Secunia Personal Software Inspector (PSI)

Patching made easy

Contents

About Secunia

Secunia is the leading provider of IT security solutions that help businesses and private individuals globally manage and control vulnerability threats and risks across their networks and endpoints. This is enabled by Secunia's award-winning Vulnerability Intelligence, Vulnerability Assessment, and Patch Management solutions that ensure optimal and cost-effective protection of critical information assets.

Secunia's proven, complementary portfolio; renowned for its reliability, usability, and comprehensiveness, aids businesses in their handling of complex IT security risks and compliance requirements across industries and sectors — a key component in corporate risk management assessment, strategy, and implementation.

As a global player within IT security and Vulnerability Management, Secunia is recognised for its market-driven product development; having revolutionised the industry with verified and actionable Vulnerability Intelligence, simplified Patch Management, and automatic updating of both Microsoft and third-party programs.

Secunia plays an important role in the IT security ecosystem, and is the preferred supplier for enterprises and government agencies worldwide, counting Fortune 500 and Global 2000 businesses among its customer base. Secunia has operations in North America, the UK, and the Middle East, and is headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark.

For more information, visit secunia.com

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The Secunia PSI 3.0

Introduction

The Secunia Personal Software Inspector (PSI) is a free security scanner which identifies programs that are insecure and need updates. It automates the updating of the majority of these programs, making it a lot easier to maintain a secure PC.

The Secunia PSI automatically detects insecure programs, downloads the required patches, and installs them accordingly without further user interaction.

The Secunia PSI also detects and notifies you of programs that cannot be automatically updated with patches and provides you with detailed instructions for updating the program when available. In most cases, you simply need to click the appropriate icon in the Results window and follow the on-screen instructions to install the latest patches.

Visit the Secunia PSI Forum at: http://secunia.com/community/forum/psi/

How It Works

The Secunia PSI works by examining files on your computer (primarily .exe, .dll, and .ocx files). These files contain non-specific meta information provided by the software vendor. This data is the same for all users and originates from the installed programs on your computer — never from their configuration.

After examining all the files on your local hard drive(s), the collected data is sent to Secunia's servers, which match the data against the Secunia File Signatures engine to determine the exact applications installed on your system.

This information can then be used to provide you with a detailed report of the missing security related updates for your system. Please refer to the Privacy Statement for more details about how information from your computer is used by Secunia.

It is NOT the purpose of the Secunia PSI to detect whether your system has already been compromised or if local changes, settings, or missing requirements could cause the Secunia PSI to report incorrect results. The Secunia PSI relies on the meta-data of executables and library files. The Secunia PSI does NOT conduct an integrity check of the individual files, rather, it checks whether a specific program is vulnerable according to the reported version numbers and not whether the files have been compromised or replaced by other users or programs.

The Secunia PSI is not a replacement for other security measures such as antivirus or personal firewalls — the Secunia PSI is a great supplement to these other security measures as it helps prevent the exploitation of often overlooked exposures.

Summary of Features

- New and dramatically simplified User Interface `New`
- Extended automatic patching `New`
- Non-intrusive authenticated vulnerability and patch scanning
- Covers programs and plug-ins from thousands of vendors
- Unprecedented accuracy
- Reports security status for each program
- Identifies missing patches

What Are Vulnerabilities?

A vulnerability is essentially a programming error/flaw in a program which can be used by a hacker to perform actions that have a security impact on your computer. These actions range from stealing sensitive information (such as credit card numbers, passwords, and personal documents) to automatic installation of viruses, Trojans, keyloggers, and other types of malware.

Vulnerabilities can affect all programs installed on your computer, from the Operating System down to your email client, office application, instant messaging client, and so on.

Why is this a risk to you? When you browse the Internet, you use an "Internet browser". This may be Internet Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, and so on. All of these browsers have repeatedly been affected by vulnerabilities that have allowed hackers to do practically anything on your computer — all you had to do was to visit a website and it could take control of your computer.

The same applies to many other applications on your computer — unless you keep them updated and patched. As new vulnerabilities are found regularly, it is important to scan for vulnerabilities on a regular basis. The Secunia PSI ensures that you have the latest secure versions of the software that you have installed on your computer.

Patching

Patching insecure programs helps safeguard your data and PC against cybercriminals. Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting private PCs. Their entry points are vulnerabilities in popular third-party (non-Microsoft) programs, which are exploited and used as a gateway to compromise PCs and access confidential data. Attacks exploiting vulnerable programs and plug-ins are often not blocked by traditional antivirus applications.

Timely patching is the only solution to these types of attacks. Patches are offered free of charge by most software vendors; however, finding all of these patches is tedious and time-consuming. The Secunia PSI removes the complexity of this task and helps you stay secure, so that you can shop, bank, and socialise online, safely.

Unlike the many general update checkers available that will offer to install any version that is newer than the one you already have installed, the Secunia PSI only installs an update if the version you currently have installed is affected by a known vulnerability that the vendor has fixed in a newer version. Newer does not necessarily mean more secure.

Why Should You Use the Secunia PSI?

The answer is easy. We're on a mission to make PCs safe worldwide. It's not just a PC, it's your wallet, little black book, and identity. It's your data. Your antivirus isn't enough. Give your PC the protection it deserves and join the millions of people who protect their PCs with the Secunia PSI. It's safe, fast, simple, and free.

PC WORLD *"Secunia PSI won't do away with the need to run a good antivirus program and firewall on your PC. But it provides a solid layer of free protection that no PC should do without."*

ZDNet *"Number one is the Secunia Personal Software Inspector, quite possibly the most useful and important free application you can have running on your Windows machine."*

PC WORLD *"Secunia PSI provides a free, easy way to stay on top of an important aspect of your PC's security. If you're looking for a set-it-and-forget-it way to keep your applications up to date, this is the app for you."*

System Requirements

Supported Operating Systems (32 & 64 bit):

- Microsoft Windows 7
- Microsoft Windows Vista
- Microsoft Windows XP — Service Pack 3

Privileges

You will need administrative privileges to install and run the Secunia PSI.

Connectivity

You will need access to Secunia servers (encrypted) via SSL and access to Microsoft Update servers.

Software Requirements

You will need the latest version of Microsoft Update.

You can determine whether or not you are running the latest version of Microsoft Update by visiting update.microsoft.com. If you are able to check your system for missing updates through this tool, the Secunia PSI should function correctly.

Hardware Requirements

There are no additional hardware requirements. If your computer runs any of the supported Operating Systems, the Secunia PSI should also be able to run.

Download, Install, and Scan

Download

To download the Secunia PSI please go to:
http://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal/

Install

You can either open and run the installer directly or download it to your PC and double-click on it. To install the Secunia PSI simply follow the on-screen instructions. You will need to read and agree to our License Agreement prior to installation.
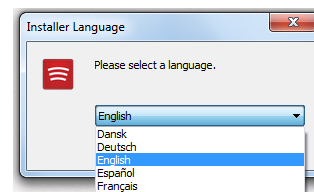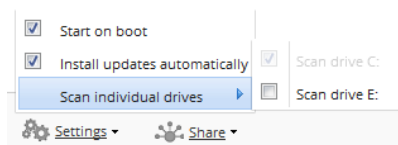
Scan

Settings

Once you have downloaded and installed the Secunia PSI, click **Settings** to set the available options for scanning, including:

- **Start on boot** – select this option to automatically start the Secunia PSI after re-booting your PC.
- **Install updates automatically** – deselect this option to confirm whether or not you want to install updates.
- **Scan individual drives** – select the drives you want to scan. Your system partition (usually the C: drive), and the drive containing the **Program Files** directory (if this drive is different from your system partition) will be selected by default. Note that selecting a drive with a very large amount of files can significantly slow down the scan.

Scanning

Click **Scan now** (first time scan) or **Scan again**. The Secunia PSI will automatically detect insecure programs and download the required patches. If you selected **Install updates automatically** these are installed automatically without further user interaction.
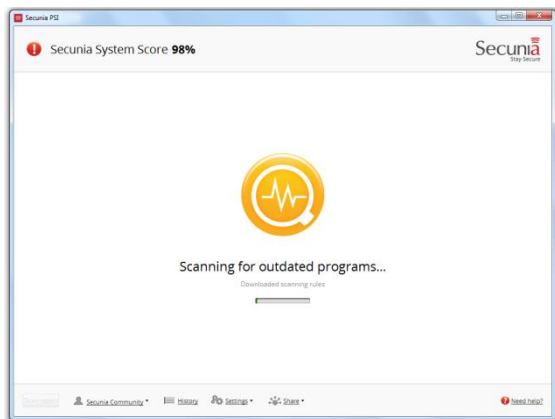
The Secunia PSI also detects and notifies you if there are programs that cannot be automatically updated.

Click to update a program and install the latest security patches available from the program's vendor. In most cases, you simply need to click the appropriate icon and follow the on-screen instructions to install the latest patches and stay secure.
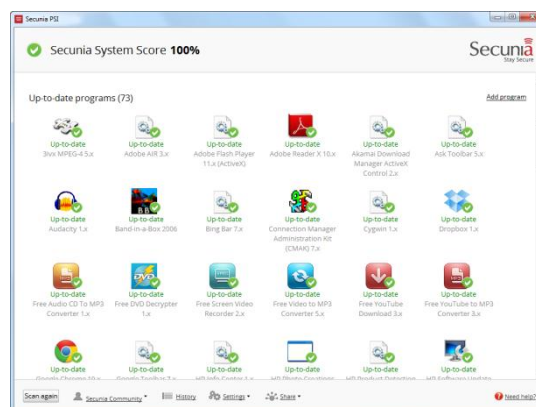
If you are unable to perform a manual update, and for all feature requests or error inquiries, please submit your suggestions or error reports to support@secunia.com (including screenshots, whenever possible).

You can also post to our community forum at:
http://secunia.com/community/forum/psi/

Once a scan is completed, you can click **Show programs** to view **Programs that need updating** (if your Secunia System Score is less than 100%) and **Up-to-date programs**.

If you have a program installed that was not detected during the scan, please suggest it to Secunia for addition to our database. Click **Show programs** and then click **Add program** and fill in the required information.

You can right-click an icon under **Programs that need updating** or **Up-to-date programs** and choose:

- **Select language** – to select the language to use for the update (this option is only available when a program has versions available in multiple languages).
- **Ignore updates to this program** – to select programs that the Secunia PSI will not scan or gather results from. The icon will appear (in black and white) under **Programs that do not receive updates** at the bottom of the scan results window. You can choose to ignore, for example, updates to end of life programs that are no longer being maintained by the vendor. This means that when a vulnerability is found in the program, the vendor will not release any patch for it (note that having end of life programs installed poses a potential security risk as you will not be advised about vulnerabilities and will not be able to update and patch them). It is recommended to either uninstall programs that are end of life, or update to a version that is still supported by the vendor.
- **Show details** - to view the file location and installed version of a program.
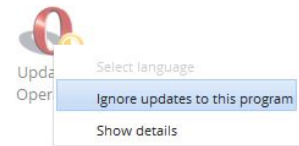
Right-click an icon under **Programs that do not receive updates** and select **Don't ignore updates to this program** to include the program in the Secunia PSI scans.
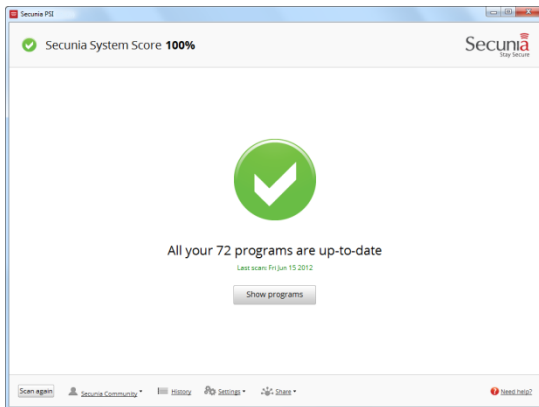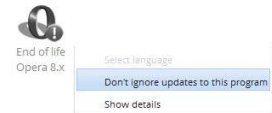
Click **Scan again** to run a new scan, or minimise the Secunia PSI to your taskbar. The Secunia PSI continues to provide background monitoring for insecure program installations.

The Secunia icon on your taskbar will change colour depending on the security status of your system:

indicates that all your software is up to date.

indicates that you may have outdated software that requires security patching. Double-click the icon to open the Secunia PSI and then click **Scan again** to start a new scan and install the latest security patches.
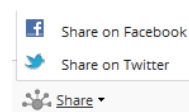
You can also right-click the Secunia icon on your taskbar to view the available options and access the Secunia [Privacy Statement](#).
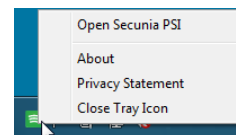
Share

Click **Share** to post a link on your Facebook wall or Twitter feed and make it easy for your friends to try out the Secunia PSI 3.0.
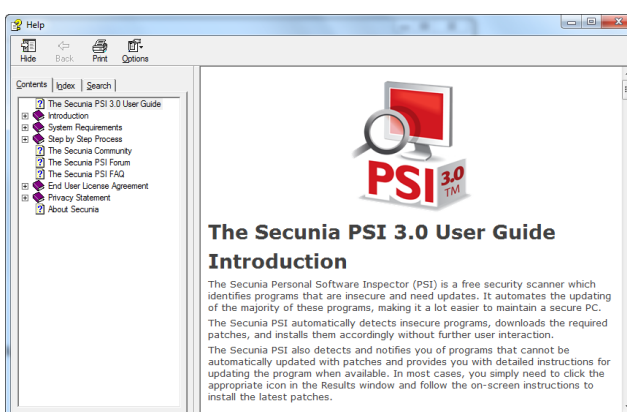
History

Click **History** to display information about the updates installed, and scans conducted, for the programs you have installed on your PC.

Need help?

Click **Need help?** to read the Secunia PSI User Guide, End User License Agreement, Privacy Statement, and for links to the Secunia PSI Forum and FAQ (both in English only).

Secunia Community

Click **Secunia Community** to sign up or login to the Secunia Community. Having a Secunia Community Profile allows you to:

- Manage your Secunia mailing list subscriptions
- Participate in forum discussions
- Access more help
- Assist other Secunia PSI users
- Receive notifications about new features from Secunia

If you already have a Secunia Community Profile it can be recovered by entering your User name and the email address associated to it. You will receive a confirmation email.

Once you have signed up for the Secunia Community, the User name you created will appear next to the 👤 icon. Click to select:

- **Profile** – to update your profile details
- **Forum** – to go directly to the Secunia Forum

Visit the Secunia Community at: http://secunia.com/community/login/
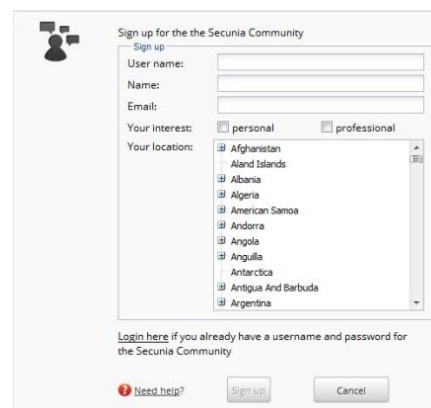
The Secunia PSI Forum

Visit the Secunia PSI Forum if you have questions that are not covered by the user guide or simply want to provide feedback about the product.

Visit the Secunia PSI Forum at: http://secunia.com/community/forum/psi/

Privacy Statement

Communication

All communication between your system (The Secunia PSI) and the Secunia servers is conducted via an encrypted connection (SSL), effectively protecting against eavesdropping of the data and the results being exchanged with Secunia.

Data

All data sent to Secunia is treated as confidential.

The Secunia PSI collects unique text strings and data about executable files and installed applications on your system, including hostname and langroup, and Microsoft KB numbers. This data is analysed by the Secunia File Signature engine (psi.secunia.com) to determine the exact applications installed on your system. This can in turn be used to provide you with a detailed report about the specific missing security related updates on your system. No other data is collected from your system.

The data sent to Secunia is non-personal data only. The data is generic, standardised, and originates from installed programs on your computer.

All data sent to Secunia will be deleted automatically no later than 12 months after you terminate using the program or immediately after you cancel your registration.

Secunia will not share or sell specific data about individuals with any third parties. Only aggregate statistics which cannot be related directly to any individuals will be published and shared with third parties.

Secunia Product Portfolio

Secunia's award-winning Product Portfolio helps manage and control vulnerabilities across networks and endpoints.

Corporate

Vulnerability Intelligence Manager

Delivers real-time vulnerability alerts to each responsible software administrator. Covers 40,000+ Apps on all platforms and hard boxes. Fast implementation. No installation required.

Corporate Software Inspector

Secure vital Apps running in your network. Integrates with Microsoft WSUS & SCCM. Supports Apple Mac OS X. The industry's largest coverage of third-party programs.

Consumer

Online Software Inspector

A quick and convenient first step in protecting your confidential data.

Personal Software Inspector

Stay secure by patching and updating insecure programs and therefore safeguard your data and PC against cybercriminals.

Corporate Product Comparison

Secunia corporate solutions are designed for organisations of all sizes with the principal aim of helping organisations with improved responsiveness and protection, business continuity, and minimal business damage. The following is a summary of differences and similarities between Secunia Vulnerability Intelligence and Patch Management solutions, to help you identify the solution that is right for you. For pricing and additional information, please contact sales@secunia.com.

Feature/Requirement	VIM™	CSI™
Customer profile	Medium/Large	Small/Medium/Large
Verifies that all Windows Update patches are applied		✔
Scans for missing patches for all third-party programs and plug-ins on Microsoft based platforms		✔
Scheduling scans of company hosts		✔
Integration with Microsoft WSUS & SCCM		✔
Integration with the Secunia PSI		✔
Coverage of all operating systems / 40,000+ applications	✔	
Assign compliance policies	✔	
Real-time alerts as soon as vulnerability is confirmed by Secunia Research, before the vendor issues a patch	✔	
Access to in-depth vulnerability analysis and exploits, including alerts on 0-days vulnerabilities	✔	
Advisory approval method	✔	
Receive trusted alerts through email, SMS, and XML formats	✔	
Specifically designed for organisations with an internal CERT/CSIRT division	✔	
Built-in ticketing system for handling the vulnerability intelligence	✔	
Dashboard interface with customisable widgets	✔	✔
Utilises Secunia Vulnerability Intelligence	✔	✔
Automatic identification of End-of-life applications	✔	✔
Powerful reporting and audit capabilities	✔	✔
Unlimited accounts capability	✔	✔
Creation of customised reports on historic and current network status	✔	✔
Multiple user access	✔	✔

Consumer Product Comparison

Secunia provides free tools for consumers as we want to ensure that PC users have easy access to reliable Vulnerability Management tools.

Feature/Requirement	OSI™	PSI™
Customer profile	Consumer	Consumer
Platform	Windows	Windows
Utilises the Secunia Vulnerability Intelligence	✔	✔
Verifies that all Windows Update patches are applied	✔	✔
Easy access to patches	✔	✔
Limited to scan only one computer	✔	✔
Coverage of Microsoft programs	Limited	Full
Coverage of third-party programs/plug-ins	Approx. 100	All*
Scans for missing patches for all third-party programs and plug-ins on Microsoft based platforms		✔
Scheduling of scans		Weekly
Monitor continuously for insecure program installations		✔
Runs through the browser. No installation or download is required.	✔	
Pricing	FREE**	FREE**

All* — Programs from thousands of vendors
FREE** — For home users

For further information please visit
our website: secunia.com

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