

ITS Technical Notes

Windows Enterprise Announcement Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 April 12, 2005

AIT will approve Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 on the Enterprise "SUS" server May 11, 2005 (the Wednesday after finals week for the current session).

Microsoft has released Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 on March 31, 2005. This service pack was received on the Enterprise "SUS" server (sus.iastate.edu) but was NOT approved for immediate distribution. Departmental IT admins often run software on Windows Server 2003 from third party vendors for specialized application servers. These vendors need time to test the released version of the SP, a process that may take weeks or months. AIT did not want to push out an update that has a probability of breaking application servers configured to automatically install updates.

If you manage Windows Server 2003 systems you should do the following:

1. Check that status of automatic updates on your Windows Server 2003 servers. Understand if updates will be automatically downloaded and installed on your systems. "Notify me ..." is probably they best setting for servers, giving you time to test service packs before they are installed.
2. Verify whether or not you are running non-Microsoft application software on your Windows Server 2003 application servers. If so, check with your software vendor immediately to see if it is certified to run correctly after the installation of Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1. Work with your vendor.
3. Next, test your server software on a test system with Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1. Familiarize yourself with the new security interfaces and settings.
4. Finally, install Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 on your production servers.

The same steps should be followed if you do not use the Enterprise SUS server (and use Microsoft's Windows Update servers). Microsoft will approve this same service pack for release via Windows Update in July.

IMPORTANT – Dell Servers

We have become aware that Dell servers running Windows Server 2003 and Dell OpenManage may experience problems when Service Pack 1 has been installed. Dell is working on an updated version of OpenManage that should be installed first. Refer to:

<http://www.dell.com/downloads/global/power/ps2q05-20050113-Callaway.pdf>

<http://support.dell.com/support/topics/global.aspx/support/kb/en/document?dn=1092292&c=us&l=en&s=gen&cs=>