Section 16: Operating System Updates

A mechanism to update and patch operating systems is required to protect the information systems assets of the university. The requirements of this program are described below.

Operating System Update Server

Information Systems shall maintain an operating system update server configured to automatically download updates from the vendor and automatically make those updates available to university PCs. System Administrators will review and determine which of those updates and patches are appropriate before they are made available for downloading to PCs.

Servers

System Administrators within Information Systems are responsible for applying updates and patches to the operating systems. Information Systems System Administrators will review and determine which of those updates and patches are appropriate for a particular server. These updates and patches shall be installed and made effective (server rebooted) at a time deemed appropriate by the System Administrator.

In those cases where a System Manager is associated with a hosted system (e.g., Heartland) on the server, the System Administrator shall coordinate with the System Manager to determine a mutually agreeable time.

Certain situations, at the discretion of the System Administrator, may require rebooting of a server with no notice or coordination with the System Manager. When such a situation occurs, the System will notify the System Manager as soon as possible and explain why the reboot was necessary.

Personal Computers (PCs)

Before being made available for use, all university PCs will be configured by Information Systems to automatically download and install updates and patches from the university operating system update server on a daily basis. Following an update, notices are periodically displayed to the user that updates have been downloaded and installed and that the PC needs to be rebooted for these updates to become effective. The user should reboot the PC as soon as possible to ensure the highest level of protection.