

Task 3.8 – Security Patch Implementation Plan

Task Overview

Currently, FSA has not created a baseline system architecture for all of its components. Without this baseline, tracking the latest software patches applied to FSA's system components is an overly difficult undertaking. To create a patch implementation plan we will first assist FSA staff who will create a baseline architecture for all of their system components. We will require significant FSA management support, as this effort will be labor intensive. Once we are confident that this effort will produce acceptable results, we will develop a patch implementation plan that will identify the latest software patches, disseminates notices to the proper FSA/contractor system personnel, and track each patch implementation.

Task Details

The following items have been identified as being the significant goals and events in accomplishing this task item.

Objective(s):

- Coordinate efforts and methods with FSA staff who will create baseline architecture.
- Find a solution/tool(s) for tracking and inventory.
- Develop plan for regular updating of software patches
- Develop plan tracking/inventory and compliance of patch implementation
- Ensure the plan is not overly burdensome and achieves its intended goals.

Milestone(s):

- Review (read) OCIO and FSA documentation on current methods and tools used or proposed for creating and tracking a baseline architecture.
- Meet with FSA personnel to understand what has been done.
- Written comments on possible methods and tools
- Selection of best methods and tool
- Write plan and procedure for updating software patches and for tracking compliance.
- Training

Task Status

All objectives have been met.

New work and objectives:

In the first two months of 2004 a working paper on implementing patch management has been presented for comments and discussion. The working paper will become an official document within both the configuration management documents as well as the security management documents. We will work to ensure automated patch management tools are deployed across all FSA systems. The goal is to be able to provide immediate assessment of system status on all systems and to expedite implementation of critical patches as the need arises. We will continue to support FSA interest in this area through discussion and research as well.