



IT

READY FOR THE VULNERABILITY PATCH WAVE?

Prepare for more discoveries, more updates and shorter response windows



YOU CANNOT PATCH SYSTEMS YOU DO NOT KNOW EXIST

ASSETS	TESTING
☐ Record every device	☐ Maintain test devices
☐ Record operating systems and installed software	☐ Test critical applications before production
☐ Record network equipment	☐ Check authentication after updates
☐ Record cloud services and SaaS	☐ Check remote access after updates
☐ Assign an owner to every asset	☐ Confirm rollback is possible
EXPOSURE	DEPLOYMENT
☐ Identify internet-facing systems	☐ Define emergency timescales (active exploitation)
☐ Identify remote-access services	☐ Schedule routine update cycles
☐ Identify business-critical systems	☐ Cover remote and home-working devices
☐ Record systems holding sensitive data	☐ Report and investigate failed updates
☐	☐ Verify installed versions after deployment
UPDATES	EXCEPTIONS
☐ Enable managed operating-system updates	☐ Document all unpatched systems
☐ Enable browser updates	☐ Identify a risk owner
☐ Patch third-party applications	☐ Apply compensating controls
☐ Review firmware	☐ Set a target resolution date
☐ Monitor vendor security advisories	
PRIORITISATION	SUPPORT
☐ Check active exploitation first	☐ Replace unsupported software and firmware
☐ Check system exposure and criticality	☐ Confirm supplier patch responsibilities
☐ Check severity and available mitigations	☐ Test backups and verify restores
☐ Use business context alongside CVSS	☐ Review the process regularly

EXAMPLE PATCH TARGETS (not universal rules — adjust to your risks and obligations)

Emergency	Active exploitation confirmed or critical internet-facing exposure	24–48 hours where safely possible
High Priority	Serious vulnerability with realistic exposure	Within 7 days
Standard	Important but lower immediate exploitation risk	Within 14 days or normal cycle
Lower Risk	Limited impact or strongly mitigated	Within 30 days

A VULNERABILITY SCANNER CREATES A LIST. A VULNERABILITY-MANAGEMENT PROCESS CREATES ACTION.



