Importance of software updates

Software needs to be regularly updated for various reasons including responding to new technology changes, preventing security issues, improving compatibility and enhancing program features. Some of the key reasons for making software updates include:

i. Patch security flaws

Changes to manage security flaws should be made as soon as they are available to address software vulnerabilities that enable cybercriminals to gain unauthorized access to an institution’s computing resources.. Threat actors see these vulnerabilities as open doors, enabling them to plant malware for illegal purposes such as data theft, sabotage, fraud or for blackmail purposes.

Malware enables threat actors to take control of computers and steal information. Malware can also encrypt files, documents and other programs so they are unusable. Security patches block these open doors in the software to protect a device from attacks.

It is therefore important for Government institutions to keep software updated by deploying patches and updates provided by the software vendors as these fix vulnerabilities that are identified in the software. Any patches deployed should only be sourced from official sources provided by the vendor.

ii. Get new features

Installing updates may add new features and remove old ones that are no longer necessary. Technology is constantly changing and updates offer the latest features and improvements.

iii. Improve performance

Software vendors may find bugs in a program or need to make necessary enhancements to a program to improve the performance of the software.
Electronic devices also need regular maintenance and routine updates to run their best. Having the latest patches can help prevent software from crashing.

iv. Ensure compatibility

Software manufacturers send updates to ensure their software is compatible with the latest technology. Without updates, older software may not be able to work with newer technology.

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