

UPDATES

There are two kinds of updates. Those which fix security vulnerabilities and those which add new features. Sometimes these two are combined into one update. It is much harder for attackers to break into up-to-date software.

↓ Updates are free and easy to install.

🔒 Installing updates is the easiest thing you can do to keep yourself safe.

Why do we need to keep our devices up-to-date?

Updates require very little effort to apply whilst providing protection against all current and publicly known vulnerabilities in the software. However, having the latest update does not mean that the software contains no vulnerabilities, only that all publicly known vulnerabilities have been fixed.

There are two kinds of updates: those which fix vulnerabilities and those which add new features of functionality. Usually, the updates which add features are released on an annual or biannual basis; updates which fix vulnerabilities are released sporadically, usually when vulnerabilities are reported.

The easiest way to stay updated/patched is to enable automatic updating whenever possible!

Updating desktops and laptops

We encourage all users of Windows computers to move to Windows 10 as soon as possible. It will be the last major version of Windows for five to ten years. As for Mac users, Apple supports the last two releases of macOS (10.13: High Sierra and 10.14: Mojave). If possible, 10.14 should be used, as updates will be rolled out for this operating system for a longer period.

Updating mobile devices

We advise that, if your Android device cannot be updated past Android 4.4.4, you upgrade the device immediately, and, if it cannot be upgraded to Android 7 or 8, you upgrade the device within nine months. The most up-to-date version of Android is version 9, with version 10 currently in development.

To update Android devices, open the 'Settings' app then:

System > Advanced > System update (Android 9)

For iOS devices, it is recommended to use iOS 12 - the most up-to-date version of the operating system.

To update iOS devices, open the 'Settings' app then:

General > Software Update