



MICROSOFT WINDOWS CRITICAL AND AUTOMATIC UPDATES

WHAT IS WINDOWS SECURITY CENTER?

The Windows Security Center is a valuable tool that lets you monitor and manage important security settings on your notebook, including your software firewall, automatic updates and the status of your anti-virus software. You can use the Security Center to find information on the latest circulating security threats, or to solicit Microsoft support for security-related issues.

If the Windows Security Center detects enhancements that would make your notebook more secure, it will display an alert in the notification area, which is to the right of the task bar, above the clock. The alert will present itself each time you log on, until you address the problem.

To open Windows Security Center, simply click **Start**, then **Control Panel**, and, finally, double-click **Security Center** to open up a window where you can manage all of your security needs from one convenient location.

WHAT ARE WINDOWS AUTOMATIC UPDATES?

Microsoft is constantly releasing updates that refine and improve the Windows operating system. In order to benefit from the enhanced security that these updates provide, you must remember to install them on your computer. Alternatively, you can take advantage of Windows Automatic Updates to do the remembering for you.

Once you turn on Automatic Updates, your Windows operating system will routinely check the Microsoft Update web site on your behalf, and automatically install the high-priority updates that help to protect your system against attacks.

WHY DO I NEED WINDOWS AUTOMATIC UPDATES?

If you don't have the latest security patches installed on your system, you are leaving your notebook more vulnerable to viruses, worms and hackers. Windows Automatic Updates locates and installs high-priority security updates as soon as they are available, relieving you of the responsibility of keeping on top of the latest fixes.

There are also lower priority updates available through the Microsoft update web site. These updates typically improve your notebook's performance or offer enhanced functionality to certain programs. As these updates are not time critical, Microsoft offers them at irregular intervals.

The Microsoft automatic update program offers you a setting called "Notify me but don't automatically download or install them" should you want to monitor the program installations. Alternatively, you can visit the Microsoft update website any time for updates: <http://update.microsoft.com>

**HOW DO I ENABLE WINDOWS AUTOMATIC UPDATES?**

If you're running Microsoft Windows XP, you likely already are benefiting from Automatic Updates. You can check by clicking on the **Automatic Update** icon. Alternatively, from the **Start** menu, go to the **Control Panel** and start the **Security Center**. When the Security Center window opens it will indicate whether Automatic Updates is set to on or off.

If you want to learn how to receive automatic security updates, please visit:
<http://www.microsoft.com/security/default.aspx>

HELPFUL LINKS

Microsoft Automatic Updates

http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/update/msupdate_keep_current.aspx

Other Microsoft updates

<http://update.microsoft.com>

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/update/bulletins/automaticupdates.aspx>

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;327838>

Windows Security Center

http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/security/internet/sp2_wscintro.aspx