Why You Need to Keep Your Software Up-To-Date

One of the simplest but most important security precautions you should take is to keep your PC's software up-to-date - and not just the updates of your operating system. Microsoft, Adobe, Apple, Mozilla, and other software makers periodically release fixes for various bugs and security flaws. Cybercriminals commonly exploit known vulnerabilities, and Adobe Reader and Java are constant targets of such assaults. In addition to security, software updates fix bugs and can boost performance.

Windows Update is Microsoft's service for updating desktop operating system software. It is recommended that everyone regularly run Windows Update on their PC to keep their operating system up-to-date. To run Windows Update, select it under the start menu or go to the site http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com. At the minimum, you should install *all* critical updates.

Most major commercial software packages come with some sort of automatic updating feature that will inform you when a new update is available. Don't ignore these messages; install updates as soon as you can when you're prompted to do so. It's a little bit of a hassle, but it can prevent major headaches later on.