



Make Patching a Priority

**Patching & Vulnerability
Management Services Guide**

Patching Can't Wait – Build a Patch Management Outsourcing Plan to Protect Your Business

Protecting your IT stack requires careful vulnerability management, including patching. Patching involves updating software to fix vulnerabilities that could be exploited by cybercriminals. However, deploying a patch across an organization's servers and endpoints can be complex and time-consuming, often overwhelming in-house IT teams. Ensuring that your IT infrastructure has a plan in place to combat vulnerabilities and address any weak points in your stack is critical for business continuity.

Understanding Vulnerability Management

Vulnerabilities in IT systems and software code can provide hackers and cyber criminals access to your critical systems and sensitive data. These exploits can provide a launching pad for attacks inside and outside your organization. Effective vulnerability management should consist of a systematic approach. With Thrive, vulnerability management services are divided into four phases: identification, evaluation and classification, treatment, and reporting.

- 1. Identification:** Detecting potential vulnerabilities through regular scans and monitoring to spot new threats as they arise.
- 2. Evaluation and Classification:** Assessing and categorizing vulnerabilities based on their severity and potential impact. Tools like the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) help standardize this assessment.
- 3. Treatment:** Taking steps to mitigate or eliminate vulnerabilities. Patching is a primary method in this phase, directly addressing software flaws that could be exploited.
- 4. Reporting:** Documenting actions taken and reporting on the current security status. This includes generating reports for regulatory compliance and internal review.

60%

of breach victims say that the breaches could have occurred because a patch was available for a known vulnerability but not applied.

[ServiceNow's Costs and Consequences of Gaps in Vulnerability Response Report](#)

The Role of Patching in Vulnerability Management

Patching directly remediates software vulnerabilities, ensuring your IT systems remain secure. Regular patching, usually on a monthly cycle, is crucial for preventing unwanted cybersecurity breaches. Some vulnerabilities, known as zero-day vulnerabilities, require immediate attention and cannot wait for regular updates. Managed service providers like Thrive play a critical role in handling these urgent situations.

Benefits of Patch Management

- Enhances Security
- Maintains System and Application Functionality
- Compliance and Regulatory Requirements
- Protects Against Malware and Ransomware

Measuring Effective Patching

Effective patching is measured through various metrics, including response time, the number of applications patched, and the success rate of deployments. Thrive's patching reports provide detailed metrics and scores, helping organizations understand their security posture and compliance status.

Regulatory Compliance and Reporting

Organizations under regulatory compliance, such as those governed by SEC regulations, must provide detailed reports on patching activities. Thrive's services include generating monthly patch reports that document all patched devices and success rates, ensuring compliance obligations are met.

According to a 2023 study, **companies worldwide take on average between 208 and 88 days to patch cyber vulnerabilities.**

In some cases, these vulnerabilities represent a critical threat to the company. On average, organizations fixed cyber vulnerabilities that were considered of high severity within 82 days.¹

¹<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1363099/average-days-to-patch-vulnerability-by-severity/#~:text=According%20to%20a%202023%20study,high%20severity%20within%2082%20days,>

How Thrive Can Help

Coupled with their [Vulnerability Management Services](#), Thrive provides managed workstation and server patching services, ensuring your systems remain secure without overburdening your internal resources. Thrive's Managed Patching service provides proactive remediation of security vulnerabilities via scheduled updates to operating systems and other software applications. Thrive's processes include:

- **Testing Patches:** Ensuring patches do not cause further issues, especially for business-critical systems.
- **Custom Deployment Schedules:** For enterprise clients, patching schedules can be customized to minimize disruptions by performing updates during off-hours.
- **Zero-Day Patches:** Deploying zero-day patches quickly with a dedicated team, ensuring critical vulnerabilities are fixed immediately.
- **Quarterly Reviews:** Regular reviews help identify devices that may have missed patches and investigate any issues to prevent recurrence.

Patching is a fundamental aspect of securing your IT stack and is crucial for effective vulnerability management. By entrusting your vulnerability management and patching needs to Thrive, organizations can ensure their systems are regularly updated and protected against emerging threats. Thrive's expertise, customizable services, 24x7 monitoring, and comprehensive reporting capabilities make us the ideal partner in maintaining your IT infrastructure.





Contact the Thrive Team

To Learn More, Contact Us Today, or Give Us a Call At:

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About Thrive

Thrive delivers global technology outsourcing for cybersecurity, Cloud, networking, and other complex IT requirements. Thrive's NextGen platform enables customers to increase business efficiencies through standardization, scalability, and automation, delivering oversized technology returns on investment (ROI). They accomplish this with advisory services, vCISO, vCIO, consulting, project implementation, solution architects, and a best-in-class subscription-based technology platform. Thrive delivers exceptional high-touch service through its POD approach of subject matter experts and global 24x7x365 SOC, NOC, and centralized services teams. Learn more at www.thrivenextgen.com or follow us on LinkedIn.