

ITS Technical Notes

Iowa State University Windows Enterprise Announcement

April 10, 2007 – Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1 and WSUS

This is an IMPORTANT advisement on a problem Microsoft is having with Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1 and its distribution via update services (both Microsoft's "Windows Update" services and our Enterprise WSUS server).

The Problem

Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1 is a very large and complex update that will not install via update services on most systems. It does not matter whether you get the update via Microsoft "Windows Update" services or WSUS. Typically what happens is a system will download the update file, fail "postprocessing" (with an error in the WindowsUpdate.log file indicating "DnldMgr WARNING: File failed postprocessing, error = 800b0003"), followed by the system trying to download the update again (repeatedly). This problem causes most systems to generate a large load on the Enterprise WSUS server (degrading this critical service for other updates).

Iowa State IT Services has been working with Microsoft support on this problem, with no resolution to date. Microsoft attempted repairs and re-released this update (rev 101) on April 4, 2007 but it has not fixed the problem. Microsoft acknowledges these issues in the following Knowledge Base article:

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/928957>

Enterprise WSUS Services Changes

The load this update places on the Enterprise WSUS server is causing ITS to make "non-standard" approval changes for Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1.

Approval for this update on the Enterprise WSUS server has been changed from "Install" (the update is automatically installed) to "Detect" (the update is detected for installation, but not automatically downloaded and installed). This setting will allow IT administrators to see that the update is required. However, installing the update via update services will not work any better than before. The fact that this update is eligible for download/install should be used simply as a flag that a "manual install" (see below) is required.

In the event Microsoft manages to fix this service pack so that it does correctly install on most systems via WSUS, we will re-evaluate this approval setting and announce any changes.

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Recommended Action on Your Part

1. Determine if your system has Visual Studio 2005 components installed. This can include some components of Microsoft SQL services.
2. If you are configured to get updates from the Enterprise WSUS service (sus.iastate.edu), check to see if "Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1" is available for download and install. DO NOT select the update for installation via WSUS - you must manually install.
3. Manually install Visual Studio 2005 Service Pack 1 from the following location:

<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/vstudio/bb265237.aspx>

(See the links near the bottom going to the "Microsoft Download Center")