

The Canonical Livepatch Service

Apply critical kernel patches without rebooting

The Canonical Livepatch Service enables you apply critical kernel security fixes to your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS system without rebooting. Available to all Ubuntu Advantage customers, the Canonical Livepatch Service reduces planned or unplanned downtime while maintaining compliance and security.

Product overview

The Canonical Livepatch Service delivers live kernel patching to Ubuntu 16.04 LTS systems without the need to reboot. Ensuring the security and efficiency of an Ubuntu system has never been easier.

Available to all Ubuntu Advantage customers, you can perform patching without interrupting your mission-critical workloads and in-memory databases, saving the cost of downtime and increasing service availability.

Ubuntu Advantage gives the world's largest enterprises the assurance they need to run mission-critical workloads such as enterprise databases, virtual/cloud hosts or infrastructural services on Ubuntu.

The Canonical Livepatch Service is also available for personal use for free up to a maximum of three Ubuntu 16.04 LTS systems.

Product overview

Maximise service availability

Mission-critical workloads like enterprise databases, virtual/cloud hosts or infrastructure services can't afford downtime. The Canonical Livepatch Service applies kernel fixes in microseconds, without restarting your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS system. Fewer reboots means improved service availability.

Maintain security and compliance

When a security loophole is identified in the Linux kernel, patching is the only way to reduce your exposure from malicious attack.

But finding a downtime window to address security vulnerabilities can be challenging, particularly for large scale and production deployments. The Canonical Livepatch Service applies security critical Linux kernel patches without rebooting, keeping your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS systems secure and compliant.

Integrated service delivery

The Canonical Livepatch Service is available with an Ubuntu Advantage subscription. For existing customers introducing the Canonical's Livepatches into your administrative workflows is simple since it's integrated into existing tools like Landscape and support processes.

System requirements

Canonical's Livepatches are available for the generic flavour of the 64-bit Intel/AMD (aka, x86_64, amd64) builds of the Ubuntu 16.04 LTS (Xenial) kernel, which is a Linux 4.4 kernel.

Canonical Live Patches work on Ubuntu 16.04 LTS Servers and Desktops, on physical machines, virtual machines, and in the cloud.

FAQs

What is the Canonical Livepatch Service?

- The Canonical Live Patch service updates your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS systems with the highest and most critical security vulnerabilities, without requiring a reboot in order to take effect.

Who is entitled to Canonical Livepatch Service?

- Every system covered by an Ubuntu Advantage support contract is entitled to use the Canonical Livepatch Service at no additional cost, starting at our entry level UA Essential for \$150/node/year.
- Personal users of Ubuntu server can apply the Canonical Live Patch Service free to max. 3 nodes.

How do I enable Canonical Livepatch Service?

- First, go to ubuntu.com/livepatch and retrieve your livepatch token.
- Then, install the canonical-livepatch snap, “sudo snap install canonical-livepatch”.
- Finally, enable the service with your token, “sudo canonical-livepatch enable [TOKEN]”. And you’re done!
- You can check the status at any time using “canonical-livepatch status --verbose”.

How does this service compare to Oracle Ksplice, RHEL Live Patching and SUSE Live Patching?

- While the concepts are largely the same, the technical implementations and the commercial terms are very different. Oracle Ksplice uses its own technology which is not in upstream Linux. RHEL and SUSE currently use their own homegrown kpatch/kgraft implementations, respectively. Canonical Livepatching uses the upstream Linux Kernel Live Patching technology.
 - Ksplice is free, but unsupported, for Ubuntu Desktops, and only available for Oracle Linux and RHEL servers with an Oracle Linux Premier Support license (\$2299/node/year).
 - It’s a little unclear how to subscribe to RHEL Kernel Live Patching, but it appears that you need to first be a RHEL customer, and then enroll in the SIG (Special Interests Group) through your TAM (Technical Account Manager), which requires Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server Premium Subscription at \$1299/node/year.
 - SUSE Live Patching is available as an add-on to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 Priority Support subscription at \$1,499/node/year, but does come with a free music video.
 - Canonical Livepatching is available for every Ubuntu Advantage customer, starting at our entry level UA Essential for \$150/node/year, and available for free to community users of Ubuntu.

More on Ubuntu Advantage

Ubuntu Advantage is the commercial support package from Canonical. As well as connecting you to the world’s leading experts on Ubuntu-based physical, virtual and cloud-based systems Ubuntu Advantage customers enjoy access to Landscape, our award winning systems management tool.

Landscape lets you run desktop, server and public cloud deployments, or build and manage private OpenStack clouds from a single interface. It’s easy to set-up, easy to use and requires no special hardware. It features:

- Management at scale
- Deploy or rollback security updates
- Compliance reports
- Role-based access
- Informative monitoring
- The Canonical Livepatch service (coming soon!)

To purchase Ubuntu Advantage visit our store at: buy.ubuntu.com

Got a question?

Contact the team at:
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(US) +1 781 761 9427

or email:
sales@canonical.com

Want to get started?

To get your authorisation code visit the [Canonical Livepatch service portal](#)