AN-041 CHARON-VAX applying Windows Patches

Author:	Miller Donaldson	Date:	30 January 2006

Applies to: CHARON-VAX products for the Windows platform

CHARON-VAX testing

Software Resources International test CHARON-VAX products with the latest kits available from Microsoft with all critical patches applied at the time of product build.

CHARON-VAX users

By the time users install CHARON-VAX, Microsoft may have provided some further critical updates that Software Resources International did not use in testing. So already at time of installation there is a risk to implement on a level that Software Resources International has not tested. Despite this risk Software Resources International still recommend staying up to date with Microsoft critical updates where possible, but also recommend disabling as many services as possible in line with CHARON-VAX Application Note 33 and planning such updates in a controlled manner.

Impact on CHARON-VAX support

GOLD or Platinum Support customers will be supported provided they are on one of the recommended Operating Systems whether or not they have applied the latest updates. Solutions to problems may include recommendations to apply or not to apply certain updates from Microsoft.

Risks

As with all changes, recommending that customers stay up to date with Microsoft patches involves a risk. In any case many Microsoft critical updates involve security alerts that CHARON-VAX can generally be protected from, (see Application Note 35). Ideally only apply Microsoft updates infrequently and probably in conjunction with some other planned maintenance so that the change impact is managed in a coordinated fashion rather than continuously subjecting production platforms to changes that the CHARON-VAX system managers did not request and may have difficulty controlling.

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