

Windows & Office Updates

Last Updated: 1st February 2005

Microsoft currently offers a free upgrade of their operating System (Windows) and their software applications like Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

The updates sometimes include minor bug fixes, but the majority of the updates are to fix security problems.

Microsoft software is the most common software in use. Unfortunately this makes their software the target for hackers.

To minimize the risk of security breaches and viruses, it is recommended that you upgrade your system with the latest patches. Before you upgrade, you must make a complete system backup. Microsoft endeavor to test their patches on as many systems as possible. However, there is always the chance that your system has a combination of software that is not compatible. A complete system backup will allow you to return to your original setup.

The updates can take a long time. Broadband internet service is definitely recommended, but it is possible to upgrade on a dial up service too.

The Microsoft home page had the following image prominently shown over most of the screen. Microsoft takes updates and security breaches very seriously.



How to get the updates?

There are 2 main ways to update your PC. You can either select "Windows Update" from the Start Menu, or you can follow one of the links shown below.

Unfortunately, Microsoft insists on you using their Internet Browser to perform the update...

The first stage of the upgrade process is to scan your machine to identify the versions of software and patches that you have installed. Microsoft say that they do not use the information gathered for any other purpose than to identify what patches you need.

The next stage is to select which patches you want. You do not have to accept any. One word of caution, not all upgrades are necessary, and the upgrade may make your machine inoperable. One example is the upgrades to device drivers. If your web cam works fine, it may be better to leave it as it is, and not install the update.

Windows Update

<http://v4.windowsupdate.microsoft.com/en/default.asp>

Office Update

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-gb/officeupdate/default.aspx>

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