


Patches

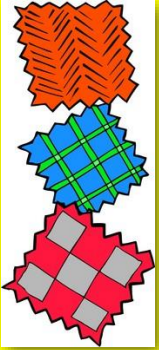
CSH5 Chapter 40
“Managing Patches & Vulnerabilities”
Peter Mell & Karen Kent Scarfone

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Topics

- Introduction to Patch & Vulnerability Management
- Why Use Automated Patching Solutions?
- Patch & Vulnerability Management Process
- Patch & Vulnerability Management Issues
- Summary of Major Recommendations




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Introduction to Patch & Vulnerability Management

- Vulnerabilities
 - ❑ Flaws
 - ❑ Can be exploited by malicious entities
 - ❑ Obtain unauthorized access / privileges
- Patches
 - ❑ Code to fix flaws / bugs
 - ❑ Can add functionality
 - ❑ Or repair flaws
 - ❑ May lag behind vulnerability disclosures
- Patch & vulnerability management
 - ❑ Systematic processes to prevent exploits




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Why Use Automated Patching Solutions? (1)

- Vulnerabilities increasing rapidly [*http://nvd.nist.gov/](http://nvd.nist.gov/)
 - ❑ Jan – Dec 2007: US National Vulnerability Database* – 6691 new vulnerabilities (557/mo, 18/day)
 - ❑ Jan – Dec 2008: 5632
 - ❑ Jan – Dec 2009: 5773
- Damage can be severe: denial of service, data loss, loss of reputation, loss of business....
- Cost of not mitigating damage = WTR
 - ❑ W = workstations
 - ❑ T = time spent fixing problems or lost productivity
 - ❑ R = cost/hour of T


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Why Use Automated Patching Solutions (2)

- Manual monitoring for new patches and applying may be labor intensive
 - ❑ E.g., 10 min/day
 - ❑ 10 min/patch per workstation
 - ❑ ... and these costs may add up...
 - ❑ Yet still remain cheaper than disaster
- However, automated patching can be more cost effective
 - ❑ Automatically attend to new patches
 - ❑ Deploy them across entire network
 - ❑ Also more reliable and quicker than manual

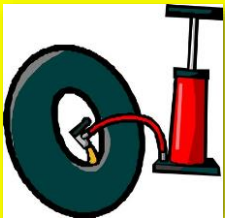
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Examples of Automated Patch Management Tools

- PatchEasy
- Symantec Altiris Suite
- Desktop Central 7
- Shavlik NetChk Protect

These are examples, not endorsements.



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Patch & Vulnerability Management Process

- Recommended Process
- Creating a System Inventory
- Monitoring for Vulnerabilities, Remediations & Threats
- Prioritizing Vulnerability Remediation
- Creating Organization-Specific Remediation DB
- Testing Remediations
- Deploying Vulnerability Remediations
- Distributing Vulnerability & Remediation Info to Admins
- Verifying Remediation
- Vulnerability Remediation Training

Recommended Process

- Overview
- Patch & Vulnerability Group (PVG)
- System Administrators (Sysadmins)

Overview of Process

- Create central, autonomous group for managing patches and vulnerabilities
- May have single PVG or several in hierarchy
- Shift patch administrators from sysadmins to PVG
 - ❑ Reduce duplication of effort
 - ❑ Save money
 - ❑ Reduce errors
- Use standardized configurations for workstations and servers to degree possible
- Keep careful track of inventory and topology

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Patch & Vulnerability Group (PVG)

- Define PVG to include INFOSEC + OPS
 - ❑ Sysadmin
 - ❑ Intrusion detection
 - ❑ Firewall management
 - ❑ Operating systems experts
 - ❑ Vulnerability scanners
- May be full- or part-time depending on size, complexity of organization & systems
- May rotate staff into group to spread knowledge

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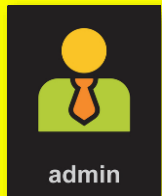
PVG Duties

1. Create system inventory
2. Monitor for vulnerabilities, remediations & threats
3. Prioritize vulnerability remediation
4. Create organization-specific remediation database
5. Conduct generic testing of remediations
6. Deploy vulnerabilities remediations
7. Distribute vulnerability & remediation information to local system administrators
8. Perform automated deployment of patches
9. Configure automatic update of applications wherever possible & appropriate
10. Verify vulnerability remediation through NW & host vulnerability scanning
11. Vulnerability remediation training

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System Administrators (Sysadmins)

- Responsible for ensuring that IT resources follow standard configuration defined for organization
- Ensure that resources participate in automated patching system
- Or if using manual patching, coordinate with PVG
- Handle exceptions
 - ❑ Trial systems
 - ❑ Experimental configurations
 - ❑ Prototypes under development



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Creating a System Inventory

- Essential to know exactly what needs protection
- IT Inventory
 - ❑ Update constantly / real-time
 - ❑ Usually prefer organization-wide DB
 - ❑ Suggested fields on p. 40-7
 - ❑ Preferably use automated inventory agents
 - ❑ Also use bar codes on all components
 - ✓ Systems, peripherals....
 - ✓ Cabling
 - ✓ Network elements (routers, switches...)

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Grouping & Prioritizing IT Resources

- Elements in inventory need *priority levels*
- Reflect degree of criticality
 - ❑ Impact of compromise
 - ❑ Dependencies – critical patch for recovery
- Can use FIPS PUB 199
 - ❑ *Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems*
 - ❑ See next slide

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Get to Know the NIST CSRC

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NIST CSRC: FIPS 199

FIPS

Number	Date	Title
FIPS 201--1	Mar 2006	Personal Identity Verification (PIV) of Federal Employees and Contractors FIPS_201-1-china1.pdf
FIPS 200	Mar 2006	Minimum Security Requirements for Federal Information and Information Systems FIPS_200-final-march.pdf
FIPS 199	Feb 2004	Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems FIPS-PUB-199-final.pdf
FIPS 198--1	Jul 2008	The Keyed-Hash Message Authentication Code (HMAC) FIPS-198-1_final.pdf

Use of IT Inventory & Scope of Related Duties

- Inventory is foundation of PVG operations
 - ❑ Ensure PVG knows which vulnerabilities to look for & to respond to
 - ❑ Checklist for ensuring that all vulnerable systems remediated
- Publication allows sysadmins to spot missing or incorrect components & fix DB
- Managers, security personnel can also use information productively
 - ❑ But restrict access according to permissions as appropriate
 - ❑ E.g., division / department / workgroup

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Monitoring for Vulnerabilities, Remediations & Threats

- Types of Security Concerns
 - ❑ Vulnerabilities
 - ❑ Remediations
 - ❑ Threats (exploits, malware)
- Be on lookout for unauthorized...
 - ❑ Hardware
 - ❑ Software
 - ❑ Configurations

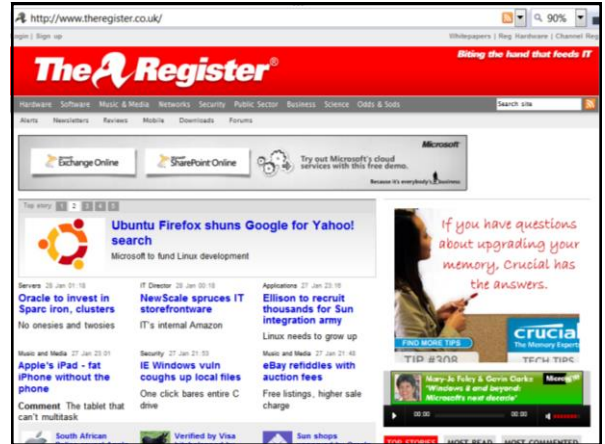
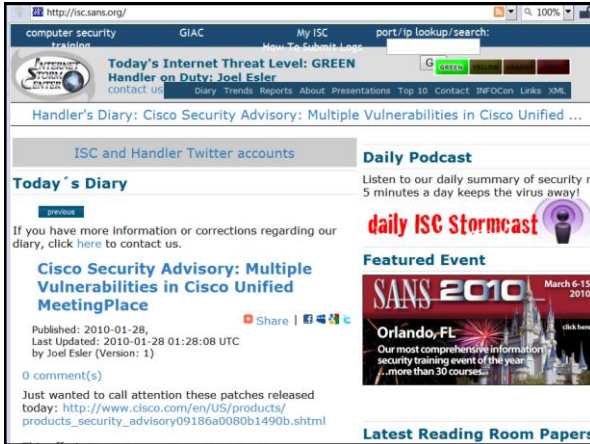
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Tools for Monitoring Vulnerabilities, Remediations & Threats

- Vendor Websites & mailing lists (product-specific newsletters)
- Third-party Web sites (e.g., SANS, CERT-CC®, various alert newsletters)
- Vulnerability scanners
- Vulnerability databases
 - ❑ National Vulnerability Database
- Enterprise patch management tools
- Other notification tools

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http://www.cert.org/



Prioritizing Vulnerability Remediation

- Determine significance of threat or vulnerability
- Determine existence, extent & spread of related malware & exploits
- Determine risks involved in applying patch or nonpatch remediation
 - ❑ Use external sources of information
 - ❑ PVG is not a research group

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Creating Organization-Specific Remediation DB

- Enterprise patch-management tools establish DB for known inventory in organization
- May have to maintain own small DB or manual list of exceptions
- Include threat assessment information
 - ❑ Useful in business-continuity (BC) & disaster recovery planning (DRP)
- Include copy of every patch used or planned
 - ❑ Can avoid problems of rush on Website

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Testing Remediations

- Standardized configurations allow easy testing of patches on isolated systems
 - ❑ Keep standard for test & development only
 - ❑ Avoid danger of installing bad patch on production systems
- Eliminate need for redundant, costly testing on all local systems
- But critically important to maintain validity of system *image* so that patches really going to standard configs!
- See *extensive list of precautions for testing on pp 40.12 – 40.13 of text*

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Deploying Vulnerability Remediations


3 primary methods of remediation

- Applying security patch (“fix” or “hotfix”)
 - ❑ Modifies defective code
 - ❑ Be sure to download only from safe sites – vendor site usually safe
- Configuration adjustment
 - ❑ Change parameter(s); e.g.,
 - ✓ Disabling services
 - ✓ Changing firewall settings
 - ✓ Altering router settings
 - ✓ Modifying registry settings
- Software removal
 - ❑ Generally advised to run only essential processes / services on production systems

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Delaying Patch Installations


- Some patches have been discovered to be defective
 - ❑ Caused more problems than they solved
 - ❑ Therefore some admins are gun-shy: delay installation of patches by reflex
- PVG should document, analyze & discuss deviations from recommended installations
 - ❑ Threat level
 - ❑ Risk of compromise
 - ❑ Consequences of compromise



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Distributing Vulnerability & Remediation Info to Admins


- Primary mechanism: automated patch management software (PMS)
- Emergencies (e.g., failure of PMS) may require alternative channels
 - ❑ Plan for these backup channels in advance
 - ❑ Maintain security
 - ❑ Establish authenticity of patch instruction
 - ❑ Establish authenticity & integrity of patch itself



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Verifying Remediation

- Must be sure patches have in fact been installed
 - ❑ Correctly &
 - ❑ On all appropriate targets
- Performing Vulnerability Scanning
 - ❑ Automated systems can locate unpatched vulnerabilities independently
 - ❑ Also map network topology to identify undocumented systems
- Reviewing Patch Logs
 - ❑ Useful in detailed forensic-level analysis
 - ❑ Help identify installation problems, aborts
- Checking Patch Levels
 - ❑ NAC* can check for patch levels (e.g., CISCO Clean Access Agent)



33 Copyright © 2016 M. E. Kabay. All rights reserved. *Network Access Agent

Vulnerability Remediation Training

- Corporate policy may allow software other than what the PVG controls to be used
 - ❑ Thus PVG will have to train local sysadmins in patching process
 - ❑ Must identify which software requires manual monitoring for patches
- Centralized patch distribution may not apply to all systems
 - ❑ Then users may be involved in collaboration to update systems
 - ❑ Critically important to convince users & sysadmins of value of cooperation

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Patch & Vulnerability Management Issues

- Enterprise Patching Solutions
 - ❑ Types of Patching Solutions
 - ✓ Nonagent Patching Solutions
 - ✓ Agent-Based Patching Solutions
 - ✓ Advantages & Disadvantages
 - ❑ Integrated SW Inventory Capabilities
 - ❑ Integrated Vulnerability Scanning Capabilities
 - ❑ Deployment Strategies
- Reducing Need to Patch by Smart Purchasing
- Using Standardized Configurations
- Patching After Security Compromise

\$40.4 is beyond the level expected for an undergraduate IA mgmt course.

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Summary of Major Recommendations (1)

1. Create patch & vulnerability group
2. Continuously monitor for vulnerabilities, remediations & threats
3. Prioritize patch application & use phased deployments as appropriate
4. Test patches prior to deployment
5. Deploy enterprise-wide automated patching solutions
6. Use automatically updating applications as appropriate
7. Create inventory of all IT assets

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Summary of Major Recommendations (2)



8. Use standardized configurations for IT resources as much as possible
9. Verify that vulnerabilities have been remediated.
10. Consistently measure effectiveness of organization's patch & vulnerability management program and apply corrective actions as necessary
11. Train applicable staff on vulnerability monitoring and remediation techniques
12. Periodically test effectiveness of organization's patch and vulnerability management program.

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**Now go and
study**



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