



# NEWSLETTER



## Make March 31<sup>st</sup> World Backup Day

### What Is World Backup Day?

Every year on March 31st, World Backup Day serves as a reminder to protect our digital files. Whether it's family photos, work documents, or important financial records, losing data can be frustrating, sometimes even devastating. A good backup plan keeps your files safe and easy to recover if something goes wrong.

### Why Backing Up Matters

Imagine turning on your computer and finding all your files are gone. Maybe your hard drive failed, you accidentally deleted something important, or malware locked everything up. Without a backup, recovering those files could be impossible or very expensive.

A proper backup means you don't have to worry. If something happens, you can restore your files quickly and get back to what matters most.

### Common Ways People Lose Data

People lose files all the time, and it's not always their fault. Here are some of the most common causes:

1. **Hard drive failure.** Traditional hard drives wear out over time, and solid-state drives (SSDs) aren't immune to problems either.
2. **Accidental deletion.** We've all deleted something we shouldn't have.
3. **Ransomware and viruses.** Some malware can lock or destroy your files.
4. **Theft or loss.** Laptops, external drives, and even phones can be stolen or misplaced.
5. **Natural disasters.** Fires, floods, and power surges can damage computers and storage devices.

### What Makes a Good Backup Plan?

A backup is useful only if it's reliable and up to date. A strong backup strategy follows the **3-2-1 rule**:

1. **3 copies of your data** – one primary and two backups.
2. **2 different storage types.** For example, an external hard drive and cloud storage.
3. **1 off-site backup** – a copy stored somewhere safe outside your home.

### Best Ways to Back Up Your Files

#### 1. External Hard Drives

A simple and cost-effective option. Just plug in a drive and copy your important files. Some external drives come with automatic backup software that runs on a schedule.

#### 2. Cloud Storage

Services such as Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive, and iCloud allow you to store files online. Cloud storage is great for automatic backups and accessing files from multiple devices.

#### 3. Full System Backup

Instead of backing up just files, a full system backup creates a copy of everything, including your operating system, programs, and settings. If your computer crashes, you can restore everything to how it was before.

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### **How Often Should You Back Up?**

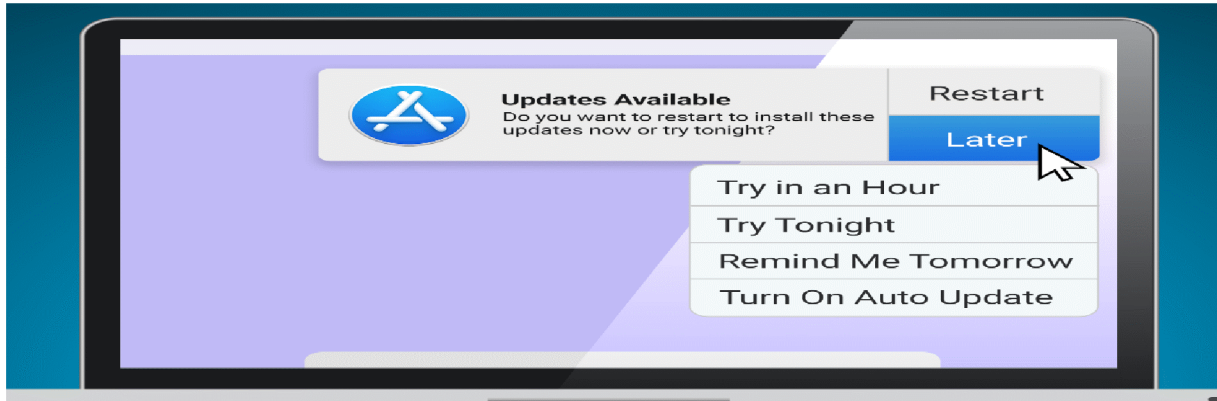
This depends on how often you create or update important files. For some, a weekly backup is enough. For others, such as small business owners or students, daily backups might be a better choice. The key is making it a habit.

### **Need Help Setting Up a Backup? We Can Help!**

If you're not sure where to start, or if your current backup system needs an upgrade, we can help. We can set up automated backups, recommend the best storage options, and make sure your data is protected the right way.

World Backup Day is a great time to start thinking about protecting your files. Don't wait until it's too late. Reach out today, and let's get your backup system in place!

Call us at 940-282-0290.



## What Happens If You Never Update Your Laptop's Operating System

### What Happens If You Never Update Your Laptop's Operating System?

We've all been there. You're in the middle of something important when that pesky update notification pops up. "Now is not a good time," you think, and click "Remind me later." The problem is that "later" never seems to come. Weeks, months, even years go by, and your laptop is still running the same old version of its operating system.

So, what happens if you never update your laptop? Is it really that big of a deal? Let's talk about it.

### Why Do These Updates Keep Coming?

It might seem like your laptop just likes to nag you, but there's a good reason those updates exist. Your operating system is a complex piece of software, and no software is perfect.

Every update is designed to fix something, whether it's a security risk, a software bug, or compatibility with new programs. Ignoring updates doesn't just leave you with an outdated system; it leaves you exposed to

potential problems that could have been prevented.

### Hackers Are Always Finding New Ways In

Every day, hackers are hard at work finding vulnerabilities, small flaws in the code that they can exploit to gain access to your system. Once a weakness is discovered, cybercriminals can use it to steal your data, install malware, or even take control of your laptop.

Updates exist to patch these security holes, and if you're not updating, you're leaving those doors wide open for attackers. Even if your laptop seems to be working fine, it could already be compromised without you knowing.

### Safe Browsing Isn't Always Enough

You might think, "I don't visit sketchy websites, so I'm fine." Unfortunately, that's not how modern cyberthreats work. Some attacks don't require downloading anything or clicking on a suspicious link. These are called zero-click exploits.

If a website you trust has been hacked or displays a malicious ad, simply visiting the page could be enough to

infect your computer. Security updates help protect against these threats, but only if they're installed.

### Bug Fixes Keep Things Running Smoothly

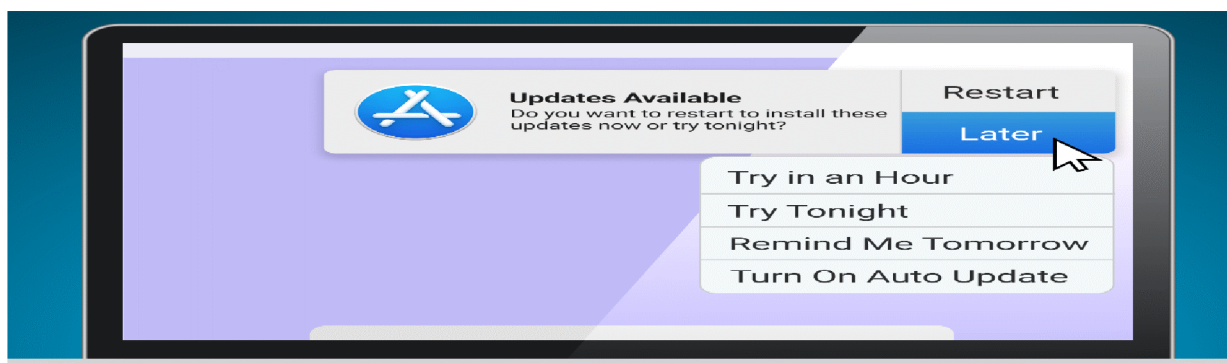
Security isn't the only reason to update. Have you ever had a program that suddenly started behaving strangely? Maybe your laptop crashes unexpectedly, or certain features don't work right. Often, these issues are caused by software bugs, glitches in the code that developers didn't catch when the system was first released.

Updates often include fixes for these bugs, improving your laptop's performance and stability. Skipping updates means you're stuck dealing with problems that have already been solved.

### New Software May Not Work on an Outdated System

If you're someone who installs new software or updates apps regularly, skipping operating system updates can eventually become a problem.

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Many third-party programs require a minimum OS version to run. Over time, you may find that you can't install certain applications or that updates to your favorite programs are no longer available to you.

That can be frustrating, especially when a simple system update could have kept everything working as expected.

### **Big Jumps Can Be Risky**

The longer you go without updating, the harder it becomes to catch up. If you go years without installing updates, eventually you may reach a point where you can't simply update to the latest version in one step.

Older versions sometimes require incremental updates before you can install the latest release. Skipping too many updates in a row can turn what should be a simple process into a much bigger hassle. In some cases, upgrading from an old system might even require a complete reinstall, which could mean backing up all your data and setting everything up from scratch.

### **Your Hardware Won't Be Supported Forever**

At some point, even the most up-to-date operating system will become outdated. But until that day comes, it's

best to stay on the latest version that your laptop supports.

Once an OS version stops receiving updates, it's no longer being patched for security vulnerabilities. That means using it becomes increasingly risky over time. Eventually, even hardware manufacturers stop providing updated drivers, which can lead to performance issues, compatibility problems, and security risks.

### **The Bottom Line**

Keeping your laptop updated might seem like a hassle, but it's one of the easiest things you can do to keep your computer secure, reliable, and running smoothly. Skipping updates leaves you open to cyberthreats, software bugs, and compatibility issues that only get worse over time.

If you've been avoiding updates for a while and aren't sure where to start, we can help. Whether it's making sure your laptop is up to date, troubleshooting issues caused by outdated software, or helping you transition to a new system, we're here to take the stress out of IT.

Reach out to us today at 940-282-0290; we've got you covered!