

Best practice for ITMU.

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SMS/microsoft.public.sms.admin/2006-09/msg00118.html>

- *From:* "Mr Paul" <inscope@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 24 Sep 2006 22:42:34 -0700
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I'm just curious how other admins are using the ITMU.

This is how I do it:

When a new change request comes through for a set of patches I bundle them up into one ITMU package and deploy it to all PCs. I have around 4000 Windows XP as my target collection. They are roughly 50/50 laptops and desktops. After about 2 weeks I have around 3000 (75%) of those correctly installed.

Roughly every two months I take all the patches that have hit at least 75% of their targets and repackage them into bundles not exceeding 5 patches. I have found that any more than 5 patches and I get some clients not installing the patches over thin (64K) links. These clients are using a 3rd party SMS tool called SMSNomad by 1E. It works great. I'm not sure whether it is the thin link or SMSNomad, but I have definitely seen that when the ITMU package has more than 5 patches then I get very low success rates at these satellite sites. Anyhoo, I target these "second wave" packages using a WQL query. I pick the individual package with highest number of PCs left to install and create a collection to hit those targets. For example:

```
SELECT SMS_R_System.ResourceID, SMS_R_System.ResourceType,
SMS_R_System.Name, SMS_R_System.SMSUniqueIdentifier,
SMS_R_System.ResourceDomainORWorkgroup, SMS_R_System.Client FROM
SMS_R_System inner join SMS_G_System_PatchStatusEx on
SMS_G_System_PatchStatusEx.ResourceID = SMS_R_System.ResourceId where
SMS_G_System_PatchStatusEx.QNumbers = "914388" and
SMS_G_System_PatchStatusEx.LastStateName = "No Status"
```

is my query to target MS06-036 (KB914388). To this collection I am sending a package containing MS06-030, 032, 034, 035 and 036.

So I am curious:

Do other administrators do it roughly like this?

Can anyone suggest a better way?

I am tempted at the 75% compliance stage to split the initial package into individual packages containing one patch each. The only reason I don't do that at the start is because rebooting 4000 PCs once as opposed to five times is vastly different in its effect on the end user (and the client has told me I'm not allowed to so there you go).

Best practice for ITMU.

Yours curiously,

Paul.

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