

Re: Scheduled Updates Reboots Machines

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2003-03/4623.html

From: Torgeir Bakken (MVP) (Torgeir.Bakken-spam@hydro.com)

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From: "Torgeir Bakken (MVP)" <Torgeir.Bakken-spam@hydro.com>

Charlie wrote:

> *Hi*
> *We have 200+ XP Pro machines on an NT4 Network. Windows*
> *Updates are set to automatically download and then*
> *install @3AM every night. Our users do not have Admin*
> *rights so they are not prompted to install them after the*
> *download. We've been doing this since Novemeber with no*
> *apparent problems until last week – The updates rebooted*
> *the machines automatically. Needless to say, a lot of*
> *users don't log off as they should and some don't even*
> *close their apps. One user lost a new document that he*
> *had left open. Another keeps a Web accessible Filemaker*
> *DB running which closed down. I didn't realize when I*
> *set these up that there would be forced reboots. Is*
> *there any documentation on this? Any ideas about a*
> *better solution for our environment?*
> *Thanks*

Hi

You could look at Microsoft Software Update Services (SUS). The newly released SP1 version can suppress reboots.

Microsoft Software Update Services

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/windowsupdate/sus/default.asp>

Note that the free version will only install critical updates and security rollup packages (SRPs).

SUS needs to be installed on a IIS server. Supports Win2k and WinXP clients only. SP1 for WinXP and SP3 for Win2k installs the WU/SUS client as default.

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/itsolutions/msm/swdist/pmsusog.asp>

Some info from a previous content in the URL above:

<quote>

SUS is available in two versions. One can be downloaded from <http://www.microsoft.com/windows2000/windowsupdate/SUS/default.asp> ; the other is available as a licensing program. The downloadable version downloads and installs operating system critical updates and security rollup packages (SRPs).

All other patches, including applications, service packs, and non-critical updates that need to be installed before they are issued as a security rollup package, go through distribution and deployment.

For those customers on the Microsoft Software Assurance (SA) licensing program,

a more comprehensive version of SUS is available that can download and install operating system service packs, non-critical security updates, and selected Quick Fix Engineering (QFE) fixes determined to be vital to the successful operation of the operating system. This version is known as SUS SA Edition.

Organizations wanting to obtain and use SUS SA Edition in their environments will need to participate in the Software Assurance program. For more information

on this program and licensing in general, see <http://www.microsoft.com/licensing/default.asp>.
</quote>

Note that the SUS SA Edition still is in beta but should be available in a release version soon.

There is a separate newsgroup for SUS:
microsoft.public.softwareupdatesvcs

URL to the group softwareupdatesvcs for those who uses the not so good Web interface to access the newsgroups:

<http://communities.microsoft.com/Newsgroups/default.asp?ICP=MSCOM&sLCID=US&newsgroup=microsoft.public>

A Web site about SUS with a FAQ and a SUS forum:

SUSserver.com
<http://www.susserver.com/>

When evaluating hotfix administration methods/programs, there are also 3rd party solutions available that will give a lot more than what SUS offer, but of course, they are not free. It is as always a cost/benefit analyze that needs to be done.

Below is links to a 3rd party product example that does not need a server to run and no IIS is needed. You can deploy mostly all types of hotfixes and service packs from

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an ordinary workstation if you want. I have not tested it, but it gets a lot of prize by other people e.g. in the newsgroups.

UpdateEXPERT from Sunbelt

<http://www.sunbelt-software.com/product.cfm?id=357>

UpdateEXPERT reseller with a price list

<http://www.softwareshelf.com/products/display.asp?p=71>

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torgeir

Microsoft MVP Scripting and WMI, Porsgrunn Norway

Administration scripting examples and an ONLINE version of the 1328 page

Scripting Guide: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/scriptcenter>