

## Re: Patches that require a reboot

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Dr. David Kirkby <[nowhere@nowhere.com](mailto:nowhere@nowhere.com)> wrote:

> *Obviously is downtime can't be tolerated, and you choose to install in  
> multi-user mode (based on a careful check of the README), that's a  
> different issue.*

I do that when deciding whether I can install single patches on a running system. Usually the decision process is short – kernel and driver patches wait for the next patch day (incl. a reboot). For other patches fuser/lsof usually are enough to see whether running processes are affected. If so, I decide whether I can restart these processes in production – it's easy for sendmail/httpd/etc., but not so easy for e.g. sshd, where a restart would kill running sessions.

> *But if you are already in single-user mode, why not  
> just reboot?? It must be the safest way, and the time loss is very small.*

I agree.

> *My original question was different and I don't think has been answered.  
> If you install a lot of patches, and a large number say reboot, then  
> rebooting after each patch saying this would be very time consuming. I'd  
> like to think that is always unnecessary, but nobody has confirmed there  
> are no instances where it would be useful (or mandatory) to reboot after  
> installing a patch, even if the next thing you wish to do is install  
> another patch.*

I guess you won't get a definitive answer on that one. There will always be a small chance that not doing a reboot might influence the system in some obscure way that a reboot would be better before installing other patches. I can see no way how Sun could test this and guarantee that this will never be a problem. Still, I think (and in my experience) the chance to break something is way to small to take the pain of multiple reboots when installing multiple patches. If anything, you could reboot after installing a kernel patch and before installing other (driver) patches depending on this kernel patch, but I've never done so, and have never seen a problem being caused by that.

comp.sys.sun.admin: Re: Patches that require a reboot

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