Software product lifecycles have become shorter. In addition to new functionality, any security holes must also be safely identified and quickly closed. Transparent detection and installation of updates is indispensable but should nevertheless be efficient and support the usual IT process instead of slowing it down. Columbus UpdateManagement ensures efficient protection and maintenance of your deployed software portfolio.

Comprehensive product support
Microsoft Windows and Office are the most well-known products requiring maintenance. Other manufacturers such as Adobe, Mozilla or Oracle also rework their products on a regular basis and they too provide frequent updates. Columbus UpdateManagement maintains and protects not only all Microsoft products, server and client based, but also over 40 products from a wide variety of third-party vendors.

Distribute updates without public source
Some manufacturers require registration with a user account to obtain installation files, others only allow manual downloads. For these types of products, the files for an update cannot be directly downloaded by Columbus UpdateManagement (for example, Irfanview, OpenOffice, FileZilla, and others). To ensure the maintenance of these products is equally convenient and secure, the installation files for these products can be added to the Columbus BlockStore via a GUI by the administrator for STUB updates.

Value and benefits

1. Flexible and adaptable: An unlimited grouping of updates allows complex release scenarios. Depending on the configuration, it is possible to have different action times for detection, provision and installation of updates.

2. Integrated solution: All necessary steps are executed within the console. Product support is seamlessly and comprehensively ensured from initial deployment to daily operation.

3. Secure processes: Roles and privileges for administrators allow proper support of different clients. The integrity of update files is ensured via the process of deduplicating files into individual blocks.

4. Information: Administrators are informed of new releases to be deployed and can decide whether to download, ignore, or exclude updates.

5. Ongoing addition: In addition to the support of all Microsoft products, the constantly expanded third-party catalog offers an up-date value-added with more than 40 other products

6. Forensic search: Identify devices on which one or more complex chaining updates are missing and thus present a security risk to the environment.
Everything in a unified overview
Columbus UpdateManagement provides all the important information for a single computer or entire branch offices from a single source, regardless of whether the target clients are members of different Active Directory domains (also without domain trusts) or workgroups, it does not matter. The comprehensive target configurations are centrally adjustable and offer corresponding support for each production environment.

Added value through integration
Columbus UpdateManagement seamlessly integrates with Columbus OS Deploy and SW-Deploy, providing continuous value from initial deployments to daily operations. Instead of several agents installed on a computer, detection of installation and removal of updates is integrated into the Columbus Management client. For the administrator, configuration control over updating action behavior is clearly simplified, inclusive of notifications or interactions with the end user.

Detailed release processes or automated execution
Depending on the target environment, such as test environments, data centers, or production computers, and platforms where supporting servers require increased attention, different releases of individual updates are possible. If it is already known that an update is not suitable for certain computer groups, that group of servers can be ignored from the central console location. The administrator can manually make a decision about the distribution per computer.

Timely control of detection, deployment and installation time
While computers can be detected and installed during office hours during the day, Columbus UpdateManagement also allows time-delayed actions and can be defined for different environments. For servers, for example, detection can be done in the morning, provisioning of the necessary files in the evening, and actual installation of the files over the weekend.

Columbus UpdateManagement – Details
- Windows computer well maintained *
  - Windows XP and Windows 7 to Windows 10

- Space-saving and network-friendly
  - Deduplicated data storage in Columbus BlockStore
  - Distribution via Columbus Shareless
  - Also usable without access to files (SSL secure TCP transmission)

- Independent and versatile
  - Updates for third party as well as Microsoft products
  - Without WSUS, Columbus Infrastructure can also be used in offline environments.
  - No prerequisite domain structure
  - Forensic search for vulnerable computers

* Windows XP, Vista and Server 2008 without uninstalling updates.
Choices for today’s users

The IT department is responsible for the maintenance of the software portfolio and is performed by administrators. Nevertheless, users want to decide independently about the time of update installations and to be asked before system reboots. Columbus UpdateManagement provides the administrator with various options to allow different privileges depending on user groups: request permission from the user prior to installation, allow update deferment only up to a defined number of times, and allow the user to move an installation to the next shutdown. The system reboot can also be set so that users can select the appropriate time.

Space-saving and network-friendly

The central data storage is deduplicating, meaning that instead of storing complete files, files are split into blocks and multiple duplicate blocks are not stored to save storage space. The distribution of updates is based on our Columbus Shareless technology: only blocks which target computers do not have are transferred. For locally separated environments, SiteServer can be set up to receive data on a schedule from its master. Manual copying and matching of data depots is no longer required. For the computer with Columbus Management Client installed, it does not matter where it is in your company’s hierarchy, it finds its Columbus blockstore via DNS alias automatically.

System Requirements

Infrastructure
- Server 2008 SP2 (32/64-bit), Server 2016 (recommended)
- Physical or virtualized

Database
- MS SQL Server 2014, 2016 (Express, Standard, Enterprise)
- SQL user authentication

Management client
- Windows XP SP3 to Windows 10 (32/64-bit)
- Server 2003 R2 to Server 2016

*The release times can be set differently depending on the organizational structure of computers. This also accommodates last-optimized scenarios for servers in datacenter or virtualized environments.
Think global – act local

The brainwaregroup is located in Switzerland and Germany, but at home in Europe and the world. The owner-managed enterprise expanded very early to countries such as Japan and South Africa to accompany the rapid globalization of its customers. These work in industry and trade, in financial economy or in the public area and therefore act locally as well as internationally.

As a strong partner with international contacts and local focus, the brainwaregroup offers in products and consulting its competence in IT management, from software distribution up to asset, license and contract management. We will always make the knowledge available for technical departments and management, to make sure that decisions are based on facts and actions.