How to Install Apple Updates When You Get a Notification

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This is an article about recognizing notifications for updating your **MacOS**, **iOS**, and **iPadOS** and then updating them. You may encounter slightly different prompts from your notifications than what is listed in the article, yet they should have similar effects.

Note

The importance of updating your **Operating System** (**OS**) is *crucial* in many respects. It can allow *new features* to be installed on your system, potentially *bug fix* some problem that is happening, possibly *upgrade performance*, and/or *patch/fix security vulnerabilities*.

You shall need an *internet connection* to install an update.

Most updates require a minimum battery level before installation can begin, and it's recommended (sometimes required) to keep your device plugged in during the process.

Updates typically take 10–30 minutes, but larger updates (or slower machines) can take significantly longer.

MacOS

When your **Mac** is ready for a **MacOS** update, you'll usually see a notification in the top-right corner of your screen. It may say something like "*A new macOS update is available*" or offer the options to **Install Now**, **Later**, and **Details**.

- If you're not doing anything time-sensitive, it's generally a good idea to click **Install Now**.
- This will open the **System Settings** and show more information about the update.
- Next click on **Update Now** to begin downloading and installing the update.
- Once completed your computer may need a restart to complete, this is normal.

What to do if you miss the notification

If you miss the notification, (or if you don’t see one but want to check if your **MacOS** needs an update,) then we can still update it manually.

- Go into your **System Settings**.
- Click **General** in the left-hand sidebar.

- Select **Software Update**.
- If an update is available, click **Update Now** to start.

Note

If you don’t see an update, then please select the **Check for Updates** button.

You can also follow Apple’s official guide for more information.

iOS

When your **iPhone** is ready for an **iOS** update, you’ll usually see a notification indicating that an update is ready, which you can select either **Install Tonight** or **Remind Me Later**.

- If you tap **Install Tonight** your **iPhone** should automatically update during a set time, (as long as it is connected to the internet and plugged in.)
- If you select **Remind Me Later** then you have the option to schedule a time for the update.

What to do if you don’t see a notification

If you miss the notification, (or if you don’t see one but want to check if your **iOS** needs an update,) then we can still update it manually.

- Go to **Settings**.
- Select **General**.
- Then tap **Software Update**.
- Some details should appear, select either **Update Now** or **Update Tonight**.

Note

If you don’t see an update, then please select the **Check for Updates** button.

You can also follow Apple’s official guide for more information.

iPadOS

When your **iPad** is ready for an **iPadOS** update, you’ll usually see a notification indicating that you have a software update available. You can select **Download and Install**, **Install Tonight**, or **Details**.

- Selecting **Download and Install** will begin the update process immediately and is generally recommended.
- Selecting **Install Tonight** will update your **iPad** during a set time automatically, (as long as it is

connected to the internet and plugged in.)

- Selecting **Details** shall send you to the **Software Update** menu under **Settings**.

What to do if you don’t see a notification

If you miss the notification, (or if you don’t see one but want to check if your **iPadOS** needs an update,) then we can still update it manually.

- Go to **Settings**.
- Select **General**.
- Then tap **Software Update**.
- Then you should see a new update available with the options **Update Now** and **Update Tonight** under it.
- Select whichever is appropriate for you.

Note

If you don’t see an update, then please select the **Check for Updates** button.

You can also follow Apple’s official guide for more information.