

Strategic Priority: Safe Outcomes

In addition to National Cooperative Month, October is also Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Acting with a 200% Accountability mindset means taking responsibility for our own digital safety and looking out for others. Securing home workspaces and personal devices helps protect our families.



Software updates fix security issues that cybercriminals can exploit. Turn on automatic updates where available and check periodically to confirm that they are installed.

Update your operating system

- **Windows:** Start > Settings > Windows Update > Check for updates
- **macOS:** Apple Menu > System Settings > General > Software Update
- **Android:** Settings > System > System Update > Check for update
- **iPhone:** Settings > General > Software Update > Download and Install

Update your apps

- **Windows:** Microsoft Store > Library > Get updates
- **macOS:** App Store > Updates > Update All
- **Android:** Google Play Store > Profile icon > Manage Apps & Device > Update All
- **iPhone:** App Store > Profile Icon > Scroll to available updates > Update All
- *For apps installed outside an app store, check the app's Help or Settings menu for update options.*

Protect your home network by using each device's app or settings menu to check for updates:

- **Wi-Fi routers:** Your home network's connection point
- **Smart home tech:** Security cameras, smart TVs, voice assistants
- **Other connected equipment:** Gaming consoles, printers, smart appliances

Have a conversation with all family members - including children - to share the importance of being safe online and keeping applications updated. Give children guidance and make it easy for them to ask for help.

- Set up parental controls with [Apple Family Sharing](#) or [Google Family Link](#) to manage age-appropriate content, app use and downloads.
- Enable a password, biometric check or parental approval for purchases. Review download permissions to prevent unexpected charges.
- Set social media accounts to private and disable precise location sharing where possible. Teach children not to accept requests from strangers or share details such as school logos, sports schedules and home addresses.
- Schedule downtime or similar controls to limit non-essential apps at night. Consider a shared charging station outside bedrooms.
- Encourage children to tell you promptly about suspicious links, cyberbullying or uncomfortable content. Focus first on helping them, rather than automatically taking away their device.