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Patching My PC with Patch My PC

by Alan German

With the demise of both Secunia's Personal Security Inspector (PSI) and Software Update Monitor (SUMo), I have been looking for an alternative vulnerability scanner or at least an update manager to help keep my applications up to date. As usual, my preferred option is for open-source software or freeware; however, almost all the relevant scanners are commercial products. One program that I tried recently is Patch My PC Home Updater, the freeware version of a commercial offering. While the free package is somewhat limited in terms of the specific applications that are supported, many of the programs that I frequently use are included in the list.

Patch My PC can be downloaded from the developer's web site as the file PatchMyPC.exe. It's portable software and no installation is required. So, it's sufficient to simply run the executable which then scans the computer's system drive and reports on the status of the supported applications that it finds.

Microsoft Windows 10 Home 64-Bit
DELL-INSPIRON
Definitions: 10-February-2024

7 Apps To Install 13/20 Apps Up To Date!

Search...

Main Software

- 360 Total Security 11.0.0.1077
- 7-Zip 23.01 (x64)
- 8GadgetPack 37.0
- Acrobat Reader DC 23.008.20470
- Adobe Air 50.2.4.1
- Advanced IP Scanner 2.5.4594
- Advanced SystemCare 17.1
- Advanced Uninstaller PRO 13.26.0.68
- AIMP 5.30.2533
- Amazon Music 9.4.3.2420
- Angry IP Scanner 3.9.1
- AnyDesk 8.0.8
- Atom 1.63.1 (x64)
- Audacity 3.4.2
- Auslogics Disk Defrag 11.0.0.4
- AutoHotkey 1.1.37.01
- AutoRun Organizer 5.39
- Avast Free Antivirus 24.1.6099
- AVG AntiVirus FREE 24.1 (x64)
- Backup And Sync 3.56.3802.7766
- Bandizip 7.32
- BD Anti-Ransomware 1.0.12.151

GIMP 2.10.18
GlassWire 3.3 (remove only) - 3.3.630
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x64) - 14.32.31332 - 14.32.31332.0
Microsoft Visual C++ 2015-2022 Redistributable (x86) - 14.30.30704 - 14.30.30704.0
OBS Studio - 29.1.3
PDFsam Basic - 5.2.0.0
TeamViewer - 15.49.2
7-Zip 23.01 (x64)
Everything 1.4.1.1024 (x86)
FastStone Image Viewer 7.8
FileZilla 3.66.5
Google Chrome - 121.0.6167.161
KeepPass Password Safe 2.56
LibreOffice 24.2.0.3
Mozilla Thunderbird (x86 en-US)
Notepad++ (64-bit x64) - 8.6.2
PDF-Viewer - 2.5.322.10
TeamViewer - 15.49.2
TreeSize Free V4.7.1 (64 bit)
Vivaldi - 6.5.3206.61
VLC media player - 3.0.20

Color [Green] = Latest Version Installed
Color [Red] = Outdated Version Installed
Color [Black] = Not Currently Installed

Re-Scan Installed Apps Perform 7 Updates

The user interface is pretty easy to understand. By default, the Apps icon in the left sidebar is enabled and the list of applications is displayed. The left window lists all the applications that are supported. If an application is installed, the colour of the listing indicates its status. So, for example, 7-Zip Version 23.01 is installed and this is the current release of this utility. The right window displays any issues that have been identified. The applications listed in red are out of date and should be updated, while no action is required for those listed in green which are the currently-available versions.

Note that PatchMyPC is only looking at version numbers and determining if any given package has a newer version available. So it is not a vulnerability scanner. Some of the software updates may well include patches for vulnerabilities, while others may be just feature updates. Nevertheless, bringing all the listed applications up to date will ensure that at least these packages will receive any available vulnerability patches.

Starting the updating process for the listed applications in red is simply a matter of pressing the button labelled *Perform 7 Updates*. PatchMyPC then downloads and “silently” installs the updated software. A progress report indicating successful downloads and installations is displayed in the right window.

More details of the update process are written to a log file named PatchMyPC.log, that is stored in the folder in which the PatchMyPC program is located.

Interestingly, following the updates to my system, the header row in PatchMyPC indicated *19/20 Apps Up to Date*. The log entry showed the reason as “*Skipping install for GlassWire 3.3.664 based on user input not to close GlassWire.exe*”. I imagine this was a result of the “silent” update where I was not prompted to close GlassWire so that the update could proceed.

PatchMyPC has many customization features, based on the categories listed as icons down the left sidebar. The Options tab includes customization for downloading software, changing the display, managing the update process and the log file. The Uninstaller tab allows installed programs to be removed, while the Scheduler tab allows specification of the timing and frequency for running PatchMyPC automatically. It’s also worth noting that, under the Apps tab, clicking the checkbox for any application in the list in the left window causes this application to be marked for installation next time software is updated.

So, PatchMyPC isn’t a true vulnerability scanner but it is a very useful tool for keeping various installed applications up to date and it makes this process extremely easy.

```
Downloading: PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 (80.85 MB)
PDFSam Basic 5.2.2 Downloaded Successfully

Silently install PDFSam Basic 5.2.2
Install Successful for PDFSam Basic 5.2.2
-----
Downloading: TeamViewer 15.50.5 (69.58 MB)
TeamViewer 15.50.5 Downloaded Successfully

Silently install TeamViewer 15.50.5
Install Successful for TeamViewer 15.50.5
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Patch My PC Update Complete 2/10/2024 5:30:15 PM
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Bottom Line

Patch My PC Home Updater
Patch My PC, LLC
<https://patchmypc.com/home-updater>

