Why has Outlook stopped working and how to fix it?

What's Happening

Outlook not working? Are you using Office 2013 / 2016 / 2019? Do you see a message when you start outlook asking to update? Something like this:

Microsoft Outlook		
	Outlook requires updates before it can start. Click Learn more for update instructions.	
	Current version: 16.0.4266.1001	
	Required version: 16.0.4600.1000	
	Learn more OK	

Why?

The reason is that Microsoft have introduced some minimum version requirements for Outlook connecting to Microsoft 365. Further information about this can be found here:

https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-365-blog/new-minimum-outlook-forwindows-version-requirements-for/ba-p/2684142

What can I do to fix it?

The solution is to run windows updates with the office updates included. How do I do that? I hear you say!

Click on the Windows start button> Settings > Update & Security

In the Windows Update panel on the right, click on Advanced Options

View optional updates



Pause updates for 7 days Visit Advanced options to change the pause period



Change active hours Currently 08:00 to 20:00



View update history See what updates are installed on your device



Advanced options Additional update controls and settings

Then check that the slider is on for "Receive Updates for other Microsoft Products when you update Windows



Update options

Receive updates for other Microsoft products when you update Windows



Then return to Windows updates and click *Check for Updates* if not already running. After quite some time you'll see a number of updates, most of them related to office (Word, Excel & Outlook)

Windows Update



Updates available Last checked: Today, 15:33

Security Update for Microsoft Excel 2016 (KB5002208) 32-Bit Edition **Status:** Downloading - 0%

Update for Microsoft Office 2016 (KB5002182) 32-Bit Edition **Status:** Downloading - 0%

Update for Microsoft Office 2016 (KB4484104) 32-Bit Edition **Status:** Downloading - 0%

Security Update for Microsoft Word 2016 (KB5002184) 32-Bit Edition **Status:** Downloading - 0%

Security Update for Microsoft Publisher 2016 (KB4493152) 32-Bit Edition Status: Downloading - 0%

Windows Update

Security Update for Microsoft Project 2016 (KB4484441) 32-Bit Edition Status: Pending install

Update for Microsoft OneNote 2016 (KB4484329) 32-Bit Edition **Status:** Pending restart

Update for Microsoft Office 2016 (KB4484171) 32-Bit Edition Status: Installing - 20%

Make sure they all download and say Pending Restart.

Before clicking the *Restart* Button, scroll down and make sure that ALL of them say pending restart. Do not make the mistake of hitting restart when some updates are still *Pending install* or *Installing*, otherwise all updates will not have been installed.

Once all updates are at *Pending Restart*, click the *Restart Now* button and your computer will restart.

Once your computer reboots, log back in and you should be good to go.