Citrix PVS - Today's Hotfixes

Citrix Provisioning Services 5.6 SP1, Sept. 6th, 2011

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Citrix' policy for the release of Provisioning Services is - let's say it that way – not quite clear. mal. Some Hotfixes simply disappear from the public site, some hotfixes that appear there are replaced by others. Also, the individual CTX articles for the hotfixes don't always tell clearly, if a hotfix has replaced others or if it was superseded itself.

Forced to by some projects I tried to collect all the Citrix Hotfixes that are

- Designed for Citrix Provisioning Services 5.6 SP1
- Are public available
- Have been released until Sep. 6th, 2011

I know that this PDF will expire quite soon. I'm going to try to update it on a regular basis. So check the blog post http://kirxblog.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/citrix-provisioning-services-hotfixes.

1   Recommended Microsoft Hotfixes for Provisioned Systems

Citrix maintains a list of recommended MS Updates that should be applied to provisioned systems: http://support.citrix.com/article/CTX128058.

Also, there is a list of recommended Hotfixes for XenApp 6, regardless of their deployment method: http://support.citrix.com/article/CTX129229.

So far, I didn't come across a similar list for XenDesktop.

2   Installation Method

Did you ever "install" PVS hotfixes? Then you perfectly know how file copy operations are used within your Software Deployment Solution or Scripting Language: PVS Hotfix "installations" mostly are readme files that explain where the few files should be copied to. No MSI, MSU, MSP, EXE or other nice method.

From time to time it even happens that two "current" Hotfixes ask to replace the same file. Can't believe it? Check the readme for "E028" and "E006"!

Due to the short life time of some of the hotfixes it's almost useless to publish installation scripts – they would expire to quick.

3 Citrix Provisioning Services 5.6 SP1 Hotfix List

Hotfix Name	PVS Server	PVS Target	CTX Article	Details	OS (if limited)	Fixed BUG IDs
		✓	CTX125361	W7, W2008R2: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2344941 Vista / W2008: http://support.microsoft.com/kb/2487376	W7, W2008R2 Vista, W2008	
CPVS56SP1E014			CTX129104 superseded by E022			25175
CPV56SP1E003 _CPVS56E019			CTX127528 included in E036			10019
CPVS56SP1E001			CTX127189 superseded by E002			10022, 10023
CPVS56SP1E002			CTX127502 superseded by E008			9985, 10022, 10023
CPVS56SP1E004		✓	CTX127565	Domain Account Password Reset issue when MasterTarget boots Buffer Overflow		10048, 10066
CPVS56SP1E005	✓		CTX127558	Several Boot Device Manager (BDM) issues		9999, 9231, 9561, 9793, and 9795
CPVS56SP1E007			CTX127813 superseded by E026			18453
CPVS56SP1E008			CTX127937 included in E040			18449, 25161, 9985, 10022, 10023
CPVS56SP1E009			CTX128602 superseded by E020			25702
CPVS56SP1E011		✓	CTX128160	*! Install BEFORE PVS target !* ESX VMNext3 Targets crash		18969
CPVS56SP1E013	✓		CTX128245	▪ Timeouts for Stand-Alone Management Consoles ▪ PowerShell-"Unload" bug		26265, 9692
CPVS56SP1E014		✓	CTX129104	Win7 Issue with BNImage.exe create/reverse image	Win7	25175
CPVS56SP1E015	✓		CTX128591	Several issues when upgrading *to* PVS 5. 6 SP1		27688, 27692

Hotfix Name	PVS Server	PVS Target	CTX Article	Details	OS (if limited)	Fixed BUG IDs
CPVS56SP1E016			CTX128726 superseded by E029			
CPVS56SP1E017 Filename E036			CTX128770 included in E036			25404
CPVS56SP1E018	✓		CTX128603	SOAP Service crash		28082
CPVS56SP1E019 Filename E036			CTX127528 included in E036			10019
CPVS56SP1E020	✓		CTX129474	▪ MMC: WakeOnLan Devices fails ▪ Store Paths validation fails ▪ Own Domain can't be selected		27261, 18445 25702
CPVS56SP1E022		✓	CTX129123	Win7 Image Update issue	Win7	27202
CPVS56SP1E023			CTX128727 superseded by E028			28055
CPVS56SP1E024		✓	CTX129471	Win2003 Logoff:BlueScreen	Win2003	29129
CPVS56SP1E026		✓	CTX128987	▪ BSOD during target Device software install DeviceSoftware-Installation ▪ Multicast traffic issue Several NIC type issues on Win7 and Vista		31915, 31923, 18453
CPVS56SP1E027				CTX128989 superseded by E041		26245, 27643
CPVS56SP1E028		✓	CTX129021	*! File replacement conflict with E006 !* ▪ NIC-Teamingon on non-streaming network ▪ potential buffer overrun		28055 and 32170
CPVS56SP1E029	✓		CTX129381	MMC ▪ Several Patches ▪ XenDesktop ▪ Wizard StreamedVM Wizard		25161, 27712, 28617, 28265 28663, 28675.
CPVS56SP1E036	✓		CTX130273	*! requires MS KB2467174 !* Several StreamService and SoapService issues		47497, 34033, 34031, 18388, 46839, 25404, 32203, 10019
CPVS56SP1E040	✓		CTX130275	*! Requires E029 !* Several MMC issues		28678, 18449, 25161, 9985, 10022, 10023

Hotfix Name	PVS Server	PVS Target	CTX Article	Details	OS (if limited)	Fixed BUG IDs
CPVS56SP1J003			CTX127375 Japanese	Japanese Documentation update		
CPVS56SP1E038		✓	CTX130117	Target Device Updates for Linux Targets	Linux	
CPVS56SP1E006		✓	CTX130664	*! File replacement conflict with E028 !* Targets may hang during Boot with NIC teaming		18441, 46577
CPVS56SP1E033		✓	CTX130661	Target may hang or crash during shutdown		18672
CPVS56SP1E041		✓	CTX130662	▪ potential Target freeze on high load ▪ local write cache -> server write cache fallback: unnecessary socket error ▪ local write cache initialization issues		35711, 27643, 26245

4 Summary and Recommendations

Well, I won't summarize my thoughts about Citrix' Patch "Management" for PVS that I had several times during the last few weeks. If I would, this article would be marked as "verbal abuse".

However, there are some recommendations:

- Do check for PVS Updates on a regular basis. Usually, new patches fix really important issues. I tend to check once per month or at least once every three months.
- Do automate the PVS Hotfix installation – at least by using CMD scripts. The effort of the initial creation pays off with the second server/device that you install.
- Read the Readme: Check for requirements, HF installation order and replaced files. Some HFs require other HFs, some replace the same files like others and some should be installed even *before* the actual PVS Software.
- Reboot the Server / (Master)Target after you applied Hotfixes. Some replace drivers and I doubt they are replaced on the fly.
- Verify file replacements. If have seen scripts that replaced/added files only after the second time they run. Do not rely on the ".md5" checksum files. They are not usable as an indicator whether a HF has been installed or not. Compare file dates!

Actually, the recommendation is: Please, Citrix, redesign the Hotfix Management and Release process for Provisioning Services. Build out-of-the-box installers. Urgently!