



Charon-SSP 4.2.7

Release Notes



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Relevant Products

This document is applicable to the following Charon-SSP software products:

- Version 4.2.7 of
 - Charon-SSP for Linux (including the versions for Sentinel HASP and VE licensing),
 - Charon-SSP Baremetal,
 - Charon-SSP Automatic Licensing (AL) and Virtual Environment (VE) marketplace images on Azure, AWS, OCI, and Google Cloud (not every platform may offer both images).
- Version 1.0.36 of the Charon-SSP VE (Virtual Environment) License Server (for Azure, AWS, OCI, and Google clouds).

This document also contains some information about older versions. However, please always refer to the documentation of your specific software version for the most relevant information.

Host System Requirements and Supported Virtual Hardware

Please refer to the user's guide and the SPD of your respective Charon-SSP product for details.

New Features since Version 4.0.x

- The Virtual Environment (VE) licensing feature supports customer-owned and customer-operated license servers in the customer's cloud environment with license characteristics adapted to the specific requirements of a cloud environment. The implementation consists of a license server package and matching emulator packages. At time of first release, the Charon-SSP VE License Server will be supported in AWS, OCI, GCP, and Azure cloud environments. A backup license server can be used to provide service continuity (starting from version 4.1.20).
- Azure marketplace support.
- Google marketplace support.
- Support for version 8 of RHEL, CentOS, and Oracle Linux (for exact version support, please refer to the user's guide and the SPD).
- Merge of the previous Barebone and Baremetal versions to a new Baremetal version (starting from version 4.1.21). There is no longer a separate Barebone distribution ISO, but existing Barebone installations can be upgraded using RPM packages.
- Charon Manager and Director for Microsoft Windows are available again.
- Charon Manager and Director support for Ubuntu.
- Configuration option in Charon Manager to set a start-up delay for automatic Charon-SSP start at host system boot (starting from version 4.1.9).

Known Caveats

Charon-SSP

- **AMD CPU support:**
Charon-SSP supports modern AMD CPUs. However, support for Charon-SSP/4U+ and Charon-SSP/4V+ is currently experimental on AMD CPUs.
- **Charon-SSP/4M CGSIX restriction:**
CGSIX emulation is not supported for SunOS 4.x guest systems.
- **Charon-SSP Baremetal GUI settings:**
If a Charon-SSP Baremetal system is upgraded using the Baremetal ISO image, the systemwide region and display settings may not be preserved but are reset to default values.
- **HASP-related *udev* error messages in *journalctl*:**
On CentOS, RHEL, and Oracle Linux 7.x, *journalctl* shows errors in the file */etc/udev/rules.d/80-hasp.rules*. The messages report that the key *PHYSDEVBUS* and the group *plugdev* are unknown. The affected entries exist for backward compatibility with older Linux versions. The messages can be ignored.
- **OCI instance based on Charon-SSP VE marketplace image shows *oracle-cloud-agent.service* startup errors:** when the instance is configured for IMDSv2 (Instance Metadata Service version 2), a deficiency in the underlying CentOS host operating system prevents the start of the *oracle-cloud-agent.service*. These messages do not affect the correct operation of the product.

VE License Server

- A license update is required when upgrading to License Server 10.0.24 or newer from a version before 10.0.24.
- Due to the switch to a persistent VE license ID in License Server 1.0.27, a new license is required when upgrading to this or a newer version from a version before 10.0.27.

Important Bug Fixes and Other Changes in Versions 4.2.x

Version 4.2.7

Bugs fixed:

- The ZFS root pool name was restricted to **rpool**. Other names caused a boot failure. This restriction has been removed.
- Addressing problem for vdisk files with sizes of 1TB or larger.

Other changes and enhancements:

- When a ZFS vdisk is copied onto an empty XFS filesystem, the XFS filesystem can no longer be mounted normally. Depending on the command used, no mountable file system is detected, or more than one filesystem type is detected. This is caused by limitations of the Linux operating system. **For XFS filesystems created by the Charon Manager, this problem has been fixed.**

For XFS filesystems created manually, one of the following workarounds can be used:

- Explicitly specify the type when mounting the XFS filesystem (**mount -t xfs**), or
- Copy a small file (min. 1MB) to the XFS filesystem **before** copying the ZFS vdisk.
- VE license server: the *licensed* service is now stopped cleanly before exiting when an exception is detected. This avoids repeated restarts.

Version 4.2.6

Bugs fixed:

- Without continuous network activity on the host NIC assigned to an emulated BGE vNIC in SSP, the BGE emulation could get into a state where it would block all guest system traffic until Charon-SSP restart. This problem affected mostly cloud environments because in on-premises LAN environments there is usually enough multicast and broadcast network activity visible to the NIC to prevent this problem. Emulated HME and QFE vNICs are not affected.

Version 4.2.5

Bugs fixed:

- After updating an existing VE license with a license of a newer creation date, Charon-SSP tracked the wrong vClock value due to a communication problem between client and server. This caused a license failure before the defined expiration date. The complete solution of the problem requires an upgrade to Charon-SSP VE 4.2.5 and VE License Server version 1.0.35.
- Charon-SSP sometimes chose the wrong product section if one VE license contained several product sections.
- After launching a new Charon-SSP AWS instance based on an AWS marketplace image—if the instance was configured for Metadata version 2 only—it took about 8 minutes until the user could connect to the instance. This problem was due to a mismatch of the configured metadata version and the installed AWS cloud tools.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Improved Charon-SSP license-specific log messages.
- VE license server web page shows which product section the emulator selected.
- Sentinel runtime version 7.103 (package aksusbd-7.103) is now certified for all Linux versions supported by Charon-SSP 4.2.5. Hence the Sentinel runtime version 7.63 (aksusbd-7.63) has been removed from the Charon-SSP distribution.
- The emulator packages for RHEL/CentOS 7 were renamed to make the naming consistent with the naming of the packages for RHEL/CentOS 8.

Version 4.2.4

Bugs fixed:

- In cloud environments, Charon-SSP could not obtain the correct disk path when the disk path was configured with the disk serial number.

Version 4.2.3

Bugs fixed:

- VE License Server version 1.0.34: the **v2c** command now correctly accepts the long version of the command-line options.
- Improved network gateway setup in Charon Manager on both RHEL/CentOS 7 and 8.

Version 4.2.2

Bugs fixed:

- Correct display in Host Information window of Charon Manager even if *lspci* is not installed.
- Default gateway and DNS server can now be cleared via the Charon Manager in RHEL/CentOS 8.x.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Upgrade supported Instance Metadata Service (IMDS) from version 1 to version 2 on Oracle cloud for Charon-SSP VE marketplace image, associated Charon-SSP VE versions and VE license Server 1.0.33.

Version 4.2.1

Bugs fixed:

- Some typos were corrected in Charon Manager.
- VE License Server version 1.0.32: improved handling when the check of the required IAM role action (*ListUsers*) returns an empty list.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Configuration templates updated with new SCSI device path configuration syntax.
- Improved cloud server response code checking.

Important Bug Fixes and Other Changes in Versions 4.1.x

Version 4.1.32

Bugs fixed:

- Solaris failed to boot in rare cases if installed in a ZFS filesystem on a disk that previously contained a UFS filesystem.
- The cause of the Charon-SSP Baremetal error “Not connected to the PulseAudio server” has been repaired.

Other changes and enhancements:

- The Charon Agent now releases disk space correctly if the creation of a vdisk via the Charon Manager is aborted.
- Offload parameter settings (related to GRO) for an Ethernet interface that were made on the Linux level were not correctly interpreted when the virtio_net driver was used – causing a significant impact on network performance (in particular for GCP and OCI cloud instances). This enhancement solves the problem.
- VE License Server version 1.0.29: preparation for future IBM cloud support.

Version 4.1.31

Bugs fixed:

- Corrected USB attachment problems that occurred when deleting/removing emulator instances via the Charon Manager.
- Charon-SSP serial console freeze on GCP instances if serial port type was set to *terminal*.
- The VE License Server version 1.0.28:
 - Adapted to the different public certificates introduced by Amazon for different regions on AWS Cloud.
 - IAM API checking problem on AWS Cloud fixed.

Other changes and enhancements:

- VE License Server (version 1.0.28) now logs client connections.

Version 4.1.30

Bugs fixed:

- Cause of "Error: -- - no such connection profile" messages in journalctl.
- USB attach problem.
- Set the default log output destination to “File” for Charon-SSP/4V(+) when instance is created via the Charon Manager.
- External PuTTY console window did not open after Charon-SSP/4M was recovered from snapshot.

Other changes and enhancements:

- A valid \$DISPLAY variable is now correctly detected when starting an external PuTTY window.
- Use different public certificates for different regions on AWS Cloud.

Version 4.1.29

Bugs fixed:

- On CentOS/RHEL 8, the emulator did not turn off GRO on Ethernet interface which impacted network performance.
- SSP 4U(+)/4V(+) now correctly translate the SUBCCC instruction.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Improved clean termination of external PuTTY window.
- Cosmetic punctuation improvement of Charon-SSP output.
- Output of the charon-password script now shows all users for which the password is changed.
- VNC menu now hidden for Barebone (relevant if a Barebone system is upgraded to this version using RPM packages).
- Root partition size for new Baremetal increased to a maximum of 15 GiB.
- Removed duplicate Charon Agent messages in journalctl when starting emulator via the Charon Manager.

Version 4.1.28

Bugs fixed:

- Charon-SSP/4V translation of LDDA instruction corrected.

Version 4.1.27

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Manager terminated unexpectedly if last line in the emulator log was incomplete.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Improved network configuration support for CentOS/RHEL/Oracle Linux version 8.x.
- Added Charon-SSP/4U+ and Charon-SSP/4V+ support for CentOS/RHEL/Oracle Linux version 8.2.

Version 4.1.26

Bugs fixed:

- Log files on Charon-SSP/4U+/4V+ were not always fully written to file when the emulator instance was terminated.
- Using `cat` to display the content of a large file on the Charon-SSP console created garbled output.
- Charon Agent on Charon-SSP Baremetal could terminate unexpectedly due to unclosed pipes.

Other changes and enhancements:

- In addition to regular warnings about license expiration during normal operation, a warning message is now written to the log file when the emulator starts if the VE license is due to expire in 3 days or less.
- Charon Manager will now stop VNC reliably.

Version 4.1.25

Bugs fixed:

- Incorrect DIT translation of one particular instruction.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Screen Lock feature for Charon-SSP Baremetal.

Version 4.1.24

Bugs fixed:

- Boot failure when booting a Solaris guest system from a ZFS VDISK.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Charon-SSP Baremetal File Manager sets ownership of created files to user "charon".
- VE license server and license generation improvements.

Version 4.1.23

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Manager pop-up message was missing when console connection was disconnected by another session.
- Charon Agent terminated abnormally when clicking on the "Virtual Machine" menu in Charon Manager while a running emulator instance was selected.

Other changes and enhancements:

- The product name changed from BYOL license server and emulator to Virtual Environment (VE) license server and emulator for products supporting the new Stromasys product licensing.
- Improvements of Baremetal VNC, Network, and Desktop operation.
- Improved Google Cloud support.
- Optimization for Charon-SSP Server JIT to prevent performance degradation.
- VE license ID is now persistent after first license import.

Version 4.1.22

Other changes and enhancements:

- Google Cloud Platform support.
- New Charon-SSP Baremetal; merged with Charon-SSP Barebone; new user interface.

Version 4.1.21

Other changes and enhancements:

- Charon-SSP Baremetal: upgrade base image to CentOS 7.8.
- Charon-SSP Barebone and Baremetal merged into one new Baremetal version.
- Grace period for VE licenses changed from 24 hours to 2 hours.

Version 4.1.20

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Agent error messages during Agent start.

Other changes and enhancements:

- VE license specification adaption in License Server version 1.0.24.
- Charon-SSP Manager: dependency on libssh2 package removed.
- Charon Manager network management improvements for CentOS/RHEL/Oracle Linux 8.
- Improved support for primary and backup VE license server.

Version 4.1.19

Bugs fixed:

- Charon-SSP for AWS marketplace: problems with reading instance metadata.
- Keyboard configuration made during Barebone installation reset to US keyboard after login.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Charon Manager network management support for CentOS/RHEL/Oracle Linux 8.
- Support for switching between primary and backup VE license server.

Version 4.1.18

Bugs fixed:

- Charon-SSP AL for Azure marketplace: additional storage devices mounted via the Storage Manager were not automatically remounted when the cloud instance was stopped and restarted.

Other changes and enhancements:

- The cloud-specific versions of Charon-SSP can now run inside a docker container.
- Implementation of cloud VE backup license server.

Version 4.1.17

Bugs fixed:

- Failure when starting multiple Charon-SSP instances in Charon-SSP AL cloud hosts.

Other changes and enhancements:

- Improvements for cloud Automatic Licensing operation

Version 4.1.16

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Manager on Windows display problems
- License problem affecting cloud license operation

Version 4.1.15

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Manager could not manage newly attached disks in Charon-SSP AL for Azure.
- Charon Manager title bar correction for VE-capable images in Oracle cloud
- Charon Manager on Windows: display problems in case of network disconnects

Other changes and enhancements:

- Charon Manager Tools menu consistency improvements
- CentOS/RHEL 8.1 support prerequisites
- VE License Server enhancements for VMware ESXi/VCenter support
- VE emulator packages renamed to charon-ssp-*{architecture}*-*{version}*.cloud.byol-x86_64.rpm (this was changed again in 4.1.23 when the product name BYOL was changed to VE).

Version 4.1.14

RPM packages were renamed to better indicate their purpose, that is, whether they are intended for a regular installation, an installation on Red Hat/CentOS/Oracle Linux version 8, an installation on a cloud marketplace or for use with a VE (former BYOL) license server.

Version 4.1.13

Bugs fixed:

- Charon Manager display problems on Azure
- PuTTY connection problem in Charon Manager for Microsoft Windows

Other changes and enhancements:

- Charon Manager detects remote host disconnects faster and provides error message
- Charon Manager allows initial password configuration without SSH tunnel when connected to localhost (marketplace images)
- Support of AWS IDMS V2 (Instance Metadata Service) in marketplace image
- VE license server improvement
- RPM package installation of Charon-SSP Manager for Linux now checks if dependencies are installed

Versions 4.1.1 to 4.1.12

Bugs fixed:

- USB subsystem dependency caused problems in cloud environments and was removed
- Fingerprint problems in cloud environment
- Licensing improvement related to system time
- Restarting or stopping the Charon Agent no longer stops the running SSP emulators started via the Charon Manager or configured for automatic start via the Charon Manager
- Protocol compatibility improvements between VE license server and Charon-SSP emulator.
- VE license server incorrect log entry corrected
- VE license server problems related to timestamps and timing
- Log display problem in Charon-SSP Manager
- SSH connection problem with Charon Manager for Microsoft Windows
- Charon-SSP Manager for Linux permission problems related to virtual storage
- SFTP tool and Time & Date tool were not displayed on Oracle Cloud
- MD5 checksum error when installing Charon Manager on Microsoft Windows 7
- Other active SSP instances could be impacted when one SSP instance was terminated
- Cloud VE emulator image crash
- Network problems in 4U-JIT and 4U-PLUS-JIT when USB was enabled
- USB device which was attached to a now deleted VM cannot be attached to any other VM

Other changes and enhancements:

- Microsoft Azure support added
- Unnecessary library dependencies in HASP license tools removed
- Log messages in cloud environments improved
- Faster creation of large virtual disks using Charon Manager tools
- VE license tools improved; C2V can now be run after V2C has been installed
- SCSI timeout handling improved
- Automatic software update for Charon-SSP Manager on Microsoft Windows
- Improvements for Manager/Agent to support 100 instances running concurrently
- Charon Manager on Windows can connect to emulator console across SSH tunnel

Information about Older Versions

New Features in Versions from 3.0.x to 4.0.5

- Cloud-specific product variants for AWS and OCI with cloud license server
- Sun-4v support with increased main memory support (Solaris 10: 1TB, Solaris 11: 512GB)
- USB removable device support for 4U/4V (non-cloud versions)
- Charon Manager integrated SSH tunnel between Manager and Agent
- Charon Manager automatic update via GUI
- Automatic initial management password change and command-line option to change management password
- Suspending and resuming a Charon emulator instance
- Improved SSH VPN bridge creation support in Charon Manager
- The automatic start of Charon instances with host system boot is now integrated into the Charon Agent operation if it is configured via the Charon Manager.

Important Bug Fixes and Other Changes in Versions 4.0.x

Version 4.0.5

Bugs fixed:

- When running a regular (non-marketplace) Charon-SSP installation on a cloud instance, the Charon Agent would fail when a user tried to open the **Virtual Machine** menu in the Charon Manager while an active emulated system was selected, causing the Charon Manager to disconnect from the Agent. This was caused by a dependency on the USB subsystem which is not enabled on many Linux cloud images.
- The `hasp_srm_view` utility could fail due to missing libraries, and GUI license tools could not manage licenses. Reason: the `hasp_srm_view` command erroneously required unnecessary packages that were not included in the dependency checks of the `charon-agent-ssp` RPM package. Workaround for versions before 4.0.5: identify the package providing the missing library (e.g., **# yum provides libSDL-1.2***) and install the package (e.g., **# yum install SDL**).
- Instances created from the Charon-SSP AL for AWS image experienced intermittent license verification failures after instance restart. Existing customers with versions 4.0.x prior to 4.0.5 who encounter the problem must create a new instance with the new version and then transfer their Charon emulator data to the new instance (ideally, any container files, e.g., `vdisk`s, used by the emulator should be stored on a separate storage volume that can be detached from the old instance and attached to the new one).

Other changes and enhancements:

- Version 7.7 of the 64-bit versions of RHEL, CentOS, and Oracle Linux is now also supported as Charon-SSP host operating system. For details, please refer to the user's guide of your product.

Version 4.0.4

Bugs fixed:

- In versions 4.0.x before version 4.0.4 stopping the Charon Agent service stops all active Charon instances that were started via the Charon Manager or configured via the Charon Manager for automatic start at host system boot. Workaround for older 4.0.x versions: add the line **KillMode=process** to the **[Service]** section of */etc/systemd/system/ssp-agentd.service*. Then run the command **systemctl daemon-reload**.
- The Charon Agent could start before the licensing system was ready. This caused the automatic startup of Charon instances to fail. Workaround for older 4.0.x versions: add the lines **After=network.target aksusbd.service** and **Wants=network.target** to the **[Unit]** section of */etc/systemd/system/ssp-agentd.service*.

Other changes and enhancements:

- When using the Charon Manager to configure a Charon instance for startup at host system boot, you can now configure a delay between 0 and 300 seconds.

Version 4.0.3

Bugs fixed:

- Charon-SSP AMI security improvements

Version 4.0.2

Bugs fixed:

- Incorrect data in Manager/Agent vm.dat file
- Termination of one SSP instance may affect other active SSP instances

Other changes and enhancements:

- Support running a maximum of 100 Charon-SSP emulator instances on the same machine at the same time

Version 4.0.1

Bugs fixed:

- Network problem in 4U-JIT and 4U-PLUS-JIT when USB is enabled
- USB device which was attached to a now deleted VM cannot be attached to any other VM

Important Bug Fixes and Other Changes from Version 3.1.21 to Version 3.1.28

Bugs fixed:

- Solaris booting issue on SSP/4V-PLUS-JIT
- The installation of Solaris 11-2 fails with physical disk on SSP/4V
- There are error logs when installing Solaris 10 u6 on SSP/4V
- Network booting/installation fails with BGE adapter on SSP/4V
- "Time of Day clock error" will be printed by Solaris when recovering from snapshot
- "Restart"/"Shutdown" buttons of Baremetal display wrong status sometimes
- Removable devices cannot be attached/detached with Windows Manager
- Renaming a VM may crash Charon Manager
- Problem in charon-passwd tool
- SSP reports errors when restoring from snapshot
- ZFS boot bug
- Solaris boot problem with 128GB memory
- Improved SCSI shutdown procedure to avoid data loss during Solaris reboot or shutdown

Other changes and enhancements:

- Terminate SSP/4V if detecting configuration issue with TTYA-TTYP, Manager will also mark conflicting ports in red on summary page
- Changed the title of login window of Charon Manager
- Load GPIB driver automatically in Baremetal
- Solved path dependency issue in Charon-SSP executables
- Sign kernel module to support UEFI boot
- Added access control in Charon Manager for vconsole device in SSP/4V
- Speed up memory allocation for huge memory configuration in SPARC

Other Important Bug Fixes and Changes in Earlier 3.1.x Versions**Bugs fixed:**

- Fixed crash problem when using port scanner to scan console port

Other changes:

- Increased license expiration time to 24 hours for cloud-specific products
- Barebone: disabled the service of NetworkManager
- Baremetal: changed the user role from charon/storage to charon/sshuser, 'charon' user can only be used to access SFTP sever and create SSH connection between Manager and Agent, 'sshuser' user can only be used to run simple command through SSH (e.g., ip and iptables).