

Operating Systems & Applications Update Policies

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Prof Mamdouh Mina, Computer Security & Investigation

Introduction / Scope

Generally speaking, software updates will primarily be in the purview of a person or group. While there may be site-wide policy in effect, the implementation of that policy will ultimately befall a specific group, or person, in the case of smaller businesses. This person or group will be the primary contact for enforcement.

This policy should also cover automatic and manual updates, the securing of non-updated software/hardware, and anything that is not being updated will require an explanation.

Automatic Updates

EXAMPLE OF SCOPE STATEMENT – All updating and patching of software and capable hardware at Fluffy Bunny LTD is enabled. The Information Technology section is responsible for implementation.

Manual Updates

EXAMPLE OF SCOPE STATEMENT – Manual updates will be performed at X intervals (where x = Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, et.) on all software and hardware that has been slated as requiring manual updates by the Information Technology section. All manual updates need to be implemented by Y (where y = noon, end of business day, Friday, etc.).

Securing Non-Updated Software and Hardware

EXAMPLE OF SCOPE STATEMENT – Fluffy Bunny LTD will secure hardware and software that is not configured for automatic updating/patching. Non-updated software and hardware shall not enter production spaces.

- Further explanation will be needed about how such software and hardware will be isolated, and if it would be by physical separation or network or firewall separation.

Rationale Behind Use of Non-Updated Software

In today's cyber security aware world, non-updated software can be a portal of infection for any organization. There needs to be an explanation of why the continued use of such software is required. If there is no update for the software, it is strongly suggested that a replacement be found, or at last have the offending software be separated into its own area, detached from production equipment.

Enforcement

EXAMPLE OF SCOPE STATEMENT – Regularly schedules checks for software updates at Fuzzy Bunny LTD falls under the responsibilities of the Information Technology section, care of the CTO. This includes all software requiring a manual update. All items that need to be secured will fall under the purview of the Information Technology section, care of the ACTO. All possible attempts will be made to source software to replace anything that cannot be updated within X timeframe.