

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's question is: I've been hearing a lot lately about updates to Windows. How do I get them?

This is a very good question and a very timely one. Microsoft, in trying to make a better and more secure product, releases periodic updates for its products. There are a number of ways to get these updates but most of them require access to the internet. The easiest way to get these updates is to click on the "Windows Update" selection on the Start Menu. This will launch Internet Explorer and take you to the webpage appropriate for your version of Windows where you can get the updates. You will just need to follow the instructions on this page to download and install the updates. If your version of Windows doesn't have the "Windows Update" selection then you can launch Internet Explorer and find it under the Tools Menu. If your Internet Explorer doesn't have the selection under the Tools Menu then you can just browse to [www.windowsupdate.com](http://www.windowsupdate.com) to get your updates.

Windows XP comes with an automatic update feature that you can configure and use. You can configure this feature to just notify you when updates are available or all the way up to downloading and installing them for you. Many people may find this feature helpful but I personally don't like things happening to my computer without knowing about it. Everyone will need to use this feature as they like. For previous version of Windows, this feature is one of the downloads available on the "Windows Update" webpage.

There is one way to get these updates without using the internet. Microsoft makes available a subscription service for computer technicians of which these updates are a part of. While this service very helpful for the technicians, these updates are delayed by a month or two.

These updates are important to the operation of your computers and I will be happy to help you get.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer to, please forward them to me. My email address is [meggert@wi.rr.com](mailto:meggert@wi.rr.com), my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.