

President's Corner: February, 2015

Secunia

By Eric Moore

In my June 2014 article, I briefly mentioned [Secunia](#). Secunia an online resource that can perform a “health check” on your Windows-based computer and alert you to any insecure programs that should be updated. Secunia provides Personal Software Inspector (PSI) for free to home users as an in-browser software scanner and as a program that you may download and install on your computer. (PSI is also available for Android devices.) Either way, you may perform an on-demand scan of your computer to find what programs are outdated and may be vulnerable to hackers and malware attacks. PSI can also run silently in the background whenever Windows is running and notify you as soon as it detects a program that is outdated.

If an outdated program is detected, PSI provides information about the program, such as the software maker, version, the relative security risk it poses, and where (in which folder) the program is located. Depending on the program, you may also be given a link to click to download and install the latest version. If a program is outdated and no update is available, then you may be advised to remove it for your safety. Other information provided includes a relative assessment of how safe are your applications and historical data of your computer's security.

I have observed that the program detects outdated version of a large variety of software including Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Mozilla Thunderbird, Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash Player, Java, and OpenOffice, TrueCrypt. You should not rely on it as your sole program for checking for third-party updates, but it is a useful place to start. (Any software that is not supported may have its own utility for checking on and installing new updates.) Between Windows updates, PSI, and keep your anti-virus software up-to-date, you can go a long way in keeping your computer secure.