scVENUS

Release Notes
scVENUS 2.6.2
September 2023

What's new with scVENUS 2.6.2?
What's deprecated with 2.6.2?
What will be discontinued with coming releases?

Contacts and further information

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Table of Content

What's new since scVENUS 2.6.0?

Find the Release Notes of the minor scVENUS releases on the DVD or after installation in `~<manager>/Documentation/scVENUS.`

The following release sections contain the most important new features and revisions (bugfixes, improvements) in scVENUS 2.6.x. For bugfixes, the bug is described.

scVENUS 2.6.1

1. Installation and Upgrade

   New:

   - **`scbootstrap`**: command was enhanced

     - **`-S`**: option to define an alternative path to the ssh or scp binary

   Revised:

   - **`sc.venus.cronrun.conf`**: method and context to configure cronjobs for scVENUS Cron: improved
   - installation of client package: improved
   - Rule Engine is installed or upgraded on the scVENUS master by default now by the scripts **`venus-master-install/venus-master-install-part`** or **`venus-upgrade.`** Thus, option **`-Q`** was deleted.

   Deprecated:

   - **`sc.venus.cron.conf`**: method and context: deleted

     We urgently recommend to migrate your settings to the context **`sc.venus.cronrun.conf`**.

     Execute the command **`scconfdepotanalyse`** before to get information about which variables you have to migrate and how to do that.

   - **`sc.venus.master.patch`**: method: deleted
   - **`scbootstrap`**:

     - **`-r:`** option to define using rsh: deprecated

   (See the manual *Installation, Upgrade and Configuration* and the reference documentation of the scVENUS commands (HTML, manpages), methods (HTML) and configuration variables (HTML).)

2. Framework

New:

- Rule Engine: If Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) is used, the communication of the Rule Engine is secured by SSL.

(See the manual *Installation, Upgrade and Configuration* and the reference documentation of the scVENUS commands (HTML, manpages), methods and contexts (HTML).)

Revised:

- screxd:
    - Stopping screxd may also kill other daemons.: fixed
    - After having called **nmap -sT -p 37475** screxd consumes 100% CPU.: fixed
- scvcpdaemon crashes on some systems due to errors.: fixed
- scprex2 does not terminate if it receives a client name more than one time.: fixed
- Name resolution of entries in NIS maps does not work on newer Linux systems.: fixed
- **--timeout=<timeout>:** Commands **scinventory**, **scyppush**, **scprdo**, **scaddpkg**, **scrinstall** and **scdelpkg** block the file handle as long as defined by the timeout parameter even if the command execution was finished before.: fixed

3. Security

Information concerning current vulnerabilities:

- Log4j: According to the current status of our analysis no risks for scVENUS-managed environments arise from the scVENUS software itself. For logging functionalities, scVENUS and scVLT use the Java libraries logback and java.util.logging, but not Log4j.
- logback: The Rule Engine 2.6.1 uses the most current logback version which does not contain the security vulnerability any more.

    In previous Rule Engine versions logback cannot be compromised without privileged scVENUS administration permission.

Revised:

- Certificate Revocation List (CRL) is not always renewed which causes warnings sent by sc-wrap.: fixed

4. Methods

New:

- **VENUS_MINOR_VERSION:** environment variable to be used in scVENUS methods or functions that may contain a two-digit scVENUS minor version number (**<main>.<main>.<minor>.<minor>**)

(See the manual *Installation, Upgrade and Configuration*.)

Revised:

- **venus_filter_stderr:** Function filters only the first match line from STDERR.: fixed
- Test method writes error messages to STDERR if special folders are not installed.: fixed

5. Software Management

New:

- **scdepotsync:** command was enhanced:
  - **-T**: option to also synchronize own test packages.
  - **--all-packages**: option to also synchronize test packages of other administrators. This option includes option **-T**.

(See the reference documentation of the scVENUS commands (HTML, manpages).)

Revised:

- **scdepotaddpkg** does not forbid the same characters in software names as **scaddpkg**.: fixed
- **scdepotaddpkg** produces newer timestamps for the software files p4 and meta.xml than for their respective md5 files.: fixed
- When installing a p4 software package with users or groups defined by late variables which are not set during this process, files and directories are created with user or group IDs that are random.: fixed
- When installing a p4 software package, the defaults for the late variables **VENUS_SOFTWARE_OWNER** and **VENUS_SOFTWARE_GROUP** cannot be set.: fixed

Deprecated:

- **sc.venus.depot.patch**: method: deleted

6. Client Management

New:

- **scretrievefile**: command was enhanced:
  - **--comment= | -k <comment>:** option to specify a comment for version control. The comment is ignored in the test mode (**-T**).

(See the reference documentation of the scVENUS commands (HTML, manpages).)

Revised:

- **scsdo**: Command call terminates with error message.: fixed

7. Configuration Management

New:

- **scjoblog:** Command provides read access to the job log database and offers the following modi:

    - **scjoblog list** shows jobs in flat list. The modus **list** also gives access to the job status history and its log files.

    - **scjoblog stat** shows job statistics of all jobs.

(See the reference documentation of the scVENUS commands (HTML, manpages) and the manual *Installation, Upgrade and Configuration*.)

Revised:

- **sccontextchange**: Command is terminated with error if context still contains empty lines.: fixed

Deprecated:

- **scjoblogrotate**: command to move jobs from the job log database to the job log archive via cronjob: deleted

8. Monitoring

New:

- Report Viewer's Custom Report: support of RRDtool options was enhanced:

    - **--units-exponent**: option of rrdgraph function to set the 10^{**}exponent scaling of the y-axis values

        Use this option by inserting a line as follows into the Custom Report topic, e.g.:

        UnitsExponent = 3

- **sc.transport.inst:** context was enhanced:

    - **scmFwD_restrict_to_localhost**: option to define if the scmonForwardDaemon allows connections from Monitoring clients on remote machines (default)

(See the manual *Monitoring*.)

Revised:

- Service installation methods now always use systemd.: improved
- Sending messages by pyscmon now allows to specify if the hostnames of the sending clients are to be normalized or not.: improved

- **scmonSendMessage.exe** (Windows) does not run if the scVENUS installation directory is not set to `C:\etc` (default).: fixed

- HTTP log file on Monitoring master contains too many script warnings.: fixed

- Multiple entries of the same user are created in the Foswiki user database during cron based user synchronization.: fixed

- Reporting browser start page: Link goes to deprecated Java applet for Event Monitoring.: fixed

- **scmonACD** could crash due to unexpected jumps in system time.: fixed

- **scmonACD** provides an unnecessary TCP listen socket on port 37455.: fixed

Deprecated:

- **scmon-install**: usage of Monitoring master installation script was changed.

  - **-s <inittabstring>**: option: deleted

9. Client Installation (VIIP)

Revised:

- **scviiposdepotadd:** command usage was changed.

  - **--src-path=<path>:** new option to define the path containing the installation files; replaces argument **<srcpath>**

- **scviipadmin:** command usage was changed.

  The following options and argument were used on deprecated AIX and Solaris installation servers. Thus, they were deleted:

  - **-A**

  - **-H**

  - **<clientlist>**

  (See the manual *Client Installation*.)

- Installation terminates with error message "*wait4screxd: Error: screxd not installed*".: fixed

10. Documentation

Revised:

- Manual Installation, Upgrade and Configuration:
  The new manual part II contains further information and configuration options related to scVENUS Basic.

  This part contains the following instructions:

  - Managing the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)

  - Queueing

  - Job Log Browser

  - Programming new scVENUS methods

  - Creating software packages for Windows clients

The respective instruction documents are not included in the release any more.

- ▪ Quick Reference Card: Content and layout were updated.

scVENUS 2.6.2

1. Installation and Upgrade

New:

- scVENUS supports the following new operating system versions (on scVENUS/Monitoring master and scVENUS clients):
    - Debian 12
    - Red Hat EL / CentOS / Oracle Linux 9
    - SUSE / openSuse 15.05
    - Ubuntu LTS 22.04
    - Windows 11
- If netgroups are used, the scvcpdaemon's dependency on `libnsl.so.1` is reduced as it is only loaded if `libnsl.so.2` is not available.

Revised:

- The command **scbootstrap** was adapted to improve SSH handling.

  The following options were changed:
    - **-r**: deleted
    - **-v**: new
- Method **environment** doesn't correctly create the variables HOSTTYPE and OSTYPE in the file `env.sh`.: fixed

Deprecated:

- manual installation of the Rule Engine: With 2.6.2, the Rule Engine is always installed during scVENUS master installation.
    - **sc.venus-rule-engine.inst**: method to manually install the Rule Engine: deleted
    - **sc.venus-rule-engine.conf**: method to manually configure the Rule Engine: deleted

2. Client Installation (VIIP)

New:

- **scviipclasslist, scviipclientlist, scviiposdepotlist:** Command usage was enhanced.
    - **--json**: option to write the JSON file to STDOUT

Revised:

- Method **sc.viip.tftp.**conf doesn't properly enter `tftpd` into startup of RedHat EL 8 clients.: fixed

Deprecated:

- installation of Windows clients by scVENUS Client Installation (VIIP): deleted

3. LDAP

New:

- **scldapserveradmin**: Command usage was enhanced.

  - **--create-cert:** option to create and transfer the server certificate to the LDAP server even if a valid one exists.

  - **--cert-only**: option to only create and transfer the SSL certificate

  - **--keep-logfiles |** **-l**: option to keep log and error files

  - If the option **-v** is used twice the output of the called methods is also displayed on STDOUT.

- **sc.venus.ldap.client.handle_cert:** New method to only exchange certificates on LDAP clients.

- The context **sc.venus.ldap.server.openldap** was adapted according to MDB.

  The following context variable to handle the MDB was created:

  - **MDB_MAXSIZE**: variable to define the maximum size of the LDAP database (default: 1 GB): new

Revised:

- openLDAP database: Berkley database (BDB) is no longer supported since openldap 2.5. openLDAP now uses Memory-Mapped Database (MDB).

  After installation of or upgrade to scVENUS 2.6.2, the migration to MDB is started when **scldapserveradmin** is executed for the first time.: improved

- ldapad connection:

  - The backend for ldapad does not work.: fixed

  - scVENUS does not support krb5.: fixed

- The server daemon scvcpdaemon and the client daemons vGuido and screxd only run with TLS version ≥ 1.2.: improved

- Command **scldapserveradmin** (by called method **sc.venus.ldap.server.openldap**) checks whether one of the ports the LDAP server needs is in use.: improved

Deprecated:

- The context **sc.venus.ldap.server.openldap** was adapted according to MDB.

  The following context variables to handle the BDB are deprecated:

  - **AUTO_RECOVER**: deleted

  - **INST_BDB**: deleted

  - **DB_RECOVER_BIN**: deleted

  - **DB_ARCHIVE_BIN**: deleted

4. Logs

New:

- The way of polling for log files is revised concerning network resources for the commands **scprdo** and **scrinstall**.

The polling behaviour can be defined by the following new configuration variables in `/etc/sc-acctrl`:

- **`SCPREX_LOG_POLL_DELAY_MIN:`** defines the lower value for the timespan between 2 polling events in seconds.

- **`SCPREX_LOG_POLL_DELAY_MAX:`** defines the upper value for the timespan between 2 polling events in seconds.

- **`SCPREX_LOG_POLL_DELAY_RUNTIME_RATIO:`** defines the timespan between 2 polling events as ratio of delay to command's runtime.

- **`SCPREX_LOG_POLL_RATE_MAX:`** defines the maximum value for network connections established for a polling event per second.

- Additonal environment variables can now be logged for scVENUS commands.

  They can be defined by the following new configuration variable in `/etc/sc-acctrl`:

  - **`VENUS_SYSLOG_VARS`**: defines these additional environment variables.

Revised:

- The volume of log files was reduced by the following means: improved

  - log size is reduced:

    - ping log size is relatively reduced.

  - logs will be deleted earlier:

    - ping logs will be deleted after 5 days.

    - notification logs and ruleengine logs will be deleted after 3 months.

5. Queueing

Revised:

- The command **`scqdel -e`** or **`-u`** doesn't delete any job: fixed

6. Methods

Revised:

- Outdated versions of the installed interpreters for Java, Perl, Python methods are not automatically uninstalled.: fixed

- The Python version was updated from Python 3.7 to Python 3.8.

  scVENUS methods written in Python 3 (`#Interpreter: python` or `python3`) also use Python 3.8.

- If a premethod produces an error, the subsequent premethods and method are executed.; fixed

7. Software Management

New:

- **`scdepotserveradd, scdepotserverdel:`** Command usage was enhanced.

  - **`--keep-logfiles |`** **`-l`**: option to keep log and error files

- **`scdepotserveradd:`** Command usage was enhanced.

- **`--create-cert:`** option to create and transfer the server certificate for `vGuido` to the scVENUS software depot server even if a valid one exists.

Revised:

- Command **`scdepotaddpkg --type=msi`** can only read the configuration file defined by the option **`--config-file=<path>`** if root can access it.: fixed

- The extraction of software packages is aborted if a virus scanner is running on the client.: fixed

- If the command **`scpm`** produces an error, no STDOUT messages are provided.: fixed

- If non-UTF-8- characters are produced during the installation of scVENUS software on a Windows client, **`scbootstrapwin`** aborts.: fixed

8. Client Management

New:

- **`scrinstall:`** Command usage was enhanced.

  - **`-D:`** option to send debug messages to STDOUT

- The options to retrieve a client's IP address were enhanced.

  If the system's name service is not available on a client, scVENUS can now provide the client's IP address itself.

  - **`SCPREX_USE_NAMESERVICE:`** configuration variable to define if the name service of the operating system on the client and/or the data sent by the client to the master is used.

Revised:

- Method **`scchrootpw`** executed on a Windows client is terminated with error if called by the command **`scchrootpw`**.: fixed

9. User Management

Revised:

- File transfer initiated by commands **`scchkey`** and **`scchuser`** fails if configuration variable **`MASTER_PORT_RANGE`** or **`SCREX_PORT_RANGE`** is set.: fixed

10. Configuration Management

New:

- **`sccheckin`**: Command usage was enhanced.

  - **`-y:`** option to suppress the syntax validation of a context

Revised:

- The handling of permissons when using the commands **`scmetainit`** and **`scmetadoall`** was improved.

11. Monitoring

New:

- **`scmon-diskusage-agent:`** Monitoring agent functionality was enhanced.

  - The agent also monitors NFSv4 file systems.

- If the mountpoint exclude list defined by option **`--exmtp <mplist>`**) contains an entry `/../,` the agent searches the list for a substring.

  Revised:

- The scmonAgent **`scmon-cpuload-agent`** stops running on Windows clients if the average file for Reporting is currupt.: fixed

12. Inventory

Revised:

- The command **`scinventoryq –collect-only`** aborts with an error.: fixed
- The target/actual comparison aborts if a varchar field contains a regular expression.: fixed
- The method **`scinv.software.system`** on Windows has some encoding problems: fixed

13. gvenus GUI

Revised:

- Displaying a table containing an entry with data type *date* in the gvenus Inventory GUI fails.: fixed
- gvenus using Java 11 or 17 aborts if it is remotely started.: fixed

3rd party software with scVENUS 2.6.2

The following software versions are delivered with scVENUS 2.6.2:

apache	2.4.57
apr	1.7.4
apr-iconv	1.2.2
apr-util	1.6.3
bash	5.0.11
bzip2	1.0.6
conserver	8.1.18
cyrus-sasl	2.1.28
diffutils	3.7
expat	2.5.0
ipmitool	1.8.18
jre	17.0.8
krb5	1.20.2
ndmpcopy	1.2
openldap	2.5.16
openssh	9.3p1
openssl	3.0.10
pcre	8.45
perl	5.36.1
postgresql	12.15
PyGreSQL	5.2.4
python3	3.8.17
pywin32 (Python 3)	b224
rcs	5.9.4
rrdtool	1.6.0
six (Python 3)	1.16.0
sqlite3	3.41.2
WMI (Python 3)	1.4.9
zlib	1.2.13

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Operating system support with scVENUS 2.6.2

scVENUS master and Monitoring master:

- AlmaLinux 8, 9
- Debian 8 - 12
- Red Hat EL / CentOS / Oracle Linux 6 – 9
- Rocky Linux 8, 9
- Scientific Linux 6, 7
- SUSE / openSUSE 13.1-2, 42.1-3, 15.0-5
- SLES 12, 15
- Ubuntu LTS 16.04, 18.04, 20.04, 22.04

scVENUS client:

- AlmaLinux 8, 9
- AIX 7.1-.2
- Debian 8 - 12
- Red Hat EL / CentOS / Oracle Linux 6 – 9
- Rocky Linux 8, 9
- Scientific Linux 6, 7
- SUSE / openSUSE 13.1, 13.2, 42.1-3, 15.0-5
- SLES 11, 12, 15
- Solaris Sparc 10, 11
- Ubuntu LTS 16.04, 18.04, 20.04, 22.04
- Windows Server 2008, 2008 R2, 2012, 2012 R2, 2016, 2019, 2022
- Windows 7, 8, 8.1, 10, 11

(See the manual *Installation, Upgrade and Configuration* or the release information *Supported Operating Systems.)*

What will be discontinued with coming scVENUS releases?

The following items will no longer be included and supported with coming scVENUS releases.

- upgrade from scVENUS version ≤ 2.5.3

    Upgrade will be supported only from scVENUS version ≥ 2.5.4.

- installation of scVENUS on Windows clients using vc.exe

    Alternatively, use an msi software package for installation.

- operating systems

    - Debian 8, 9

    - Red Hat EL 6

    - SLES 11

    - Ubuntu 16.04, 18.04

    - Windows 7

- support of Python 2

    - enabling Python 2 defined in the variable **VENUS_PYTHON2_INST** in the context **venus_config**.

- method interpreters

    - support of deprecated Perl versions defined in the variables **USE_DEPRECATED_PERL** and **USE_DEPRECATED_PERL_AS_DEFAULT** in the context **sc.venus.perl.inst**.

    - support of VBS

- Configuration Monitoring

    The addon will be deleted without replacement.

- **NAMESERVICE_CLASSIC_MODE**

    configuration variable in `/etc/sc-acctrl` that defines a deprecated mode to manage name services.

- scprex

    The communication between scVENUS master and clients will only take place via sprex2.

Support contact

If you have support requests, please contact:

venus-support@science-computing.de

Regarding scVENUS licensing, address questions to:

venus-license@science-computing.de

Customer web portal

Find current information about scVENUS on our homepage:

https://atos.net/s+c

This site offers access to the scVENUS web portal (only registered customers).

Documentation

The HTML reference documentation of the scVENUS commands, methods, contexts, scmonAgents, functions and configuration variables is available:

- on the scVENUS DVD in the directory `Documentation`

- after basic scVENUS master installation in the directory
  `~<manager>/Documentation/scVENUS`

Here you also find the scVENUS manuals and READMEs.

An online help is available for the scVENUS GUIs gvenus and gvenusRCP.