Configure Automatic Updates on a Windows Machine

I want to make sure that Windows updates as well as other updates for Microsoft products will automatically install on my machine.

On this page:

- **Windows 10**
- **Windows 7 SP1**

**Windows 10**

1. Go to Start > Settings.

2. Once the Settings page opens click on Update & Security.

3. Select Windows Update on the left.

**Please Note:** Windows 10 is set to Automatically download and install updates so there is nothing needed to be configured expect for advanced options.

The option **Check online for updates from Microsoft Update** is unchecked by default if you are using WAUS (see the tip at the bottom)
of this page.) Checking this option allows additional updates to be installed from Microsoft. When a restart is required Windows will prompt you to schedule a restart or will do so when you are not using your machine.
You can also manually check for updates by clicking Check for updates.

Optional: If you select Advanced Options you can enable the following options:

- **Give me updates for other Microsoft products when I update Windows** - This allows updates for programs like Office to also be downloaded and installed.
- **Defer Upgrades** - This allows only security updates to be installed and any feature updates to be deferred for a few months.

### Windows 7 SP1

1. Go to **Start > Control Panel > System and Security**.
   
   Result: The System and Security window opens.
2. Click on **Windows Update**.
   Result: The **Windows Update** window opens.
   **Tip**: This page will show when the most recent updates were installed. They should be occurring at least once a month.

3. Click on **Change settings**.
   Result: The **Choose how Windows can install updates** window opens.
4. Set drop menu to **Install updates automatically (recommended)** and choose the frequency and time of day you wish the update to take place.
   **Tip:** Choose a time when your computer is turned on. Every day or every week is recommended.
5. Click **OK**.

### Tip
The MIT Windows Automatic Update Service (WAUS) is also available to those members of the MIT community who wish to utilize Microsoft's Automatic Update feature with a more conservative selection of patches – focused on critical security updates – than those available directly from Microsoft.

### See also

MIT Windows Automatic Update Service (WAUS)