AIX Patch Management with PowerSC

Overview

One of the most fundamental and important cyberdefenses is Vulnerability Management. PowerSC provides Trusted Network Connect and Patch Management (TNC) as a key solution for implementing your Vulnerability Management cyberdefense. TNC is the AIX/VIOS patching component of PowerSC that automates and reduces the effort needed to properly update AIX and VIOS systems with security interim fixes, service packs, and technology levels.

Technical Details

- Point and click management provided by the PowerSC Graphical User Interface
- When a new interim fix or service pack is published by IBM, it is automatically downloaded to the patch repository
- TNC provides flexible and granular options for defining patch policy for environments having complex patch requirements
- Patch recommendations made upon the actual filesets installed on the AIX or VIOS systems being managed
- Extensive installation support, including open source packages in rpm & installp format
- Light-weight component architecture that provides excellent performance
- Automatic updating of patch repository that includes the updating of interim fixes with superseding versions
- Flexible command-line functions that facilitate automation
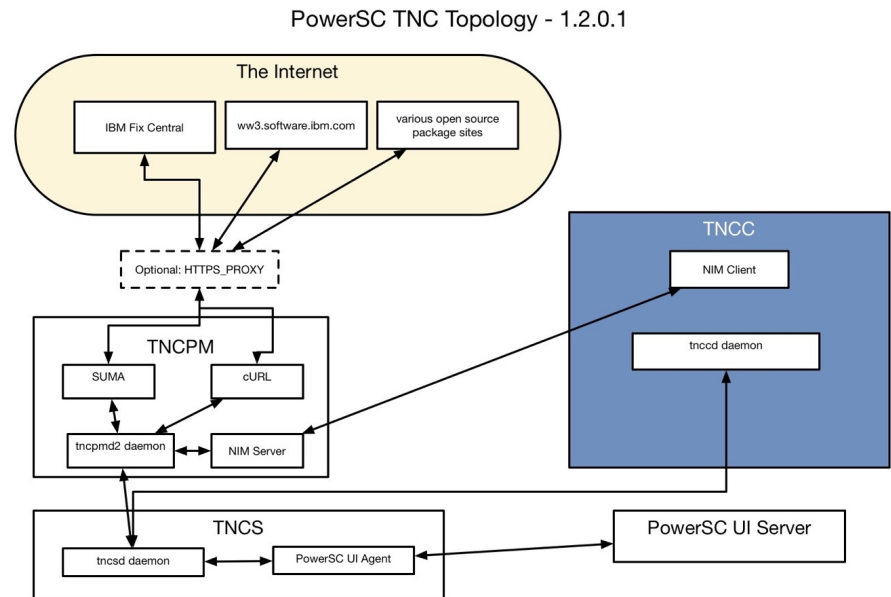- TNC supports alt_disk updates for ifixes, service packs, and technology levels

PowerSC TNC Topology - 1.2.0.1

Fig. 1 – The diagram above provides a topology of TNC systems and components

Common Use Cases

- An AIX administrative team wanting to learn how to install and configure TNC
- An organization wanting to implement a patching solution that can be used for patch automation
- An AIX Administrative team wanting a solution that quickly deploys AIX Service Packs and AIX Technology levels
- An AIX administrative team wanting a granular and flexible patching solution for verifying AIX and VIOS endpoints are properly patched.
- An AIX Administrative team wanting to delegate simple patch management tasks to non-TNC administrators by using the point-and-click functionality of the PowerSC Graphical User Interface server.

Engagement Process

- Consultant arranges prep call to discuss requirements, scheduling, and agenda
- Consultant works with client to install and configure TNC in client environment
- Consultant provides advice on best practice implementation
- Consultant works with client to verify the most important TNC functions are working in the client environment
- Consultant provides presentations to facilitate knowledge transfer concerning the numerous capabilities of TNC

Deliverables

1. Presentation Slides – an electronic copy of all presentation slides displayed during the engagement
2. Configuration documents – an electronic copy of any configuration documents used during the engagement