




SunSM Connection

The Proven, Scalable Patching, Provisioning, and Compliance Solution for Solaris™ and Linux Systems

Highlights

Sun Connection is a lifecycle-management tool for the Solaris OS and Linux that allows you to easily and efficiently provision new systems and manage updates and configuration changes. The Sun Connection solution helps by:

- Enabling you to manage Solaris, Red Hat, and SUSE systems from a single console
- Automatically detecting patch and update requirements as well as system configuration issues
- Ensuring up-to-date security for the datacenter
- Providing comprehensive monitoring to help keep systems in compliance
- Saving significant IT staff time

 As the number of systems in an organization grows, so does the complexity of managing the lifecycle of an ever-changing infrastructure. Over its lifetime, a server can support business needs in a variety of ways, evolving from an application host to database server or moving from a staging environment into production. Regardless of its role, every server requires constant attention from IT operators, who must ensure that each is updated and performing at the desired level.

Complicating matters further is the increased complexity of today's N-tier applications, coupled with an increased emphasis on auditing for compliance and security reporting. To maintain critical systems, organizations often resort to using valuable development and quality-assurance resources to build home-grown patching and provisioning tools to maintain their systems, which in turn become a financial and operational burden as the organization's datacenters continue to grow.

SunSM Connection is a lifecycle-management solution that allows you to provision, update, and manage hundreds of Solaris™ and Linux systems from a centralized console. You can subscribe to update and provisioning knowledge channels to simultaneously manage Solaris, Red Hat, and SUSE systems. The Solaris 10 Update channel is available to all users who have an active Sun Service Plan; all other update and provisioning knowledge channels are available as an additional subscription.

Sun Connection offers subscribers the following key advantages:

- A steady stream of tested and validated patch and package rules, updated continuously to help you manage the Solaris 8, 9, and 10 OS on the SPARC® platform; the Solaris 10 OS on x86/x64; and popular Red Hat and SUSE distributions
- Validated and augmented knowledge streams that eliminate incomplete or incorrect information in vendor patch data, help you avoid unnecessary patching, and increase patching success rates and uptime
- Reporting and auditing capabilities that address regulatory and security mandates, for ongoing and sustainable compliance
- The ability to consolidate critical functions in one tool to better manage your Infrastructure, regardless of whether you're running the Solaris OS or Red Hat or SUSE Linux
- Policy and scheduling management that ensures patches are applied to the right systems at the right time

- Improved datacenter security through the timely and efficient application of the most up-to-date security patches
- Knowledge-driven, automated dependency management across the Solaris OS, Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), and SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) that helps save time, reduce costs, and provide peace of mind
- Improved consistency within your network infrastructure through monitoring, updating, and reporting on systems managed by Sun Connection
- Notification of important updates and compliance of your infrastructure, enabling you to take action before problems arise

Sun Connection Benefits

	Activity	Without Sun Connection	With Sun Connection
Deploy	Convert a server into a Web server	Hours	15 minutes
Compare	Compare inventory for 100+ systems against baseline	Hours	Minutes
Validate	Obtain software and patches and validate PKG/RPM installation	Days	< 6 hours
Assess	Identify patches required for 100+ servers and impact on system	Hours	15 minutes
Rollback	Rollback security fix across 100+ servers	Hours	15 minutes
Patch	Apply a security fix to 100+ servers	1 day	20 minutes
Recover	Restore server with a pre-disaster inventory of components after disaster	Hours	15–30 minutes

Sun Connection benefits deliver better customer productivity

Sun Connection benefits

Everywhere in your enterprise, Sun Connection works continuously to uncover and correct deviations, conflicts, and compliance risks, helping your company stay secure and minimizing the potential for configuration errors. Sun Connection's comprehensive systems management capabilities increase efficiency and save your IT department significant time.

Sun Connection features

Sun Connection provides all the capabilities you need to control the cost of managing systems while reducing your security and compliance risk.

Solaris

Single-System Updating — Intuitive Update Manager application and CLI for simplified knowledge-based Solaris patch management.

Notifications — Users get client-side and email notifications about new patches and Sun Alerts, helping ensure their systems are up to date.

Patch Finder — Search and download patches from SunSolve with complete access to Read Me documents, patch reports, and standard patch clusters.

Hosted Service — Sun hosted service for remote patch management on multiple connected systems.

Firmware Updates — Knowledge, rules, and facility to deploy (not install) updates for select Sun HW.

Solaris, Red Hat, and SUSE

Active Dependency Rules — Knowledge-based rules for Solaris, Linux, and middleware applications.

Caching Proxy Server — Local patch source providing connection aggregation and local patch caching within the customer's security domain.

User Management and Permissions — Group your systems according to your needs and then assign permissions to different administrators.

Heterogeneous Patch Management — Centralized patch management for Solaris, Linux, and mainframe environments.

Baseline Compliance Reporting — Allows users to assess the patch needs of Solaris systems against Sun-published dated patch sets, including ability to assess compliance of one or more systems/groups against multiple baselines in a single report.

Compliance Enforcement — Utilizes policies and profiles to determine and implement system compliance, including ability to automate period status of compliance.

Job Scheduling and Management — Customer scheduling for patch deployment at prescribed dates/times or within defined maintenance windows, including one-time and recurring job scheduling.

Reporting — System configuration and analysis reports for use in management and assessment of status.

Local Knowledge Extensions — Flexibility to incorporate customer rules and associations for use in patching locally sourced and third-party applications.

Local Components — Custom cache of locally loaded components for use in patching and updating in-house and third-party applications.

Patching of Virtual Environments — Aware and enabled for use in patch management of Solaris Containers.

Policy-Based Deployment — Policies enable you to add your own rules to how the updates are applied to your systems, including; the ability to define some actions as acceptable/automated and others as unaccessible and not allowable (such as Kernel updates).

Profile-Based Management — Compare two systems directly against each other, or build a profile to compare against. See the differences on both machines with the ability to “make A like B”.

Multistate Rollback — The state of all of your systems is recorded each time an action is taken against them. Multistate Rollback allows you to return your system to a previous state or configuration.

Auditing — SOX compliant logging of all events, user activities, and system changes initiated by the service.

System Grouping — Allows maintenance of groups rather than individual systems.

System Search — Search systems or groups by packages, patches, or systems specifications.

Application and OS Provisioning — OS Provisioning of applications and configuration files on the Solaris OS and Linux.

Existing-State Provisioning — Automatically provision a system to take on the state of an existing system or a predefined installation.

Configuration Management — Deployment and management of system and application configuration files using the profiling capabilities of the service.

Sun Connection Knowledge Channels

You can subscribe to update and provisioning knowledge channels to manage your Solaris, Red Hat, and SUSE systems. If you are an existing Sun customer with an active Sun Service Plan, you can take advantage of Sun Connection's Solaris 10 Update Knowledge Channel today ; all other update and provisioning knowledge channels are available as an additional subscription. Channels include:

Solaris for SPARC Knowledge Channels

- Solaris 8
- Solaris 9
- Solaris 10

Solaris for X86/64 Knowledge Channels

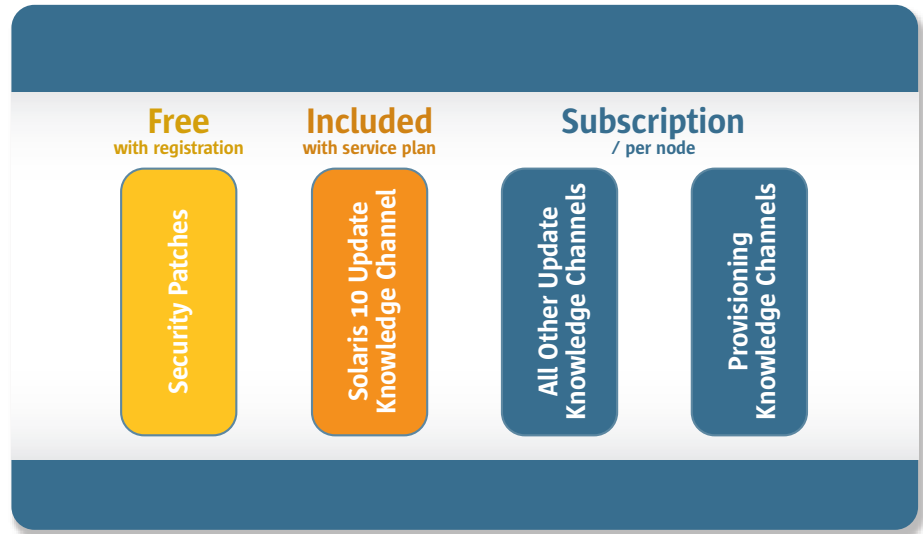
- Solaris

Red Hat Knowledge Channels

- Red Hat 7
- Red Hat 8
- Red Hat 9
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 2 (AS,ES,WS)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 3 (AS,ES,WS)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4 (AS,ES,WS)

SUSE Knowledge Channels

- SLSS 8
- SUSE 9
- Novell Linux Desktop 9
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 8
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 9
- SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10



Sun Connection Knowledge Channels

Deployment options

Sun Connection offers two deployment options: the Sun-hosted software-as-a-service (SaaS) option or the customer-hosted satellite-server option. With the hosted option, Sun hosts all the essential functions of the software, enabling you to remotely manage your systems via a standard Web browser. The satellite-server option places all the functions within your environment, enabling local management of your datacenter.

Professional services

Sun provides professional services that can help you get the maximum value out of your Sun Connection subscription, including 24/7 global support and implementation services. (Satellite-server customers are provided a one-time installation service and training program.)

Learn more

To learn more about Sun Connection, visit sun.com/service/sunconnection.

To conduct an in-depth ROI analysis together, contact your Sun sales representative. To find a sales office near you, go to sun.com/service/contacting/sales.html.