

Configuring Windows Automatic Update Version 1.00

Both Windows XP and Windows 2000 systems can be configured to automatically download and install Windows critical updates. However, note the following issues when using automatic updates :

1. The amount downloaded from the Internet will increase, in some cases dramatically. This can be due to the large size of some of the updates.
2. Some updates may conflict with other software on your system. In the worst case this conflict may cause the system to become unstable.

However, by configuring Windows to automatically your system you will ensure that you have the latest software on your machine and thus avoid things such as viruses, worms and spyware that exploits vulnerabilities.

To bring up the Windows Automatic Updates configuration window do the following :

1. In *Windows XP* right mouse click on *My Computer* and select properties from the menu that appears. You should now see a window like :

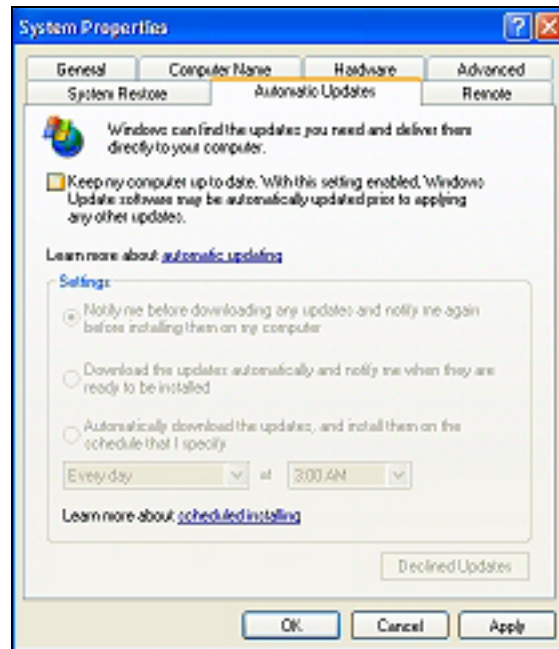


From here select the Automatic Updates tab in the middle of the top row.

2. In *Windows 2000* Press the *Start* Button and then select *Control Panel*. Once inside *Control Panel* you should see an *Automatic Update* Icon. Simply double click this to launch the configuration. If you do not see the icon then your

machine is lacking an up to date service pack, simply go to <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com> and download all the critical updates manually. When this is complete the icon should now appear.

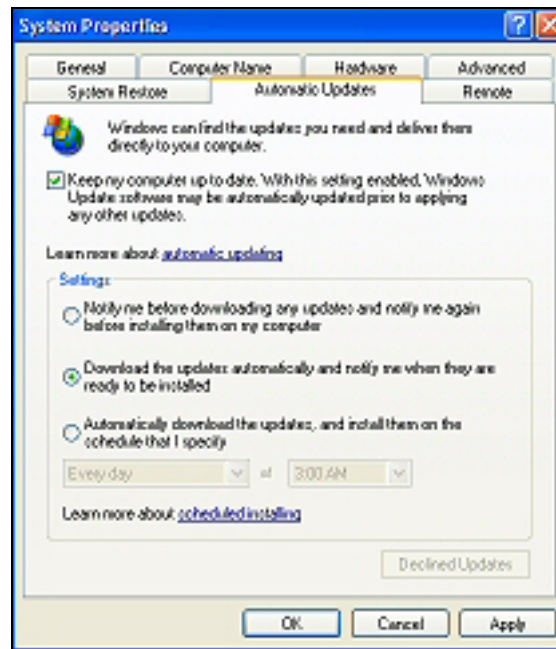
3. Once in the *Automatic Updates* area your screen should appear like :



To enable updates simply select the check box at the top of the screen that says “*Keep my computer up to date*”.

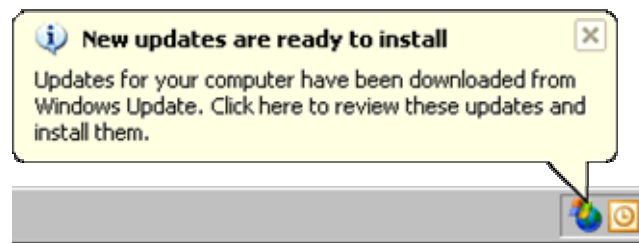
Note that there are three different ways that automatic updates can be handled by your machine.

- a. The first setting will notify you before downloading any updates and notify you again before installing them. We recommend this setting for all servers.
- b. The next setting will automatically download the updates to your machine and notify you when they are ready to install. We recommend this setting for all network workstation and home computers. This way if you get problems with a machine you will know that the cause may be due to updates that you just completed.
- c. The final setting automatically downloads and installs the updates on machines at the schedule you specify. We do not recommend this setting on any machines because it makes tracking problems that occur with updates very difficult.



Once you have made your selection simply press the *OK* button to apply, close the Automatic Updates window.

4. If you configure your system to notify of updates you will see an icon appear in the system tray (in the lower right of the screen when they are ready) like so :



To install the updates simply left mouse click on this icon when it appears and follow the prompts. Normally once the updates have been installed you will need to reboot your system.

Remember, that at any time you can install Updates directly from the website <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com>.