



Linux Patch Management Basics

A practical guide to keeping your Linux servers up to date with security patches and updates.

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PUBLISHED

15 March 2025

CATEGORIES

Tutorials, Security

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<https://patchmon.net/blog/linux-patch-management-basics>

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Keeping Linux servers patched is essential for security and stability. Here's a quick overview of the main package managers and how PatchMon helps.

Package Managers by Distribution

Distribution	Package Manager	Update Command
Ubuntu/Debian	APT	<code>apt update && apt upgrade</code>
RHEL/CentOS/Fedora	DNF/YUM	<code>dnf update</code>
Alpine	APK	<code>apk update && apk upgrade</code>
Arch	Pacman	<code>pacman -Syu</code>

Why Automate?

Manual patching across dozens or hundreds of servers is:

Error-prone: Easy to miss hosts or forget schedules

Time-consuming: Repetitive work that doesn't scale

Risky: Delayed patches mean longer exposure to vulnerabilities

PatchMon automates detection, scheduling, and reporting so you can focus on higher-value work.

Next Steps

Deploy the PatchMon agent on your hosts

Define patch policies (maintenance windows, approval flows)

Monitor the dashboard for pending updates and compliance status

For more details, see our [Patch Management feature page](https://patchmon.net/features/patch-management) (<https://patchmon.net/features/patch-management>). The quickest way to actually see it run on your own hosts is a [PatchMon Cloud trial](https://patchmon.net/pricing) (<https://patchmon.net/pricing>) (14 days, card required, cancel before day 14 and you are not charged). Or self-host the AGPLv3 [Community Edition](https://patchmon.net/open-source) (<https://patchmon.net/open-source>) if you'd rather keep the control plane on your own infrastructure.

The open source Linux patch management platform

PatchMon gives sysadmins one dashboard for patching across Linux, FreeBSD, and Windows fleets. Run it as a managed SaaS on PatchMon Cloud (per-host billing, 14-day trial, no fleet minimum) or self-host the AGPLv3 Community Edition on your own infrastructure.

[Start a trial: patchmon.net/pricing](https://patchmon.net/pricing)

