

# Software Updates

## User Guide

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## Product notice

This user guide describes features that are common to most models. Some features may not be available on your computer.



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# Updating software

Updated versions of the software provided with your computer are available either through the HP Software Update utility or on the HP Web site.

The computer includes a utility that automatically checks for software updates from HP. The utility runs every 30 days and provides a list of support alerts, such as security enhancements, and optional software and driver updates.

You can manually check for updates at any time by selecting **Start > Help and Support > Update Software & Drivers** and following the on-screen instructions.

Most software on the HP Web site is packaged in compressed files called *SoftPaqs*. Some BIOS updates may be packaged in compressed files called *ROMPaqs*.

Some download packages contain a file named *Readme.txt*, which contains information regarding installing and troubleshooting the file. (*Readme.txt* files included with *ROMPaqs* are provided in English only.)

You can also access software updates by obtaining the *Support Software* disc (purchased separately). This disc includes device drivers, BIOS updates, and utilities. To purchase the current *Support Software* disc or a subscription that provides both the current version and future versions of the disc, see the HP Web site at <http://www.hp.com>.

To update the software:

1. Identify your computer model, product category, and series or family. Prepare for a system BIOS update by identifying the BIOS version currently installed on the computer.

If your computer is connected to a network, consult the network administrator before installing any software updates, especially system BIOS updates.

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 **NOTE:** The computer system BIOS is stored on the system ROM. The BIOS initializes the operating system, determines how the computer will interact with the hardware devices, and provides for data transfer among hardware devices, including the time and date.

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2. Access the updates by visiting the HP Web site at <http://www.hp.com> or inserting the *Support Software* disc into the optical drive.
3. Install the updates.

# Updating the BIOS

To update the BIOS, first determine what BIOS version you currently have and then download and install the new BIOS.

## Determining the BIOS version

To determine whether available BIOS updates contain later BIOS versions than those currently installed on the computer, you need to know the version of the system BIOS currently installed.

BIOS version information (also known as *ROM date* and *System BIOS*) can be displayed by pressing **fn+esc** (if you are already in Windows®) or by using Computer Setup.

To use Computer Setup for displaying BIOS information, follow these steps:

1. Open Computer Setup by turning on or restarting the computer, and then pressing **f10** while the “Press <F10> to enter Setup” message is displayed in the lower-left corner of the screen.
2. Use the arrow keys to select **File > System Information**, and then press **enter**.  
ROM date information is displayed.
3. To exit Computer Setup, use the arrow keys to select **File > Ignore changes and exit**. Then follow the instructions on the screen.

## Downloading a BIOS update

- △ **CAUTION:** To prevent damage to the computer or an unsuccessful installation, download and install a BIOS update only when the computer is connected to reliable external power using the AC adapter. Do not download or install a BIOS update while the computer is running on battery power, docked in an optional docking device, or connected to an optional power source. During the download and installation, follow these instructions:

Do not disconnect power from the computer by unplugging the power cord from the AC outlet.

Do not shut down the computer or initiate Standby or Hibernation.

Do not insert, remove, connect, or disconnect any device, cable, or cord.

To download a BIOS update:

- 📄 **NOTE:** BIOS updates are posted as needed. A newer BIOS update may not be available for your computer. It is recommended that you check the HP Web site periodically for BIOS updates.

1. Access the page on the HP Web site that provides software for your computer:
  - Click a software update link in Help and Support.  
– or –
  - See the HP Web site at <http://www.hp.com>.
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to identify your computer and access the BIOS update you want to download. Make a note of the date, name, or other identifier. You may need this information to locate the update later, after it has been downloaded to your hard drive.
3. At the download area, perform these steps:
  - a. Identify the BIOS update that is newer than the BIOS version currently installed on your computer.
  - b. Follow the instructions on the screen to download your selection to the hard drive.

Make a note of the path to the location on your hard drive where the BIOS update will be downloaded. You will need to access this path when you are ready to install the update.

- 📄 **NOTE:** If you connect your computer to a network, consult the network administrator before installing any software updates, especially system BIOS updates.

BIOS installation procedures vary. Follow any instructions that are displayed on the screen after the download is complete. If no instructions are displayed, follow these steps:

1. Open Windows Explorer by selecting **Start > My Computer**.
2. Double-click your hard drive designation. The hard drive designation is typically Local Disk (C:).
3. Using the hard drive path you recorded earlier, open the folder on your hard drive that contains the update.
4. Double-click the file that has an .exe extension (for example, *filename.exe*).  
The BIOS installation begins.
5. Complete the installation by following the instructions on the screen.



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**NOTE:** After a message on the screen reports a successful installation, you may delete the downloaded file from your hard drive.

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# Updating programs and drivers

To download and install software other than a BIOS update, follow these steps:

1. Access the page on the HP Web site that provides software for your computer:
  - Click a software update link in Help and Support.
  - or –
  - Visit the HP Web site at <http://www.hp.com> and click **Software & Driver Downloads** to download the software for your computer model.
2. Follow the instructions on the screen to find the software you want to update.
3. At the download area, select the software you want to download and follow the instructions on the screen.

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 **NOTE:** Make a note of the path to the location on your hard drive where the software will be downloaded. You will need to access this path when you are ready to install the software.

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4. When the download is complete, open Windows Explorer by selecting **Start > My Computer**.
5. Double-click your hard drive designation. The hard drive designation is typically Local Disk (C:).
6. Using the hard drive path you recorded earlier, open the folder on your hard drive that contains the update.
7. Double-click the file that has an .exe extension (for example, *filename.exe*).

The installation begins.

8. Complete the installation by following the instructions on the screen.

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 **NOTE:** After a message on the screen reports a successful installation, you may delete the downloaded file from your hard drive.

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