

# Patch for VMware in Data Center Environments

Almost every company today relies heavily upon its computing infrastructure to conduct business in some form or fashion. The heart of this infrastructure is the tightly controlled data center and its critical servers. Whether the servers are hosting company email, providing an e-commerce portal, or maintaining a manufacturing line, they must be stable and available for use, running at peak efficiency, and secure.

Many of these data centers rely on VMware virtualization to provide scalability while simplifying management. Pre-configured servers are brought online automatically as demand grows, integrating smoothly with the corporate infrastructure. The challenge is ensuring those systems are maintained in the proper configuration as both security and feature updates are introduced for the operating system and hosted applications.

Ivanti® Patch for Windows provides a comprehensive patch solution to ensure both your physical and VMware virtual machines comply with your security policies, and that they maintain seamless integration with the corporate infrastructure.

## Optimized for the Data Center

### Low Computing Impact

Ivanti Patch for Windows provides an agentless patch option to minimize performance impacts on your servers. It conducts a scan from a central console to identify missing patches and uses this same approach to deploy and install patches.

Without an agent on the servers, more computing power and storage resources are available for your company processes.

### Enforced Change Control

Server stability is paramount to ensuring uninterrupted operations. You need to validate the compatibility of the latest operating system and hosted application updates before deployment to production servers. Patch for Windows enables you to assemble the patches for your test group easily and quickly, and once approved, roll them into production.

Automatic validation of the final installation—and comprehensive logging by the system—ensures your change control process is enforced and the servers have an updated baseline that is both secure and stable.

### Maintenance Window Efficiency

Patch for Windows supports your server maintenance windows through comprehensive scheduling features, but more importantly, it can stage the actual binaries to the server in advance of the maintenance window opening. No time is

wasted downloading the patch; as soon as the maintenance window opens, Patch for Windows begins patch installation.

### Industry-leading Patch Installation

Patch for Windows provides an extensive set of features and tools to ensure your patch process is supported and the updates are properly installed. You can use our out-of-the box default templates to control pre- and post- update reboots, user and administrator notifications, etc., or you can customize the process by changing the defaults or adding your own custom scripting to meet special requirements.

## Comprehensive VMware Support

Online virtual machines can be patched directly as if they were physical machines, but Patch for Windows provides more secure and efficient options in a VMware environment.

### Direct API Integration

Patch for Windows supports VMware systems using the APIs in vSphere. Using supported APIs ensures compatibility and allows logging and monitoring of all activity in vSphere.

### Secure Offline Patching

Patch for Windows scans offline virtual machines and determines the patches required. Once the patches are copied to the virtual image, the offline virtual machine is started, the network interface disconnected, and the patches installed. The disabled network interface provides an added

level of security, as the machine may have been offline for an extended period and have multiple vulnerabilities. Once the patches are validated, the virtual machine is reconnected to the network and returned to its offline state.

### Template Patching

You spend a lot of time developing the initial software images or templates for machines to support your business. It is equally important to keep those templates up-to-date with the latest security patches and feature updates. Patch for Windows scans and updates these virtual machine templates, saving valuable time and providing optimum security as all machines started from the template are already secured.

### Snapshot Management

You need to respond when performance or security issues arise. Patch for Windows provides continuous snapshot management to ensure secure backups of your freshly updated VMs are available for restore, while also maintaining only the snapshots you want so you don't use up valuable disk space.

## Bridge the Gap between Security and IT Operations

Patch for Windows also offers an advanced API stack that integrates with security solutions, vulnerability scanners, configuration management tools like Chef and Puppet, and reporting tools. While making patch operations native to a large ecosystem of security products, this integration also helps you bridge the gap between Security, IT, and DevOps.

For example, you can automatically import the latest vulnerability assessment into the next batch of patches to test, helping make IT Operations a more effective partner in securing the organization. For its part, DevOps is all about continuous improvement and automation—and when integrated with patch management can lead to more resilient and consistent infrastructures and systems. And you can pull critical data into solutions like Splunk, Reporting Services, Archer, and Crystal Reports for faster analysis of, response to, and closure rates for critical security incidents.

### Features

- Comprehensive patch management
  - Automated deployment of OS and third-party patches
- Agentless or agent patch deployments
- Automated patch process management, from discovery to assessment to delivery of updates
- Support for custom application patches
- Precise reboot options
- Ease of use
  - Intuitive interface
  - All assets managed from a single pane of glass
  - Comprehensive and flexible reports and dashboards
  - Customized report views
  - The most common IT functions executed with ITScripts
- Virtualization support
  - Patch online and offline virtual machines
  - Patch templates before they go online
  - Take snapshots before patching for improved rollback
  - Obtain VM information directly from VMware vCenter
  - Patch the ESXi hypervisor, Microsoft Hyper-V®, and Citrix XenApp®, XenDesktop®, and Presentation Server™
- Flexible infrastructure
  - Support for role-based administration
  - Support for multiple configurations, including on- and off-network patching, multiple distribution servers, and most network configurations
  - Advanced API stack integrates with security solutions
- Power pack add-on
  - Turn off power-hungry machines when not in use
  - Control power up, sleep, and power down
  - Wake up machines for maintenance windows, including critical patches
  - Additional library of ITScripts that manage and maintain machines
  - Use ITScripts out of the box, customize them, or import your own

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