

Windows 10: The Update Process

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The "Operating System"

Windows 10 – as with all previous versions of Windows *is an operating system*. An operating system is software, and it is this software that sits right on top of the hardware¹. And in a very real way, it is this operating system software that binds the two of them together – that is, the hardware and the software, *into one coherent whole*. As the song says, "you can't have one without the other". Hardware requires the operating system software to make the computer *operational* – thus the name.

Operating System Fallibility

Both hardware and software are "fallible" – that is, both are capable of *making mistakes*. However, it is software that contributes more to "mistake making" than does hardware. And though hardware is often covered by various warranties, this is not the case with software. Software is never warrantable. Therefore, the Windows 10 operating system does not come with a warranty of any kind whatsoever. And this is true of all operating system software.

Patches and Updates

When fallibility in the operating system software has been discovered, the developer will offer a "patch" – or a "fix", that *can be added* to the operating system software to correct such an error. These patches are generally offered via some form of *an update process*.

Windows 10: Types of Updates

Windows 10 offers three different types of updates namely, 1) Security updates, 2) Feature updates, and 3) Quality updates.

1. **Security updates:** These updates fix major vulnerabilities in the Windows 10 operating system.
2. **Feature updates:** As the name infers, this update will include new features. Each Feature update gets a major version number that corresponds to its date of release – for example, Version: 1809, referring to the 18th day of the 9th month. Microsoft's schedules Feature updates to be provided twice a year.
3. **Quality updates:** Are updates that address security and reliability issues and therefore, do not include Feature updates. These quality updates are *cumulative* –that is, they occur all the time – and often without your consent.

Workable Stability

Though operating system software is indeed fallible and therefore, required fixing – there does come a time when this software is stable enough to provide a computing environment that is both usable and trouble-free. This was true for the Windows XP operating system as well as the Windows 7 operating system. This does not *appear* to be the case for Windows 10 however – and the reasons for this are twofold.

- Please note: If you wish to obtain further information on the Windows 10 update process, please see the article entitled "Windows 10: Versioning and Updates"².

The Twofold Reason

First, Feature updates are being provided too soon and, second, this may have the residual effect of increasing the frequency of both the Security updates and the Quality updates – often to resolve issues with the Feature updates.

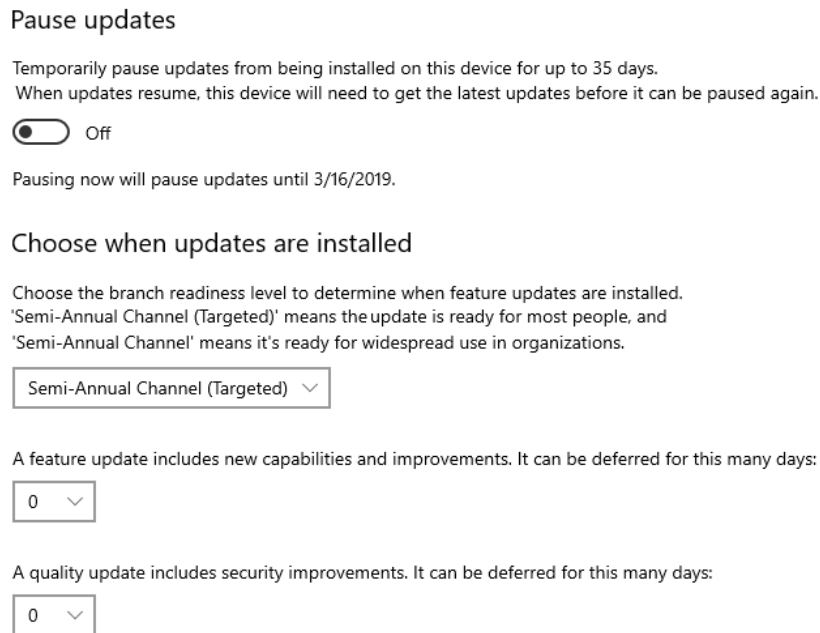
Windows Editions

As with previous versions of Windows, Windows 10 is available in different *editions*, the two most significant editions being "Windows 10 Home Edition" and "Windows 10 Professional Edition". The reason for mentioning these different editions will be made clear in a moment.

The Deferring of Updates

Due to the plethora of complaints by Windows 10 users over legitimate concerns regarding the Windows update process, in the latest versions of Windows 10, provision was made to *defer* updates in two of the three types of updates being provided. However, for whatever reason, this "deferring of updates" is only available in Windows 10 Professional. Therefore, Windows 10 Home Edition users have no way of deferring updates. Incredible!

The following image displays the various options available in Windows 10 Professional for the deferring of updates:



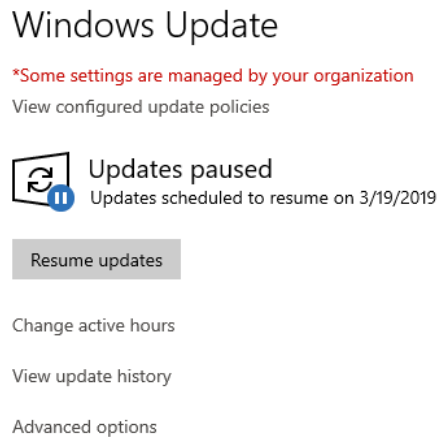
There are *four* options available namely, 1) Pause updates, 2) Channel choices, 3) Feature updates, and 4) Quality updates.

- Note: On all Windows 10 Professional systems, I employ the use of all four options.
1. Pause updates: When enabled, will, as stated, pause both Feature updates and Quality updates for a period of 35 days.
 - Regarding Security updates – as these updates fix major vulnerabilities, *these updates cannot be deferred at all.*
 2. Channel choices: There are two options available here "targeted" and "non-targeted".
 - The preferred option here is "non-targeted" – *as this channel claims to provide the most stable updates.* As this option has not been fully tested, we will just have to wait and see.
 3. Feature updates: Can be deferred from "0" to "365" days – with 365 days being preferred.

4. Quality updates: Can be deferred from "0" to "30" days – with 30 days being preferred.
- Note: As noted by Microsoft, "... you can defer features and quality updates to your PC. When you defer feature updates, new Windows features won't be offered, downloaded, or installed for a period of time that is greater than the deferral period set. Deferring Feature updates doesn't affect security updates, but it does prevent you from getting the latest Windows features as soon as they're available."

The Pause Option

Regarding the "Pause" option – I have yet to fully test this option. According to Microsoft, "Windows can pause updates for 35 days. After the period expires, Windows 10 automatically unpauses, looks for updates, and begins installing them. Windows will need to install the latest updates before you can pause updates once again." Here the Windows Update screen displaying the results of enabling the Pause option:



What does all of this really mean to you and to me?

To summarize all of the above into a *coherent whole*, as I see it, Windows 10 will never provide the real sense of stability that previous versions of Windows provided – such as Windows XP and Windows 7. And though there are numerous Internet sources stating that Windows 10 update can be permanently disabled, as this procedure has yet to be considered as a proven course of action, we will just have to wait and see. However, this disabling of updates appears only to be applicable to Windows 10 Professional – with users of Windows 10 Home Edition being, *unfortunately*, unable to do so.

In Conclusion

In conclusion then, due to the update process of Windows 10 – especially Windows 10 Home Edition, the overall instability of the Windows 10 operating system *will seem to be an ever-present reality*. And, as we have discovered, though steps can be taken to defer some of these updates – at some point, the updating of your computer system *will have to be executed*. And it is at this very point that you and I hope – and yes, maybe even pray, that the execution of such updates will be "*a pleasant one*".

Thank you for your time and interest in the above.

Sincerely,

Dell Krauchi

Reference Section

¹Software: Computer software, or simply software, is a collection of data or computer instructions that tell the computer how to work. This is in contrast to physical hardware, from which the system is built and actually performs the work.

▪ Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software>

²Windows 10: Versioning and Updates

Source: http://www.customerfirstcomputing.com/ftp/text/Windows_10-Versioning_and_Updates.pdf