F-Secure Software Updater

A unique tool to protect your business against known threats

F-Secure

Overview

This document explains the functionality of Software Updater. What it is, what it does, how it works, what gets patched and how. It also explains what software and which versions are updated.

Key features

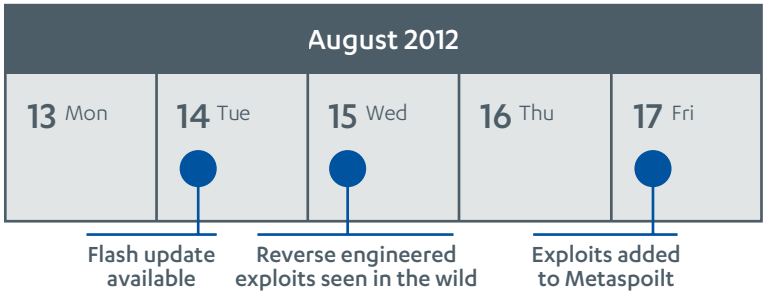
- Unique, automatic deployment of security updates with the possibility of exclusions and manual deployment
- Installation of missing updates
- Patch management, not just for Windows, but also third party products
- Integrated management, no separate infrastructure needed

Benefits

- Unique way to easily and automatically deploy security updates for third party software
- Automatic protection against known threats – no more unnecessary gaps in your protection
- With 85% of vulnerabilities originating from third party software, patch management for these software is essential
- Software Updater is integrated in F-Secure security software, thus offering best detection, automatic updates and integrated management for an affordable package price

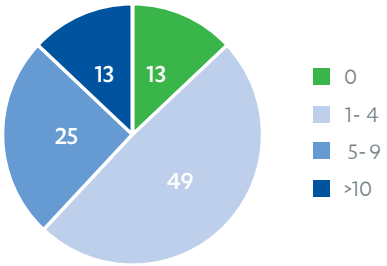
The case for automated software updates

Most modern malware exploit known software vulnerabilities to infect IT systems. Exploits are in the wild only a few moments after the fix to a vulnerability is published.



Whenever a commonly exploited software is patched for vulnerabilities, the update is reverse engineered to find the vulnerabilities it fixes. After which, all unpatched computers become prime targets in a matter of days!

Most infections could be avoided with by applying security fixes already available. In fact, 83 per cent of malware could be avoided with up-to-date software. However, most corporate end points lack critical software updates.



87% of corporate computers miss critical software updates. Source: F-Secure study in March 2013.

Administrators currently don't have visibility to what 3rd party software is installed on managed end-points unless very strict user account restrictions are in use.

It is very time consuming to keep up with what security updates are available and to find, test and deploy them. The necessary time for this only increases with the number of different software in use. This means that, typically, administrators are capable of monitoring the updates for just a few major software, leaving the rest to a blind spot.

And once everything is patched, the next day the administrator needs to start the process again when new security updates are available.

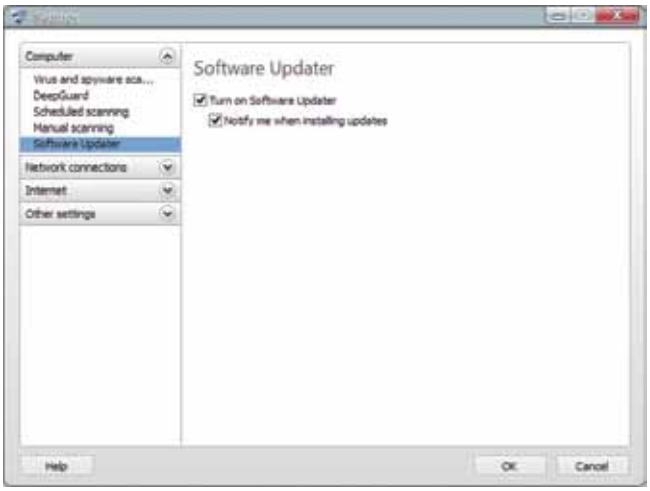
What is Software Updater?

F-Secure's Software Updater scans and reports missing updates for 3rd party software and deploys security updates automatically. This includes Microsoft updates for the operating system and MS applications, in addition to a comprehensive list of 3rd party applications, such as Adobe Flash, Java, OpenOffice, archive managers, media players, image viewers and so on, which are common and prone to vulnerabilities.

Software Updater periodically downloads the definition files including information about software updates, their versions, security bulletin IDs, links to knowledgebase articles, locations of installation packages, etc. Then it compares these to what software is installed and identifies missing updates.

Software Updater is integrated into security clients

Software Updater comes integrated into F-Secure security clients. Therefore, there is no need to install separate agents or management servers or consoles. Everything comes in one package: best detection, automatic updates and integrated management. Software Updater is both easy to use and affordable.



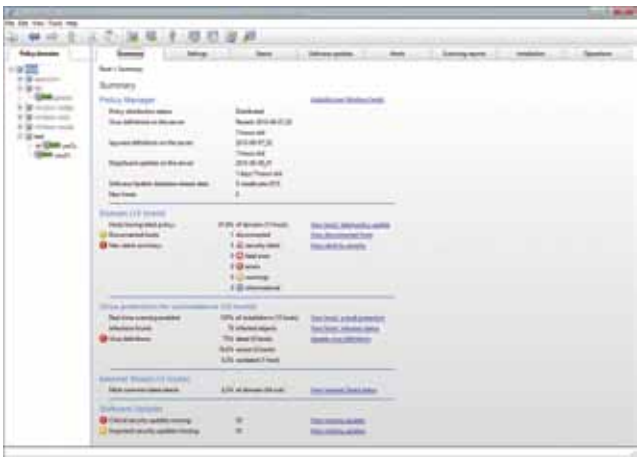
Critical and important security updates are minor version upgrades. This means they can safely be installed automatically as they are very unlikely to break product compatibility, cause problems with features or bring any other unexpected, unwanted issues.

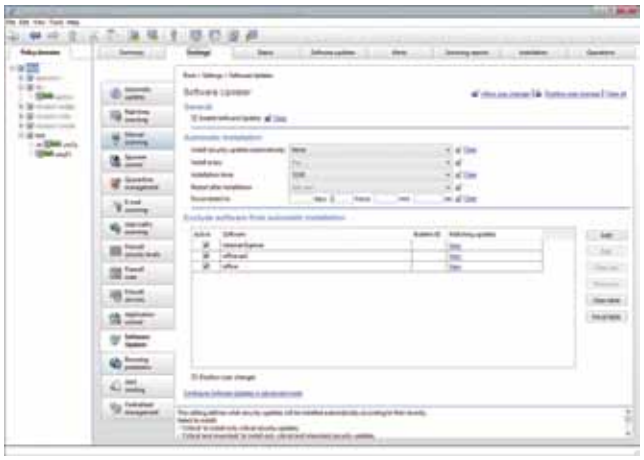
Service Packs are always excluded from the automatic mode as they might change product behavior and result in changed functionality or compatibility issues. This is why admin decision is needed to drive through these updates.

Administrator can define exclusions for the automatic mode based on software names or bulletin IDs and they can be filtered out from Console interface to avoid clutter. This is important for customers who rely on certain versions of some software, for example Java Runtime, where a certain version of the software is used to run some business applications. Also, since updates for selected software (for example Microsoft) can be taken care of with other products, exclusions can be used to avoid overlaps with Software Updater.

How does it work?

The scanning for missing updates happens in system startup and when new software update definitions are downloaded, or once a day as a minimum if neither of the previous events occur.





Missing updates are reported back to the Policy Manager Server and the aggregated number of missing updates is shown on the client statistics view.

Installation status is visible in the Policy Manager Console and possible installation failures are reported so that they can be retried.

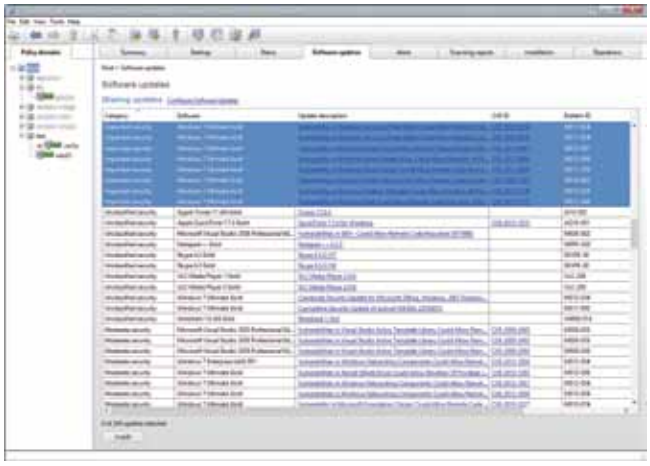
For applications which manifest no reboot needs, reboot is not performed. On the other hand, if multiple applications requiring reboot are updated at the same time, the reboot is required only once, making the users life easier.

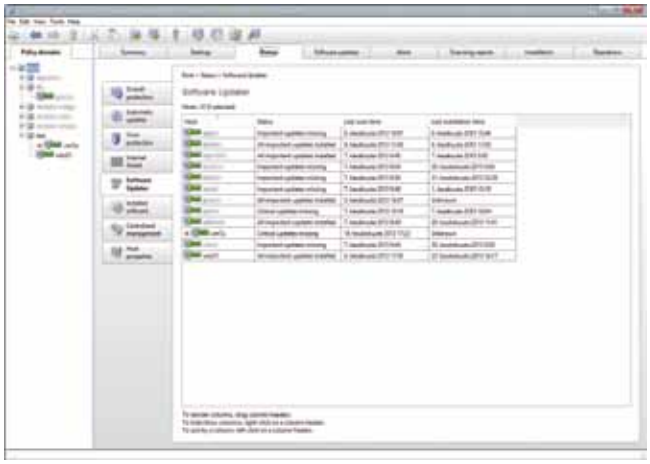
Clients will download the updates directly from the 3rd party vendor's site and install them silently in the background. No internal distribution points need to be set up.

Updates can be cached with transparent proxies, as with normal web traffic from the endpoints, if such proxies are in use. Installed updates can be found from the Policy Manager web reports to show what was done.

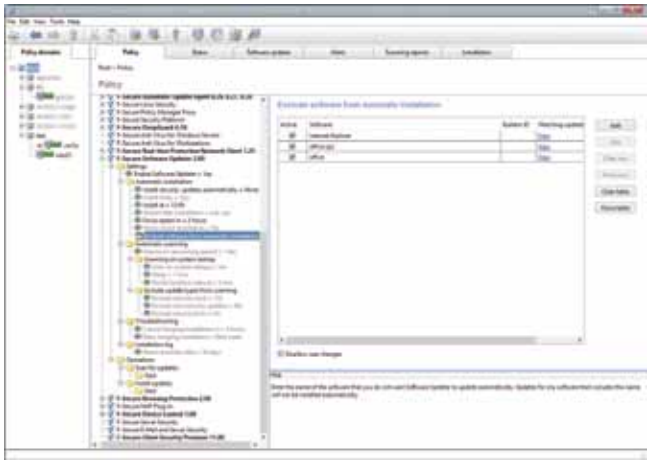
The administrator has the control

Administrators can review the missing updates for the whole environment and for specific end points from Policy Manager Console and from web reporting.





Administrators can assign specific updates to be installed for defined end points, for certain domains or for the whole environment by selecting and triggering the installation command from Policy Manager console.



Administrators can define if installation of security updates should happen automatically when they are found with the ability to specify severity category of updates to be installed.

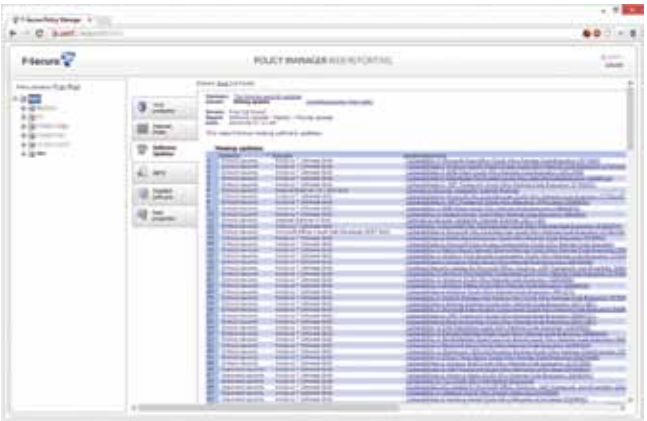
The system helps the administrators keep control of the whole environment if that is necessary since no end-user actions are necessary to finalize the updates. The administrator can lock the settings from end-users to avoid human errors. And to keep it simple, installation happens with the system user rights, so no elevation prompts need to be accepted by the end-user.

Administrators can flexibly define the day and the time for the automatic mode when the installations should be performed, forcing reboot and the grace time before forcing a reboot after installation

Clear web reporting

A clear, easy to use web portal allows the administrators to manage the solution regardless of time, place or device.

The administrator can drill down to the details of missing updates. Reports of missing software updates, their criticality and number of affected hosts can be easily accessed with a web browser.



For sales partners, the installed updates report is useful for monitoring achieved results and billing.

Software Updater is also available in Protection Service for Business

F-Secure Protection Service for Business (PSB) also includes Software Updater functionality. PSB offers all-in-one coverage against all kinds of threats for your business – securing laptops on the road, desktops in the office, mobiles moving 24/7, email servers and file servers.

F-Secure – Protecting the irreplaceable

Innovation, reliability and speed of response have made F-Secure one of the world's leading IT security providers since its founding in 1988. Today F-Secure's award-winning, easy-to-use products are trusted in millions of homes and businesses globally. We provide powerful realtime protection allowing computer and smartphone users to enjoy connected life.
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