

Informatik–Kolloquium WS 2025/26

Montag, 27.10.25, 16.15 Uhr, Raum 12.150, Martensstr.3

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Security Patching Practices in Large Enterprise Environments under Regulatory Expectations

Many enterprises struggle to apply security patches in time to contain the risk of security breaches. Delays can be attributed to technical dependencies, outdated asset inventories, and issues of scale. Governments have started pursuing a strategy of mandating, through regulation, the patching of a highly selective set of severe vulnerabilities under very strict deadlines.

In this talk, I will speak about studies involving a range of organizations operating under regulatory expectations for patching vulnerabilities. This includes analysis of patching ticket-system entries in a large organization over seven years, covering 944 CVEs, and interviews with nine professionals involved in managing patches. Here we found that completing the patching process in 48 hours - a recommended industry best practice - was achieved in just 16.2% of cases. Overall, the strategy of regulatory deadlines for a highly selective set of priority vulnerabilities is associated with much faster enterprise patching; the deadlines are routinely missed, because the companies need to trade off realism versus exposure.

Kontakt:

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