

Re: patching

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.sqlserver.security/2005-03/0128.html>

From: Jasper Smith (jasper_smith9_at_hotmail.com)

Date: 03/10/05

Date: Wed, 9 Mar 2005 23:36:21 -0000

Always test service packs before putting them into production. Although service packs go through more testing than hotfixes there are so many different environments out there that unless you test it in your specific environment you can't be sure you're not going to hit an issue. Certainly in our environment we have come across some very weird bugs just because of how we have our servers configured (weirdest one yet was down to having an affinity mask that was a multiple of 7 <g>)

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HTH

Jasper Smith (SQL Server MVP)

<http://www.sqldbatips.com>

I support PASS - the definitive, global community for SQL Server professionals -

<http://www.sqlpass.org>

"Rich" <Rich@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message news:E9805C2D-3522-4194-BCB4-58307D1E8422@microsoft.com...

> Hello Mike,

>

> thanks for the answer. I am getting flack for wanting to test Service
> Packs

> before they go into production.

>

> Rich

>

> "Mike Epprecht (SQL MVP)" wrote:

>

>> Hi

>>

>> A SP is a fully end to end tested release that implements fixes and
>> enhancements to the base product. SP's are cumulative (then contain all
>> prior SP's fixes plus more).

>>

>> A Security patch is a hotfix that addresses high priority fixes that if
>> not

>> applied, could lead to compromised security.

>>

>> A Hotfix is an update, issued to fix a specific problem that somebody had
>> encountered and Microsoft needs to fix as it could affect other users. A
>> Hotfix has limited support and does not have the massive amount of
>> regression testing as a Service Pack would as it is not possible in the
>> short time frames needed.

>>

>> NEVER get a hotfix/SP/Security pack from any other source than Microsoft.

>> Microsoft never e-mails files either. There is always a link to their

microsoft.public.sqlserver.security: Re: patching

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>> site
>> from where you can download it. You never know who has tampered with the
>> files if you don't get them yourself from MS.
>>
>> With any release, always put it on test servers before production ones.
>> Functionality can change or behavior you were used to could be altered in
>> a
>> way that your applications were not expecting.
>>
>> www.microsoft.com/sql
>> www.microsoft.com/security
>>
>> Regards
>> -----
>> Mike Epprecht, Microsoft SQL Server MVP
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>>
>> IM: mike@epprecht.net
>>
>> MVP Program: http://www.microsoft.com/mvp
>>
>> Blog: http://www.msmvps.com/epprecht/
>>
>> "Rich" <Rich@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message
>> news:FECD7708-9C36-4810-9EF8-D011ADB6B021@microsoft.com...
>> > What is the difference between a Service Pack and Security Patches that
>> come
>> > out over time? What about Hot Fixes? Is Microsoft the only sources of
>> > patches? Should I test the patch on a demo server before I place it in
>> > production or should I just trust Microsoft?
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