



Every company, particularly those in regulated industries like insurance, healthcare, and finance, has security policies that address updates to their technology infrastructure based on the severity and impact of known vulnerabilities. Having a trusted vendor to support critical software infrastructure components with patches for new vulnerabilities is key to compliance.

The Java Development Kit (JDK) is a crucial piece of infrastructure, serving as the foundation for Java apps and infrastructure. But the benefits of the JDK come with compliance challenges.

The OpenJDK Project provides a complete set of security patches with every quarterly update, but these patches are released alongside hundreds of other non-security changes (bug fixes, improvements, new features, etc.). As a result, these releases, known as Patch Set Updates, can take time to stabilize. Roughly three in ten OpenJDK updates are unstable for three to six weeks and cannot be deployed until additional fixes are released. During this time, the source code is available and can be used as a reference by attackers looking to target new vulnerabilities that should have been fixed in the release and are now widely known and easily exploitable.



On top of that, more than seventy percent of OpenJDK updates have patches for high-severity vulnerabilities. The chance of an unstable release containing a patch for high-severity vulnerability is more than twenty percent — which means that there is a twenty percent chance that organizations that rely on Patch Set Updates will be out of compliance for a period of time and exposed to attack.

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Solving the Compliance Challenge for Your Java Estate



Azul produces curated updates known as Critical Patch Updates (CPUs) to address these compliance challenges.

CPUs deliver security-related fixes only rather than a full update with 200+ enhancements and bug fixes. This minimizes the chance of instability. CPUs can be safely deployed in production without compromising application stability in the event that Patch Set Updates cannot be deployed.

Critical Patch Updates are a best practice. Oracle offers CPUs across its product family for actively supported versions and urges customers to apply updates without delay. Azul offers CPUs for Zulu and Zing JDKs with Platform Core and Platform Prime subscriptions. CPUs can be deployed immediately following each quarterly update while full Patch Set Updates are being tested, or they can be deployed in place of Patch Set Updates when instability is detected.

Critical Patch Updates are appropriate for economic sectors designated as critical infrastructure by Presidential Policy Directive



Chemical



Commercial Facilities



Communications



Critical Manufacturing



Dams



Defense Industrial



Energy



Emergency



Financial Services



Food and Agriculture



Facilities



Healthcare and Public Health



Information Technology



Transportation Systems



Nuclear Reactors, Material, and Waste

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Water and Waste Systems

About Azul

Headquartered in Sunnyvale, California, Azul provides the Java platform for the modern cloud enterprise. Azul is the only company 100 percent focused on Java. Millions of Java developers, hundreds of millions of devices, and the world's most highly regarded business trust Azul to power their applications with exceptional capabilities, performance, security, value, and success. Azul customers include 36 percent of the Fortune 100, 50 percent of the Forbes Top-Ten World's Most Valuable Brands, all ten of the world's top-ten financial trading companies, and leading brands like Avaya, Bazaarvoice, BMW, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Telekom, LG, Mastercard, Mizuho, Priceline, Salesforce, Software AG, and Workday.

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