VT WSUS and U
or How I Learned to Stop Worrying
and Love the Update

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CIT→SETI→MIG
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The reality of the matter

Millions of lines of code lead to…
Bugs attract pests

Timely updates are a necessity!
Update options - act the slacker

Do nothing…
Update options - have many arms...

Manual updates via the web
Update options - FAF (fire and forget)

Use the built-in stuff and pray
Update options - pass the hat

3rd party tools? Maybe MS WSUS?
WSUS - the way it is

Middleman to the process
WSUS - some lumps and bumps

- .COM mindset
- Read/Write delegation
- Limited reporting
- Limited history
- No provisioning / No de-provisioning
- AU (Automatic Updates) client is dumb
- More…
WSUS - the mighty MIG way

It’s all about abstraction...
VT WSUS “system” - bennies

- .EDU mindset
- Tiered delegation
- Robust reporting
- Lots and lots of historical data
- Provision / De-provisioning
- AU client is smartened up
- More…
VT WSUS Client = simplicity

1. Download client
2. Install client
3. Wait a bit… no, a bit longer than that…
4. Go to VT WSUS Web Reporting website
5. Check status of system
6. Take action if required
Jeepers creepers whose got the peepers?

- Person who installed the client
- OU admins (if the person who installed the client is in the OU)
  - Not an OU Admin yet? Gosh…
    - Search answers.vt.edu for “ou admin” for more info
- DIT admins*
- 4Help and Call Center staff
Client? We don’t need no stinkin’ client!
How does the flow go, Moe?

- **Day 0**
  - MS updates Tuesday (2nd Tuesday of every month)

- **Day 1**
  - VT WSUS gets updates

- **Day 2**
  - 4Help approves updates

- **Day 3⁺**
  - VT WSUS Client (AU) downloads updates

- **Day 4⁺**
  - If user ignores AU’s pleas it will automagically install and reboot at next 4am or as soon as possible after that*
Couple of client caveats to consider

- PID / Pwd required to install (F/S only)
- Firewall rules may be necessary
- Client expires eventually
- Using client doesn’t preclude you using Microsoft Update / Windows Update
- Uninstall / Expiring client reverts AU settings but leaves updates installed
The acronym of safe computing - PDR

- **Prevention**
  - Avoid systems running with insecure software

- **Detection**
  - Discover these insecure systems proactively

- **Remediation**
  - Update these systems in a timely manner
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Any questions?
Oh... one more thing...

- VT WSUS is officially production TODAY!

- Starting using it NOW
  - Go to computing.vt.edu
  - Select Security and Viruses
  - Select VT WSUS