Windows XP Security Updates

Microsoft dropped public support for Windows XP SP3 in April, 2014, so use of this OS on the Brandeis network is highly discouraged by ITS and the DivSciTech group. That said, there are cases where essential software used to drive functional, older instruments or for other purposes is incompatible with a supported version of Windows or the cost of upgrading the software would be prohibitive, leaving XP as the only viable option. In these situations, it is critical that all available security updates from Microsoft be applied to the operating system and network activities such as web browsing be restricted on these PCs.

Microsoft security advisory 4025685: Guidance for older platforms: June 13, 2017

In June, 2017, Microsoft took the unprecedented step of releasing a number of critical security updates for Windows XP SP3 and other unsupported versions of Windows. These updates will apparently not be pushed out via the Windows Update mechanism, so they should be downloaded and installed manually. The necessary 12 updates are listed below as links to their respective Microsoft download pages:

KB958644
KB2347290
KB4012598
KB4012583
KB4022747
KB4018271
KB4018466
KB3197835
KB4024323
KB4025218
KB4024402
KB4019204

Note that KB958644 and KB2347290 date from 2008 and 2010, respectively, so they may have been installed years ago via Microsoft Windows update.

The versions of the patches for 32-bit Windows XP SP3 can be downloaded as a single zip archive here. Unpack the archive and apply each update by running the installer and following the on-screen instructions. Administrator privileges will be required. Be sure to keep track of which updates have been applied. Some of the updates may require a system reboot, but the reboot can probably be deferred until all of the updates have been applied.

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