

From: UTech Security

RE: UTech Security Awareness Bulletin – **Understanding Patches**

When vendors become aware of vulnerabilities in their products, they often issue patches to correct the problem. Make sure to apply relevant patches to your computer as soon as possible so that your system is protected.

What are patches?

Patches are updates that fix a particular problem or vulnerability within a program. Sometimes, instead of releasing a patch, vendors will release an upgraded version of their software.

How do you find out what patches you need to install?

When patches are available, vendors usually put them on their websites for users to download. It is important to patch as soon as possible to protect your computer from attackers who would take advantage of the vulnerability. Some software will automatically check for updates.

Make sure that you only download software or patches from websites that you trust. Do NOT trust a link in an email message. Also, beware of email messages that claim they have attached a patch. These messages are often viruses.

Windows Update

To update your Windows operating system, go to <http://update.microsoft.com> and it will guide you through downloading and installing any needed patches.

Apple

Visit the Apple site for software updates. Instructions for patching Apple systems are available at their website.

Mobile OS: <http://www.apple.com/ios/>

Mac: <http://www.apple.com/softwareupdate/>