

OPERATING SYSTEM UPDATES COMING

Fall is usually when Apple and Microsoft update their operating systems. The “operating system” is the software that your computer, smart phone, or tablet uses to perform its tasks. It displays icons for you to tap on your tablet, runs programs like E-mail and Word, saves files you’re working on, connects your device to the Internet, puts your computer to sleep, and on and on. Sometimes these updates are major, such as the birth of Windows 10 in July 2015; sometimes they’re simply internal “tweaks” that make the device run faster; and sometimes they fiddle with appearances and add features.



Most important, however, is that operating system updates almost always bring new cybersecurity features and that’s why you should make sure your device’s operating system is up to date.

The table lists the most common operating systems and their corresponding device(s) and the updates that are now being rolled out.

Operating System	Devices	Current Version and “Nickname”	Fall 2017 Update and “Nickname”	Noteworthy Changes
Microsoft Windows	Personal computers other than Apple	Windows 10 “Creators Update”	Windows 10 “Creators Fall Update”	Minor appearance changes, better linking with Android and Apple devices, improvements to Edge browser
Apple Mac OS	Apple computers	Mac OS “Sierra”	Mac OS “High Sierra”	More efficient file storage for documents and pictures, improvements to Safari browser, new photo editing features
Apple iOS	Apple mobile devices: iPad, iPhone, iPod	iOS 10	iOS 11	New dock holds more icons, “drag-and-drop” between apps, internal file system
Google Android	Most smart phones and tablets other than Apple	Version 7 “Nougat”	Version 8 “Oreo”	Faster operation, “auto fill” information, more efficient interface

Among these operating system updates, **iOS 11 is a significant change for iPad owners.** It moves the “dock,” which now has room for only six icons, into a panel that accommodates a dozen with room for the last three apps you were running. iOS 11 also adds an internal file system for document storage that integrates with OneDrive, iCloud, Dropbox, and so on. The on-screen keyboard is easier to use and photos take up less memory.

If you need help installing these updates, or want to make sure your devices are running the latest operating system, stop by PSRC Computer Lab on Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 1:30 to 4 p.m., or Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.



The new iPad "dock."