

Updating Windows Vista to Service Pack 1

Many Vista users have asked if they should install the recently released Service Pack 1 for Vista. ITS recommends that Vista users install Service Pack 1 for Vista using Windows Update, but only after taking the precautions recommended before installing any major operating system upgrade [Preparing to install Service Pack 1](#).

Microsoft says that Service Pack 1 will make your computer more reliable and run more smoothly. There's nothing new in Service Pack 1 that you'll need to learn or re-learn. Service Pack 1 includes all security patches that have been released since the initial release of Vista, in addition to several operating system fixes that will make your computer run more efficiently. With a few exceptions, users have reported that the installation works as advertised and that it improved the way their system works. There have been isolated reports of incompatibility with certain hardware configurations, but these will be identified if you install SP1 using Windows Update.

Note Service Pack 1 will not make Vista compatible with applications with which it is not already compatible. If you rely on one or more applications that are not compatible with Vista, continue using Windows XP. Do not upgrade your system to Vista or Vista with Service Pack 1.

System requirements

Microsoft Windows Vista

An Internet connection

Preparing to install Service Pack 1

Perform the following steps before installing Windows Vista Service Pack 1.

1. **Backup your system.** Before you install Service Pack 1, make sure you have a reliable system backup. Service Pack 1 replaces major components of the operating system. While the likelihood of something going wrong is low, if it does, your only recourse may be to restore from backup.
2. **Check your hard disk for errors.** Use the built-in error checking utility to check your hard disk for errors. Select the option to **Automatically fix file system errors** and **Scan for and attempt recovery of bad sectors**. This will repair problems with files and folders that the scan detects and will repair physical errors on the hard disk.



3. **Defragment your hard disk.** Due to the way hard disks store data, files on the disk may become fragmented. Defragmentation is the process of consolidating fragmented files. Installing Service Pack 1 on a badly fragmented disk will increase the installation time and the likelihood of having a something go wrong with the installation.
4. **Make sure you have enough free disk space.** Installing SP1 can require a substantial amount of free disk space, up to 4.5 gigabytes (GB) in some cases, though much of that space will be free again after the installation.
5. **Update any device drivers as necessary.** You can do this by using Windows Update, or by going to the device manufacturer's website.
6. **Disconnect serial cables from uninterruptible power supplies.** If you have an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) connected to your computer, disconnect the serial cable connecting the UPS to your computer before installing SP1. The installation automatically attempts to detect devices connected to serial ports, and UPS equipment can cause problems with the detection process. It's fine to leave your computer connected to a UPS for power.
7. **Connect your laptop to its AC power supply.** If you are using a laptop computer, connect it to an AC electrical outlet and don't unplug or restart the computer during the SP1 installation.
8. **Close all open programs, reboot the system, and disable anti-virus auto-protection.** Anti-virus auto-protect features may slow the installation by scanning each file that is part of the installation. Be sure to re-enable auto-protect when the installation is complete.

Installing Service Pack 1 using Windows Update

When you use Windows Update to install Service Pack 1, Windows Update first performs an analysis of your system to make sure that you don't have any installed components that may be incompatible with Service Pack 1.

Note Service Pack 1 may take an hour or more to install and will require that the system be restarted several times. While the installation is proceeding, don't attempt to use the computer for anything else.

1. Make sure you are connected to the Internet.
2. Click **Start > All Programs > Windows Update**.



3. In the left pane, click **Check for updates**.
4. Click **View available updates**. In the list of updates, select **Service Pack for Microsoft Windows (KB936330)**, and then click **Install**.

Note If SP1 is not listed, you might need to install other updates before installing SP1. Install any updates listed as Recommended or Important. Return to the Windows Update page, and then click **Check for updates**. You may have to click **Check for updates** several times before SP1 is listed. If you do not see SP1 listed even after installing the recommended or important updates, other conditions might be preventing Windows Update from offering SP1. For more information, refer to the Service Pack 1 article on the Microsoft website (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/948343>).

If you are prompted for an administrator password or confirmation, type the password or provide confirmation.

5. Follow the instructions on your screen. Your computer will restart several times during the installation.
6. After the SP1 installation is complete, log on to your computer at the Windows logon prompt. You will receive a message indicating whether the update was successful.
7. Turn virus protection back on.

For additional information about Windows Vista and Service Pack 1, please refer to the Microsoft Windows Vista Service Pack 1 page on the web at the following URL:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/products/windowsvista/sp1.mspx>