

Re: WSUS – Not Seeing Patches Yet this Month

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 - *Date:* Fri, 11 Aug 2006 11:59:45 -0400
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I wish I had a clearer understanding of what you're seeing. If WSUS is not working as you intend, I would suspect it to be a setting rather than an actual bug, since WSUS has been around for a while without much in the way of approval or detection issues being reported.

What you're missing by abandoning MU is the ability to see, from one screen, that all of the client PCs and servers are patched and current. For example, I just went to my WSUS home page and saw that one PC has not yet applied the Patch Tuesday updates (a laptop that's been turned off). If something prevents one client PC from updating and you're not aware of it, you put your whole network at risk from that one PC.

I think if you give a close look to the screen on Options -> Automatic Approval Options, you'll see what's happening and why. You can automatically approve certain classifications for detection and/or approval – two separate functions – and you can choose what computer groups the settings apply to. So for example, you could approve all updates for detection for all groups. In that case, you just see in the WSUS console which PCs need those updates. Then you could approve all updates for installation, but only for computers in the Test group. That way, Test gets everything approved for installation, while those same updates need manual approval for the other computer groups.

There would be a way to configure WSUS to monitor the workstations while still using MU. That would be to set everything to approve for detection, then just look in WSUS to see what client PCs are detected as needing updates. Of course you would then want to configure WSUS not to download the updates. This seems like way too much work – manually configuring the clients to use MU (or doing that in group policy), then separately configuring WSUS to monitor. Personally, I'd just get WSUS working the way you want it to.

"Neil Hoskins" <neilhremovethisbit@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:%23WQdVOSvGHA.4384@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

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message news:uqzZHnJvGHA.1436@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

So it sounds like you're seeing the expected behavior. The updates are downloaded, and the critical and security ones probably approved themselves. You can check this by going to the Updates page, viewing updates with any approval synchronized in the last week, and seeing what the approval level is.

All that "approve for detection" does is to let WSUS see which computers would need the update if you approved it. In other words, in the WSUS console, that update would show as Needed for each PC that called for the patch. It does not do anything as far as installing it or anything – you can't tell the status from the workstation, only from the WSUS console.

Last night I changed the "automatically approve for detection" setting from just the test machine to all machines. This morning I have, waiting for approval, a few Defender definition updates, and August's malicious software removal tool, but all are marked as having been superseded and recommended to be declined. The security updates still don't appear.

I checked a couple of workstations using Microsoft Update and they have not been installing updates automatically without me approving them. So the automatic approval settings are behaving as expected.

But right below that setting is the "automatically approve" section, where IIRC by default all critical and security updates are approved automatically. In that case, all critical and security updates would be applied to the workstations according to their AU settings as controlled by group policy. Almost (but not all) of this month's updates were critical or security.

In that setting, only the test machine is set to automatically approve for installation.

I really don't think the damned thing's working correctly. As we only have around fifteen users and a decent broadband connection, I think I'll ditch it and have workstations update automatically from Microsoft Update. This probably means I'll take a hit on bandwidth but with the small number of users I've got that shouldn't be too severe. Plus I'll save acres of disk space on the server and have peace of mind.

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