



BACKGROUND

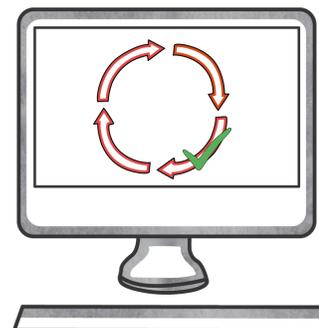
Information security researchers have found two major security vulnerabilities, dubbed “**Meltdown**” and “**Spectre**,” that affect the processing chips in almost every computer made in the last 20 years (including mobile phones, embedded devices, cloud computers, etc.).

These vulnerabilities could allow attackers to steal data, including passwords and other information previously thought to be inaccessible, from almost all types of computers and devices. The Meltdown vulnerability affects only Intel processors, whereas the Spectre vulnerability affects Intel, AMD, and ARM processors.

WHAT TO DO

This is a complex security issue as it impacts multiple layers of computing. The firmware, operating system, web browsers, and antivirus software on devices all need to be patched. In general, users will need to:

- Apply available web browser updates.
- Verify that you are running a supported anti-virus (AV) program before you install your OS or firmware updates. Please check with your AV software vendor for compatibility information. Sophos users can visit <https://community.sophos.com/kb/en-us/128060> for more information.
- Apply all available OS updates.
- Apply the applicable firmware update provided by the device manufacturer.



The tables below indicate the latest information we have on patches related to the most common configurations on campus. We will post updates as they become available.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

OS	Version	Patch Status	Notes
Windows	10, 8.1, 7	Yes	Only works with compatible antivirus software
Windows AMD based Devices		On Hold	More Info
Mac OS X	High Sierra Sierra El Captain	Yes	See notes in References below



OS	Version	Patch Status	Notes
Linux		Possible	Check details with your distribution
Android		Depends	Check with your cellular provider
iOS	11.2	Yes	
Chrome iOS	63	Yes	More information linked in Reference section

WEB BROWSERS

Browser	Patch Status	Notes
IE 11	Available	Included with Windows updates
Edge	Available	Included with Windows updates
Safari 11.0.3	Available	See notes in References below
Firefox	Available	Included in version 57.0.4
Chrome	Workaround is available	Patch is scheduled for 1/23/18 in version 64

Check with your computer's manufacturer for information related to the availability of firmware updates.

REFERENCES

Meltdown and Spectre reference page published by researchers at Graz University

Chromebooks, Meltdown, and Spectre: Most Are Already Patched (blog post)

Google's Mitigations Against CPU Speculative Execution Attack Methods

Apple OS security updates

Safari 11.0.3 update

