

# Patching Operating Systems

*This information is presented as general purpose suggestions and the effects may differ on each device or based upon specific updates done to each device. The County of York assumes no liability to unintended results this may have on your specific device and will not assist in any issues that may arise from implementing these tips. This is not an all-inclusive list of all software options available, simply a partial list of some options for the reader to further research for what might work best for them.*

It is critical to patch your Operating System to avoid viruses, malware, and other malicious content. In order for these processes to work, please DO NOT JAILBREAK your device. This circumvents most of the innate security features and usually prevents future security updates. If I was writing a tutorial of how to be hacked and compromise your data, step one would probably be to jailbreak your device... While ideally you would investigate each update before applying it to your system, this is impractical for most home users. For this reason I recommend setting your system to automatically apply updates.

## Microsoft Windows

Your system will be better protected if you install all important and optional updates from Microsoft. However be aware that there is a higher chance of issues with “optional” updates. Most of the strictly security updates should be in the “Important” updates section.

**Windows XP or older:** Unfortunately this is no longer supported so you can follow the directions but no new security patches will most likely be released. Please upgrade to a newer Operating System to protect your device. See process for Windows Vista in order to apply all prior released patches.

**Windows Vista, 7, or 8:** Click on “Start” button in the lower left corner | Click “All Programs” | Click “Windows Update” | Click on left side “Check for updates” | In the main pane click link for “... important updates are available” or “... optional updates are available” | Choose most or all updates | When back to the main “Windows Update” screen click “Install updates”.

**Windows 10:** Click on the “Search” button (Magnifier) in the lower left corner | Type “Windows Update Settings” and choose it from the menu | Click “Check for Updates” to install now or Click “Advanced Options” to set system to automatically install future updates.

**Additional tutorial Reference:** <https://www.lifewire.com/how-to-change-windows-update-settings-2625778>

## Macintosh

**Manual updates:** Click the “Apple Menu” | Click “App Store” | click “Updates”

**Set to automatically update:** Click “Apple Menu” | Click “System Preferences” | click “App Store” | Select “Automatically check for updates”

**Official Reference:** [https://support.apple.com/kb/PH25532?locale=en\\_US](https://support.apple.com/kb/PH25532?locale=en_US)

## Android

Procedures may vary between different Operating System versions. Different phone manufacturers will stop support on a particular model at different times and that will limit what version of Android it can have.

**Manual updates:** Click the “Apps” | Click “Settings” | click “System updates”

## iPads and iPhones (iOS devices)

**Manual updates:** Click “Settings” | Click “General” | click “Software Update” | Click “Automatic Updates” | make sure it is on the “ON” position

**Official Reference:** <http://www.idownloadblog.com/2018/06/11/how-to-have-your-iphone-and-ipad-automatically-download-new-ios-updates/>

## Other devices (like Internet of Things also known as IoT)

**Process:** Unfortunately, by the very nature of IoT devices, they are all different and unique. You will want to visit the manufacturer’s website and look for “Patching”, “Updating”, or “Firmware”. Hopefully they will offer an easy way to update the device periodically or at least some way to update it.