo-sync` or `spacecmd`. Clients might also stop working because Spacewalk cannot serve yum metadata or package files.

1.2.17 yum Command Displays HTML

To prevent the `yum` command from displaying many lines of HTML when it is run on a Spacewalk client, do *either* of the following:

- Edit the `/etc/yum/pluginconf.d/ulninfo.conf` file and set the `enable` value to `0`.
- Remove the `yum-plugin-ulninfo` package.

1.2.18 Issues With Kickstart After an Upgrade

After a Spacewalk server is upgraded, using existing kickstart profiles and distributions might result in errors.

The web interface might display error messages such as the following:

```
This kickstart profile uses a different type of encryption by default than the
root password is currently using. You must reset the root password to encrypt
it with the new method.
```

The workaround is to do the following:

1. Reset the `root` password.
2. Restart the Spacewalk service.

```
# /usr/sbin/spacewalk-service restart
```

3. Remount your distribution trees and ISO images.

