GOOD IDEAS

CAN'T PATCH? TIME TO PITCH

Unpatched hardware and software are vulnerable to attacks.

Outside of phishing attacks, exploited vulnerability attacks are the fastest-growing type of attack because it's an easy way for threat actors to gain access. You're essentially unlocking a door for hackers to walk right in.

This attack vector necessitates the need for organizations to replace what can't be patched with updates.

IT is complicated. Knowing the right questions to ask can be difficult. When it comes to patching vs. pitching, here's a checklist of good ideas.

Ask your IT expert:

- ❑ **Is our stuff unpatched?**
  If it's unpatched, it's unsafe.[1] You should have a reason that offsets the risk.
- ❑ **Do we have any hardware or software that is past its end-of-support date?[2]**
  If it's unsupported, it won't get patched.
- ❑ **Are we tracking end-of-life dates so we aren't surprised?**
  Tracking assets helps you plan ahead to replace things before they become unsafe.
- ❑ **Are Windows updates being applied reliably?[3]**
  Windows patching should be automated and centrally managed to avoid gaps.
- ❑ **What are we doing with the old equipment?[4]**
  Recycling centers can securely erase data and responsibly handle hazardous materials.

Need Help Answering These Questions?

Call us at (616) 949-4020 or email us at GoodIdeas@hungerford.tech.

1 https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/practical-cybersecurity-advice-for-small-businesses/

2 https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/what-assets-should-i-track-for-it-budgeting-and-planning/

3 https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/windows-patch-management/

4 https://www.hungerford.tech/blog/what-do-i-need-to-do-with-obsolete-equipment/

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