



Vetco Grey:

Software patch management – mission critical or just another chore?

All IT users are aware of the prolific generation of software patches, and as most today relate to security and vulnerability, it is foolhardy to ignore them. When your network supports a Gas and Oil business, can there be any room for mistake — and does it have to be a time consuming task?

Vetco Gray (formerly known as ABB Vetco Gray) are the world's leading supplier of systems, products and services for on and offshore oil and gas drilling and production. They have built a reputation of quality, innovation, performance, and customer service that is known throughout the oil and gas industry and have offices all around the world.

Major production facilities exist in the United States, Brazil, Scotland, and Singapore and these are complimented with substantial research and development centres located at their head office in Houston and Aberdeen. Manufacturing and after-market support facilities are located in Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Indonesia, Nigeria, Scotland, the USA, and Venezuela.

Brian Sandison, Senior IT Applications Specialist for Vetco Gray in Aberdeen, is responsible for the Network File Server and all network software within the Aberdeen facility. Like many other companies ABB (including Vetco Gray) were attacked by the Sasser worm and several variants of Beagle late last year. This promoted Vetco Gray to re-examine security within their UK network.

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Beagle is a mass-mailing worm which primarily spreads through email and will be independent of the "victim's" email client. The worm will also create a security hole, or backdoor on the "victim's" machine. This backdoor can allow a remote attacker to penetrate the machine.

Sasser is an internet worm that spreads through the MS04-011 (Lsass.exe) vulnerability. This worm affected machines running Windows XP or Windows 2000, machines which had not been patched against the vulnerability or are connected to the Internet without a firewall.

Before HFNetChkPro was implemented on the systems at Vetco Gray, the network needed much improving. Both attacks from Sasser and Beagle caused Brian to implement a patch management solution to prevent further attacks happening as the company grew.



Vetco Grey has a security team based in the Zurich office, which sent out regular bulletins to global offices regarding patches needing attention. This created a time delay and Brian found that by using the HFNetChkPro™ product, they were able to reduce this and roll out patches as recommended by Microsoft.

Brian chose to evaluate Shavlik's HFNetChkPro™, which he had already seen on the Internet and on Microsoft's web site. "I downloaded an evaluation copy of HFNet from the Internet and was impressed by the cost effective and technical reliability of both the product and the service Satisnet provided" says Sandison. "The sheer number of vulnerabilities being found on systems requires a product which you can trust to scan and deploy patches across the company network", Sandison continues.

Shavlik's HFNetChkPro™ is an automated patch management solution, which scans and updates missing security patches automatically, allowing IT administrators to confidently secure the network. The interface allows precise control over which groups are to be scanned and if necessary patched. Within just a few minutes, a report is sent to confirm successful patching.

HFNetChkPro™ can be used on a wide range of machines including Windows NT, XP, 2000, Exchange, SQL, Outlook, Java and many more. HFNetChkPro™ has thousands of users worldwide including Coca-Cola, UCLA, The US Navy, Google and many more.

The powerful features of HFNetChkPro™ include:

- Drag 'n' Drop Interface
- Automated PatchPush Tracker#
- Auto Update
- Third Party Threat Analysis
- Auto Deploy Patches after Scanning
- View detailed information about each patch

Brian is now able to ensure that all servers are patched regularly and are up to date as new patches are released.

"HFNetChkPro™ allows me to decide which patches are more critical than others, allowing me to stay in control, but taking away the inefficiency of patching manually. Using McAfee AntiVirus in conjunction with HFNetChkPro™ I know that the system within ABB in the UK is safe from attack." He concludes, "Security bulletins still come through to us, but we have already patched the system using Shavlik HFNetChkPro™ meaning we are well ahead!"