

Updating Devices

Develop good habits around regularly updating your devices and discover the benefits of keeping your devices updated and patched.

1. What Are Device Updates and Why Do They Matter?

Our digital devices, apps on our phones and computers, web browsers, and more are always updating. But what are these updates?

- **Bug fixes:** Some updates are designed to fix a bug or an error. For instance, an app might be glitching or crashing, so developers release an update
- **Feature updates:** Other updates introduce new designs or features for users
- **Security patches:** But some updates are security patches, which help keep our devices and apps safe from things like hackers, viruses, malware, or data breaches

Security updates are important to install regularly and promptly. They might be released because of a known threat or issue that could make your device vulnerable.

You can think of your device or app security like a lock. If the app or device has a security issue or vulnerability, it's like having a door lock that is broken. It might look secure since there's a lock there, but the broken lock makes it easy for someone to just open the door and come inside.

Next, let's make a plan for keeping your devices safe and secure.

2. Making a Plan for Your Security Updates

Make a list of the devices you own and use. This might include phones, computers, smart home devices, etc.

Go to the settings on each of these devices and make sure you have automatic updates turned on. This will allow updates to install automatically, so you don't run the risk of forgetting to install a critical security update. Use the space below to record and check off your progress:

Schedule reminders for yourself to periodically check your device settings and available updates just to make sure you haven't missed anything. Describe your plan here: