

How Updating Can Help Protect Your Information

Did you know that the longer you delay an update, the longer you could be vulnerable to some of the latest cyber attacks?

Updates for our software (e.g., applications and operating systems) typically include **critical security patches** that help protect against attacks. Soon after a weakness is discovered, a responsible company will deploy an update to keep its users protected.

Although updates sometimes introduce new features that we may not care to use, **it's better to update than to continue running obsolete software**. When a weakness is publicly known, any attacker with the right motives and resources could take advantage.

What should I update?

Be sure to keep the following up to date:

- Your operating system (e.g., Windows, mac OS, Chrome OS)
- Any software you download on your computer, such as:
 - Internet browsers and browser extensions
 - Microsoft Office software
 - PDF readers (e.g., Adobe)
- Your mobile device operating system/firmware (e.g., iOS, Android)
- Your mobile device apps

Be aware of fake updates

Not all update prompts are legitimate. It's possible to come across a pop-up ad that resembles an update prompt, which could lead to a scam or malware.

Before clicking:

1. Make sure the update prompt is *not* simply a new browser window. If it looks like a new Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Firefox window, it could be a pop-up ad.
2. Check that the update prompt appears as you usually receive update prompts. **If it looks new or unusual, proceed with caution.** Do a quick Google search if you're unsure.

On your mobile devices, opt to update your apps through your usual app store (e.g., Google Play store or Apple App Store). Update prompts that appear in your mobile browser window are usually fake.

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