



Updates

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 semi annual basis; updates which fix vulnerabilities are released sporadically, usually when vulnerabilities are reported.

 Google, Apple and Microsoft spend **millions** securing software



These updates are **free and easy** for you to install



Do I have the latest update/patch?

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

The current major operating system versions are:

 Windows 10

 macOS High Sierra (10.13)

We encourage all users to move to Windows 10 as soon as possible, it will be the last major version of Windows for five to ten years.



Check Your Phone

 iOS 11
Settings > General > Software Update

 Android 7
Settings > About Phone > System Update

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 6 or 7 you upgrade the device within nine months.



Why do I need to stay updated/patched?

They require very little effort to apply while 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.

Vulnerabilities that are not known to the maker of the software are called zero days, that is the maker has had zero days to produce a patch for the vulnerability. Zero days are expensive and require skill to find, much more skill than is required to exploit a known vulnerability with a pre written tool.