Pakiti: A Patching Status Monitoring Tool

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Introduction

- Pakiti is a tool to monitor the patching status of systems on the Grid
  - Helps site admins identify which of their machines need to be patched
- Client-Server model
- Main Components
  - Client
  - Server
  - Web based UI
  - Database
- Developed and widely used by EGEE

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Pakiti Client

- Simple bash script (with a conf file)
- Gathers information about packages installed on host
  - Uses rpm -qa or dpkg-query
- Client sends a HTTP message to one or more Pakiti servers containing the list of installed packages.
  - https connection to server possible

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Pakiti Server

- Server receives the list of installed packages from the client and makes the comparison
- It is able to differentiate security patch from normal bug fixes
- Currently works with rpm (yum) and dpkg (apt) based repositories
- Only authenticated users can see the results

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Pakiti Server Settings

- RedHat OVAL Definitions
  - Provides url for OVAL defn that are checked daily
- OS Group Definitions
  - Associate OS name with a repository

  E.g. Scientific Linux SL 5.4 and Scientific Linux SL release 5.4 (Boron) belong in a single OS group
- Repositories Definitions
  - Locations where update for a OS group is released
  - Security repositories are flagged

  E.g. http://ftp.scientificlinux.org/linux/scientific/54/i386/SL/repodata/primary.xml.gz

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How does the server work

- Two methods used to check is packages are up-to-date
  1. Downloads information periodically from the vendors repositories and stores them in DB
     - Check conducted when client sends in the report
  2. Downloads OVAL definitions and checks the installed packages (clients report) against CVEs (http://cve.mitre.org)
     - Only available for Red-Hat based distributions

Demo

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Concerns

- Manually assignment of OS to OS group
- Lack of a fine grain control on the WebUI
  - Either you see all results or none

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Links

http://pakiti.sourceforge.net/

Questions?