Create Full-History Compact Software Patches and Updates even for Gygabyte-Sized Files using PatchFactory v3

September 28, 2005 - AgenSoft Inc., provider of software solutions for IT developers, announces the release of PatchFactory v3.3 for Windows 98/Me/NT/2000/XP/2003 - a new version of its cutting-edge software update solution.

PatchFactory provides software developers with a comprehensive solution for creating reliable full-history software update modules, ensuring that end-users always have the latest version of your software or other all-important data which "freshness" may be critical for your business.

PatchFactory is a full-featured byte-level patching system for bandwidth-efficient software updating. It provides a robust feature set that gives software developers the ability to tailor the update process to their specific needs and to significantly reduce end-user support costs.

The patch installation process is designed to be completely safe, committing the update only if no problems are encountered during the process. The original and updated file version, MD5 checksum and a digital signature (if any) are checked to ensure that the file was patched correctly.

Because the patch consists only of the changes to a file, it requires that the user actually have the software installed on their system, and can help protect against illegal distributions of updates for your software. Files that have been tampered will not be updated.

The innovative byte-level patch building engine comes as an innovative standard for producing compact reliable version-to-version and cumulative software patches and updates even for Gigabyte-sized files contained in one small, secure self-installing package. Using the cutting-edge differencing technology of the patch building engine you can reduce your software update size by 90-99%. Designed for use on all 32-bit Windows platforms, these small, self-installing patch packages can be distributed on a diskette / CD-ROM or sent via email, web or LAN.

Using PatchFactory innovative technology you can create a complete, yet compact update installation package for the application in a few minutes and make it available for download, or issue a media that contains the update package. You can also provide extremely compact updates for Gygabyte Sized Files using our simplified single-file patch building feature for such huge files as ISO-images, databases, etc. The patching engine is not content dependent, so it may be used whenever data is changed at one location and must be efficiently updated at another.

Among the new patch applying features are customizable dialogs, a familiar wizard-style runtime interface, use of key files and MD5 checks to ensure accuracy, international language support, silent install and silent uninstall with no user interaction required, which can be useful for system administrators and other programs calling the update program, smart automatic version check, automatic Rollback at patch applying to guarantee that the end-user's system is successfully updated.

Key Benefits and Advantages

If you are developing a software product then you definitely know that there is nothing constant in it. The only constant thing is that a lot of new versions are released during lifetime of this software product. And each time a new version comes out your clients inform you of what they would like to see in the next version and of new bugs or errors detected in the current version.

It's good if your software is not large in size, but when it occupies a considerable space then you are familiar with the problem of updating your software up to the latest version and delivering those updates to your clients. As soon as the new version is available, you create an installation package and put it on your website for your clients to download it, send it to them by e-mail or even send them CDs by post. And internet traffic bills get far beyond your expectations!

Your clients are often not satisfied by the amount of time spent on the delivery and it happens so that by the time they receive the full installation pack you have already released a new version. As a result your technical support service gets thousands of letters with description of problems and bugs that were already fixed.

And what about synchronization of huge databases and documents between different departments of your company? Updated several records in a huge database you have to send files which are many megabytes in size to lots of e-mail addresses every day (or even more often). How much does it take? And how much money do you pay for your internet bills? The effectiveness of your business can go down.

Using PatchFactory you will never need to deliver full sized installation packs of your software to your customers anymore. PatchFactory works only with the changes between versions of your software files, database or a document. So from now on you have to deliver these changes only to your clients.

If you have changed just a couple of lines/records in your document/database, PatchFactory will produce an update module containing only difference with the size of not more than those changes are plus the size of the GUI needed to install your update package! The size of your software, database or document doesn't matter - only difference between versions does!

The idea behind PatchFactory is simple - when modified file(s) must be transmitted, send only the changes (byte level differences) stored in one reliable self-installing update module rather than the entire software installation package. PatchFactory lossless byte-level compression is not content dependent, so it may be used whenever data is changed at one location and must be efficiently updated and/or archived at another.

Nowadays there is no compression software that can achieve such a reduction of the update data. In the cases when the matter concerns updates between similar versions of software, databases or documents, PatchFactory outperforms the compression rate of the most advanced archiving software ten or even hundred times better. Delivery of compact updates, created with PatchFactory, becomes an easy and a cost-effective task.

The illegal usage of your software, distributed in the form of updates, created by PatchFactory, will become simply impossible, because you will need the previous version of your software for a proper update, which is inaccessible for illegal users. You do not need to control who is downloading your updates anymore because only registered users can install them.

PatchFactory uses advanced byte-level differencing technologies. These algorithms were created by leading specialists in the field of applied mathematics. Implementation of these algorithms used in PatchFactory was carried out by experienced programmers that have seniority in the IT-industry of 10 years and more.

Ordering Information

PatchFactory v3 is priced at 395 EUR for a single developer (Shareware) license.

Commercial and Corporate licenses are available.

More information and a free evaluation version can be obtained from http://www.agensoft.com

Company information

AgenSoft Inc. has been working in the field of professional software development since 2002. Head-quartered in Moscow, Russian Federation, AgenSoft has been providing the global marketplace with high-quality innovative software products including their flagship software update tool PatchFactory.

Among the company's clients are government institutions, large IT software and hardware companies and SMEs from all around the globe.