

NAPLES COMPUTERS HOW-TO • MAC TIPS

How to Update Your Mac

Updates keep your Mac safe and running smoothly. This guide shows how to update your Mac: back up first with Time Machine, then System Settings, General, Software Update, Update Now, and restart. Plus the difference between Update Now and Upgrade Now, Automatic Updates, and updating your apps in the App Store.

Step by step

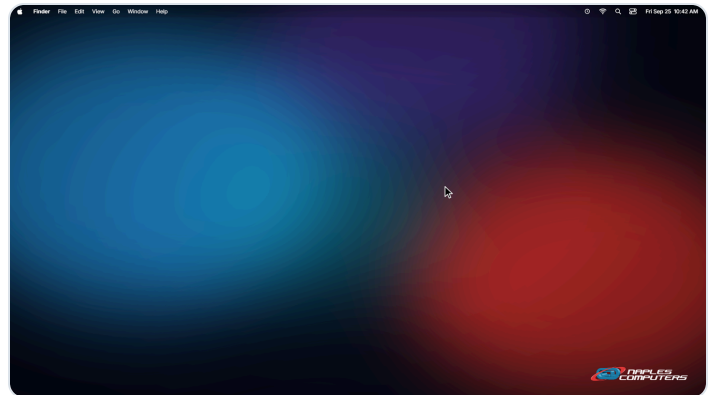
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Step 1: Back up first with Time Machine

Before a big update, make a fresh backup. Click the Time Machine icon in the menu bar and choose Back Up Now.

WHAT TO DO

No backup drive yet? See our video, [How to Back Up Your Important Files](#).



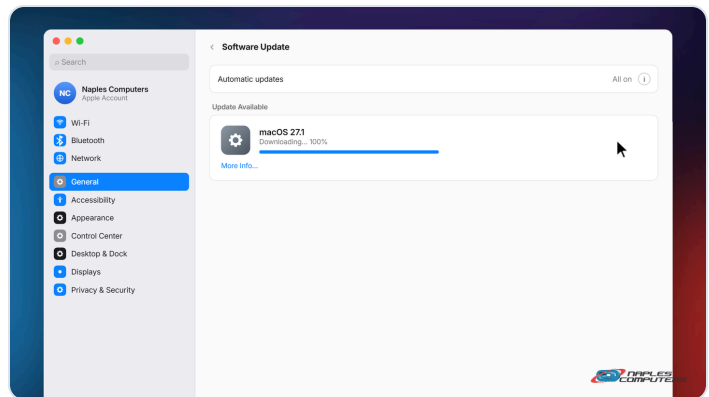
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Step 2: System Settings → General → Software Update → Update Now

Apple menu → System Settings → General → Software Update. Your Mac checks for updates.

WHAT TO DO

Click Update Now and enter your Mac's password if asked. Keep a laptop plugged in.

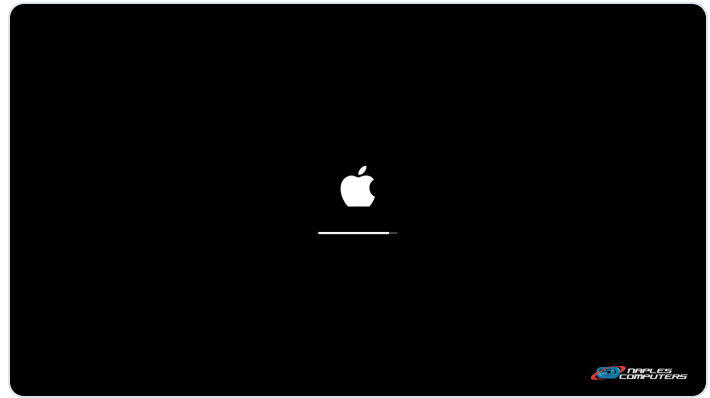


3 Step 3: Restart to install

When the download is ready, click Restart Now. Your Mac shows the Apple logo and a progress bar.

WHAT TO DO

Leave it alone until it's done. It may restart more than once. Keep the lid open and the charger connected.

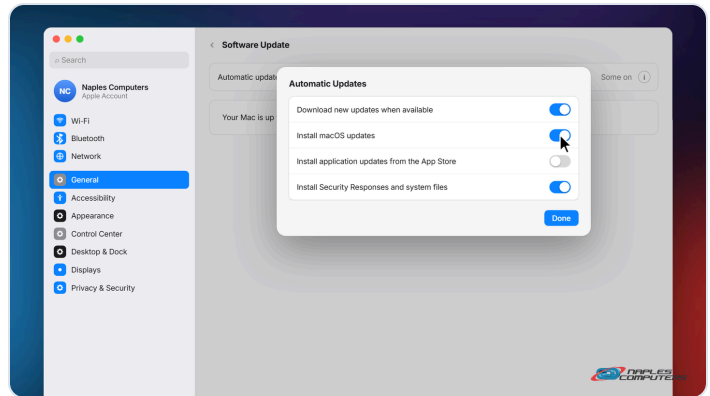


4 Step 4: Turn on Automatic Updates

In Software Update, click the info button next to Automatic updates.

WHAT TO DO

Turn on all four options, especially Install Security Responses and system files, then click Done.

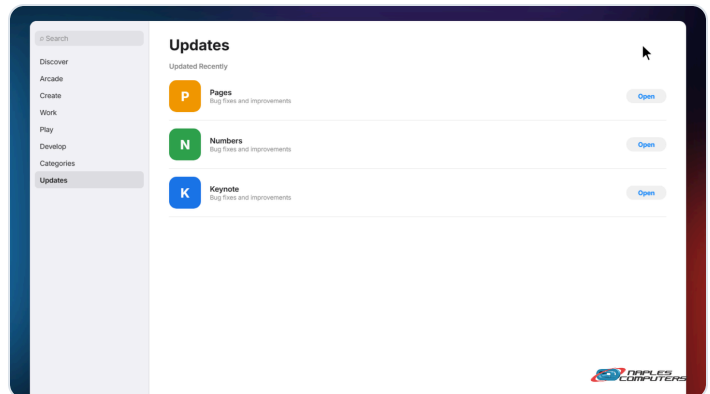


5 Step 5: Update your apps in the App Store

Apple menu → App Store. Click Updates in the sidebar.

WHAT TO DO

Click Update All. Apps you got outside the App Store usually update themselves: say yes when they ask.



Update Now, or Upgrade Now?

- ☐ Update Now
Fixes and security updates for the macOS you have. Install them soon
- ☐ Upgrade Now
A whole new version of macOS. Back up first, and check your important apps
- ☐ Not sure? Ask us first
Especially for business software, printers and older Macs

Good to know

- ☐ Back after the summer?
Your Mac may need several updates. Plug in and give it time
- ☐ "Your Mac is up to date"
That's what you want to see. Check once a month
- ☐ Older Macs stop getting updates
If it no longer gets security updates, it's time to talk to us
- ☐ Real updates come from Apple
Never from a pop-up, an email link, or a phone call

Recap: update your Mac

- ☐ Back up with Time Machine
- ☐ System Settings → General → Software Update
- ☐ Update Now, then Restart Now
- ☐ Upgrade Now? Back up and check apps first
- ☐ Turn on Automatic Updates
- ☐ App Store → Updates → Update All

Real updates come from Apple's Software Update and the App Store, never from a pop-up, an email link or a phone call. Naples Computers never cold-calls customers to get on your computer.



Need help updating your Mac, or wondering about an upgrade?

Call 239-513-1960

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