

IBM Servers and Storage Demos IBM Director Update Manager

IBM Director Update Manager

0:00

The new Update Manager in IBM Director provides an easier way to keep systems up to date with the latest drivers, BIOS and firmware. It gives an administrator the tools to efficiently update the software required to keep a server running properly.

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The situation we'll examine here is an administrator responsible for keeping a farm of web servers up to date. We know there is a scheduled maintenance window for updating the servers over the weekend.

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Our first step is to create a profile to specify for which updates we would like to search. Here we create a profile called Web Servers.

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Instead of picking updates individually, which can be complex and time consuming, we instead choose to download a bundle of updates for a specific server and operating system.

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We specify which server and operating system are applicable and once we review a summary of our choices and finish, the profile is created and the downloading of our updates will occur.

1:00

This downloading can be done at the convenience of the administrator - immediately, scheduled for a later date and time, or scheduled to occur on a regular basis. Administrators can be notified when new updates are received, and since the updates are stored locally, we'll be ready with the latest updates whenever we decide to do maintenance.

Now we need to decide which updates we want to distribute, and then get them out there on our servers.

1:25

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If we look at the profile we just created, we see a list of all available updates for the server and operating system we selected. Since we're interested in having all the latest and greatest, we'll choose them all to compare against our current servers using the Software Health Check function in Update Manager.

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Software Health Check compares the list of available updates in our profile with the current software installed on the systems. A report is provided telling us what systems need which updates. And it's very system specific – not all servers need the same updates. This process is much easier than trying to manually determine what each system needs.

2:00

Now we need to distribute these updates out to our servers. Update Manager allows us to create a Software Distribution Package for our updates. It builds the package and lets us know when the package is complete. Think of the time saved here without having to work with a separate wizard to build the package yourself.

2:27

The Software Distribution Package is built and ready to be distributed to our systems. IBM Director's Software Distribution task allows us to easily identify the update package and begin the distribution process. Again, we can use the Scheduler to work at our convenience - we want to schedule this distribution for the Web Servers maintenance window over the weekend. IBM Director Scheduler is a powerful tool allowing management tasks to be completed at a time best for the administrator.

3:02

Update Manager is a new and easy to use capability in IBM Director which will help simplify the task of keeping systems up to date. It will allow you to get updates automatically at scheduled intervals, check the health of system software and report system status, create software-distribution packages containing updates, and deploy updates to remote System x and BladeCenter servers.

End

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