

Help keep your windows computer safe online by keeping up to date with your Windows Updates.

When Microsoft launches a new version of Windows, online criminals quickly find vulnerable areas in the operating system and continue to do so for the lifetime of the version. To counter this, Microsoft releases regular updates – via Windows Update – such as security updates or critical updates, which protect against malware and security exploits.

Windows XP

From the Start menu, click 'Control Panel'. Select 'Automatic Updates', then ensure that 'Automatic (recommended)' is selected.

Windows Vista

From the Start menu, click 'Control Panel'. Select 'Security', then click 'Turn automatic updating on or off' (under Windows Update). Ensure 'Install updates automatically (recommended)' is selected.

Windows 7

From the Start menu, click 'Control Panel'. Select 'System and Security', then click 'Turn automatic updating on or off' (under Windows Update). Ensure 'Install updates automatically (recommended)' is selected.

Windows 8

From the Start menu, click 'Control Panel'. Select 'Windows Update', and then click 'Install optional updates'. In the left pane, click 'Change settings'. Under 'Important updates', choose the option that you want. Under 'Recommended updates', select the 'Give me recommended updates the same way I receive important updates' check box, and then click 'OK.' You may be asked for an admin password or to confirm your choice.