

Microsoft Windows Server Update Services

Pro's & Con's

Pro's

Price – Free

Supported Operating Systems

- Service Pack 3 and later versions of Windows 2000 Server (all editions) and Windows 2000 Professional (Must have IE6)
- Windows XP Professional and later versions
- Windows Server 2003 family and Datacenter Edition
- Windows XP family and XP 64-Bit Edition Version 2003

Supported Servers and Applications

- All editions of Microsoft Office 2003 and Microsoft Office XP Service Pack 2 and above
- Microsoft Exchange 2003
- Microsoft Exchange 2000

Downloading Updates from Microsoft

- Allows for either automatic or manual downloads of new updates from Microsoft
- Can specify frequency (daily or weekly) for checking for and downloading new updates
- Can specify the products and content types for which new updates should be downloaded

Current Patch Type Support

- Security updates
- Non-security updates (critical and non-critical) and update rollups
- Service packs
- Feature packs
- Critical driver updates
- Tools
- Guidance
- Development Kits
- Drivers
- Connectors

Reporting

You can generate reports on status of updates, synchronization results, and settings summary. Within the groups you can specify the Computer Group you want the report on.

Cons:

Setup / Configuration

- The product is not very easy to use. Setup takes significantly longer and is more difficult in comparison to HFNetChk Pro.
- There is a long list of system requirements for both the Server and Client sides of the product.
- WSUS requires at least 8 GB free hard drive space to install. Recommendation is 30 gigs for storing patches.
- WSUS requires Internet Explorer 6.0 or later to run the Admin console on target machines.
- Getting machines to populate into the Server isn't easy compared to HFNetChk Pro. It can be confusing for a first time user.
- It's not easy for new users to troubleshoot issues - poor logging.
- Users Manual for the Beta release alone is already 84 pages long.
- Pre-Requisites such as Bits 2.0, .Net, and IIS are not installed automatically if they aren't found on the server. However Microsoft will mention they are missing and cancel the installation.
- WSUS is agent based, and must trace and maintain which agents are installed. There is currently no ability to push a given patch instantly. You must wait for all the agents to check in, which could be days depending on environment.

Patch Support

- WSUS covers approximately 50% of what HFNetChkPro covers from an application and operating system standpoint.
- Does not support NT 4.0 SP4 and older, Office 2000, SQL Server, SQL Server Desktop Engine (MSDE), Commerce Server 2000 & 2003, ISA Server, BizTalk Server, Content Management Server, Host Integrations Server, Internet Explorer (IE), Internet Information Services (IIS), Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC), Microsoft XML Services, Microsoft Java Virtual Machine.

Reporting

- Currently, WSUS offers no exportation of reports to different file formats.
- Reports are print only from the screen – no graphics!
- Reporting is very limited compared to HFNetChk.

Patch Process

The process to get a patch to the target machine takes much longer then with HFNetChk Pro.

WSUS needs to have:

- The Patch downloaded to the WusAdmin Console
- Then the patch then needs to be approved for target machines to scan for it
- Then the target machine needs to scan and request the patch
- The patch needs to be approved to be downloaded by the target machine.

Other

- No Reboot function.
- Lower scanning accuracy do to poor application and operating system coverage.