
Windows 10 Security Updates

Introduction:

Microsoft is starting to retire Windows 10 in favour of Windows 11 and the forthcoming Windows 12. They have decided to stop supporting Windows 10 with security updates from October 2025. However, due to popular demand, they are willing to support the Windows 10 until October 2026, for those who wish to enrol in the ESU Programme.

However, the support updates only fix any bugs that are found and plug any vulnerabilities found.

Things to do:

There are other things which you must do, and in fact must be doing already:

- **Use good security software**, such as Windows Defender or another software, and keep it up to date. (*Defender updates are going to be continued until 2028, according to Microsoft.*)
- **Secure your accounts**: use good password management
- **Secure Connections**: Understand when to use the HTTP:// and HTTPS:// protocols when using the internet. Not all sites need to have HTTPS://, but use it if you are sending financial or personal information. Use a VPN when working on a public Wi-Fi system, such as a coffee shop or supermarket.
- **Backup**: Ensure you have a robust backup system in place; use one of the cloud sites or back up locally to a spare hard drive.

As mentioned previously, the Windows 10 updates only fix bugs or vulnerabilities that hackers have found and could exploit.

The Extended Security Updates Programme (ESU):

Please do not confuse these security updates with the updates to the Windows Defender Security System, as they are NOT the same.

The ESU will allow users to obtain the updates until October 2026 by enrolling in one of 3 schemes:

- Sync PC Settings to OneDrive
- Use 1000 of Microsoft Points
- Pay \$30 in equivalent currency

The best option for this update is to use Option 1, which allows the updates for free and there are certain requirements that must be met for this to work:

Microsoft Account:

- You must have a Microsoft Account (Email address and password)

How to check:

Go to settings: at the top left hand side will be your Microsoft account name and email address, click on this to open up panel with more information about your account. It will NOT show your password



Forgotten Username (email address) or Password?

 A screenshot of the Microsoft Sign in page. It features the Microsoft logo at the top, followed by the text "Sign in" and "Use your Microsoft account." Below this is a text input field labeled "Email or phone number". Underneath the input field is a link that says "Forgot your username?". A red arrow points from the "Forgot Username:" text in the adjacent block to this link. At the bottom of the sign-in area is a blue "Next" button. Below the button, it says "New to Microsoft? Create an account".

In many cases, we do not access this account often and in many cases the username, password or both are forgotten.

Forgot Username:

Forgot password: If you fill in your username, then the forgotten password box will appear.

Just follow the prompts to recover; it may be through your own email or phone text, and you may have to solve a picture puzzle. symbols.

It is important to keep these safe for future use.

Updates:

- Your PC must be up to date with version 22H2.

Go to Settings:

Check that you are logged into your Microsoft account. It must be an administrator account; if you do not have an account, create one and log in.

Go to Updates:

Look for a message that describes the update programme

Click on ENROL

Follow the prompts, choose the 'Sync PC Settings' option (default)

Once enrolled, a message will appear in the Right Hand Corner saying that "you are enrolled"

Go to Backup:

Turn off all the backup settings (or leave them on as you require)

Summary:

Practice Safe Computing

- Secure accounts with complex passwords (Use a password manager)
- Use good security software (Windows Defender)
- Be vigilant while on the web
- Don't click on suspicious links