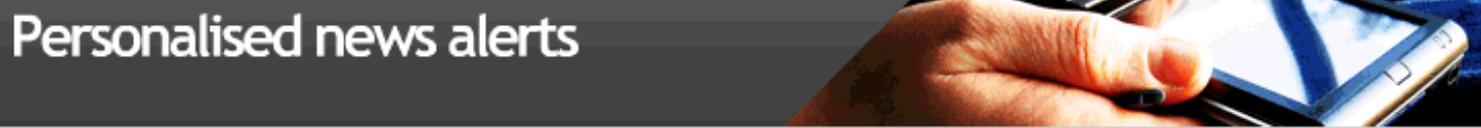




The Register[®]
Biting the hand that feeds IT



Personalised news alerts

Original URL: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/03/05/secunia_patching_results/

Think software patching is a hassle? You're not alone

Help on the way

By **Dan Goodin in San Francisco**

Posted in [Security](#), 5th March 2010 18:48 GMT

[Free whitepaper – Taking control of your data demons: Dealing with unstructured content](#)

Underscoring a barrier to remaining secure online, the average Windows PC user has to install a software update every five days from 22 different providers, according to vulnerability tracking service Secunia.

The figure is based on the results of more than 2 million users of Secunia's PSI, or [Personal Software Inspector](#) (http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/), a free application that helps consumers keep track of out-of-date software on their machines. The hassle of having to manually install that many updates may be preventing many people from running programs that are free of known vulnerabilities, the company warned earlier this week in a [whitepaper \(PDF\)](#) (http://secunia.com/gfx/pdf/Secunia_RSA_Software_Portfolio_Security_Exposure.pdf).

[Want an Internal Cloud?](#)

You Need a Service Catalog. Free Analyst Report!

www.newScale.com/Virtualization

[LANguard Security Scanner](#)

Test din netværk sikkerhed fra en hackers synspunkt - gratis

www.gfi.com

[Windows XP Update](#)

Instantly Updates & Repairs All PC Drivers. Fast, Safe, and Easy.

DriverFinderPro.com

[Download Free White Paper](#)

"Contingency Access to Enterprise Encrypted Data"

www.pkware.com

"In fact, it is highly unlikely that even skilled enthusiasts will patch their systems as frequently as the whitepaper's findings indicate," Secunia CEO Thomas Kristensen wrote [here](#) (<http://secunia.com/blog/80/>). "The core of this patching issue is that the software industry has, so far, failed to come up with a unified patching solution that can help home users on a large scale."

To combat the problem, Secunia is working on an update to PSI that will automatically update applications, Kristensen said. The company is a few months away from releasing the program, which will allow users to exclude certain applications they may not want updated, **according to** (<http://www.krebsonsecurity.com/2010/03/yep-theres-a-patch-for-that/>) The *KrebsonSecurity* blog.

PSI already comes highly recommended by many security watchers, this one included. Automatic patching would only make it better. ®

Related stories

[Creaky old Windows flaw rises, divides doommongers](#) (24 February 2010)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/02/24/win_crash_bug/

[Adobe fixes critical Shockwave bugs with neanderthal patch](#) (20 January 2010)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/20/critical_adobe_shockwave_bugs/

[WinAmp update fades out critical media player flaws](#) (21 December 2009)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/12/21/winamp_update/

[MS blames non-Redmond apps for security woes](#) (8 April 2009)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/04/08/microsoft_security_report/

[The long road to Reader and Flash security Nirvana](#) (10 March 2009)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/03/10/adobe_patch_hassles/

[Secunia tool helps surfers to keep up to date with patches](#) (26 November 2008)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/11/26/secunia_psi/

[Security vendors cry foul over exploit tests](#) (15 October 2008)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/10/15/secunia_tests_backlash/

[Web browsers face crisis of security confidence](#) (23 June 2008)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/06/23/marginal_browser_security_protections/

© Copyright 1998–2010