
SGI ProPack 1.3 for Linux™ Critical Warning for Red Hat® Upgrades

This information pertains to those customers who have Red Hat 6.1 and SGI ProPack 1.2 for Linux installed on a system containing QLogic 1040, 1280, or 2100 SCSI or fiberchannel cards.

Please refer to <http://support.sgi.com/linux/docs/errata-1.3.html> for any last minute updates to this information.

Warning: Do not attempt to upgrade to Red Hat 6.2 before following instructions. If you fail to do the following, your machine will not boot after the upgrade.

In the ProPack 1.2 release, SGI provided updated drivers for the Qlogic 1040, 1280, and 2100 cards. These drivers came from the Qlogic corporation and have not yet been included in the Red Hat distribution. During the upgrade process, the Red Hat installer will try to put these drivers into the RAM disk image that is used to bootstrap the machine. Because the drivers do not exist in the Red Hat kernel, the script used to build the RAM disk will fail.

On most SGI systems, including the 1200, 1400, and 1450 servers, a SCSI driver is needed to boot the system because the root disk is a SCSI disk. Because the Red Hat script fails to build a RAM disk, the SCSI driver will not be available either. When trying to bring up the root disk, the kernel will panic with a message such as the following:

```
VFS: Cannot open root device "801" or 08:01
Please append a correct "root=" boot option
Kernel panic: VFS : Unalbe to mount root fs on 08:01
```

Pre-Installation Fix

The workaround for this problem is to complete following steps **before** upgrading to Red Hat 6.2.

1. Log into the machine as the root user.

2. Execute `cd /etc`.
3. Create a backup of the original by executing `cp conf.modules conf.modules.backup`.
4. Edit `conf.modules`. Remove lines containing “qla1040,” “qla1280”, or “qla2100”.
5. Proceed with the upgrade by inserting the Red Hat 6.2 CD and rebooting.
6. After the upgrade completes, restore the portion of the `/etc/conf.modules` file **before** you install SGI ProPack 1.3 for Linux.
7. Check to see if the upgrade has added any more information to your `/etc/conf.modules` before restoring `conf.modules.backup` to `conf.modules`. After you have ensured that the file is correct, Install SGI ProPack 1.3 for Linux.

Post-Installation Fix

If you upgraded to Red Hat 6.2 without fixing `conf.modules`, rerun the Red Hat installer:

1. Put the Red Hat 6.2 CD into your machine and reboot.
2. After the Red Hat 6.2 installer Welcome screen comes up, choose your language preference, keyboard type, and mouse type as with any other installation.
3. Choose **Upgrade** from the install menu.
4. Continue with the installation until the Package Installation Screen appears. You need to act quickly while it is installing the packages. Press **Ctrl + Alt + F2** simultaneously.
5. Execute `cd /mnt/sysimage/etc/`.
6. Execute `cp conf.modules conf.modules.backup`.
7. Execute `../bin/vi conf.modules`. Remove all “qla1040,” “qla1280”, or “qla2100” lines.
8. Go back to the graphical installer by pressing **Alt + F7** simultaneously.
9. After the installation is complete, reboot the fixed system and install SGI ProPack 1.3 for Linux.

If you still cannot boot the machine, or if the booting took too long, repeat this procedure.

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