

Knowledge Base

HOW TO: Patch a Software Installation Stored on a Network Server That Is Deployed Using Microsoft Software Installer

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional
 - Microsoft Windows 2000 Datacenter Server
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SUMMARY

When a network share contains a software installation that is used with Active Directory for assigning and publishing programs, it may be necessary to apply update patches to the software. These patches are identifiable by having an .msp file name extension. This article describes how to patch such a software installation.

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Procedure

Network software shares (or "flats") are updated by running the following command. This command updates the software with Microsoft Software Installer (MSI):

```
msiexec /a path to .msi file in network image /p path to .msp file
```

This command replaces the necessary files on the network share and updates the .msi file for proper installation using the new components.

After you run this command, the program should be re-deployed in Active Directory to allow clients to receive the updates. To do so, use the Active Directory Users and Computers Microsoft Management Console (MMC) snap-in:

1. Right-click the domain, Organizational Unit (OU), or object with the policy that contains the deployed software, and then click **Properties**.
2. Click the **Group Policy** tab.
3. Click the policy that contains the program that was patched.
4. Click **Edit** to open Group Policy Editor for the deployed package.
5. Browse through the Computer Configuration or Software Settings section to the location in which the software package is deployed.
6. Right-click the deployed package in the right pane.
7. Click **All Tasks**.
8. Click **Redeploy Application**.

The redeployment takes place on next logon or reboot, depending on whether the package is user-based or computer-based.

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