UPDATES

There are two kinds of updates. Those which fix security vulnerabilities and those which add new features. Sometimes these two are combined into up-to-date software.

Updates are free and easy to install.

Installing updates is the easiest thing you can do to keep yourself safe.

Why do we need to keep our devices up-to-date?

Updates require very little effort to apply whilst providing protection against all current and publicly known vulnerabilities in the software. However, having the latest update does not mean that the software contains no vulnerabilities, only that all publicly known vulnerabilities have been fixed.

There are two kinds of updates: those which fix vulnerabilities and those which add new features of functionality. Usually, the updates which add features are released on an annual or biannual basis; updates which fix vulnerabilities are released sporadically, usually when vulnerabilities are reported.

The easiest way to stay updated/patched is to enable automatic updating whenever possible!

Updating desktops and laptops

We encourage all users of Windows computers to move to the latest version of Windows as soon as possible, which is Windows 10. Microsoft Windows have a policy of 5 years mainstreamed support, and 10 years extended support. However, this is not set in stone. What is important is that you download any updates that contain critical security fixes, as new threats and vulnerabilities are revealed.

As for Mac users, the latest operating system for Mac is Catalina. Apple doesn't publicly say how long operating systems are not supported. Their extended support on old operating systems does run for some time, but is only fixing security vulnerabilities. Whichever you use, just make sure you download the latest updates and you are familiar whether these are system updates or security fixes.

Updating mobile devices

We advise that, if your Android device cannot be updated past Android 4.4.4, you upgrade the device immediately.

To update Android devices, open the

'Settings' app then: System> Advanced> System update (Android 9)

For iOS devices, it is recommended to use the most up-to-date version of the operating system.

To update iOS devices, open the 'Settings' app then:

General> Software Update

BE AWARE: BE SMART: BE PROTECTED