macOS: macOS Software Update

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Automatic macOS Update Process

Periodically, Apple will release updates for the macOS which LTS will then distribute to University Macintosh computers. When these updates are ready to be installed on your computer, you will be prompted with the following message:

![Software Update Required](image)

If proceeding with the update process is inconvenient at the time when the prompt appears, you may defer the update process for up to 14 days. After 14 days has elapsed, the update will become required and you won’t be able to defer the update.
process further. Should you wish to run the updates at time of your choosing, you may run the update process any time from the Self Service application (see below).

If you’re ready to proceed with the updates, click the **Start Update** button. Laptop computers should be plugged into power before continuing and should remain plugged in while the updates are applied.

The next prompt will inform you that the software updates required by your computer are downloading.

![Software Update Required](image)

You can dismiss this prompt and use your computer normally while the download process proceeds.

Once the downloads are complete, a prompt will appear to start the installation process.
You’ll notice that there is a timer on this dialog box. Once the update process has begun, it is important that it complete in a timely fashion to prevent the normal function of the OS from becoming unstable. If the Start Updates button is not pressed before the time elapses, the update process will proceed automatically.

Some updates require a reboot after they have installed. If that is the case, you’ll see the following notification.

At this time, you should save all open documents and quit all running applications. After that is complete, click the Reboot button. As with the previous dialog box, there is a timer on this dialog box to ensure that the update completes in a timely fashion.
Once the reboot process has begun, you’ll see a final notification which indicates that the updates can take a while to run and that if you suspect that the update has stalled (30 to 45 minutes), you contact the LTS Help Desk by phone (715-836-5711) for assistance.

It is important not to interrupt this process even if you suspect that something has happened to prevent the update from completing. Please contact the LTS Help Desk if you need guidance.

At this point, the update may reboot the computer several times. During that process, you should see the Apple logo and a progress bar with the estimated time remaining. Please note that this estimate may not be accurate and will likely take less time to complete.

Once your computer has returned to the login window, you may login and use it normally.

Running macOS Updates via Self Service

If you wish to run macOS updates at a time which is convenient to you or would simply like to check to see if have updates pending, you may do so through the Self Service application.

1. Open the Self Service application located in the Applications folder
2. Navigate to the macOS category on the left-hand side of the window

3. Identify the macOS Software Update option and click the **Install Updates** button.
   
   Once you’ve clicked this button, the process cannot be interrupted.

4. The process will prompt you as the steps of the update proceed in a similar fashion detailed above. Follow the prompts as they appear.

5. A reboot may be triggered if the macOS update requires it. If that should occur,
allow the update process to proceed until you are back the login window. At that point, the computer will be ready for your use.

It is important not to interrupt this process even if you suspect that something has happened to prevent the update from completing. Please contact the LTS Help Desk if you need guidance.