Getting Started

For an overview of Skylar Automation, see the ***Skylar Automation*** manual:

- *PDF version*
- *Web version*

Installation

Important Installation Information

The Skylar Automation platform does not have a specific minimum required version for Skylar One or AP2. However, certain SyncPacks for Skylar Automation have minimum version dependencies, which are listed on the Dependencies for Skylar Automation SyncPacks page.

Ports

The following table lists the Skylar Automation ingress requirements:

Source	Port	Purpose
Skylar One host	443	Skylar One run book actions and connections to Skylar Automation
User client	3141	Devpi access
User client	443	Skylar Automation API
User client	5556	Dex Server: enable authentication for Skylar Automation
User client	8091	Couchbase Dashboard
User client	15672	RabbitMQ Dashboard
User client	22	SSH access

The following table lists the Skylar Automation egress requirements:

Destination	Port	Purpose
SL1 host	7706	Connecting Skylar Automation to Skylar OneDatabase Server
SL1 host	443	Connecting Skylar Automation to Skylar One API

Additional Considerations

Review the following list of considerations and settings before installing Skylar Automation:

- The latest Oracle Linux 8 (OL8) versions are delivered in the Skylar Automation ISO, and the latest package updates are included in Skylar Automation Docker images.
- When upgrading Skylar Automation using the RPM, be advised that you must remove the stack before deploying, as a new policy was added to the Skylar Automation policy configurations in the **/etc/iservices/casbinpolicy.csv** file.
- For new platform deployments and upgrades, always run **skyautocontrol healthcheck** and **autoheal** actions after the stack is deployed (or redeployed in upgrade scenarios).
- ScienceLogic highly recommends that you disable all firewall session-limiting policies. Firewalls will drop HTTPS requests, which results in data loss.
- Starting with Skylar Automation version 3.0.0, the minimum storage size for the initial partitions is 75 GB. Anything less will cause the automated installation to stop and wait for user input. You can use the tmux application to navigate to the other panes and view the logs. In addition, at 100 GB and above, **Skylar Automation** will no longer allocate all of the storage space, so you will need to allocate the rest of the space based on your specific needs.
- Skylar Automation clusters do not support vMotion or snapshots while the cluster is running. Performing a vMotion or snapshot on a running Skylar Automation cluster will cause network interrupts between nodes, and will render clusters inoperable.
- The site administrator is responsible for configuring the host, hardware, and virtualization configuration for the Skylar Automation server or cluster. If you are running a cluster in a VMware environment, be sure to install open-vm-tools and disable vMotion.
- You can configure one or more Skylar One systems to use Skylar Automation to sync with a *single* instance of a third-party application like ServiceNow or Cherwell. You cannot configure one Skylar One system to use Skylar Automation to sync with *multiple* instances of a third-party application like ServiceNow or Cherwell. The relationship between Skylar One and the third-party application can be either one-to-one or many-to-one, but not one-to-many.
- The default internal network used by Skylar Automation services is **172.21.0.0/16**. Please ensure that this range does not conflict with any other IP addresses on your network. If needed, you can change this subnet in the **docker-compose.yml** file.
- The OL8 automated upgrade scripts are deprecated with version 3.2.0 of Skylar Automation.

For more information about system requirements for your Skylar Automation environment, see the **System Requirements** page at the ScienceLogic Support Center at https://support.sciencelogic.com/s/system-requirements.

IMPORTANT: You should always upgrade to the most recent release of Skylar Automation.

What's New

Skylar Automation (formerly PowerFlow) version 3.4.0 adds an integrated MCP server to allow MCP clients to interact with Skylar Automation, improves access to CSV reports on Skylar Automation and installed SyncPacks, and addresses multiple issues.

For full details, see the *release notes for Skylar Automation 3.4.0*.

Documentation "Known Issues"

This release contains the following known issues:

- If a report is deleted, the link to the report might remain in the Reports list until you navigate away and return, or if you refresh the page.
- The journald volatile storage takes part of the memory based on the environment memory size, which might cause undesired behavior in environments where the memory is highly used by Skylar Automation services. Skylar Automation uses journald volatile storage, which means that all logs are kept only in memory. (Case: 00347339)

  - To check the size of journal logs on a single Skylar Automation node, run the following command:

    ```
    du -sh /run/log/journal
    ```

    You can clear logs with the following command (this is automatically done when you run the **healthcheck** action):

    ```
    journalctl --vacuum-time=7d
    ```

    You can also configure journald logs settings by using the following command to enforce small size and time limits:

    ```
    sudo sed -i -e '/RuntimeMaxUse=/s/.*/RuntimeMaxUse=800M/' -e
    '/MaxRetentionSec/s/.*/MaxRetentionSec=2week/'
    /etc/systemd/journald.conf && sudo systemctl restart systemd-
    journald
    ```

    NOTE: Skylar Automation updates journald volatile limits to the following values, which can be changed if you want retain fewer or more logs:

    `RuntimeMaxUse=800M`

    `MaxRetentionSec=2week`

- When upgrading to Couchbase version 6.6.0 (Skylar Automation later than 2.6.0) from Skylar Automation versions earlier than 2.6.0, the number of documents in the logs bucket could make the upgrade take longer, as a namespace upgrade is needed. ScienceLogic recommends that you flush the logs bucket if there are more than 300,000 documents that are taking up close to 2 GB of space in every node. Flushing the logs bucket will speed up the upgrade process. Otherwise, migrating a logs bucket of that size would take two to three minutes per node.

  Run the following command to flush the logs bucket after the Skylar Automation RPM is installed, but before redeploying the Skylar Automation Stack:

  ```
  pfctl --host <hostname><username>:<password> node-action --action
  flush_logs_bucket
  ```

  Alternately, you can flush the logs bucket manually using the Couchbase user interface.

- If you get the "Error: No such option: --version Did you mean --json?" error message when running the `pfctl --version command`, you might have an older version of pfctl that was installed as a different user. To resolve this, be sure to install the powerflowcontrol (pfctl) utility version 3.0.7 or later as root with sudo, and remove any other versions installed by other users (isadmin or ec2-user): (Case: 00360512)

  ```
  su isadmin
  ```

  ```
  pip3 uninstall -y iservicecontrol
  ```

- The **Workflow Health and Interconnectivity** widget on the **Skylar Automation Control Tower** page displays diagrams for Skylar Automation applications and SyncPacks that have been deleted. To work around this issue, run the "Skylar Automation Control Tower HealthCheck" application or wait for the next scheduled run of the application.
- If your Skylar automation system uses self-signed certificates, you will need to manually accept the certificate before you can upload SyncPacks. Go to **https://*<IP address of Skylar Automation>*:3141/isadmin**, accept the certificate, and then log into Skylar Automation. After you log in, you will be able to upload SyncPacks.
- The `latest` tag does not exist after the initial ISO installation. This situation only affects users with custom services that point to the `latest` tag. To work around this issue, run the tag latest script manually after running the `./pull_start_iservices.sh` command:

  ```
  python /opt/iservices/scripts/system_updates/tag_latest.py
  /opt/iservices/scripts/docker-compose.yml
  ```