

Re: WARNING: Adobe Reader risks

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windowsupdate/2008-07/msg00087.html>

- *From:* "PA Bear [MS MVP]" <PABearMVP@xxxxxxxx>
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Adobe Reader V8.1.2 Security
Update 1 is actually a Microsoft KB update.

The security bulletin <http://www.adobe.com/support/security/bulletins/apsb08-15.html> is not a Microsoft KB or page.

I can't find hide nor hair of KB403742, Bill. Got a link? Are you thinking of a MS Security Advisory (<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/advisory/archive.msp>)?

...As a result, the best fix for problems with Adobe Reader has been to uninstall the old product using Add/Remove and then go to Adobe's website and get their latest-'n'-greatest. That's what I did, which caused me to run into the problem described in my original post.

What problem, and how does all of this pertain to Windows Update?

—
~PA Bear

Bill Drake wrote:

Hi, PA Bear. The linkage, is that Adobe Reader V8.1.2 Security Update 1 is actually a Microsoft KB update. If you check Add/Remove after Reader V8.1.2 Security Update 1 is installed, you will see it refers to MS KB403742 as the required fix.

I assume from this that KB403742 is what is actually being referenced by Adobe's fix, but this is also incompletely and imperfectly documented.

The problem is that historically, Adobe have left behind old product installation "mortal remains" when doing updates using their reader-based update procedure. As a result, the best fix for problems with Adobe Reader has been to uninstall the old

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product using Add/Remove and then go to Adobe's website and get their latest-'n'-greatest. That's what I did, which caused me to run into the problem described in my original post.

However, in this case, you end up with an installation of a newer product and a website reference when checking the new product indicating that the new product is still a beta release. Ergo, this thread.

My solution to the problem, at least in the short term, is to use the Update procedure on an *existing* V8.1.2 installation to get the V8.1.2 Security Update 1 – bypassing the Adobe website that gives you V9.0 without properly warning you that a major version update has occurred.

As detailed above, and to reiterate, the linkage with this newsgroup is that V8.1.2 Security Update 1 is actually an MS KB403742 update.

Best I can do for now. <tm>

Bill

PA Bear [MS MVP] wrote:

The Adobe Reader link off Adobe's main page now tells you that Adobe Reader 9.0 and Adobe Air are the latest download, without informing you there has been a version update. The page looks identical to the old 8.1.2 page – there is NO NOTIFICATION of a major version change.

What they DON'T tell you until the product is installed is these items are still in beta.

Acrobat Reader v9 is not a beta build, although it does include access to Adobe.com (beta)
http://blogs.adobe.com/adobereader/2008/06/adobe_reader_9_is_here_1.html

Furthermore, when you go to the Downloads page at the Adobe site and select the Reader 8.1.2 download, it takes you back to the 9.0 page and offers you the 9.0 download. There is no way to get the 8.1.2 package back.

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Acrobat Reader v8.1.2 has been superseded by v8.1.2 Security Update 1
<http://www.adobe.com/support/security/bulletins/apsb08-15.html>
<http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads/detail.jsp?ftpID=3967>

That being said, what does all this have to do with Windows Update, Bill?

Bill Drake wrote:

Adobe have joined the mob of Software Houses pushing betas on an unsuspecting public without adequate warning.

The Adobe Reader link off Adobe's main page now tells you that Adobe Reader 9.0 and Adobe Air are the latest download, without informing you there has been a version update. The page looks identical to the old 8.1.2 page – there is NO NOTIFICATION of a major version change.

What they DON'T tell you until the product is installed is these items are still in beta. You find that out once the download is installed.

Furthermore, when you go to the Downloads page at the Adobe site and select the Reader 8.1.2 download, it takes you back to the 9.0 page and offers you the 9.0 download. There is no way to get the 8.1.2 package back.

At this point, I don't know if the webpages are inaccurate or the product is still beta. And the only reason I'm posting this here is because I don't have any idea how to let people know about this in a widespread manner – other than this newsgroup.

The security and system integrity risks of using beta software are well known to members of this newsgroup. As a result of this irresponsible action on Adobe's part – without any kind of explanation or rationale for their action – I now recommend the same caution when dealing with Adobe on software matters as I would in dealing with shady or corrupt software manufacturers.

Best I can do for now. <tm>

Re: WARNING: Adobe Reader risks

Bill