Standard: Server Patch Management

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Purpose

The Server Patch Management Standard describes the acceptable standards for patching server operating systems managed by University IT Support staff.

Who/what does the standard apply?

The requirements in this standard apply to all server operating systems managed by University IT Support staff.

Definitions

- **Baseline:** Outlines the minimum patch definitions that must be applied
- **Out of Band patching:** An out-of-band patch is a patch released at some time other than the normal release time
- **Server:** Specialized computers (virtual and physical) that operate within a client/server architecture to serve the requests of client computers on the network.
- **Server Operating System:** An operating system that is specifically designed to run on servers
- **IT Support:** All staff in a unit or faculty who are responsible for maintaining computer systems and hardware, and for making decisions pertaining to those systems

Compliance

Systems and applications must align to the requirements and specifications outlined within this standard. Where systems and applications are unable to comply, please submit an Information Security Decision Request to the Director of Information Security and Compliance for review.

Specifications

Requirement	Specifications
Server operating systems will be patched to the IST baseline	IST will establish a patch baseline for server operating systems. The baseline will be determined on a quarterly basis.
New server operating systems must meet the minimum baseline	All new server operating systems must be brought up to the baseline or a higher patch level prior to deployment.
Server operating system patches must be deployed according to the prescribed conditions	Quarterly – consisting of cumulative patches for the quarter Critical – this will be out-of-band patching for critical patches
Patches must be deployed using a formal process	Patching is conducted in accordance with an approved and documented process.

References

Policy, Procedure or Standard	
Information Security Policy and Procedure	
Linux Server Patching - Infrastructure Solution Design	