Enabling auto-updating of Maximiser

The auto-update facility is designed for use at sites that have an always-on connection to the Internet, with a reasonably fast transfer speed (a 256 Kb/s DSL line, or faster). It is not intended for use over a modem dial-up link.

Auto-updating works by sending an HTTP request to a web service, running on the Ferret web server, which responds with notice of the most recent program version available there [1]. No information other than the name of the program is passed to the server.

By default, auto-updating is disabled in Maximiser. To enable it please refer to the sub-heading below that is appropriate to the type of installation at your site:

Stand-alone (non-network) installations

This section applies where Maximiser has been installed to a local drive of a computer, and so is used only by the user, or users, of that computer.

Run the utility called **SetAutoUpdateMaximiser** that is located in the `maximise` folder on your computer (typically folder "C:\Program Files\Ferret Applications\maximise"). Click its <u>Yes</u> button.

That done, when Maximiser is next started it will check automatically for the availability of an update. This check is repeated each day that the program is run – but once only per day.

When Maximiser notifies you that an update is available, it will offer the option of applying it now. If you click <u>No</u> at this, you will not be asked again until tomorrow (or the next day you run the program).

If you click <u>Yes</u>, then the update will be fetched from the Ferret web site. The update executable has an associated digital signature, and this is verified as the update is received so you can be sure that it has not been tampered with or modified in transit.

If the update executable **has** changed since it was signed, then a dialog message "Update digital signature is invalid" will appear and it will be deleted. Should this ever occur please contact the Ferret Helpline on 029 2064 4444.

When the update has transferred successfully Maximiser will terminate and the update executable will run, allowing you to complete the update in the usual way. The most recent update executable (setup.exe) is left in place in the `maximise` folder.

If you ever wish to disable Maximiser updating on your computer, this can be done by re-running the **SetAutoUpdateMaximiser** utility.

Network installations (notes for Network Managers)

This section applies where Maximiser has been installed to a shared folder on a server, and multiple workstations access it via the network.

The workstation that was used to install Maximiser is called the **administrative workstation**. This is the machine that has the entry 'Ferret Maximiser . . .' in the Add/Remove Programs list in Control Panel. Normally, the administrative workstation is used by someone who logs on with a privileged account (e.g. an Administrator logon) since only such an account would normally be able to create and modify files on the server.

When logged on to the administrative workstation with a suitably privileged account, run the utility called **SetAutoUpdateMaximiser** that is located in the `maximise` folder on the server. Click its <u>Yes</u> button.

That done, when Maximiser is run subsequently on the administrative workstation it will check automatically for the availability of an update, and if one is available will offer the option of applying it.

However, it is likely that Maximiser is not run at the administrative workstation in the normal course of events. Typically that workstation is used only to apply updates and perform managerial tasks.

Rather than having to run Maximiser at intervals to check for updates, identify one or more workstations to perform this role. These should be workstations the user of which runs Maximiser on a regular basis.

On each such workstation (and there need normally be just one or two), ask the user to run the **SetAutoUpdateMaximiser** utility, and click its <u>Yes</u> button. Such workstations will then receive notification when a Maximiser update is available – but are **not** enabled to download and apply the update. Instead, the user is prompted to inform an Administrator that an update is available.

Once informed of this, you can run Maximiser on the administrative workstation while logged on with a privileged account and so be able to update files on the server.

When Maximiser – running on the administrative workstation – notifies you that an update is available, it will offer the option of applying it now. If you click <u>No</u> at this you will be asked again the next time you run the program.

You should click <u>No</u> if there are other users running Maximiser at that time. Updates should be performed when the program is not in use, because an update is unable to replace with their new version files that are open on the server.

If you click <u>Yes</u>, then the update will be fetched from the Ferret web site. The update executable has an associated digital signature, and this is verified as the update is received so you can be sure that it has not been tampered with or modified in transit.

If the update executable **has** changed since it was signed, then a dialog message "Update digital signature is invalid" will appear and it will be deleted. Should this ever occur please contact the Ferret Helpline on 029 2064 4444.

When the update has transferred successfully Maximiser will terminate and the update executable will run, allowing you to complete the update in the usual way. The most recent update executable is left in place in the `maximise` folder on the server; it can be moved elsewhere or deleted if desired.

A workstation can be suspended from its role in Maximiser updating by re-running the **SetAutoUpdateMaximiser** utility at that workstation.

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[1] Please note that Ferret does not guarantee 24/7 availability of the web server for auto-updating purposes; maintenance and development activities may mean that it is unavailable for periods.