

WHAT'S NEW IN RED HAT NETWORK SATELLITE 5.5?

FOCUS ON LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT

Red Hat® Network (RHN) Satellite is designed to provide the best Red Hat Enterprise Linux® life cycle management experience. The primary objective of life cycle management is to deliver and manage well-defined and tested systems when promised and within cost estimates using an identifiable, measurable, and repeatable process. RHN Satellite brings best-of-breed process together with superior tooling to achieve this for Red Hat Enterprise Linux management.

MAJOR RELEASE THEMES

IPv6 enablement

IPv4 address allocations are restricted, as the pool that is currently available is shrinking. With this release, RHN Satellite 5.5, RHN Proxy 5.5, and RHN Client & Tools are all enabled to work within an IPv6 environment. This is crucial for customers that need IPv6-capable software to address the move towards IPv6 environments. It will benefit government, education, hosting, and any large network companies that can deploy Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems addressed with IPv6 and have them work within their Satellite infrastructure.

Note: We do not support monitoring or Solaris clients with IPv6.

Open SCAP support (with client support for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.8+ and Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.2+)

Many organizations are required to adhere to strict compliance standards encompassing patch level, security configuration, and examining expected system state. The release of RHN Satellite 5.5 provides security audit state (SCAP) reports of the Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems running in your environment. You can manage security audit report needs within the same web-based user interface (UI) that manages other aspects of their Red Hat systems.

Note: This feature works only with Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 and 6 systems. OpenSCAP is the open source project implementing the SCAP suite of standards and specifications. Today, OpenSCAP ships with basic SCAP policy, and for customers that need to meet NIST's USGCB standards they can download the USGCB SCAP rules from http://usgcb.nist.gov/usgcb/rhel_content.html. Security audit reports can be generated from any SCAP policy provided.

Clone-by-date

Customers have been asking for tools that will help easily manage the Red Hat Enterprise Linux content we provide in Satellite. Clone-by-date gives customers an additional mechanism to create and maintain custom-cloned RHEL channels based on when the date content (RPMs and errata) was made available to the RHEL channel. This refinement saves customers time and money by easily creating and cloning channels based on a company's internal policies and the certification standards of layered products. It also provides customers with scriptable and automated template files and allows you to remove and blacklist packages from channels. With RHN Satellite 5.5, package dependencies are met within the channel and you are allowed to filter and act only on security errata by date, ignoring bugfixes or enhancements.

API expansion

In the RHN Satellite 5.4 release, system currency was an implemented feature. This was released as a web UI-only feature that ranked how up-to-date your systems were based on a weighted point score for different types of outstanding errata. After this release, there were numerous requests for APIs to expose this data. These APIs are now available through Satellite 5.5.

Provisioning over bonded network interfaces

RHN Satellite customers are frequently deploying Red Hat Enterprise Linux with multiple network cards configured with bonded interfaces for failover, redundancy, or capacity/throughput. Prior to RHN Satellite 5.5, this had to be done manually, post-installation, or via customer maintained scripts. With the release of RHN Satellite 5.5, you can define bonded network interfaces for new installations, as well as re-provisioned Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems. This update is crucial for customers who want to configure and preserve these bonded interfaces for Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems using RHN Satellite's provisioning capabilities.

Note: The Red Hat Enterprise Linux installer, Anaconda, does not support bonded networking. So when the installation is taking place, we will use one network card. The bonded network is configured post-installation.

SUMMARY

RHN Satellite provides the best systems management experience for Red Hat Enterprise Linux customers. RHN Satellite 5.5 builds on previous releases, offering improved capabilities in areas of:

- Compliance
- Content management
- Infrastructure complexity
- Automation (APIs)

RHN Satellite is a systems management platform that helps IT organizations efficiently manage the life cycle of Red Hat Enterprise Linux, custom content, and layered products. It provides superior patch management, provisioning, configuration management, and monitoring capabilities, and ensures Red Hat Enterprise Linux systems are properly secured, operating efficiently, and compliant with various standards. Compared to other commercial solutions, RHN Satellite is less complex and costly to implement. Compared to homegrown solutions, it follows best practices and scales to manage Red Hat Enterprise Linux efficiently.

ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat was founded in 1993 and is headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Today, with more than 70 offices around the world, Red Hat is the largest publicly traded technology company fully committed to open source. That commitment has paid off over time, for us and our customers, proving the value of open source software and establishing a viable business model built around the open source way.

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