Supported Operating Systems and Web Browsers and How to Update Them

David Raco - 2025-12-01 - Comments (0) - Security

This article describes the **operating systems** and **web browsers** that are *officially authorized* for use on *SOU computers* and *mobile devices*. ***All other* operating systems *and* web browsers *are not supported and should not be used on SOU computers and mobile devices*.** If you don't see an expected **operating system** or **web browser** on the list, or you have other questions, please email infosec@sou.edu.

Note

The reason we authorize some **operating systems** and **web browsers** and not others is to ensure our **Information Technology** department can support those programs and keep them secure. ***All employees are required by the university's information security policies to work with the* IT Department *to keep their devices up to date and patched against the latest vulnerabilities***.

We do our best to automate the process of updating the **operating systems** and **web browsers** installed on SOU computers, but sometimes things go wrong or we require your help with installing major upgrades that would be disruptive if we automated them.

This article documents which **operating systems** and **web browsers** are currently supported, which versions of those applications are supported, and what steps you can take to update them manually.

Warning

Although this article primarily concerns university-owned devices, ***we strongly encourage you to follow the same guidance with respect to your personal devices at home to ensure you are protected against the latest threats***.

If you continue to use a device at home that is running an outdated operating system or web browser, you are putting yourself at risk of having your device hacked, your **data** and **passwords** stolen, and even your **identity** stolen. If you use your personal devices to access SOU's online services, you could put your colleagues and the university at risk as well by running outdated **operating systems** and/or **web browsers**.

Stay up to date to protect yourself and others!

Supported Operating Systems

Windows

We follow **Microsoft's** end of support dates for determining our own cutoff dates for **Windows** support. SOU's **Windows computers** are configured to update automatically, but sometimes things go wrong or the computer hasn't been **restarted** in a long time to complete those updates, so please take a moment to **check for updates on your Windows computer**.

➡ Click here for instructions on how to confirm your current version of Windows.

- **Windows 11, Version 23H2 and later.**

    - For a full list of Windows 11 releases and their end of support dates from Microsoft, click here. All releases of **Windows 11** prior to the version listed here are no longer supported and should be upgraded as soon as possible.

- **Windows 10 is unsupported as of October 14th, 2025.**

    - *Everyone* is encouraged to upgrade to **Windows 11** as soon as possible. Contact your Computing Coordinator if your work computer needs this update. For personal computers, **Microsoft** has guidance here.

- *All previous releases of Windows* (**Windows 10**, **Windows 8.1**, **Windows 8**, **Windows 7**, **Windows Vista**, **Windows XP**, **Windows 2000**, etc.) are ***not*** authorized to operate after their end-of-support dates.

    - Exceptions may apply for *special-purpose equipment*. All exceptions *must be* approved by the **Information Security Manager** (infosec@sou.edu) and *will require* special compensating **security controls**.

macOS

We follow **Apple's** end of support dates for determining our own cutoff dates for **macOS** support. **Apple** generally supports **macOS** releases for around three years after release, but their end of support dates don't always follow that rule. For a third-party list of macOS releases and their end of support dates, as known at the time, click here.

SOU's **macOS** computers are configured to update automatically, but sometimes things go wrong or the computer hasn't been **restarted** in a long time to complete those updates, so please take a moment to **check for updates on your macOS computer**.

➡ Click here for instructions on how to confirm your current version of macOS.

- **macOS 26 (Tahoe)**
- **macOS 15 (Sequoia)**
- **macOS 14 (Sonoma)**
- All previous versions of **macOS** are not authorized to operate.

    - Exceptions may apply for *special-purpose equipment*. All exceptions *must be* approved by the **Information Security Manager** (infosec@sou.edu) and *will require* special compensating **security controls**.

iOS (iPhone / iPad / iPod)

We follow **Apple's** end of support dates for determining our own cutoff dates for **iOS** support. For a third-party list of iOS releases and their end of support dates, as known at the time, click here.

SOU's **iOS** devices are configured to update automatically, but sometimes things go wrong or the **iOS** device hasn't been **restarted** in a long time to complete those updates, so please take a moment to **check for updates on your iOS device**.

➡ Click here for instructions on how to confirm your current version of iOS on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod.

- **iOS 26**

- **iOS 18**

- All older versions of **iOS** are not authorized to operate.

    - Exceptions may apply for *special-purpose equipment*. All exceptions *must be* approved by the **Information Security Manager** (infosec@sou.edu) and *will require* special compensating **security controls**.

Linux

Linux is not generally supported for use on university computers or networks outside of our data center, although special exceptions have been granted to departments that rely on **Linux** for academic coursework and research. Those departments assume responsibility for supporting their **Linux deployments** and working with the **Information Security Manager** to ensure they remain secure.

All users of **Linux** on university devices or networks should install security updates as soon as they become available, or at least monthly, and should remain on supported versions of their distro and **Linux kernels** at all times. We recommend using a **package manager** for your **distro** such as **yum**, **dnf**, or **apt** to automate and streamline how you receive updates. If you operate a university **Linux** system and need help with configuring your update process, *please email* infosec@sou.edu.

Android

Android is not generally supported for use on university mobile devices and networks, although special exceptions have been granted to some departments that rely on **Android** devices for their work or research. **Android** devices should be kept current with security patches and must be running a supported version of **Android**. Click here for a third-party list of Android releases and their end of support dates, as known at the time.

➡**Click here for instructions on how to check and update your Android version**.

watchOS (Apple Watch)

We do not support **watchOS** for university business. If you are using a **watchOS** device, you are responsible for keeping it up to date with **Apple's** latest security patches. You must run a version of **watchOS** supported by **Apple**. Click here for a third-party list of watchOS releases and their end of support dates, as known at the time.

➡Click here for instructions on how to confirm your current version of watchOS.

Click here for instructions on how to update your watchOS device.

Supported Web Browsers

All the **web browsers** below are secure if kept up to date and should automatically update. However, it is occasionally necessary to trigger an update manually to make sure you have the latest security patches in response to emerging threats.

Note

Google Chrome is our default and recommended browser for university business. Click here for instructions on how to check your current version of Chrome and update it to the latest version. **Chrome** works well with all major university systems and it is the most secure browser on SOU computers thanks to our ability to manage its security settings.

- **Microsoft Edge** is a supported web browser for Windows computers. Click here for instructions on how to check your current version of Edge and update it to the latest version.

- **Apple Safari** is a supported web browser for **macOS** and **iOS** devices. Click here for instructions on how to check your current version of Safari and update it to the latest version.

- **Mozilla Firefox** is being retired as a supported web browser. (There is nothing wrong with it. See the next list item.) If you use **Firefox** and need help transitioning to another web browser, please contact your Computing Coordinator. If you use **Mozilla Firefox** at home, click here for instructions on how to check your current version of Firefox and update it to the latest version.

- All other web browsers, including but not limited to **Brave**, **Opera**, and **Vivaldi**, are *not supported*. Please refrain from using these browsers on university devices.

    - There is nothing wrong with them, we just don't have the resources to support managing settings and updates on many different web browsers, especially when almost all of them are based on the same underlying technology (**Chromium**) and provide the same core features.