Week 5 Lab: Hands-on Updates and Device Security

Find your instructions in the file:

W05 Hands-on Device Updates Instructions.docx

Fill out this worksheet as you complete the lab, then save it, and upload it to I-Learn Canvas as instructed. You may earn up to 60 points for this lab.

Task 1: Check and update devices’ operating systems.

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| What is your laptop or desktop computer’s operating system (OS) and version? Also, if you have a mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet, what is its OS and version? (2pts) | I use a windows laptop, it is using Windows 11 Home version 10.0.22000, which is the most up-to-date version for mobile Windows 11 Home.  For my cellphone I use an iPhone 11, it is using iOS 15.5 which is the most up-to-date publicly available version for the iPhone 11. |
| Did you find any available OS updates? If so, what are the software version names or numbers for the updated software? (1pt) | There are no updates available. As a big nerd, I am always interested in the new. I always want the newest. I also know that older software is much easier to exploit. |
| What are the procedures for applying OS updates to your computer and other devices? (2pts) | On Windows, it is automatically set to update. This was an option when I first set up Windows 11. You can also go to system information. This will display what OS you are using and if there are any available updates.  On my phone, it was also set to auto-update as long as the phone has enough battery life and a connection to the internet. However, you can also update if you go to settings, general, and software update. |

(Details)

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| If the OS on your computer or device was out of date, did you successfully update or upgrade? How long did it take? Explain. (2pts) | It has been a while since the update. Usually, updates take less than 5 minutes. This is when using a very slow connection. With faster WIFI and SSD’s more widely adopted installs are so fast.  Even when upgrading from windows 10 to windows 11, it took less than 10 minutes. When iOS 16 comes out I’m sure it will be speedy as well. It also is set to update for me when I am not using them, so it is no inconvenience to me. |

(Details)

Task 2: Check for updates of your web browsers, apps, and other software packages.

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| What web browsers are installed on your computer? (1pt) | Microsoft Edge, |
| What browser extensions, add-ons, plug-ins, or extra features have been installed in your web browsers? Were these extra browser features installed by someone else, or did you install them yourself? (3pts) | I installed Honey. It applies coupons for you when online shopping. I did this because I have saved money. I am sure it is selling my data to make money. I don’t know If it bothers me that companies know what I am buying. If I was compulsive with purchases I could see it being addictive when you are being advertised things you would like to purchase. |
| Check your web browsers, extensions, etc. for updates. Are they up to date, or are there newer versions available? If you find updates available, do they fix any security vulnerabilities? (3pts) | They are up to date, edge auto-updates these in the background when you are logged in. |

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| Did you successfully update your web browsers? Explain. (2pts) | It is already up-to-date |
| Did you successfully update the extensions, add-ons, plug-ins, etc. in your web browsers? Explain. (2pts) | They were already up-to-date. |

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| What additional software applications, apps, etc. are installed on your computer? (List at least three.) Did someone else install them on your computer, or did you install them yourself? (3pts) | I have steam installed, as well as all of the Lenovo and Microsoft pre-installed apps. Those include Word, Excel, Edge, Outlook, and Lenovo Vantage.  I installed Steam, I wanted to play games. |

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| Look for updated versions of the extra installed software you listed above. Are there any bug fixes, security patches, or new features provided by available updates? (3pts) | My software was already up to date. The apps do not auto update! I have noticed I am notified when opening an app if there is an update to be installed. When installing updates I have noticed it is usually bug fixes and optimization. Especially in video games. |

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| What are the procedures for updating the extra installed software you listed above? Did you successfully update your apps or extra software? Explain. (3pts) | You can just click on an application, and it will prompt If an update is available. Or, you can check system information. It will display available updates. |

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Task 3: Check your computer’s anti-malware and other security software and features.

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| What antivirus or threat protection software is installed? (If none was installed, what threat protection package did you select and install?) (4pts) | I didn’t have any anti-virus software installed, and I still don’t. I don’t and will not install any. I am not paying money to a company that most likely will have a data leak anyways. Not a fan. |
| What are the procedures for keeping your antivirus/threat protection software up-to-date? Did you successfully update it? Explain. (4pt) | I do not have anti-virus software, so therefor there is no updating anti software. |

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| What other security software or features (such as host-based firewall, content filtering software, device health monitoring, etc.) are available on your computer? (4pts) | My Lenovo Vantage app allows me to keep track of my systems performance. I also am able to throttle my cpu and gpu so I can get better battery life on campus. |
| Did you find and successfully correct any problems with your computer’s security settings or features? Explain. (2pt) | There are no issues with my device. Though it only came with 8gn of ram when I bought it, so I had to upgrade. |

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Task 4: Examine the security of your devices’ network connections.

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| Does your computer or mobile device have a wired network connection method? If so, what type of technology and network cable does it use?  Does your computer have wireless network connection methods? If so, what type of technology does it use? (2pts) | It has an ethernet port as well as Wi-Fi 6, My iPhone has Wi-Fi 6 and 5G. |
| If your computer has Ethernet or similar wired technology: how many places are there at your home, work, church, etc. where you are permitted to plug in your computer and use the Internet?  If your computer has WiFi wireless technology: how many places are there at your home, work, church, etc. where you are permitted to connect to a wireless access point? What SSIDs do you connect to, and what are the encryption settings for each of those SSIDs? (4 pts) | I am only permitted to plug in through ethernet at home. I would need permission anywhere else.  I have permission to use Wi-Fi at home, on campus when I am enrolled in classes as long as I am following the honor code, and at church during my church services as long as I am following the Word of Wisdom.  These have SSIDs that are available to people that they allow access. At church you can have access to the Wi\_Fi password as long as you are following the word of wisdom. I believe they can block your IP address at church. If the church has a severe problem, they will just change the password. At school it is the same, but they use a username password setting to check if you are an active student. |

Task 5: Investigate other threat protection options.

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| Choose and answer any of the following:  What physical security features have you enabled on your computer and devices?  What other update options and threat protection options have you installed and enabled on your mobile devices?  What financial plans have you made in your personal or family budget, to provide money for future repairs, replacement, and updates to your computer and devices?  (5pts) | The financial plan I have made for me and my family is to have savings for computer upgrades so I am not on an old OS. I also am looking into a VPN. A lot of conflicting information on the effectiveness of a VPN. A lot of people swear by it, and a lot of people say it is snake oil. Most tech-savvy people I know do not use VPNs. I will also keep an eye out for a security program that is not predatory, but I still haven’t found one. I don’t want to give Norton money just to have my data leaked. |

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| Share an inspiration or enlightenment that came to your mind while you worked through this lab exercise. (8pts) | This made me realize I may need to look into getting a new phone soon. My phone has not yet received iOS 16, this could put me more at risk in the future. I am not a big fan of upgrading hardware as much. Tech waste is very bad, but I am held hostage by the security risk of unoptimized or outdated software/hardware. Apple and Samsung are not great at this. |