The Canonical Livepatch Service

Apply critical kernel patches without rebooting

The Canonical Livepatch Service lets you apply critical kernel security fixes to your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS and 14.04 LTS systems 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 and 14.04 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 and 14.04 LTS systems.

Key benefits

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 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 LTS systems secure and compliant.

Integrated service delivery
The Canonical Livepatch Service is available with an Ubuntu Advantage subscription. For existing customers introducing 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, as well as Ubuntu 14.04 LTS running the Linux 4.4 Hardware Enablement kernel.

Canonical Livepatches work on Ubuntu 16.04 LTS and 14.04 LTS Servers and Desktops, on physical machines, virtual machines, and in the cloud. Ubuntu 14.04 LTS systems must use the Hardware Enablement kernel.

FAQs

What is the Canonical Livepatch Service?

- The Canonical Livepatch service updates your Ubuntu 16.04 LTS and 14.04 LTS systems with the highest and most critical security vulnerabilities, without requiring a reboot in order to take effect.

Who is entitled to the 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 $75/year for virtual machines, or $225/year for pnysical machines.

- Personal users of Ubuntu can subscribe up to 3 machines (laptop, server, or cloud) free of charge.

How do I enable Canonical Livepatch Service?

- First install the canonical-livepatch daemon:
  'sudo snap install canonical-livepatch'

  And then you need to enable it:
  'sudo canonical-livepatch enable'

  This command will first ask you if this system is covered under an Ubuntu Advantage support contract with Canonical, and if so, you'll be directed to the Canonical Livepatch portal where you'll provision your credentials, then paste them into the dialog.

- For further information on how to enable the Canonical Livepatch Service please read the documentation.

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

- 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 upstream. RHEL and SUSE currently use their own homegrown kpatch and kgraft implementations, respectively.

  - Oracle Ksplice is available for Oracle Linux and RHEL servers with an Oracle Linux Premier Support license ($2299/node/year)

  - RHEL Livepatching requires a Red Hat Enterprise Linux Server Premium Subscription of $1299/node/year

  - SUSE Livepatching is available as an add-on to SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12 Priority Support subscription at $1,499/node/year

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

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

Got a question?

Contact the team at:
(UK) +44 207 093 5161
(US) +1 781 761 9427
or email:
sales@canonical.com

Want to get started?

To get your authorisation code visit:
Canonical Livepatch portal

CANONICAL