



Meltdown and Spectre

Meltdown and *Spectre* are possibly the "[worst ever](#)" security flaws in the news recently. They affect CPUs dating back to 1995. [Intel](#), [AMD](#), [ARM](#) and others will eventually fix the flaw in future hardware updates. So as we purchase new devices the problem will be fixed.

In the mean time all we can do is make sure the software on our devices is always up-to-date. This is why *Windows* and *Mac* update is part of my "**Monthly Maintenance**" routine. Every time something like this hits the national news, give it a few days then see if there is a software update for your device.

If you need a copy of my **Monthly Maintenance** instructions, here are the links:

- [Monthly Maintenance \(Mac\)](#)
- [Monthly Maintenance \(Windows 10 & Windows 8\)](#)
- [Monthly Maintenance \(Windows 7\)](#)

Windows Computers

If you still have a "Maintenance" folder on your Desktop that I created check in there for the *Windows Update* icon and double-click it and follow the onscreen instructions. If you can't find *Windows Update* that way use the Search box (bottom left, usually says "Search programs and files") and type "*Windows Update*" to find it. For more information see [How to get an update through Windows Update](#).

Mac Computers

Click the *Apple* icon top left, then click "App Store". On the Toolbar click "Updates" to see if your computer has any waiting. If so, perform the

updates. For more information see [How to update the software on your Mac](#).



iPhone, iPads, iPod touch

Look for the "Setting" icon to see if there is a number 1 in a red circle on it. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to update *iOS* on your *iPhone*, *iPad*, or *iPod touch*.

Android Devices

Open the "Settings" app on your *Android* smartphone or tablet, go to "System" and see if you can find new updates waiting for you. Unfortunately, cell phone carriers are often slow to release updates, particularly for older phones and tablets. Contact your cell phone carrier if you are concerned about software updates.

All Other Devices

For all other devices see the manufacturers website to see if there is a software update for it. This is where the average consumer will quickly get in over their head. Basically you lookup your device to see if there is a firmware update for it and follow their instructions. If you are concerned with other devices in your home and need help with this let me know and we can work on it together.



iPhone 6 and 7 Battery Replacment

Apple built into newer *iPhone* software a feature that would slow the phone down when the battery got older. This was done to avoid sudden shutdowns of the phone when battery power could not keep up with CPU performance. *Apple* recently received a lot of bad press regarding this practice with people accusing them of intentionally slowing older *iPhones* in an attempt to drive sales to the new *iPhone* models. Therefore, in a good faith gesture, *Apple* has reduced the cost of battery replacements from \$79 to \$29 for *iPhone* 6 and 7 models (including S and Plus models). Click here to read *Apple's* "[A Message to Our Customers about iPhone Batteries and Performance](#)". If you have an *iPhone* 6 or 7 (S and Plus models too) and you feel that the phone is not as fast as when it was new, I recommend getting the battery replaced by *Apple* for \$29 to restore full performance.

Also, here are some tips on how to best take care of the battery in your device:

- [Apple - Maximizing Battery Life and Lifespan](#)
- [Apple - Why Lithium-ion Batteries](#)
- [Lifewire - 10 Tips to Improve Your Android's Performance](#)

More info:

[Wired - A Critical Intel Flaw Breaks Basic Security For Most Computers](#)

[Guardian - Meltdown and Spectre: 'worst ever' CPU bugs affect virtually all computers](#)

[cNet - How to protect yourself from Meltdown and Spectre CPU flaws](#)

[Microsoft - How to get an update through Windows Update](#)

[Apple - How to update the software on your Mac](#)

[Apple - Update the iOS on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch](#)

[Apple - A Message to Our Customers about iPhone Batteries and Performance](#)

[Forbes - Apple Cuts Price Of iPhone 6 And 7 Replacement Batteries To \\$29](#)

[Apple - Maximizing Battery Life and Lifespan](#)

[Apple - Why Lithium-ion Batteries](#)

[Lifewire - 10 Tips to Improve Your Android's Performance](#)

Newsletter Archives

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Some of my clients do not realize that my business has expanded to all mobile devices. In fact, any consumer electronic product that you can purchase I can help you with. So if you would like help setting up or syncing your new smartphone or tablet or connecting your new WiFi TV to the Internet, just let me know.

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