

User Guide

ABC-Update V2.2.9

install Windows Updates on demand

Simple as your first ABC
Flexible as an alphabet

September 2021
ABC-Deploy.Com

ABC-Update

User Guide

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| What it is and why you might like it..... | 3 |
| Requirements..... | 3 |
| Downloads | 3 |
| Feedback | 3 |
| The GUI Version | 4 |
| Selecting the basics | 4 |
| Select what to Report / Install / Uninstall..... | 5 |
| Select computers for update | 7 |
| Schedule in a Service Window | 7 |
| Watching ABC-Update as it updates computers | 8 |
| Right Click Tools | 10 |
| The Command Line version..... | 11 |
| Examples | 12 |
| Uninstalling Updates | 15 |
| Filter options | 16 |
| Filtering by Category | 16 |
| Filtering by KB number..... | 16 |
| Filtering by Type..... | 16 |
| Filtering by Name / Title | 17 |
| Filtering by Date..... | 17 |
| Filtering by query string | 18 |
| Controlling reboots and reboot loops..... | 18 |
| Logging | 18 |
| eMail status..... | 19 |
| eMail example..... | 19 |
| Exit actions | 19 |
| Return Codes..... | 20 |
| Driver updates..... | 21 |
| Windows 10 Feature Upgrades..... | 22 |
| How Windows 10 Upgrades are implemented in ABC-Update | 22 |
| When used together with ABC-Deploy | 23 |

What it is and why you might like it

ABC-Update is a freeware tool from ABC-Deploy. The tool has a GUI version to push MS Updates to networked computers, and a command line utility for the scripting guys.

ABC-Update connect to MS Update servers, or own managed server (WSUS), and optionally download and install or uninstall update categories of choice.

You can do things like schedule activity to an off-hour's service window, control reboot loops and allow users to keep using their computers. Windows 10 feature upgrades can be treated as normal updates.

SysAdmins with responsibility of patching Windows servers and endpoints often face a few frustrations with MS Update or WSUS. One such is that we want the ability to get these updates installed NOW, when we want, where we want, not when Automatic Update Services decides to.

Another frustration among many admins is that the "Automatic Updates Service" since Vista is such a performance hog. Often severely slowing down the end user experience even hours before patch installations begin, and therefore we use ABC-Update to schedule patch activity off office hours.

And many of us share the need to easily see which updates are installed or missing without having to manually be clicking through windows.

This gap between what Microsoft is offering out of the box, and what many admins really want is what the ABC-Update tool is made to fill.

Requirements

Tested with all Windows versions since Windows XP

.Net Framework V2.0 or higher are required for the clients

.Net Framework V4.5 or higher are required for the GUI version

Microsoft Automatic Update Service must not be disabled at client

Downloads

The tool: <https://abc-deploy.com/files/ABC-Update.zip>

User Guide: <https://abc-deploy.com/files/ABC-Update.pdf>

EULA: <https://abc-deploy.com/files/ABC-Update-EULA.pdf>

Feedback

Your personal feedback, positive, negative and your ideas to improve the product are always welcomed.

Pls. write to ABC-Update@ABC-Deploy.Com

The GUI Version

Selecting the basics

Update Source:

MS Update is Microsoft servers on the Internet.

WSUS will be your own managed server as registered for clients by Group Policy. Also possible to type URL path of WSUS server and port to use.

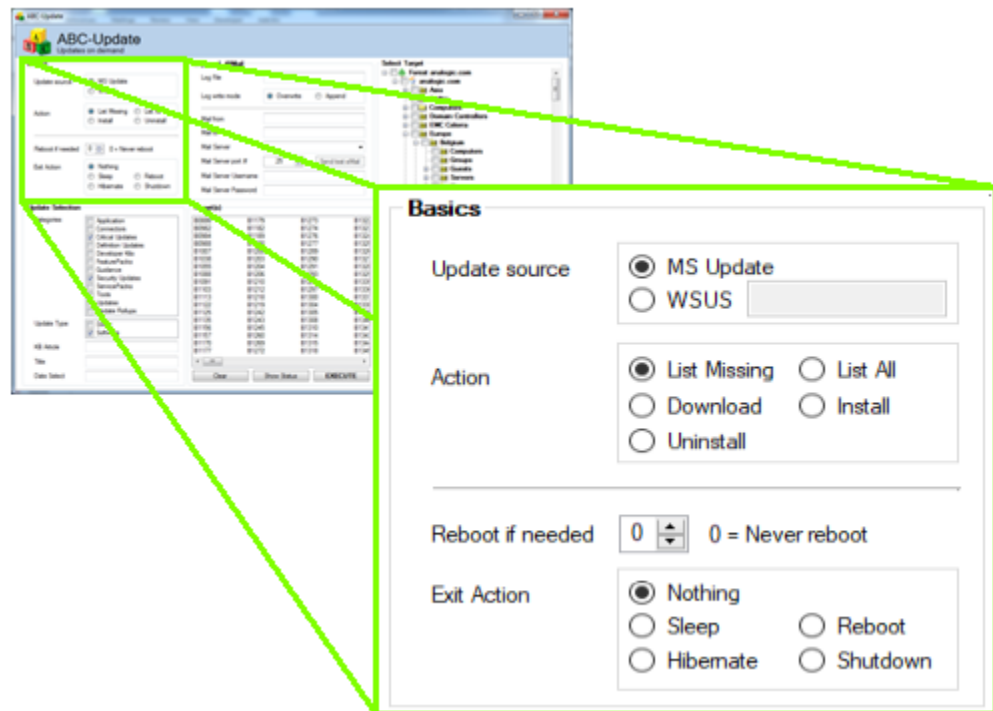
Example

<http://server.domain.com#8530>

Action:

Uninstallation only works with updates which have been installed from a WSUS. This is a limitation of MS Update.

If you try to uninstall updates that is installed from MS Update it only gives the error code
0x80240028 - WU_E_UNINSTALL_NOT_ALLOWED
If you need to uninstall such updates use the
Dism.Exe utility available from Windows 7



Reboot Loops:

This switch control reboots after installations or uninstalls. A value higher than 0 will install updates and reboot if needed by any of the installations. After each successful update and reboot ABC-Update start again and continue execution, until max reboot count is reached, or until all updates are installed.

Exit Action:

When the program has finished (Maybe after a series of reboots) you can control what the ABC-Update tool should do next.

Select what to Report / Install / Uninstall

Categories:

Combination of “Critical” and “Security” is what MS would refer to as “Important” updates.

Update Type:

MS Updates comes in two flavors
Most users would prefer to get drivers from other sources and only patch software.

KB Article

Each update has a number in the MS Knowledge Base library. And we can filter on these numbers.

Accept a comma separated list of KB numbers

Like: KB2631813,KB2231652,KB2243533

Use a “-” sign in front of a KB number to exclude updates

Like: - KB2631813

Title:

Updates can also be selected by title.

* Matches anything

% Matches one character

Matches one digit

Comma separated list is accepted

Like: *.NET*,*Microsoft Office*2010*

Use a “-” sign in front of a title pattern to exclude updates with this title match

Like: -*SilverLight*

Date Select:

Some of us do not want to install the latest updates. With ABC-Update you can select updates based on a date interval. Like for instance “all updates more than 30 days old”

Format: From-To
Default *,*

Meaning all

Examples

*,dd.mm.yyyy

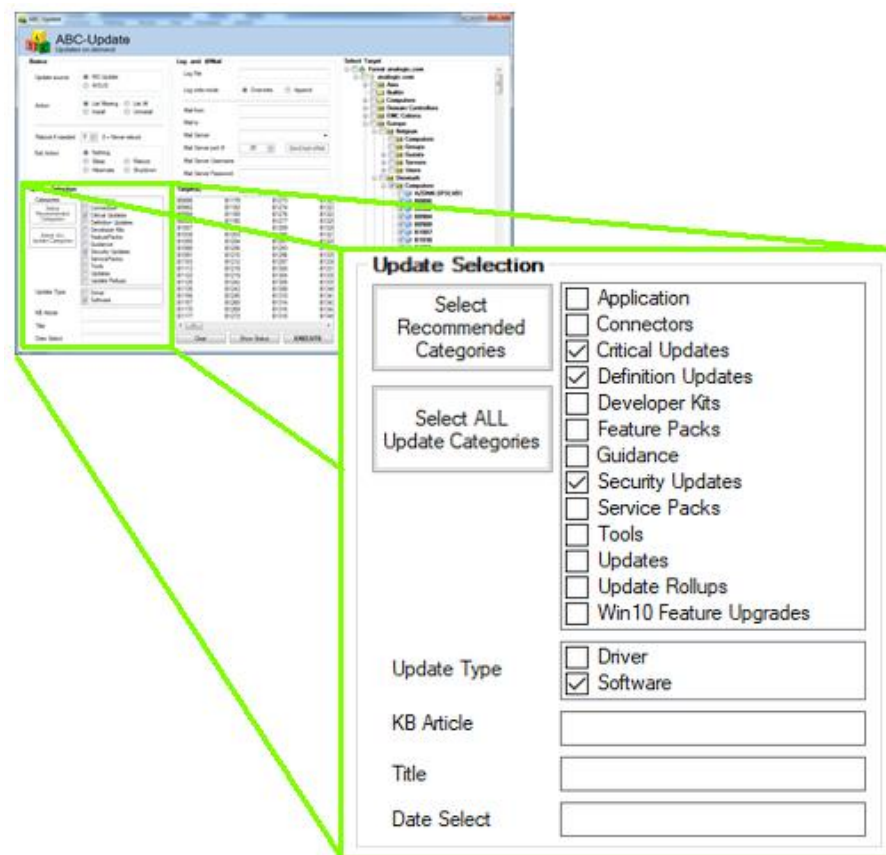
from anytime to dd.mm.yyyy

dd.mm.yyyy,Now

from dd.mm.yyyy to Now

dd.mm.yyyy,-30

from dd.mm.yyyy to 30 days ago



eMail and logging options

Log File:

ABC-Update can log all activity to a file on the client. Logging also works in the cases where you use ABC-Update to control a reboot loop then the log file will contain data from all iterations.

Log write mode:

Choose to append or overwrite

Mail options:

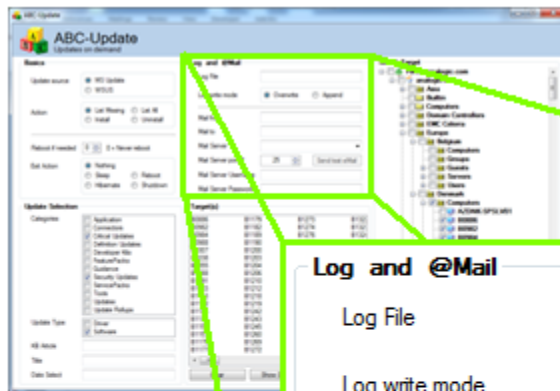
ABC-Update can send status eMails when finished.

Mail to: Comma separated list accepted

Mail server: Sending SMTP server name or IP address

Port #: Port 25 is default

If sending SMTP server require authentication it is possible to specify username/password and in that case port 587 would often be used, but it all depends on the SMTP server used for mail delivery.



Log and @Mail

Log File

Log write mode ☒ Overwrite ☐ Append

Mail from

Mail to

Mail Server

Mail Server port #

Mail Server Username

Mail Server Password

Choice of SMTP server tell the client where it should deliver the eMail, it can be a smarthost on the network or any other SMTP server where the client have access and which is willing to deliver the eMail. Click the "down" arrow to see a list of possible choices found from the "To Address" in the DNS system – while this will work for most clients there might be local policies and restrictions enforced that require another SMTP server.

Mail from

Mail to

Mail Server

Mail Server port #

Mail Server Username

Mail Server Password

alt1.gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.
alt2.gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.
alt3.gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.
alt4.gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.
gmail-smtp-in.l.google.com.

Showing SMTP servers to choose from
Found by looking up MX records for the send to domain

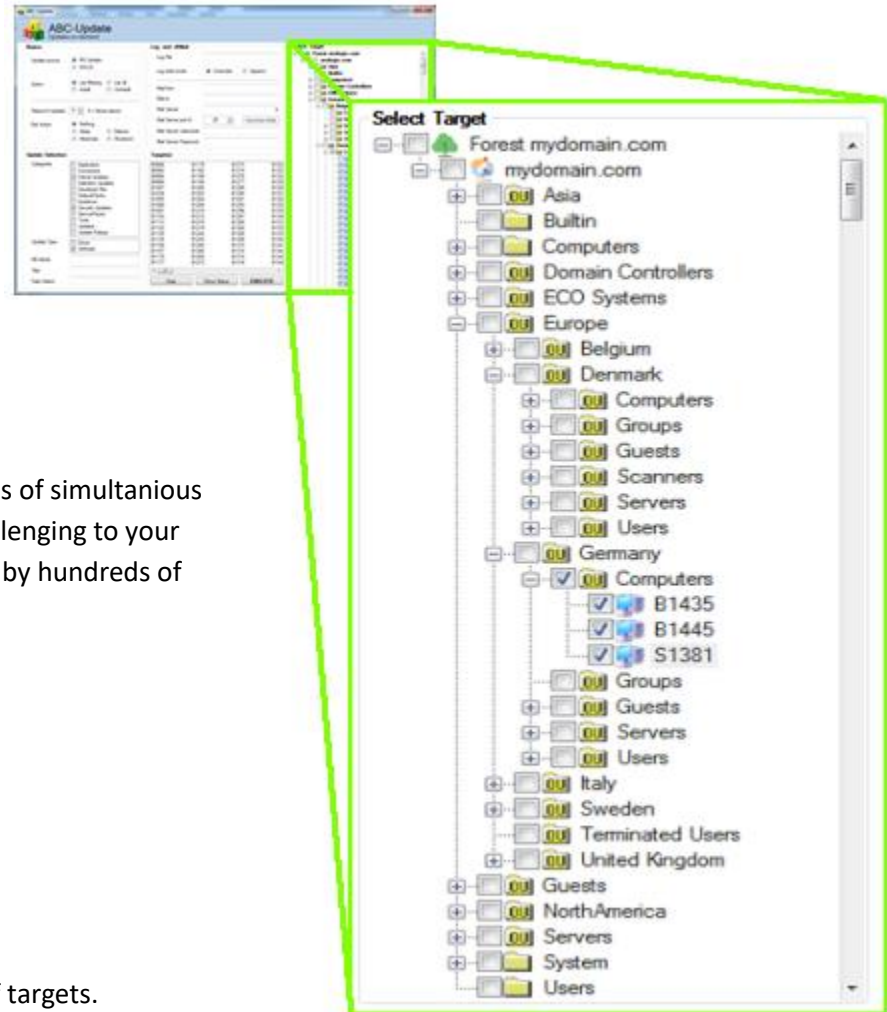
Select computers for update

Computers for updating can be selected from Windows AD, from files or typed directly.

This is your AD browser to select computers for updating.

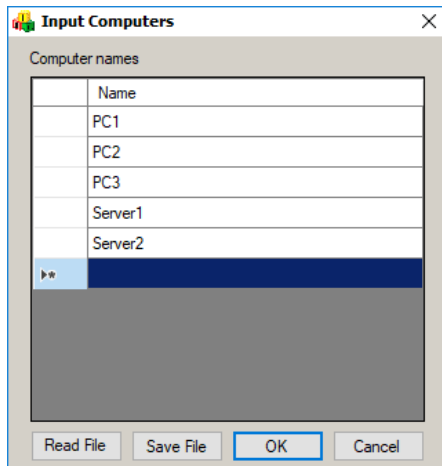
Clicking an OU which will select all computers in the OU, or even the entire domain can be selected.

While this might include quite many computers it is not a problem to ABC-Update who can easily handle hundreds of simultaneous remote update sessions but it might be challenging to your network or to the WSUS if it gets hammered by hundreds of simultaneous update operations.



Or click the “input” button to write name of targets.

Named targets can be saved to a file for later use, and you can read targets from files.



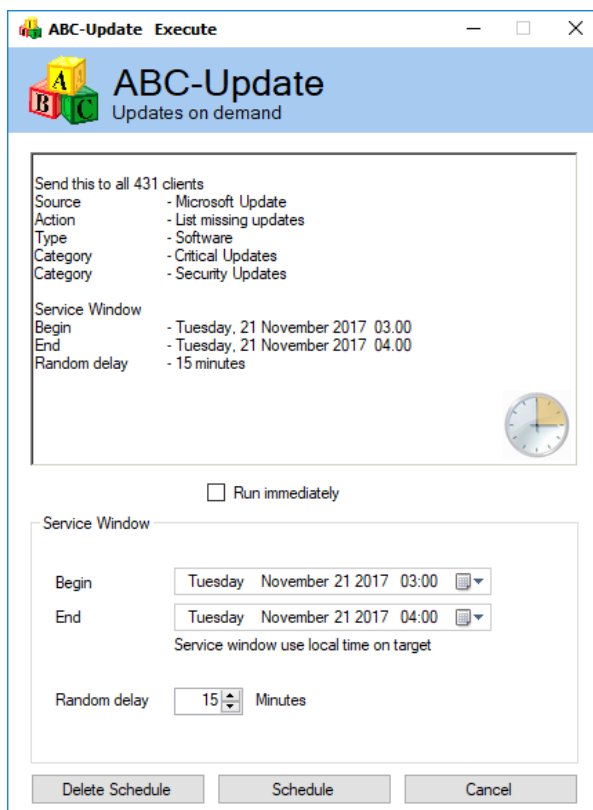
Schedule in a Service Window

For systems that you cannot patch or reboot during work hours it is practical to schedule updates and reboots during night time. Use ABC-Update to define a service window and kick off operations to only

run only in that timespan.

As sysadmins we are used to perform critical tasks on servers in the middle of the night, but why not stay in bed and let ABC-Update perform scheduled updates and reboots, and wake up in the morning to check your emails and logs.

Scheduled update tasks are not appropriate for every situation. Some updates or reboots might be too critical to be executed without manual oversight and you will always need to be prepared for something to go wrong. We all experienced servers not starting after a reboot due to some unpredicted error. It might be a nasty hardware error that only shows at the reboot, or an update might show unpredicted negative side effects. However, assuming you've decided that you want to run updates/reboots in the middle of the night, here's how you can do it with ABC-Update.



The scheduled tasks will run at the designated time.

Scheduling is only available in the GUI version, users of the command line version must schedule the execution themselves.

Delete Schedule

Button "Delete Schedule" is used to delete any saved schedules created by ABC-update at the selected machines.

Watching ABC-Update as it updates computers






When targets are selected and the program is kicked off to run at remote PCs then we see a new information window where the process of pinging, starting and executing at the remote locations can be followed. For each step it is easy to see what happens, and when clicking a machine name anywhere in the program we get access to a live log window for that machine where the complete process can be followed in further details.

Live log window from a machine searching for missing updates and installing

ABC-Update Status

ABC-Update
Updates on demand

Click the progressbars for details

Working  7
Finished  2
Status Fail  4
Missing Upd.  0
Need Reboot  0

ABC-Update process finished

| | Client | Time | Status |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
| ▶ | S1559 | 05-03-2017 08:17:18 | Finished |
| | S1560 | 05-03-2017 08:17:18 | Finished |

ABC-Update B1760

Log (B1760)

Admin Share C\$ Computer Manager Remote Command ... Remote Desktop
Reboot ... Shutdown ...

12/09/2021 13.42.35 Ping: Success <1 ms
12/09/2021 13.42.35 Started OK
12/09/2021 13.42.56 Working ...

Time : 12/09/2021 13.42.35
Computer Name : B1760
Windows version : Windows 10 Enterprise / 21H1
Reboot request : Yes

ABC-Update Version : 2.2.9.0
Windows Update Version: 10.0.19041.1151
Update API Version : 8.0

Action : Install
Max reboots : 0
Server Type : MS Update
Type : Driver, Software
Category : Critical Updates
Category : Definition Updates
Category : Feature Packs
Category : Security Updates
Category : Updates
Category : Update Rollups
Title Include: *
Query : IsHidden=0 AND IsInstalled=0
Input require: Include

12/09/2021 13.42.36 Connecting to WindowsUpdate

| Missing | 2021-08-10 12.00 | KB5004331 | REV.200 | 2021-08 Cumulative Up |
|---------|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| | | | | |

12/09/2021 13.42.43 Build download queue

12/09/2021 13.42.43 Downloading 001 updates...

| Download present | KB5004331 | 2021-08 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework |
|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Download Result: Succeeded | | |


Successful downloads
001 | KB5004331 | 2021-08 Cumulative Update for .NET Framework 3.5 and 4.8 for

12/09/2021 13.42.43 001 Updates will be installed now

12/09/2021 13.42.43 001/001 KB: 5004331 | 2021-08 Cumulative Update for .NET
Succeeded, Reboot needed

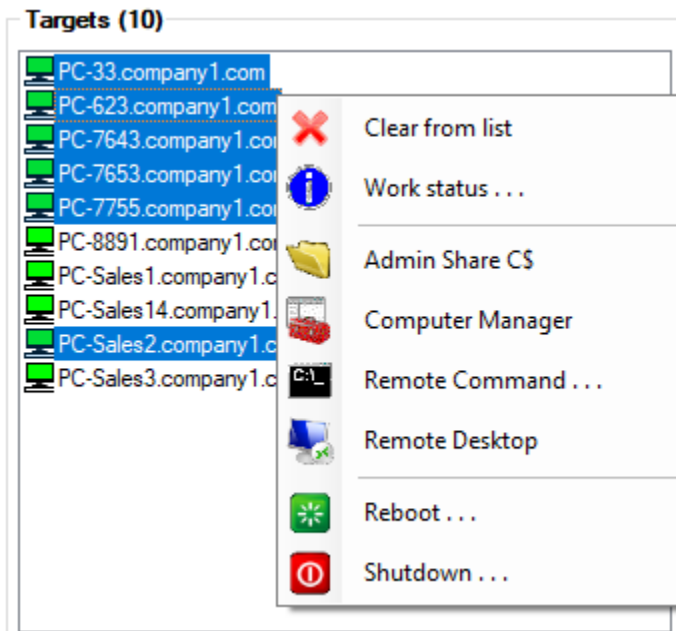
Successes : 1
Failures : 0
Reboot requests: 2

Finished - successful, reboot required

<  >

Right Click Tools

Everywhere one or more computers are displayed in the program, it is possible to right click selected computers and get a menu where remote actions that can be started against the remote targets.



The Command Line version

Run without parameters to list all missing relevant updates from MS Update
For syntax information use - ABC-Update.exe /?

```
ABC-Update.exe v2.5.5
List and Install updates from MSUpdate or from managed Server (WSUS)
Documentation: Http://abc-deploy.com/files/ABC-Update.Pdf
Copyright (C) ABC-Deploy - Http://abc-deploy.com

Usage:
ABC-Update.exe
Default is to list applicable but missing updates from MSUpdate

[/A:] Action
Default List
List | Download | Install | Uninstall
[/S:] ServerType
Default MSUpdate
WSUS | MSUpdate
Optional specify WSUS server /S:WSUS=http://myserver.mydomain.com:8530
[/R:] Reboot If Needed (Y/N) | Number
Default N
/R:Y to allow one reboot if needed same as /R:1
/R:number to allow "count" reboots. Example /R:3
[/Q:] Query String
Default IsHidden=0 AND IsInstalled=0
[/T:] Type
Default Type='Software'
Comma separated list of update types to include
/T:Driver or /T:Software or /T:Driver,Software
[/C:] Category(s)
Default include all categories
Comma separated list of Category Names to include
Valid Names:
Application
Connectors
CriticalUpdates
DefinitionUpdates
DeveloperKits
FeaturePacks
Guidance
SecurityUpdates
ServicePacks
Tools
UpdateRollups
Updates
Upgrades
[/K:] KB Article Number(s)
Default include all KB's
Comma separated list of KB Article numbers to include or exclude
Use a "-" sign in front of KB number to exclude an update
[/N:] Name / Title
Default include all titles
Comma separated list of Update Titles to include or exclude
Use a "-" sign in front of Update Title to exclude an update
* Anything
% One character
# One digit
[/D:] Date Interval of update
Default *,* Meaning all
Format: From-To
*,dd.mm.yyyy from anytime to dd.mm.yyyy
dd.mm.yyyy,Now from dd.mm.yyyy to Now
dd.mm.yyyy,-30 from dd.mm.yyyy to 30 days ago
[/Log:]
Filename for logging textual output
File is overwritten if already exist
[/Log_Append:]
Filename for logging textual output
Log data is appended to file
[/MailTo:]
eMail address to receive status when finished
Comma separated list accepted
[/MailFrom:]
eMail address to use as originator of status eMails
[/MailServ:]
Sending SMTP server name or IP address
Optional specify port number smtp.mydomain.com:25 (Port 25 is default)
[/MailUser:]
SMTP Username (If sending SMTP server require authentication)
[/MailPwd:]
SMTP Password (If sending SMTP server require authentication)
[/Exit:]
Exit Action
Default "Nothing"
Valid actions: Nothing | Logoff | Sleep | Hibernate | Restart | Shutdown

Examples:

ABC-Update.exe
Default is to list applicable but missing updates from MSUpdate

ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS
List applicable but missing updates from WSUS server

ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /R:N
Install all applicable but missing updates from WSUS Server
No reboot

ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /R:3 /C:SecurityUpdates
Install all applicable but missing SecurityUpdates from WSUS server
Reboot if needed - Max 3 times

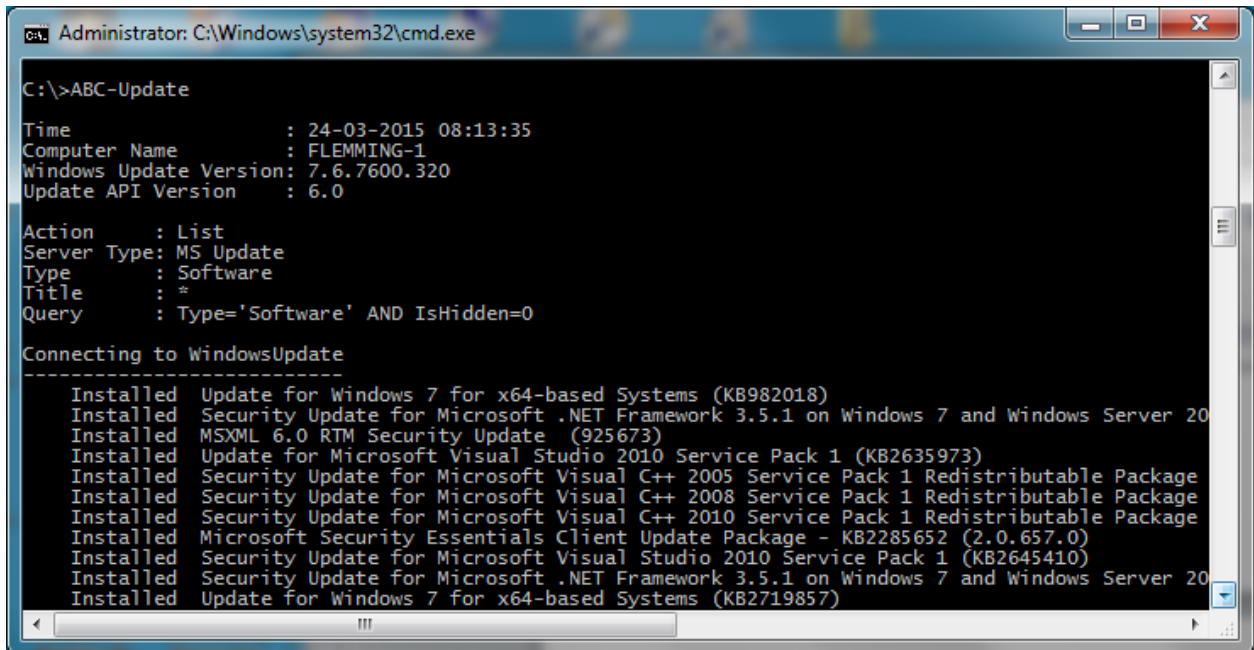
ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Uninstall /R:N /K:KB2585542,KB2631813
Uninstall two specific updates installed from WSUS Server
No reboot

ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /Q:IsHidden=0
List all applicable updates from WSUS server.
Both Installed and not installed updates
Valid actions: Nothing | Logoff | Sleep | Hibernate | Restart | Shutdown
```

Examples

List all missing relevant updates from MS Update

ABC-Update – Default is to list from MS Update



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\>ABC-Update

Time           : 24-03-2015 08:13:35
Computer Name  : FLEMMING-1
Windows Update Version: 7.6.7600.320
Update API Version : 6.0

Action       : List
Server Type  : MS Update
Type         : Software
Title        : *
Query        : Type='Software' AND IsHidden=0

Connecting to WindowsUpdate
-----
Installed Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB982018)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5.1 on Windows 7 and Windows Server 20
Installed MSXML 6.0 RTM Security Update (925673)
Installed Update for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Service Pack 1 (KB2635973)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Microsoft Security Essentials Client Update Package - KB2285652 (2.0.657.0)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Service Pack 1 (KB2645410)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5.1 on Windows 7 and Windows Server 20
Installed Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB2719857)
```

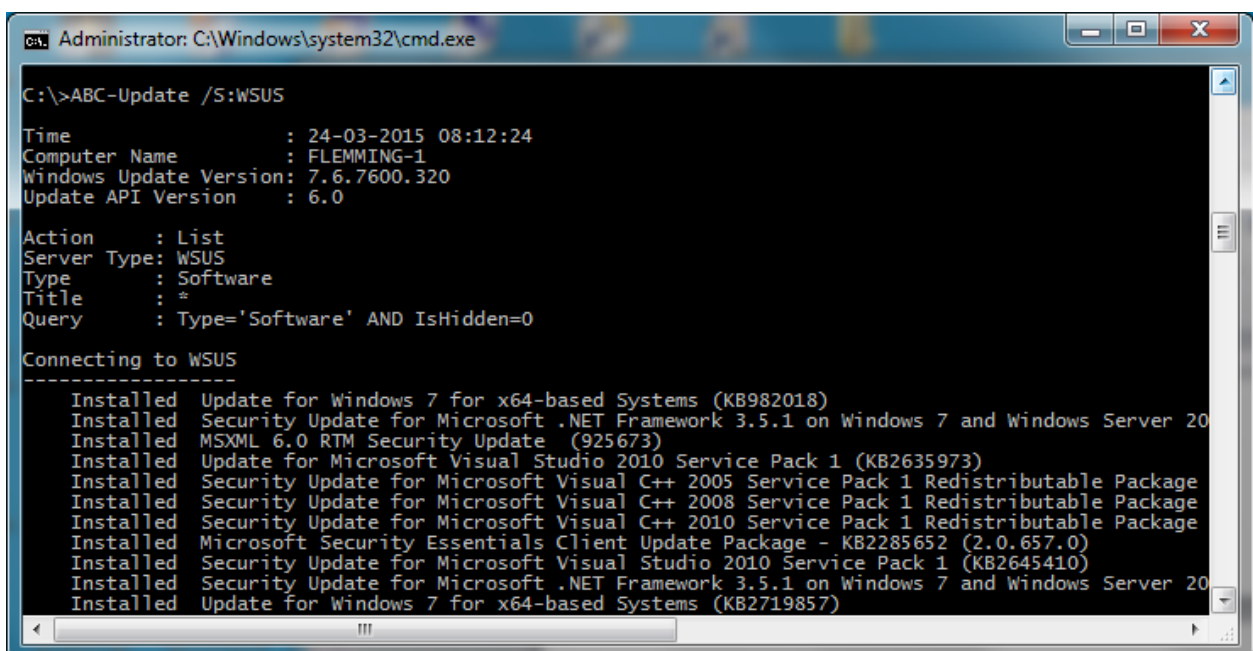
List all relevant missing updates from WSUS server

Output from: ABC-Update /S:WSUS

Optionally specify WSUS server to use if you want to override client default.

For example, enter `http://wsusServer[:port]`, where *wsusServer* is the name of the WSUS server, and *port* is the port number if the WSUS server uses a port other than port 80.

Port 8530 is the most used port for WSUS.



```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\>ABC-Update /S:WSUS

Time           : 24-03-2015 08:12:24
Computer Name  : FLEMMING-1
Windows Update Version: 7.6.7600.320
Update API Version : 6.0

Action       : List
Server Type  : WSUS
Type         : Software
Title        : *
Query        : Type='Software' AND IsHidden=0

Connecting to WSUS
-----
Installed Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB982018)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5.1 on Windows 7 and Windows Server 20
Installed MSXML 6.0 RTM Security Update (925673)
Installed Update for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Service Pack 1 (KB2635973)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Installed Microsoft Security Essentials Client Update Package - KB2285652 (2.0.657.0)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Service Pack 1 (KB2645410)
Installed Security Update for Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5.1 on Windows 7 and Windows Server 20
Installed Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB2719857)
```

List, download and install all missing updates of type Software from WSUS. No reboot
ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /Q:IsInstalled=0 /T:Software

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe

C:\>ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /Q:IsInstalled=0 /T:Software

Time           : 24-03-2015 08:16:29
Computer Name   : FLEMMING-1
Windows Update Version: 7.6.7600.320
Update API Version : 6.0

Action        : Install
Server Type:  WSUS
Type          : Software
Title         : *
Query         : Type='Software' AND IsInstalled=0

Connecting to WSUS
-----
Missing      Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package
Missing      Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3014406)
Missing      Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3019215)
Missing      Definition Update for Microsoft Security Essentials - KB2310138 (Definition 1.195.92.0)

Build collection of updates to download:
-----
Adding: Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package (KB2565
Adding: Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3014406)
Adding: Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3019215)
Adding: Definition Update for Microsoft Security Essentials - KB2310138 (Definition 1.195.92.0)

Downloading 004 updates...
-----
Download Result: Succeeded
Successful downloads:
001 Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package (KB2565
002 Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3014406)
003 Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3019215)
004 Definition Update for Microsoft Security Essentials - KB2310138 (Definition 1.195.92.0)

004 Updates will be installed now
-----
* Start : 001/004
  Title  : Security Update for Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 Service Pack 1 Redistributable Package (K
  Status : Succeeded, Reboot needed
* Start : 002/004
  Title  : Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3014406)
  Status : Succeeded, Reboot needed
* Start : 003/004
  Title  : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3019215)
  Status : Succeeded, Reboot needed
* Start : 004/004
  Title  : Definition Update for Microsoft Security Essentials - KB2310138 (Definition 1.195.92.0)
  Status : Succeeded

Status
-----
Successes      : 4
Failures       : 0
Reboot requests: 3

C:\>
```

List and install all missing Security Updates from WSUS. Reboot if needed
ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /R:Y /C:SecurityUpdates /Q:IsInstalled=0

```
Administrator: C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\>
C:\>ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:Install /R:Y /C:SecurityUpdates /Q: IsInstalled=0 AND isAssigned=1
Windows Update Version: 7.5.7601.17514
Update API Version: 6.0

Action      : Install
Server Type: WSUS
Query       : Type='Software' AND IsInstalled=0 AND isAssigned=1
Category    : SecurityUpdates

Connecting to WSUS
-----
Missing     Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2631813>
Missing     Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2585542>
Missing     Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
Missing     Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>

Build collection of updates to download:
-----
Adding: Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2631813>
Adding: Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2585542>
Adding: Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
Adding: Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>

Downloading updates...
-----
Download Result: Succeeded
Successful downloads:
1> Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2631813>
2> Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2585542>
3> Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
4> Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>

Updates will be installed now
-----
Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2631813>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed
Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2585542>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed
Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed
Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed

Booting in 30 sec.
C:\>
```

Uninstalling Updates

The /A:Uninstall option uninstalls updates.

For example, to uninstall KB2631813 and KB2631414

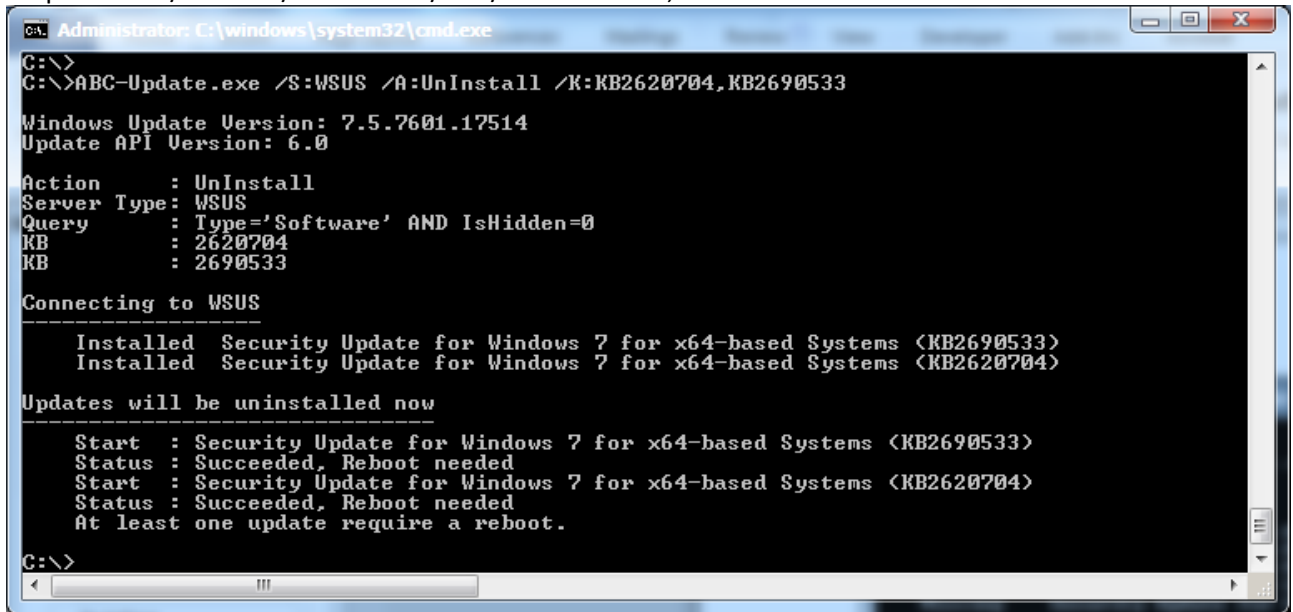
ABC-Update.exe /A:Uninstall /S :WSUS /K: KB2631813,KB2631414

Uninstallation only works with updates which have been installed from a WSUS. This is a limitation of MS Update. If you try to uninstall updates that is originally installed from MS Update it only gives the error code 0x80240028 - WU_E_UNINSTALL_NOT_ALLOWED

If you need to uninstall such updates use the Dism.Exe utility available from Windows 7

Uninstall two named updates. No reboot

ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:UnInstall /R:N /K: KB2620704,KB2690533



```
Administrator: C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe
C:\>
C:\>ABC-Update.exe /S:WSUS /A:UnInstall /K:KB2620704,KB2690533

Windows Update Version: 7.5.7601.17514
Update API Version: 6.0

Action      : UnInstall
Server Type : WSUS
Query       : Type='Software' AND IsHidden=0
KB          : 2620704
KB          : 2690533

Connecting to WSUS

Installed   Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
Installed   Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>

Updates will be uninstalled now

Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2690533>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed
Start      : Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems <KB2620704>
Status     : Succeeded, Reboot needed
At least one update require a reboot.

C:\>
```

Filter options

Filtering by Category

Updates are grouped into Categories, and it is possible to filter by Category. And we can filter on these categories with the /C: switch

The switch accept a comma separated list of categories

Like: ABC-Update.exe /C: FeaturePacks, SecurityUpdates, UpdateRollups

Available categories are:

- Application
- Connectors
- CriticalUpdates
- DefinitionUpdates
- DeveloperKits
- FeaturePacks
- Guidance
- SecurityUpdates
- ServicePacks
- Tools
- UpdateRollups
- Updates
- Upgrades

Filtering by KB number

Each update has a number in the MS Knowledge Base library. And we can filter on these numbers with the /K: switch

The switch accept a comma separated list of KB numbers

Like: ABC-Update.exe /K: KB2631813,KB2231652,KB2243533

Use a "-" sign in front of a KB number to exclude updates with this KB number

Like: ABC-Update.exe /K:- KB2631813,KB2231652,KB2243533

Filtering by Type

Updates comes from Microsoft as two types, "Software" or "Driver"

The /T: switch determines which type you will be working with. Default is "Software"

The switch accept a comma separated list of update types

Like: ABC-Update.exe /T: Software,Driver

Filtering by Name / Title

Updates can be selected from their title.

Use the /N: switch to specify a pattern to search for.

Difference between uppercase and lowercase characters are ignored.

* Matches anything

% Matches one character

Matches one digit

The switch accept a comma separated list

Like: ABC-Update.exe /N: *.NET*,*Microsoft Office*2010*

Use a "-" sign in front of a title pattern to exclude updates with this title match

Like: ABC-Update.exe /N: *.NET*,-*Microsoft Office*2010*

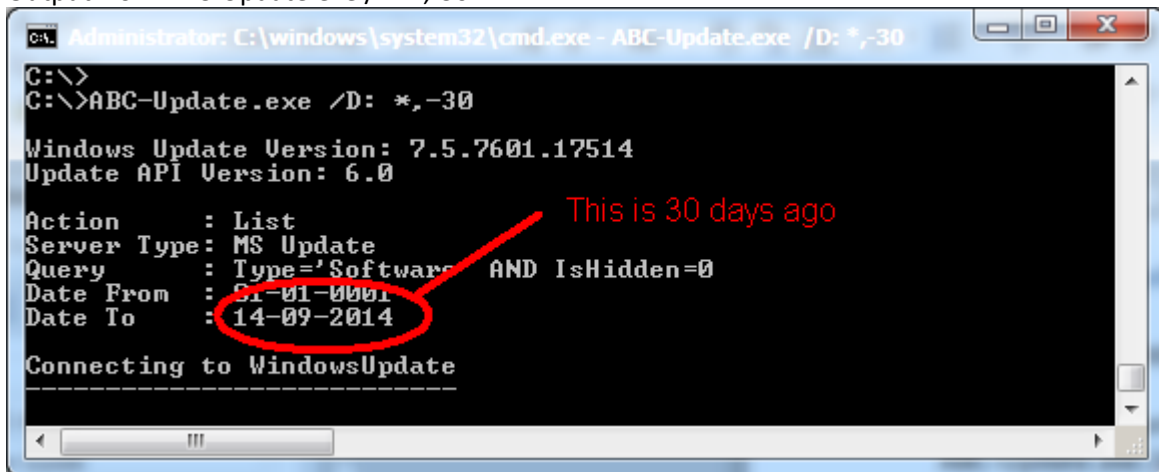
Filtering by Date

Some of us do not want to install the latest updates. With ABC-Update you can select updates based on a date interval. Like for instance "all updates more than 30 days old"

Controlled by the /D: switch

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| [/D:] Date Interval of update | |
| Format: From-To | |
| Default *,* | Meaning all |
| *,dd.mm.yyyy | from anytime to dd.mm.yyyy |
| dd.mm.yyyy,Now | from dd.mm.yyyy to Now |
| dd.mm.yyyy,-30 | from dd.mm.yyyy to 30 days ago |

Output from ABC-Update.exe /D: *,-30



```
Administrator: C:\windows\system32\cmd.exe - ABC-Update.exe /D: *,-30
C:\>
C:\>ABC-Update.exe /D: *,-30

Windows Update Version: 7.5.7601.17514
Update API Version: 6.0

Action       : List
Server Type  : MS Update
Query        : Type='Software' AND IsHidden=0
Date From    : 01-01-0001
Date To      : 14-09-2014

Connecting to WindowsUpdate
```

Filtering by query string

ABC-Update form and send queries to the relevant update server to select the collection of updates that will be listed, installed, or uninstalled

The available switches to select updates should cover most needs so that you will not need to learn about formatting query strings, but you have the freedom to define the query string yourself if you want.

One example of a query string matching what MS describes as "Express Updates" are:
/Q:"Type=Software AND isHidden=0 and isInstalled=0 and IsAssigned=1"

For more information about formatting queries please visit:

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa386526%28VS.85%29.aspx>

Controlling reboots and reboot loops

Use the /R: switch to control reboots after installations or uninstalls

/R:N This is the default. No Reboots

/R:Y to reboot one time if any of the installations or uninstalls are requesting this

/R:count ie. /R:3

Example:

ABC-Update.exe /A:Install /R:3

This will install updates and reboot if needed by any of the installations. The loop will have a maximum of 3 reboots

After each successful update and reboot, ABC-Update.exe start again and continue execution, until max reboot count is reached, or all updates are installed.

Logging

ABC-Update can log all activity to a file. Logging also works in the cases where you use ABC-Update to control a reboot loop. Then the log file will have data from all iterations.

/Log:

Filename for logging textual output

File is overwritten if already exist

/Log_Append:

Filename for logging textual output

Log data is appended to file if it exist

Examples:

ABC-Update.exe /A:Install /Log: C:\Update.Log

Environment variables can also be used

ABC-Update.exe /A:Install /Log: %Temp%\Update_%ComputerName%.Log

eMail status

ABC-Update can send status eMails when finished.

[/MailTo:]

eMail address to receive status when finished

Comma separated list accepted

[/MailFrom:]

eMail address to use as originator of status eMails

[/MailServ:]

Sending SMTP server name or IP address

Optional specify port number smtp.mydomain.com:25 (Port 25 is default)

[/MailUser:]

SMTP Username (If sending SMTP server require authentication)

[/MailPwd:]

SMTP Password (If sending SMTP server require authentication)

eMail example

ABC-Update System: PC-1476

Time : 14-08-2016 07:50:12
Computer Name : PC-1476
Windows Update Version: 7.6.7601.23435
Update API Version : 6.0

Action : install
Max reboots : 3
Server Type : MS Update
Type : Software
Title Include: *
Query : Type='Software' AND IsHidden=0 AND IsInstalled=0

Connecting to WindowsUpdate

Missing | 2014-03-21 12:00 | KB2912390 | REV.204 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems
Missing | 2015-03-20 12:00 | KB3035132 | REV.201 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems
Missing | 2015-03-20 12:00 | KB3035126 | REV.201 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems

Build download queue

Adding | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB2912390)
Adding | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035132)
Adding | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035126)

Downloading 007 updates...

Download Result: Succeeded

001 Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB2912390)
002 Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035132)
003 Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035126)

007 Updates will be installed now

* Start | 001/007 | KB: 2912390 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB2912390)
Status | Succeeded
* Start | 002/007 | KB: 3035132 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035132)
Status | Succeeded, Reboot needed
* Start | 003/007 | KB: 3035126 | Security Update for Windows 7 for x64-based Systems (KB3035126)
Status | Succeeded, Reboot needed

Status

Successes : 3

Failures : 0

Reboot requests: 2

Booting in 30 sec. at 14-08-2016 08:29:51

Exit actions

When the program has finished (Maybe after a series of reboots) you can control what the ABC-Update tool should do next.

/Exit:

Default "Nothing"

Valid actions: Nothing | Logoff | Sleep | Hibernate | Restart | Shutdown

Example:

ABC-Update.exe /A:Install /R:3 /Exit: Sleep

Return Codes

When the program exits it sets one of these return codes.

- 0: successful, no reboot required
- 1: successful, reboot required
- 2: at least one error occurred, no reboot required
- 3: at least one error occurred, reboot required
- 11: no updates downloaded
- 12: error querying MS Update
- 13: error querying managed server
- 20: Syntax Error
- 50: reboot/shutdown initialized successful
- 51: Reboot cycle successfully initiated
- 60: No privileges to install updates

Driver updates

DELL, HP, Lenovo and the other big vendors have started to distribute their driver packages through Microsoft Update, and it is therefore possible to use ABC-Update to distribute these driver packages, and to keep them updated also.

Any update you want to distribute automatically and unattended cannot rely on user input, and default from ABC-Update is to avoid updates that are marked with the attribute "Might require user input" unless you ask for this specifically.

For drivers, it so happens that this attribute is set by Microsoft on almost all packages, possibly as a precaution because drivers are from 3rd party vendors and outside MS control. Vendors know about the need to run unattended, and driver packages are generally independent of user input. But a little more testing is in its place with drivers.

Using the GUI version you should simply select "Update Type" = "Drivers", and then ABC-Update will accept all the driver packages automatically.

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Update Type | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Driver |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Software |

If you use the command line version you must specifically accept updates that are marked to maybe require user input with the /input:Include parameter.

```
ABC-Update.exe /A:install /Type:Driver /Input:Include
```

Windows 10 Feature Upgrades

These upgrades are technically new versions of the OS, which Microsoft releases every spring (18-month support) and every fall (30-month support).

Prior to introducing Windows 10, Microsoft would release a new Windows operating system about every 3 years. A new operating system brought new feature sets and interface layouts, but now with Windows 10, the operating system evolves over time ensuring that end users aren't thrown into a new world, but rather slowly adapt to these new changes.

Because of the enormous number of machines that receive Windows updates, Microsoft "throttles" update delivery to manage the load on its servers. As a result, it may take weeks or even months for a feature update to be offered to all of the hundreds of millions of devices, and you as an IT administrator really do not know when users will be hit by the upgrade process which will take hours and also bring new features and looks that users should be informed about beforehand.

With ABC-Update you can schedule Windows 10 feature upgrade deployment to non-production hours and reduce downtime, and you can decide when you want these upgrades. This reduces unproductive downtime and let you inform users well in advance.

Here is where you can select to upgrade to the latest available Windows 10 in ABC-Update, and it is recommended that you also select "Critical Updates" and "Security Updates" because there might be patches to the new Windows 10 version that should be applied after the OS upgrade.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Update Selection". On the left, under "Categories", there are several checkboxes: Application, Connectors, Critical Updates (checked), Definition Updates (checked), Developer Kits, FeaturePacks, Guidance, Security Updates (checked), ServicePacks, Tools, Updates, Update Rollups (checked), and Win10 Feature Upgrades (checked and highlighted in blue). Below this, under "Update Type", there are checkboxes for Driver and Software (checked). At the bottom, there are text input fields for "KB Article", "Title", and "Date Select".

How Windows 10 Upgrades are implemented in ABC-Update

The process will download and run an Updater from Microsoft called "Windows 10 Update Assistant". This is a 2 Mbyte download that will run unattended in the background until a reboot is required.

The Upgrade process will then download whatever is needed for that particular machine to upgrade it's OS, and that might be anything between a few hundred Mbytes and up to 3 Gbytes, all depending on the status of the receiving machine, and therefore it is recommended to spread upgrades over a time period, which ABC-Update can also do when you schedule for later execution in a service window.

The Windows 10 Update Assistant is automatically uninstalled when the upgrade finish.

When used together with ABC-Deploy

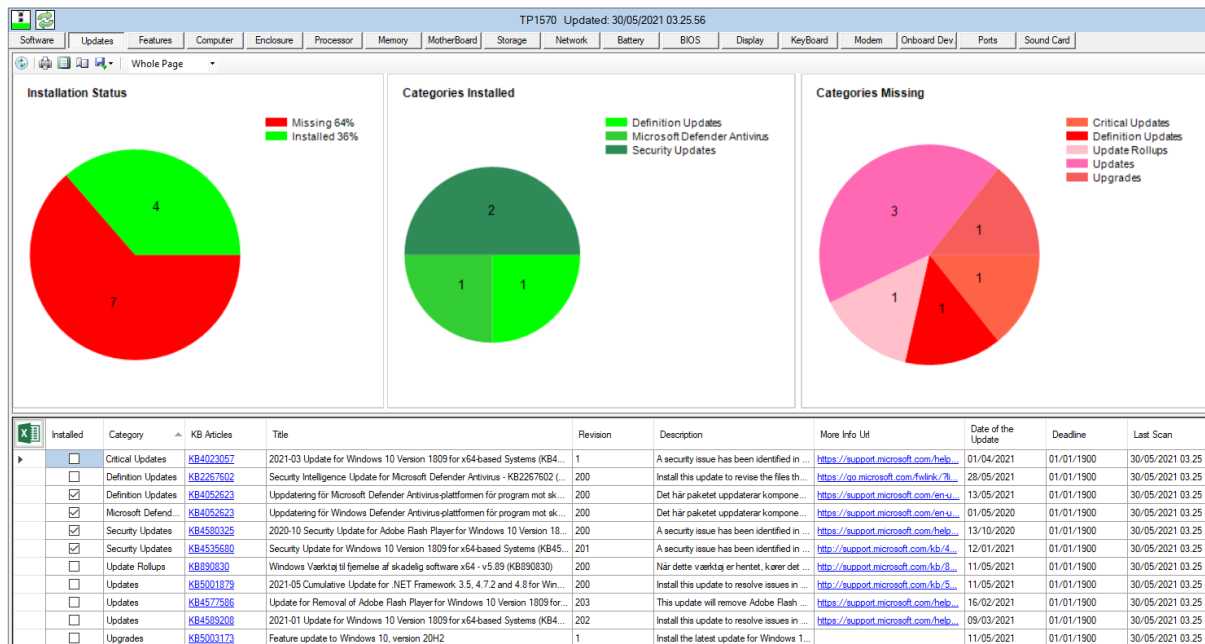
ABC-Update also has a sister tool named [ABC-Deploy](#)

It is a software deployment and inventory tool for Windows and use a policy-driven approach to distribute software or any other scriptable tasks to Windows endpoints. And [ABC-Deploy](#) is also packed with inventory features and are capable of reporting on patches installed or missing.

[ABC-Deploy](#) is a commercial tool for Windows AD shops scaling to thousands of computers, and it is completely free with all pro features for smaller networks.

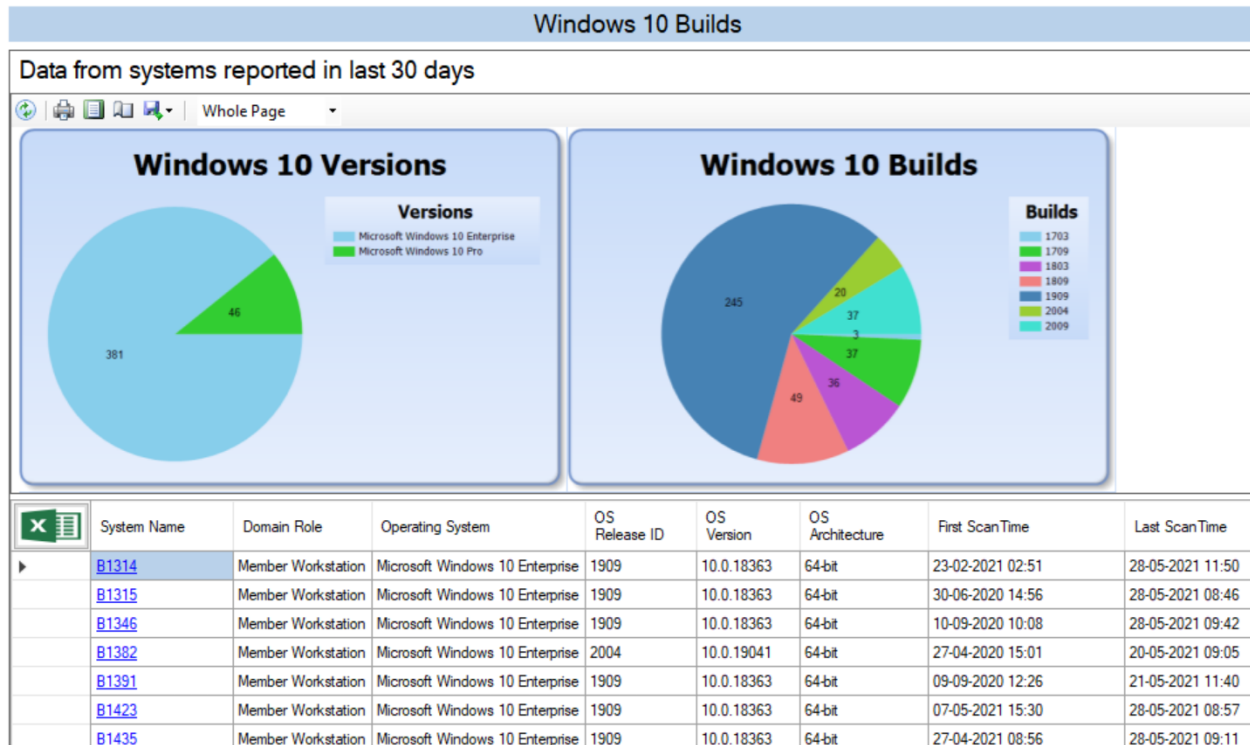
Compare versions in [this table](#).

Where pc's also have the agent from ABC-Deploy installed we deliver all data collected to the SQL Database behind ABC-Deploy. And all this data about updates are then used inside ABC-Deploy for reporting with options to drill down in the data.



ABC-Deploy will also give you visibility into which Windows 10 versions you have. Again with drill down capabilities, and option to export all data to excel for further investigation.

And remember that you can always use ABC-Update to push unattended Windows 10 feature Upgrades over the network, and that these upgrades can be scheduled for off hours.



Data as exported to MS Excel

ABC-5ed3cbd4-e5d6-476e-9439-32e3aa3f4f4c.xml - Excel

| System Name | Domain Role | Operating System | OS Release ID | OS Version | OS Architecture | First ScanTime |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| B1314 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 23-02-2021 02:51 |
| B1315 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 30-06-2020 14:56 |
| B1346 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 10-09-2020 10:08 |
| B1382 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 2004 | 10.0.19041 | 64-bit | 27-04-2020 15:01 |
| B1391 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 09-09-2020 12:26 |
| B1423 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 07-05-2021 15:30 |
| B1435 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1909 | 10.0.18363 | 64-bit | 27-04-2021 08:56 |
| B1445 | Member Workstation | Microsoft Windows 10 Enterprise | 1809 | 10.0.17763 | 64-bit | 25-09-2020 10:08 |

[Click to download ABC-Deploy](#)