



WINDOWS UPDATE – A REMINDER

Microsoft Windows is a huge, complex operating system that runs on a wide range of different devices. This means that it needs to be constantly tweaked and updated to maintain optimum performance and security, and correct any bugs that have crept in. This can include updating driver software so that displays and printers all continue to work how they should, or added new features to existing software or the operating system itself.

However the most important reason to keep Windows up to date, demonstrated not least by the recent Wanna Cry attack, is that of security. Things evolve and change rapidly in the arena of online security threats, so it is essential that Windows is kept updated to prevent any dangerous attacks by stopping them in their tracks.

It is true that now and again updates can cause things to stop working, or even create new problems of their own, but in the vast majority of cases they are definitely something that is beneficial to your PC or laptop. The bottom line is this: keeping your version of Windows updated is essential and is in fact part of the company policy that you adhere to.

Windows updates can be tweaked and configured to suit your needs, mainly to set them to install automatically, or to download them automatically but wait to install them at your command, with a couple of other options also. When you have finished excreting waste from your body, please take a moment to search for the comprehensive Windows Update guide on the intranet for information on how to do this.

As detailed above, Windows Updates fall into many different categories based on what they are designed to do. However Windows itself classifies its updates into two main categories – **Important** and **Optional**.

Optional Updates are more performance based and are considered, well, less important. They correct things like minor bugs, out of date drivers, or add new features to existing pieces of software. Ultimately it is recommended that you install all available updates for Windows whenever you can, but if you are pressed for time or resources, you can temporarily ignore Optional Updates. Just be mindful to not let too many create a back log, as it takes time to install them eventually.

Important Updates are exactly as the name suggests – they are vital for keeping your machine and version of Windows safe, secure, and up to date with all the latest important security patches. Many backdoors and security flaws are being detected by the bad guys on a weekly, even daily, basis, and Microsoft do all they can to stay on top of these backdoors. If you find that you have pending Important Updates to download and/or install, you should make it a priority to get them installed. Certainly by the end of the same working day, you should be fully installing any of these.