

# RED HAT SATELLITE 6.3 FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## INTRODUCTION

Red Hat® Satellite is a systems management solution that makes Red Hat infrastructure easier to deploy, scale, and manage across physical, virtual, and cloud environments. Satellite enables users to provision, configure, and update systems to help ensure that they are running efficiently, securely, and remain compliant with relevant standards. By automating most tasks related to maintaining systems, Satellite helps organizations increase efficiency, reduce operational costs, and enable IT to better respond to strategic business needs. The latest version of Red Hat Satellite, Satellite 6.3, includes many new features, enhancements, and fixes to improve stability, reliability, and scalability.

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**QUESTION:** When did Red Hat Satellite 6.3 become generally available?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite 6.3 became generally available on February 21, 2018.

**QUESTION:** What are some of the new features in Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite 6.3 continues to build on the Satellite 6 release and features the following new features:

- **Improved content download policies and synchronization**—Includes lazy sync enhancements that add two new content download policies and allow different policies to be set on each Satellite Server and Capsule Server. The content download policies of Satellite 6.3 are:
  - On demand (default type)—Retrieves content only when systems request it.
  - Background—Allows repositories to be published and made available to systems while the content downloads synchronously.
  - Immediate—Downloads all content before publishing the repository.
- **Custom file-type repositories**—Provides the ability to create custom file types with new repository management tooling and import those repositories into Red Hat Satellite. Custom file types can be added to content views and versioned, similar to other content types like RPMs and ISOs.
- **Pull templates from GIT [tech preview]**—Allows you to edit templates and clone them using any version control system, such as GIT, that enables branching and versioning.
- **Red Hat Satellite and Red Hat Ansible® Tower integration**—Includes documented best practices for using Satellite and Ansible Tower together for the following use cases:
  - Dynamic inventory—Allows Ansible Tower to use Satellite as a dynamic inventory source.
  - Provisioning callbacks—Allows systems provisioned via Satellite to callback to Ansible Tower so that playbook runs can happen post-provisioning.
- **Red Hat Satellite and Red Hat Insights integration**—Integrates Satellite and Insights to help identify and resolve issues before you encounter them in your environment. Satellite 6.3 adds new capabilities for Insights, such as:
  - Dashboard widgets—Adds new dashboard widgets for Insights actions and Insights risk summary reports.
  - Insights planner—Builds out an Insights planner playbook for use with Red Hat Ansible Automation or Ansible Tower.
- **Puppet 4 support**—Supports the use of Puppet 4 or Puppet 3.8.
- **Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI) support**—Supports the use of UEFI that will take the place of the BIOS and enables support of new capabilities during the time before the guest operating system loads.
- **Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) support**—Supports the use of Amazon EC2 as a platform for Red Hat Satellite Server and Capsule Server.

- **Org Admin role**—Introduces this new role that provides administrator-level access at the scope of a specific organization. An Org Admin user has administrative capability only for their organization while not having any visibility or exposure into other organizations.
- **OpenSCAP Tailoring files**—Allows you to change the behavior of an existing openSCAP policy without having to fork or rewrite the entire policy.
- **Notification drawer**—Provides fast access to events while giving the opportunity to clear or interact with the information in the event. In the 6.3 release, there are limited events that use the notification drawer.
- **Future-dated subscriptions**—Imports purchased Red Hat subscriptions into Satellite before the start date so that they are available for use on the subscription start date. This feature prevents the need to have someone add new subscriptions only after the old subscriptions expire.
- **Satellite clone**—Provides the ability to clone an existing Satellite Server or Capsule Server to a new host. This feature simplifies upgrades of Red Hat Enterprise Linux® or product upgrades.
- **Satellite rename**—Simplifies the process of changing the Satellite Server or Capsule Server hostname.
- **Virt-who configuration wizard**—Offers a simple interface for obtaining required information about the desired virt-who configuration. Once the information is gathered, a configuration script is provided to install and configure the virt-who instance.
- **Composite Content View (CV) latest publishing step**—Uses the latest version of the CV automatically when you publish a new version, instead of selecting a new revision of each content view.

Red Hat Satellite 6.3 includes many other enhancements and fixes to improve stability, reliability, and scalability. For more information, visit the Red Hat Satellite management<sup>1</sup> and product<sup>2</sup> pages.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.redhat.com/en/technologies/management/satellite>

<sup>2</sup> <https://access.redhat.com/products/red-hat-satellite>

**QUESTION:** Where can I download Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite is now available for download on the Red Hat Customer Portal<sup>3</sup> as part of your Red Hat Satellite subscription.

**QUESTION:** Where can I find release notes, technical notes, and other documentation for Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** This documentation, along with the documentation for all Red Hat Satellite releases, is available in the Red Hat Customer Portal.<sup>4</sup>

**QUESTION:** What infrastructures are supported by Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** Bare-metal servers, Red Hat Virtualization, Red Hat OpenStack® Platform, VMware, and Amazon EC2.

**QUESTION:** What open source projects serve as the upstream for Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** Key projects include Foreman, Puppet, Katello, Pulp, and Candlepin.

**QUESTION:** How can I upgrade from Red Hat Satellite 5.x to Red Hat Satellite 6.3?

**ANSWER:** The product architectures differ between Red Hat Satellite 5 and Red Hat Satellite 6. Red Hat Satellite 6 releases require a fresh install. As a result, upgrading in place from Red Hat Satellite 5 to Red Hat Satellite 6 is not possible. Current Red Hat Satellite 5 customers will have many options to manage their Red Hat Enterprise Linux environment with Red Hat Satellite 6. For a detailed review of transitioning from Red Hat Satellite 5 to Red Hat Satellite 6, visit the transition page on the Red Hat Customer Portal.<sup>5</sup>

**QUESTION:** How long will Red Hat Satellite 5 be supported?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite 5.5 and earlier versions are no longer supported.<sup>6</sup> Red Hat Satellite 5.6 and above exits Production Phase 3 support January 31, 2019. At that time, only Satellite 5.8 will be supported until May 31, 2020. It is critical to note that Red Hat Network is shutting down on January 31, 2019, and at that point, only Satellite 5.8 will be able to receive new content through Red Hat Subscription Manager.

To learn more, visit the Red Hat Satellite life-cycle support page.<sup>7</sup>

**QUESTION:** What are the advantages of using Red Hat Satellite?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite is a system management solution that makes Red Hat infrastructure easier to deploy, scale, and manage across physical, virtual, and cloud environments. Satellite enables users to provision, configure, and update systems to help ensure that they are running efficiently, securely, and in compliance with various standards. By automating most tasks related to maintaining systems, Satellite helps organizations increase efficiency, reduce operational costs, and better respond to strategic business needs.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://access.redhat.com/site/documentation/en-US/Red\\_Hat\\_Satellite/](https://access.redhat.com/site/documentation/en-US/Red_Hat_Satellite/)

<sup>4</sup> <https://access.redhat.com/products/red-hat-satellite>

<sup>5</sup> <https://access.redhat.com/articles/1187643>

<sup>6</sup> <https://access.redhat.com/articles/1322933>

<sup>7</sup> <https://access.redhat.com/support/policy/updates/satellite/>

**QUESTION:** How does Red Hat Satellite compare to Red Hat CloudForms and Red Hat Cloud Infrastructure?

**ANSWER:** Red Hat Satellite executes what would traditionally be called system management work—related to Red Hat infrastructure—on bare-metal servers, virtualized servers, or in the cloud. Many organizations use both to provide end-to-end infrastructure management. Red Hat CloudForms provides a centralized view and control for orchestration of all workloads across private and public cloud infrastructures while Red Hat Satellite performs software, configuration, and subscription management, as well as provisioning for Red Hat infrastructure. Both products are offered in Red Hat Cloud Infrastructure, an integrated set of Red Hat technologies.



#### ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to provide reliable and high-performing cloud, Linux, middleware, storage, and virtualization technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training, and consulting services. As a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and open source communities, Red Hat helps create relevant, innovative technologies that liberate resources for growth and prepare customers for the future of IT.



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