# Updating the Windows operating system About this article

One of the first things you need to do on your Windows PC is to check that it is running the most up to date version of the operating system. In this article, we are going to walk you through checking your operating system to ensure you have downloaded and installed all the latest patches and updates.

## What is Windows Update?

Windows Update is a built-in feature of the Windows operating system that checks online as to whether or not you have the latest version of your operating system installed on your PC. This check is important as it can also contain security updates and patches to fix potential vulnerabilities in the operating system. It could also add the latest new features. As part of the update process, any new files will be automatically downloaded and installed on your PC. It's important to follow the update instructions as often your PC will reboot several times while applying these updates.

If you are running updates on a Windows laptop PC then it is often important to leave the laptop plugged into the mains supply so that it has an uninterrupted power supply during the updates.

# Checking & updating Windows 10

In this section, we are going to look at checking and installing updates for the Windows 10 operating system. Follow the steps below to work through the process of enabling the firewall:

1. Press the Windows key on your keyboard and then start to type in '**settings**" in the search box highlighted (1). You will then see the Settings **App** appear at the top of the list as the best match, highlighted (2). Click on the Settings **App** to launch it as shown in the following screenshot:



2. You will now see the **Windows Settings** screen as shown in the following screenshot:



3. Click on the option for **Update & Security** as highlighted (3) in the above screenshot. You will now see the **Windows Update** screen as shown in the following screenshot:

← Settings		- 0	×
<b>命</b> Home		Windows Update	
Find a setting		You're up to date	
Update & Security			
€ Windows	Update	Check for updates	
Windows	Security	Change active hours	
→ Backup		View update history	
G T LL		Advanced options	
79 Troublesh	oot	Stay up to date	
C Recovery		We're rolling out the latest update with exciting new features and security improvements. Check for updates now to find out if the	
O Activation	1	See what's new in the latest update	
占 Find my d	evice		
🖁 For devel	opers	Looking for info on the latest undeted?	
茵 Windows	Insider Program	Learn more	
		Related links	
		OS build info	

4. Click the **Check for updates** button as highlighted (4) in the above screenshot. This will check in with the update sites and the report back on any available updates.

#### Note:

For the Windows Update feature to work and to be able to check for updates, your PC will need to be connected to the internet.

5. While checking for updates you will see the following screenshot:



6. When the search for updates has completed, then you will see a list of the updates that are available for download and install. The following screenshot shows an example of available updates:

← Settings	– 🗆 X
命 Home	Windows Update
Find a setting	Updates available Last checked: Yesterday, 20:14
Update & Security	
⊖ Windows Update	Status: Pending install
Windows Security	Intel - Extension - 5/14/2018 12:00:00 AM - 1820.13.0.1 <b>Status:</b> Pending install
→ Backup	Synaptics Incorporated - Biometric - 2/27/2019 12:00:00 AM - 5.3.3538.26
3 Troubleshoot	Status: Pending install
C Recovery	Status: Pending install
<ul> <li>Activation</li> </ul>	Intel Corporation - SoftwareComponent - 11/25/2018 12:00:00 AM - 2.2.100.47975 <b>Status:</b> Pending install
泴 Find my device	NVIDIA - Display - 12/11/2018 12:00:00 AM - 25.21.14.1735 <b>Status:</b> Pending install
🖁 For developers	Realtek Semiconductor Corp Extension - 12/28/2018 12:00:00
諁 Windows Insider Program	AM - 6.0.1.8606 <b>Status:</b> Pending install
	Fortemeida - Extension - 7/10/2018 12:00:00 AM - 1.0.3.36 <b>Status:</b> Pending install
	We'll automatically install updates when you aren't using your device, or you can install them now if you want.
	Install now 5

7. Click on the **Install now** button highlighted (5) in the above screenshot. This will start the update installation.

8. Once the installation has completed then you will need to restart your PC as shown in the following screenshot:

÷	Settings	– 🗆 X
命	Home	Windows Update
Find a setting $\wp$		Restart required Your device will restart outside of active hours.
Update & Security		
C	Windows Update	2019-02 Update for Windows 10 Version 1803 for x64-based Systems (KB4346084) <b>Status:</b> Pending restart
•	Windows Security 6	Restart now Schedule the restart
Ţ	Backup	Change active hours
B	Troubleshoot	View update history
J	Recovery	Advanced options
$\oslash$	Activation	Stay up to date
گ	Find my device	We're rolling out the latest update with exciting new features and security improvements. Check for updates now to find out if the update is available for you.
Îŧ	For developers	See what's new in the latest update
Ø	Windows Insider Program	
		Looking for info on the latest updates?
		Learn more
		Related links
		Check Storage

#### 9. Click on the **Restart now** button to restart your PC.

You have now successfully updated your Windows 10 PC or laptop. It's worth setting up regular updates to ensure that your PC is always up to date.

### **Related Articles**

### **Revision History**

Date Created: 09/03/2021 3:10 pm EDT Last Modified: 09/03/2021 3:12 pm EDT