Sun Cobalt™ Control Station

Software Management Module



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Software Management Module

This document explains the features and services available through the Software Management control module. This module allows you to

- view software packages available from the Sun Cobalt BlueLinQ server or from other Sun Cobalt Control Stations
- add a BlueLinQ server(s) that the control station can check for new software packages
- view installed software on the managed appliances
- view software packages that are required on one or more of your managed appliances
- deploy software packages to managed appliances
- make visible ("publish") software packages to BlueLinQ-enabled appliances



Note: In most of the short procedures in this chapter, the first step is to click the **Control Modules** tab in the top menu bar and the second step is to click on a selection from the left menu bar.

To reduce the number of steps in each procedure, the menu commands are grouped together and shown in **bold** type face. Right angle brackets separate the individual items.

For example, select **Control Modules > Software Management > Settings** means to click the **Control Modules** tab in the top menu bar, click the **Software Management** menu category in the left menu bar and finally click the **Settings** sub-menu item.

Progress bar

When you execute a task in the control modules, a progress bar displays the status of the task. You do not have to wait until the task is completed before performing another operation on the control station. You can select other commands or menu items on the Server Desktop UI while the task continues in the background.

Software Management screen

When you click the **Software Management** menu item on the left, the sub-menu items allow you to download and manage software packages in a local repository, view the installed software packages on the managed appliances, check for packages that the managed appliances require, and add a BlueLinQ server(s) that the control station can check for new software packages.

The sub-menu items are:

- Package Management (see “Settings” on page 18)
- Installed Packages (see “Installed Packages” on page 11)
- Needed Packages (see “Needed Packages” on page 14)
- Settings (see “Settings” on page 18)

For the Installed Packages and Needed Packages features, click the arrow beside the server name to view the list of packages installed on the managed appliance or needed for that appliance.

Package Management

The **Package Management** sub-menu item allows the user to manage the packages on the remote and local servers. The selector lists all of the software packages known by the Sun Cobalt Control Station. The software packages can be located on the control station itself or on remote BlueLinQ servers.

There are four options available above the selector.

- **Upload** allows you to load a package to a local repository on the control station, from a location that is accessible from your computer. Once the package is on the control station, if the package is in the right format and contains the appropriate list data, it can be published or installed.
- **Refresh** allows you to check the BlueLinQ servers that have been configured in the Settings sub-menu item (for more information, see "Settings" on page 18) and refresh the list of packages available. The information for this report is retrieved from a database and contains all the information for all packages found.

  The information for each package is stored on the BlueLinQ server. If the same package appears on two different BlueLinQ servers, the Package Management list displays the package from the most recent BlueLinQ server that the control station checked. The Repository column indicates where a package is found.
- The **Repositories** pull-down menu allows you to select the repository whose packages are displayed: all repositories or the local repository.
- The **Search** field allows you to search for a selected character string. The search operates on the package name, the version number and the description fields in the table. The user is presented the matching entries first.

There are five options available at the bottom of the selector. The user first selects a package or packages, and then performs one of these operations.

- **Download** allows you to download the package(s) from a remote repository to the local repository on the control station.
- **Publish** allows you to make a package file available for download to external BlueLinQ-enabled appliances. A package can be published from a remote server or the local repository.

  If the package file is located on a remote server and you select it to be published, the package is first downloaded to the local repository on the control station and then made available.

  To view the packages published on a Sun Cobalt Control Station, configure the BlueLinQ settings on the BlueLinQ-enabled appliance to http://<fully_qualified_domain_name_of_SCCS>/packages/
- **Install** allows you to install packages on selected managed appliances. You can install packages from either a local or remote repository.

  If the package file is located on a remote server and you select it to be installed on a managed appliance, the package is first downloaded to the local repository on the control station and then installed on the appliance.

  If you choose **Install**, the next step is to select the managed appliances on which you want install the package(s). You are shown only those appliances to which the selected package pertains.
- **Package Info**. allows you to view detailed information for a package, such as the vendor, a description of the package, the size of the package, whether the package can be uninstalled once it is installed, whether the appliance needs to be rebooted after a package is installed and the prerequisite packages for this package.

- **Remove** allows you to remove a package file from the list of available packages. If the package is on a remote BlueLinQ server, the entry for that package is removed from the list of available packages. If the package file is in the local repository on the control station, the entry for that package is removed from the list of available packages and the file is deleted from the repository.

  If the package has been "published" on your control station, the package is no longer available to BlueLinQ-enabled appliances once you remove it.

  If you use the refresh option, a package file located on a remote BlueLinQ server appears again.



Note: You cannot delete a package file from a remote BlueLinQ server with the **Remove** option.

Uploading a package

To upload a software package:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Click **Upload** at the top of the table. The "Upload Package" table appears.
3. In the Package file field, enter the name of the software package you want to upload. You can also click **Browse** and locate the package file.
4. Click **Upload**. The package is uploaded to the local repository on the control station.

   The "Package Management" table refreshes, showing the new package file.

Refreshing the list of packages

To refresh the list of available packages:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Click **Refresh** at the top of the table. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Refresh operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the list of package(s) has been updated.

   To view the list of events associated to downloading a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Package Management" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Changing the repository displayed

To change the repository whose packages are displayed:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Use the **Repositories** pull-down menu to select the repository to check for packages: all repositories or the local repository.

   The "Package Management" table refreshes with the list of available package files in the repository that you selected.

Searching the list of available packages

To search for a character string in the list of available packages:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. In the Search field in the top right corner, enter the character string for which you want to search in the list of available packages.
3. Hit the **Return** (or **Enter**) key on your keyboard. The "Package Management" table refreshes, displaying the results of the search.

   You can perform any of the other functions on the list of results.

Downloading a package

To download a software package from a BlueLinQ server to the local repository on the control station:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to download.
3. Click **Download** at the bottom of the table. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Download operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been downloaded.

   To view the list of events associated to downloading a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Package Management" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Publishing a package

To publish a software package, so that it is available to external BlueLinQ-enabled appliances:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to publish.
3. Click **Publish** at the bottom of the table. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Publish operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been published.

   To view the list of events associated to publishing a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Package Management" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Installing a package

To install a software package on a managed appliance(s):

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to install.
3. Click **Install** at the bottom of the table. Another applet window opens in the Server Desktop UI, asking you to select the appliance(s) on which you want to install the package(s). The list of appliances in this table depends on the package(s) that you have selected to install.
4. Click **Install** in the bottom right corner. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Install operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been installed.

   To view the list of events associated to installing a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Package Management" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Viewing details of an available package

To view the detailed information for an available software package:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages for which you you want to view the detailed information.
3. Click **Package Info** at the bottom of the table. A table appears with the name of the package in the title bar. If you choose more than one package, a separate table for each package appears.
4. The table provides the following information:
    - the name of the software package
    - the version number
    - the vendor of the package
    - a description of the package
    - the location of the package file
    - the size of the package (in MB)
    - whether the package can be uninstalled once it has been installed on the appliance
    - whether the appliance must be rebooted once the package has been installed
    - the package(s) that must be installed on the appliance before you can install this package
5. Click **Back** to return to the "Package Management" table.

Removing a package

To remove a software package from the list of available packages:



Note: You cannot delete a package file from a remote BlueLinQ server with the **Remove** option.

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Package Management**. The "Package Management" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to remove from the list.
3. Click **Remove** at the bottom of the table. The "Confirm Removal of Package" table appears.
4. Click **Remove** again. The package is removed from the list and the "Package Management" table refreshes.

   At the bottom left, a green *checkmark* icon appears, indicating that the package was successfully removed.

Installed Packages

The **Installed Packages** sub-menu item provides a list of software packages that are currently installed on the appliances selected by the user.

When you click on the Installed Packages sub-menu item, the “Installed Packages” table appears.

Above this table, there is an update button, two pull-down menus and a search field.

- **Update**. This button allows the user to update the list of installed software by querying the selected appliances.
- **Select View**. This pull-down menu allows the user to view the installed software packages either by appliance or by software package.
    a. **View By Appliance**. Each selected appliance is a top-level item; the software packages installed on that appliance are listed below it.
    b. **View By Package**: Each software package is a top-level item; the appliances on which the package is installed are listed below it.
- **Show Group**. This pull-down menu allows the user to display in the table the installed packages for a particular appliance group or all appliance groups.
- **Search**. This field allows you to search for a selected character string. The search operates on the package name, the version number and the description fields in the “Installed Packages” table. The user is presented the matching entries first.

Updating the list of installed packages

To update the list of installed software packages on the managed appliances:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Installed Packages.** The "Installed Packages" table appears, displaying the list of managed appliances.
2. Click **Update** above the table. Another Java applet window opens in the Server Desktop UI, asking you to select the appliances for which to update the list of installed software packages.
3. Click to highlight the appliance(s).
4. Click **Update** in the bottom right corner. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Update operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the list of installed package(s) has been updated.

   To view the list of events associated to publishing a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Installed Packages" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Viewing details of an installed package

To view the detailed information for an installed software package:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Installed Packages.** The "Installed Packages" table appears.
2. Using the pull-down menus, select the view (by appliance or by package) or choose an individual group to view. The "Installed Packages" table refreshes.
3. Select a package or packages in the list of installed packages for which you you want to view the detailed information.
4. Click **Info** in the bottom right corner. A table appears with the name of the package in the title bar. If you choose more than one package, a separate table for each package appears.

5. The table provides the following information:
   - the name of the software package
   - the version number
   - the vendor of the package
   - a description of the package
   - the location of the package file
   - the size of the package (in MB)
   - whether the package can be uninstalled once it has been installed on the appliance
   - whether the appliance must be rebooted once the package has been installed
   - the package(s) that must be installed on the appliance before you can install this package
6. Click **Back** to return to the "Installed Packages" table.

Searching the list of installed packages

To search for a character string in the list of installed software packages:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Installed Packages.** The "Installed Packages" table appears.
2. In the Search field in the top right corner, enter the character string for which you want to search in the list of installed packages.
3. Hit the **Return** (or **Enter**) key on your keyboard. The "Installed Packages" table refreshes, displaying a list of entries matching the search string.

   You can perform any of the other functions on the list of results.

Needed Packages

The **Needed Packages** sub-menu item compares the set of installed software packages on managed appliances with the packages listed in the "Package Management" table. These packages can be located on the control station or on a remote BlueLinQ server.

The resulting report indicates, for each selected appliance, the packages that are not currently installed that appliance.



Note: To make this comparison as accurate as possible, Sun Microsystems recommends that, first, you:

1. Perform an "Update" operation on the **Installed Software** screen for the managed appliances. (See "Updating the list of installed packages" on page 12.)
2. Perform a "Refresh" operation on the **Package Management** screen for the BlueLinQ servers. (See "Refresh" on page 3.)

There are four options available at the bottom of the selector. The user first selects a package or packages, and then performs one of these operations.

- **Download** allows you to download the package(s) from a remote repository to the local repository on the control station.
- **Publish** allows you to make a package file available for download to external BlueLinQ-enabled appliances. A package can be published from a remote server or the local repository.

  If the package file is located on a remote server and you select it to be published, the package is first downloaded to the local repository on the control station and then made available.

  To view the packages published on a Sun Cobalt Control Station, configure the BlueLinQ settings on the BlueLinQ-enabled appliance to http://<fully_qualified_domain_name_of_SCCS>/packages/

- **Install** allows you to install packages on selected managed appliances. You can install packages from either a local or remote repository.

  If the package file is located on a remote server and you select it to be installed on a managed appliance, the package is first downloaded to the local repository on the control station and then installed on the appliance.

  If you choose **Install**, the next step is to select the managed appliances on which you want install the package(s). You are shown only those appliances to which the selected package pertains.

- **Package Info** allows you to view detailed information for a package, such as the vendor, a description of the package, the size of the package, whether the package can be uninstalled once it is installed, and the prerequisite packages for this package.

Downloading a package

To download a software package from a BlueLinQ server to the local repository on the control station:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Needed Packages**. The "Needed Packages" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to download.
3. Click **Download** at the bottom of the table. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Download operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been downloaded.

   To view the list of events associated to downloading a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Needed Packages" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Publishing a package

To publish a software package, so that it is available for downloading to external BlueLinQ-enabled appliances:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Needed Packages**. The "Needed Packages" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to publish.
3. Click **Publish** at the bottom of the table. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Publish operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been published.

   To view the list of events associated to publishing a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Needed Packages" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Installing a package

To install a software package on a managed appliance(s):

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Needed Packages**. The "Needed Packages" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages that you want to install.
3. Click **Install** at the bottom of the table. Another applet window opens in the Server Desktop UI, asking you to select the appliance(s) on which you want to install the package(s). The list of appliances in this table depends on the package(s) that you have selected to install.
4. Click **Install** in the bottom right corner. The "Task Progress" table appears.

   This table has a Status field indicating the current status of the Install operation and a progress bar. When the progress bar displays 100%, the package(s) has been installed.

   To view the list of events associated to installing a package file, click **View Events** below the progress bar. The "Events" table appears.

   To return to the "Needed Packages" table, click **Done** below the progress bar.

Viewing details of a needed package

To view the detailed information for a needed software package:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Needed Packages**. The "Needed Packages" table appears.
2. Select a package or packages in the list of available packages for which you you want to view the detailed information.
3. Click **Package Info** at the bottom of the table. A table appears with the name of the package in the title bar. If you choose more than one package, a separate table for each package appears.

4. The table provides the following information:
    - the name of the software package
    - the version number
    - the vendor of the package
    - a description of the package
    - the location of the package file
    - the size of the package (in MB)
    - whether the package can be uninstalled once it has been installed on the appliance
    - whether the appliance must be rebooted once the package has been installed
    - the package(s) that must be installed on the appliance before you can install this package
5. Click **Back** to return to the "Needed Packages" table.

Settings

Through the **Settings** sub-menu item, you can add, modify and remove BlueLinQ servers for the Software Management module. The control station accesses the BlueLinQ servers and verifies the available list of packages for the appliances that it manages.



Note: The BlueLinQ servers listed here contain software packages for the appliances managed by the Sun Cobalt Control Station.

For software related specifically to the Sun Cobalt Control Station, see "BlueLinQ" in the PDF *Administrator Manual*.

Sun Cobalt Control Station as a BlueLinQ server

Your Sun Cobalt Control Station can serve as a BlueLinQ server. All BlueLinQ-enabled appliances, including other Sun Cobalt Control Stations, can see packages published on your control station. This allows the control stations to share and distribute the packages more efficiently, and to take full advantage of the "Publish" feature in the Software Management module .

BlueLinQ server settings - Basic

The “BlueLinQ Server Settings” table has two tabs in the top right corner: Basic and Advanced. The active tab shows up as a light grey.

The “BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic” table displays the BlueLinQ servers that you have configured in the Software Management module. The Software Management module displays all packages available from these servers.



Note: The host name of the BlueLinQ server that you enter must be resolvable by a Domain Name System (DNS) server that your Sun Cobalt Control Station accesses.

To configure a DNS server for your control station, see “TCP/IP” in the PDF *Administrator Manual*.

The table has four columns; see Figure 1.

- **Name**: the name of the BlueLinQ server
- **Address**: the host name of the server
- **Description** (*optional*): a description of the server
- **Action**: modify the settings for the server or remove the server

Figure 1. BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic table



You can sort the list of servers according to the name of the server or the URL address, in ascending or descending order.

Ascending order means from lowest value to the highest value (a–z or 1–9). Descending order means from highest value to the lowest value (z–a or 9–1). By default, the " BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table is sorted by server name in ascending order.

In the heading of the column which has been sorted, a green *triangle* icon points down (ascending order) or up (descending order). In the heading of the column which has not been sorted, a hollow *triangle* icon indicates that the column is not sorted.

Actions column

Once a BlueLinQ server has been added, you can perform various operations on that server. These operations are found in the Actions column of the "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table and are explained furtther on.

- modify a BlueLinQ server
- remove a BlueLinQ server

Adding a BlueLinQ server

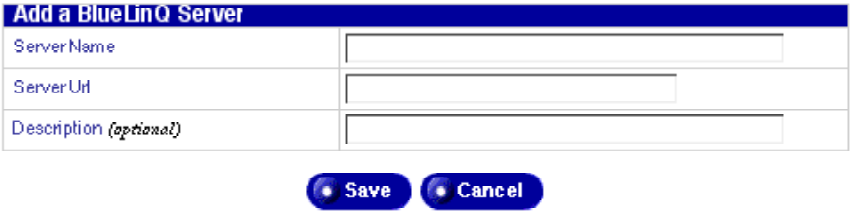
To add a BlueLinQ server to the Software Management module:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Settings.** The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears.
2. Click **Add** at the top of the table. The "Add a BlueLinQ Server" table appears; see Figure 2.
3. Fill in the following fields:
   - **Server Name.** Enter a name for the group.
   - **BlueLinQ Server.** Enter the URL for the server.

     For example, http://updates.cobalt.com/packages/ is a valid entry.
   - **Description** (*optional*). Enter a short description for this group. The description field can contain up to 255 characters.
4. Click **Save**. The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears with the new server added. The servers are sorted by server name in ascending order.

To see the packages available from the newly added BlueLinQ server, click **Package Management** and then click **Refresh** at the top. For more information, see "Refreshing the list of packages" on page 6.

Figure 2. Adding a BlueLinQ Server table



Modifying a BlueLinQ server

To modify a BlueLinQ server:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Settings.** The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears.
2. Locate in the table the server that you want to modify.
3. Click the green *pencil* icon in the Actions column. The "Modify BlueLinQ Server" table appears.
4. You can modify the server name, the URL for the server or the description for the server. The Description field is optional.
5. Click **Save**. The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears with the modified information for the server.

Removing a BlueLinQ server

If you remove a BlueLinQ server from the Software Management module, all packages available from that server are removed from the "Package Management" table.

To remove a BlueLinQ server:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Settings.** The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears.
2. Locate in the table the server that you want to remove.
3. Click the red *trashcan* icon in the Actions column. The "Confirm Removal of Server" table appears, asking if you to confirm the removal.
4. Click **Remove**. The "BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic" table appears with the updated information.

BlueLinQ server settings - Advanced

The “BlueLinQ Settings” table has two tabs in the top right corner: Basic and Advanced. The active tab shows up as a light grey.

The “BlueLinQ Server Settings - Advanced” table displays the following three fields; see Figure 3.

- **HTTP proxy:Port** *(optional)*. If you must pass through a proxy server to reach outside your firewall to a BlueLinq server(s), enter the proxy server and port number for HTTP queries.

  For example, proxy.mycompany.com:8080 is a valid entry.

- **FTP proxy:Port** *(optional)*. If you must pass through a proxy server to reach outside your firewall to a BlueLinq server(s), enter the proxy server and port number for FTP queries.

  For example, proxy.mycompany.com:8080 is a valid entry.

Figure 3. BlueLinQ Server Settings - Advanced table



To configure the Advanced settings:

1. Select **Control Modules > Software Management > Settings.** The “BlueLinQ Server Settings - Basic” table appears.
2. Click the **Advanced** tab in the top right corner. The “BlueLinQ Server Settings - Advanced” table appears.
3. Fill in the appropriate fields.
4. Click **Save**. The “BlueLinQ Server Settings - Advanced” table refreshes with the updated information.