



Don't ignore Apple's urgent security update

Apple patches actively exploited zero-day flaw affecting iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch, Apple TV and Safari

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Apple's latest security updates affect iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch and Apple TV, so now is the time to check every device you own. (iStock)

If you use an iPhone, iPad, Mac, Apple Watch or Apple TV, listen up. Apple has released a [major security update](#) to fix a zero-day vulnerability, which is a security hole that hackers discover and exploit before the company has a chance to fix it.

Attackers were already using it in [targeted attacks](#). In other words, this was not just a possibility. It was happening.

The flaw, tracked as CVE-2026-20700, affects multiple Apple operating systems.

If you have delayed updates lately, this is one you should not ignore.

If you own an Android or Windows PC, this is also a good reminder to check for updates.

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What is CVE-2026-20700 and why it matters

CVE-2026-20700 is a memory corruption vulnerability affecting:

- **iOS 26.3**
- **iPadOS 26.3**
- **macOS Tahoe 26.3**
- **watchOS 26.3**
- **tvOS 26.3**
- **visionOS 26.3**

In simple terms, this bug could allow an attacker to run arbitrary code on your device. That opens the door to spyware, hidden backdoors or silent takeovers without obvious warning signs. Apple says this vulnerability was used as part of an infection chain combined with two previously patched flaws against devices running older versions of iOS. Those earlier bugs were fixed in December 2025. Devices that

skipped those updates remained exposed. This is how many real attacks unfold. Hackers chain vulnerabilities together and quietly move in.

Which devices need updating?

Here is a breakdown of the available updates:

- **iOS 26.3 and iPadOS 26.3** for iPhone 11 and later, plus newer iPads
- **iOS 18.7.5 and iPadOS 18.7.5** for iPhone XS, XS Max, XR and iPad 7th generation
- macOS Tahoe 26.3, Sequoia 15.7.4, Sonoma 14.8.4
- **tvOS 26.3** for Apple TV HD and Apple TV 4K
- **watchOS 26.3** for Apple Watch Series 6 and later
- **visionOS 26.3** for Apple Vision Pro
- **Safari 26.3** for supported macOS versions

If your device qualifies, update it as soon as possible.

Why this update deserves attention

[Security updates](#) can feel routine. Many of us see the notification and decide to deal with it later. This time is different. Apple confirmed the flaw was actively exploited. That means attackers already know how to use it. Running older software gives them a window of opportunity. Updating closes that window.

How to update your iPhone or iPad

Updating takes only a few minutes.

- Go to **Settings**
- Tap General
- Tap Software Update
- If an update appears, tap **Download and Install**
- Turn on **Automatic Updates** so you do not miss future fixes

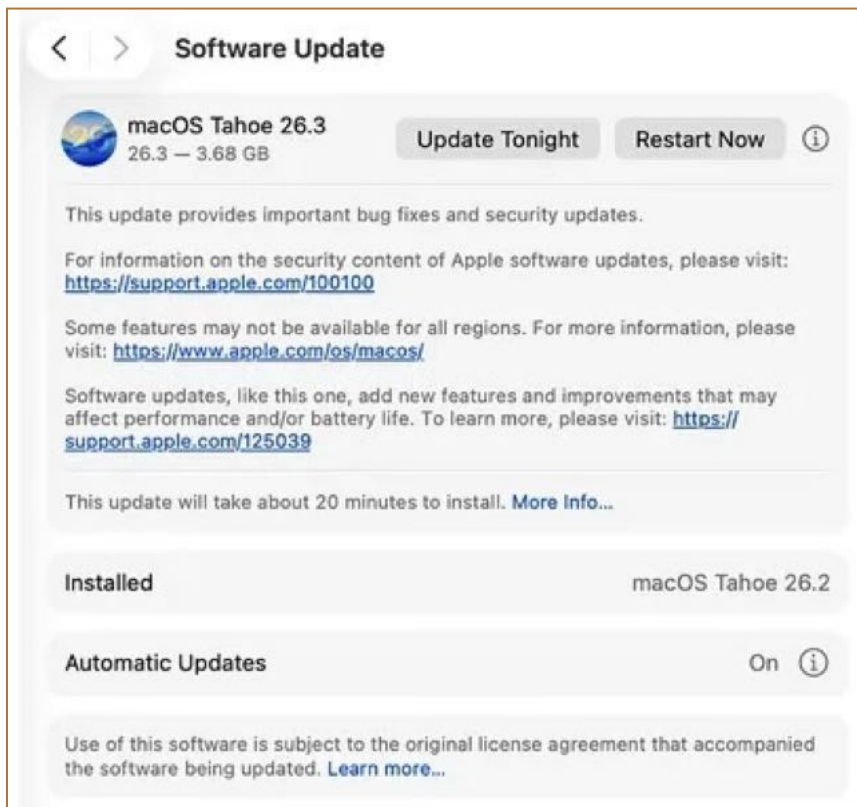
Keep your device connected to Wi-Fi and power during the process.

APPLE WARNS MILLIONS OF IPHONES ARE EXPOSED TO ATTACK



Once you reach this screen on your iPhone, tap Update Now to install Apple's latest security fix immediately. (Kurt "CyberGuy" Knutsson)

How to update your Mac



- Click the **Apple menu** in the upper left corner
- Choose **System Settings** or **System Preferences**
- Select **General**
- Click **Software Update**
- If an update appears, select **Restart Now** or **Update Tonight**

Your Mac may restart during the process. Keep it plugged in and connected to the internet until the update finishes.

Mac users will see options like Update Tonight or Restart Now, and installing this update closes a flaw already exploited in attacks. (Kurt "CyberGuy" Knutsson)

How to update Apple Watch



- Keep your Watch **on its charger** and **near your iPhone**
- Open the Watch app on your iPhone
- Tap **General**
- Tap Software Update
- Tap Download and Install if available

Your Watch will restart during the update.

Your Apple Watch also receives critical security fixes, so keep it on the charger and update it just like your iPhone. (Kurt "CyberGuy" Knutsson)

How to update Apple TV

- Open **Settings** on Apple TV
- Go to **System**
- Select Software Updates
- Choose Update Software
- Select Download and Install

Stay connected to power and Wi Fi until the update completes.

How to update Safari

Safari updates are included with macOS updates.

- Go to the **Apple menu**
- Click System Settings
- Select **General**
- Click Software Update

If Safari appears separately, click Update Now and restart your Mac.

How to update your Apple Vision Pro

- Put on your Vision Pro and open the **Settings** app.
- Select **General** from the sidebar.
- Tap Software Update.
- If an update appears for visionOS 26.3, choose **Download and Install**.
- Make sure your Vision Pro stays charged and connected to Wi-Fi until the update completes.

[MALICIOUS MAC EXTENSIONS STEAL CRYPTO WALLETS AND PASSWORDS](#)

Ways to stay safe

Installing this update is the most important step. Still, there are additional habits that strengthen your protection.

- Turn on automatic updates for every Apple device
- Restart devices regularly to clear temporary processes
- Avoid clicking unsolicited links or attachments, and use [strong antivirus software](#). Get my picks for the best 2026 antivirus protection winners for your Windows, Mac, Android and iOS devices at **Cyberguy.com**.
- Remember, Apple threat notifications will never ask for passwords or verification codes
- Be cautious when viewing HTML-formatted emails in Apple Mail
- Consider enabling [Lockdown Mode](#) if you face a higher risk

Cybercriminals rely on hesitation. They count on us assuming we will get to the update later.

Kurt's key takeaways

Apple moved fast to fix this vulnerability, and that is reassuring. Now it is up to us to do our part. I get it. Updates interrupt your day. They force a restart. They rarely feel urgent. But here is the thing. Installing updates is still the simplest and most effective way to protect your device from active threats. A few minutes now can prevent a serious security problem later.

What is your biggest reason for delaying updates, and has it ever cost you? Let us know by writing to us at **Cyberguy.com**.

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Kurt "CyberGuy" Knutsson is an award-winning tech journalist who has a deep love of technology, gear and gadgets that make life better with his contributions for Fox News & FOX Business beginning mornings on "FOX & Friends." Got a tech question? Get Kurt's free CyberGuy Newsletter, share your voice, a story idea or comment at CyberGuy.com.