

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 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.xlsx

Screenshot – Sort by Name

App #	Name	Vendor	Version (a/o 16-Apr-2025)	Category	IsPortable	IconUrl
1	360 Total Security	360 Security Center	11.0.0.1185	SEC	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/360TotalSecurity.png
2	4K Video Downloader	Open Media LLC	4.33.5.172	MM	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/4KVideoDownloader.png
3	4K Video Downloader+		25.0.2.185	MM	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/4KVideoDownloaderPlus.png
4	7-Zip	Igor Pavlov	24.09	UTIL	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/7-Zip.png
5	Adice Protect	Adice Software	16.1.1.0	SEC	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdiceProtect.png
6	Adice Protect (x64)		16.1.1.0	SEC	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdiceProtect.png
7	Adobe Acrobat (64-bit)	Adobe	25.001.20458	PROD	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdobeAcrobatReaderDC.png
8	Adobe AIR	HARMAN International	51.1.3.4	OTH	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdobeAIR.png
9	Adobe Digital Editions	Adobe Systems Incorporated	4.5.12	PROD	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdobeDigitalEditions.png
10	Advanced Installer	Caphyon	22.6	UTIL	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdvancedInstaller.png
11	Advanced IP Scanner	Farnatech	2.5.4594	NET	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdvancedIPScanner.png
12	Advanced Renamer	Huabulu Software	4.11	UTIL	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdvancedRenamer.png
13	Advanced SystemCare	IObit	18.2.0	UTIL	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdvancedSystemCare.png
14	Advanced Uninstaller PRO	Innovative Solutions	13.27.02.09	UTIL	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdvancedUninstallerPRO.png
15	AdwCleaner		8.5.1	SEC	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AdwCleaner.png
16	AeroAdmin		4.9.3786	MSG	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AeroAdmin.png
17	AMP	Artem Izmaylov	5.40.2669	MM	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AMP.png
18	Ar Explorer	http://www.arexplorer.net	5.8.1	FILE	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/ArExplorer.png
19	AirDroid		3.8.0.4	MSG	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AirDroid.png
20	AiDUp	MTSD	4.5.66	FILE	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AiDUp.png
21	AiDUp		4.5.66	FILE	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AiDUp.png
22	Altway Sync	Botond Inc	22.0.1	FILE	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AltwaySync.png

Screenshot – Sort by Category

App #	Name	Vendor	Version (a/o 16-Apr-2025)	Category	IsPortable	IconUrl
25	Android Studio	Google LLC	2024.3	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/AndroidStudio.png
63	Brackets	brackets.io	2.2.1	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/Brackets.png
72	CMake	Kitware	4.0.1	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/CMake.png
73	CMTrace		5.0.9132.1011	DEV	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/CMTrace.png
74	CodeBlocks	The Code Blocks Team	25.03	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/CodeBlocks.png
81	Corsair iCUE5 Software	Corsair		DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/CorsairiCUE5.png
89	CrystalDiskMark		8.0.8	DEV	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/CrystalDiskMark.png
96	DAX Studio	DAX Studio	3.2.1	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DAXStudio.png
97	DBeaver	DBeaver Corp	25.0.2	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DBeaver.png
98	DVVisualizer	DVVis Software AB	25.1.3	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DVVisualizer.png
105	Detect It Easy		3.1	DEV	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DetectItEasy.png
113	Ditto	Scott Brogren	3.24.246	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/Ditto.png
116	Docker Desktop	Docker Inc.	4.40.0	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DockerforWindows.png
118	DOSBox		0.74.3	DEV	TRUE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DOSBox.png
119	DosBox-X		2025.02.01	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/DosBoxX.png
155	FileZilla	Tim Kosse	3.69.0	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/FileZillaClient.png
156	FileZilla Server		1.10.3	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/FileZillaServer.png
164	FreeCAD	FreeCAD Team	1.0.0	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/FreeCAD.png
176	Git	The Git Development Community	2.49.0	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/Git.png
177	GitHub Desktop	GitHub, Inc	3.4.18	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/GitHubDesktopMachine-WideInstaller.png
197	HeidiSQL	Ansgar Becker	12.1	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/HeidiSQL.png
204	Inkscape	Inkscape	1.4.0	DEV	FALSE	https://patchmypc.com/scupcatalog/downloads/icons/homeupdater/Inkscape.png

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