Suggestions for Handling Categories & Other Items in Patch My PC Home Updater

1. **Categories**. I recommend the following alternative (and presumably simpler and more general) approach.

a. Add Category as a column to the existing (v5.1.3) App Library tab.

b. Also, add a radio group to the top of the tab which allows selection of one of three preset table sorts: Name, Category, Type. Selecting the Name sort (default) replicates the current order of rows in the tab. Selecting Category will sort the rows to group the apps by category. Selecting Type will group the apps by type, with non-portables at the top and portable at the bottom. With the appropriate sort, one should be able to grab the vertical scroll bar and quickly scroll to the desired app, category or type and generally unnecessary to filter apps by category or type; although, the existing filter mechanism still would allow that for those who desire to.

c. Adjust the color of the vertical scroll bar to white on the dark theme to make it easier to grab and see where you are relative to the full table. The scroll bar is currently almost indistinguishable from the background on the dark theme.

The Excel spreadsheet which I have included with this post is intended to illustrate the three sorts of the App Library. It was generated by exporting all apps to a .json file which was then converted to an Excel worksheet. The Category column was manually added since that field is not currently exported by Home Updater. To shorten the length of the titles of the categories for display in a column in the worksheet or a table, I have assigned abbreviations below.

To change sort order of the worksheet from its default sort by Name to sort by Category, select the Data menu, click on the Sort button, select "Category" for the "Sort by" Column value, and click OK. To sort by Type, select "IsPortable" as the sort column. To restore the original order from Home Updater, select "App #" as the sort column (instead of "Name" as Excel and Home Updater produce slightly different alphabetical order when certain characters, such as "-", are present in the app name.)

Abbrev	App Category (13)	# Apps	Non-portable	Portable
DEV	Development & Programming	64	57	7
FILE	File Management & Backup	24	20	4
GAME	Gaming	19	17	2
IMG	Imaging & Graphics	11	11	0
MSG	Messaging & Communication	15	14	1
MM	Multimedia	64	53	11
NET	Networking & Online	42	39	3
OTHR	Other	34	23	11
PROD	Productivity & Office	46	45	1
SEC	Security	27	19	8

TWK	System Customization & Tweaking	25	18	7
UTIL	Utilities & System Tools	130	87	43
WEB	Web Browsers	15	14	1
	All Categories (v5.1.3)	516	417	99

2. **Data**. A quick analysis of the worksheet reveals some potential issues with the data in the Home Updater catalog:

- 49 non-portables and 99 (all) portables are missing a value for Vendor. A value should exist and provided to the user even if not used within Home Updater for detecting or updating an app.

- 12 apps have both non-portable and portable versions. One of these apps has different categories for its non-portable and portable versions. The category of CrystalDiskMark Portable should be changed from DEV to UTIL to be correct and to be consistent with the the the non-portable version of CrystalDiskMark.

- IsPortable denotes the app type (true=portable, false=non-portable). For portable apps, the Name in the .json export does not include the word "Portable" which would seem to imply that the Display Name is formed by appending the word "Portable" to the Name. However, if you enter a search for the word "Portable" in the App Library view, it returns only 14 apps with the word "Portable", not all 99 portable apps. 12 of these portable apps are the ones which also have a non-portable version; the other two portable apps (ExifTool and Windows Repair) may have been considered for both types but now only exist as portable version. This situation would seem to indicate that Home Updater is not searching on the Display Name shown to the user and is using another set of Names where "Portable" is explicitly included for some portable apps.

- 10 supported apps have no explicit value for current version. This seems incongruous for a software updater. Even if no version number is assigned by the vendor to uniquely identify a release, a release date or some other data should be available to distinguish the version and be available for display to the user.

3. **Uninstaller tab**: I recommend that the Uninstaller tab be removed for the following reasons:

a. There is no need for a separate tab to uninstall supported apps. Users can uninstall the apps which are supported by Home Updater individually from the My Apps view. Uninstalling such apps is not a frequent occurrence and does not require the multiple selection feature present on the Uninstaller tab.

b. The Uninstaller app includes an "All Apps" view. Typically, most of the apps in this view are ones which are installed on the user's machine but cannot be statused or updated by Home Updater since they are not in its library of supported apps. Unlike supported apps, if a user does

uninstall an unsupported app via the Uninstaller tab, Home Updater is unable to reinstall the app if it was removed in error. In fact, the app may be out-of-date, no longer supported by its vendor, or otherwise be able to be re-installed. Additionally, since the user can select multiple apps and even all apps to uninstall, this tab poses potential serious problems in the hands of inexperienced users or experimentation with the Home Updater. Deleting this separate tab will make Home Update safer in the hands of inexperienced users, simplify use and maintenance of the Home Updater software, and force users to uninstall unsupported apps from Programs & Features or some other external method, relieving Home Updater of any liability or involvement in the process.

c. Errors can arise in the Uninstaller app with changes to Home Updater Library. For example, RogueKiller was renamed to Adlice Protect and has left an entry for RogueKiller Portable in the Uninstaller Tab (All Apps) which I cannot remove and which does not appear on the My Apps or the Uninstaller tab (Installed Apps).

4. **Other**: Rather using a separate form for the Export Template on the Settings tab, the Export function should be considered for movement to the App Library tab.

Ref. File Home-Updater-App-List-516-Apps.xslx

Screenshot – Sort by Name

Screenshot – Sort by Category

Note: The category for CrystalDiskMark is colored in RED in the above screenshot since it is should be changed to UTIL as discussed in paragraph 2, bullet 2 above.