

IT SECURITY NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 1262/IT - January 2015

Welcome to the monthly newsletter on IT Security. This issue of the newsletter contains the following topics:

- Microsoft's Advanced Notification Service new security patch delivery update
- How does it impact your organisation?
- Available Alternatives and their effectiveness



New security patch delivery update

“Patch Tuesdays” is an industry specific term that refers to the issuing by Microsoft of its security patches for its software products, which has been a service offered to the viral public for over a decade.

However, that is all about to change with the corporation announcing that it will no longer be offering its twice-monthly offering on every second, and sometimes fourth, Tuesday of each month in North America on a pro bono basis. Microsoft's Advanced Notification System (ANS) will only be provided, directly to Premier customers and current organizations involved in their security programs, and will no longer make this information broadly available through a blog post and web page.

Note: Only the advance notifications are no longer free of charge, but security updates/patches are still free for current subscribers.

The change in Microsoft's Advanced Notification Service (ANS) also applies to the occasional alerts that Microsoft issued when it gave customers a heads-up about an impending emergency patch i.e. public alerts for “out-of-band” updates.

How does this impact your organisation?

If your team does not have the complete list of ANS patches that are issued by Microsoft, then they will need to explore accessing the pertinent information via the Windows Server Update System (WSUS), to help organize and prioritize deployment. Customers are also moving to cloud-based systems, which provide continuous updating. There may not be all the details of patches available to an IT administrator before release unless you are a fully paid member.



Available Alternatives and their effectiveness

Microsoft has offered an alternative way for administrators who aren't Microsoft customers to see which patches and updates they need to apply.

This has been achieved through the introduction of *myBulletins* - a new online security bulletin customization service which is all responsible for identifying, monitoring and managing patching and security for the organisation.

Unfortunately, *myBulletins* does not send the subscriber automatic notifications - to access these, you must log in using your Microsoft Account to the service to see the security bulletins.

To register for the *myBulletins* services please follow:

<http://mybulletins.technet.microsoft.com/>

To access the full announcement issued by Microsoft please follow:

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/msrc/archive/2015/01/08/evolving-advance-notification-service-ans-in-2015.aspx>

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