



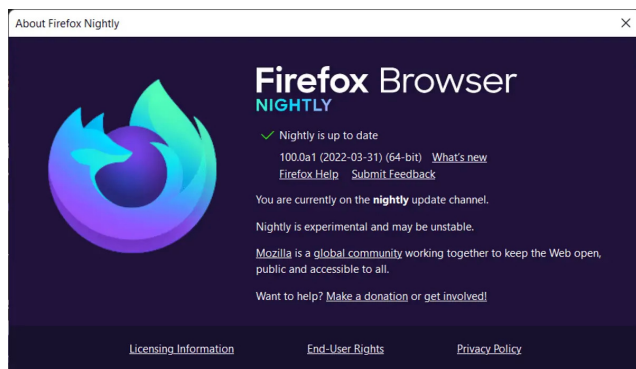
Home Windows Linux Software Firefox Chrome Internet Mobile Computing Companies Email Misc Deals

Firefox 100 requires the Windows Update KB4474419 on Windows 7

MARTIN BRINKMANN Apr 1, 2022

Firefox | 21

Firefox users who run the open source web browser on Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system need to make sure that Windows update KB4474419 is installed on their devices. The update is a prerequisite for Firefox 100 as Mozilla switched to SHA-256 digest signing in that release.



The Windows update KB4474419 introduced support for SHA-2 code signing on Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 / 2008 R2. The last version of the update dates back to September 2019, and it should be installed on most Windows 7 devices by



ADVERTISEMENT

SPREAD THE WORD



GHACKS NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Please click on the following link to open the newsletter signup page: [Ghacks Newsletter Sign up](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

POPULAR POSTS

Firefox 89 ships with interface changes
251

How to fix the Firefox 89 user interface
124

Each Firefox download has a unique identifier
108

Here is what is new and changed in Firefox 88.0
104

Firefox 94.0 release: here is what is new and changed
100

ADVERTISEMENT

RECENTLY UPDATED

now, as it was released before the operating system reached end of support. Systems without the update may get [Windows Update error 0x80092004](#) because of the missing dependency; this may happen on manually updated systems.

Customers who run legacy OS versions (Windows 7 SP1, Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 and Windows Server 2008 SP2) are required to have SHA-2 code signing support installed on their devices to install updates released on or after July 2019. Any devices without SHA-2 support will not be able to install Windows updates on or after July 2019.

Windows 7 administrators find the update on the [Microsoft Update Catalog](#), but it should also be available on Windows Update and other update management systems.

Mozilla notes on the Firefox 100 release notes for the Nightly version that the update is required to install Firefox successfully on Windows 7 devices.

Beginning in this release, the Firefox installer for Windows is signed with a SHA-256 digest, rather than SHA-1. Update KB4474419 is required for successful installation on a computer running the Microsoft Windows 7 operating system.

SHA-1 was phased out by Microsoft because of weaknesses and to "align to industry standards". SHA-2 does not have these weaknesses and it ensures that the Firefox installation or update has not been tampered with.

Mozilla does not mention if Firefox's installer displays an error message if the required Windows update is not installed on the system. It would make sense to highlight the missing dependency to help users resolve it.

The change affects Firefox for the Windows 7 operating system only. Firefox running on newer versions of the Windows operating system will

Mozilla launches MDN Plus service in some regions

Published in: March 25, 2022 2:14 pm | Updated in: March 25, 2022 2:14 pm

Cookie Block corrects GDPR violations in the browser

Published in: March 24, 2022 7:24 am | Updated in: March 24, 2022 7:24 am

Firefox 98.0.2 fixes a crash on Windows, an add-ons issue, and more

Published in: March 23, 2022 7:00 am | Updated in: March 23, 2022 7:00 am

Firefox 100 is getting AV1 hardware decoding support on Windows

Published in: March 21, 2022 7:05 am | Updated in: March 21, 2022 7:05 am

Each Firefox download has a unique identifier

Published in: March 17, 2022 4:20 pm | Updated in: March 17, 2022 4:20 pm

ADVERTISEMENT

install or update normally once Firefox 100 is released.

Mozilla plans to release the first three-digit version of the web browser on May 3, 2022 according to the release schedule.

Now You: do you run Firefox on Windows 7, or other systems? (via [Techdows](#))

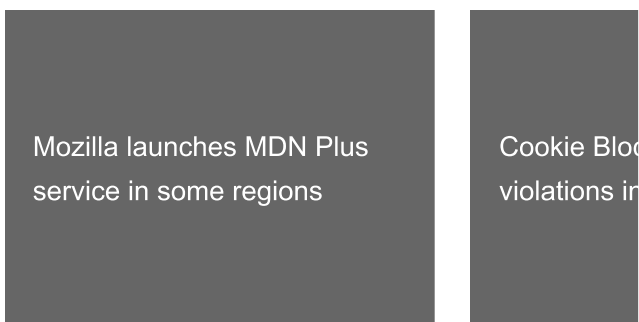
Summary
<p>Article Name</p> <p>Firefox 100 requires the Windows Update KB4474419 on Windows 7</p> <p>Description</p> <p>Firefox users who run the open source web browser on Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system need to make sure that Windows update KB4474419 is installed on their devices.</p> <p>Author</p> <p>Martin Brinkmann</p> <p>Publisher</p> <p>Ghacks Technology News</p> <p>Logo</p>

Advertisement

ABOUT MARTIN BRINKMANN

Martin Brinkmann is a journalist from Germany who founded Ghacks Technology News Back in 2005. He is passionate about all things tech and knows the Internet and computers like the back of his hand. You can follow Martin on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)
[View all posts by Martin Brinkmann](#) →

RELATED CONTENT



Previous Post: « [Mozilla launches MDN Plus service in some regions](#)

Comments

Anonymous said on April 1, 2022 at 11:24 am

REPLY

> Now You: do you run Firefox on Windows 7?

Yes, I do and all telemetry is disabled via user.js, so Mozilla doesn't receive all the information that they love to collect.

In this case I'm not sure if it's such a good idea to have all telemetry switched off. How else should

they find about how many Win7 installations are still alive with Firefox?

Iron Heart said on April 1, 2022 at 12:52 pm

REPLY

@Anonymous

We are on Windows 11 by now. Firefox will drop Windows 7 AND Windows 8.1 support sometime after January 2023. That's when Windows 7 ESU and Windows 8.1 regular support timeframe run out. All Chromium-based browsers will do the same thing btw.

Use something that is still actively maintained (more recent Windows, or Linux), same answer I gave the Windows XP guys when they couldn't let go.

Anonymous said on April 1, 2022 at 1:25 pm

REPLY

@Iron Heart:

Yes, I am fully aware of the situation and also of the fact that Mozilla and Google browsers (and derivatives thereof) will not provide compatibility with Win7 forever. Indeed, Windows is not and has never been my main system (for private use), but it continues to be my gaming platform (for older games).

Horizon said on April 1, 2022 at 2:16 pm

REPLY

Windows 11 is crapware, no way in hell I would run that on my hardware. Once Mozilla ends support for Windows 7, I will run the newest version of Firefox through VDI.

I use Nightly on Windows 7. I had version 100 since beginning of March 2022.

DaveyK said on April 1, 2022 at 3:32

REPLY

pm

I still run Windows 7 as well and still get updates FWIW. I'm in no delusion that I'll have to migrate by January next year as patches will cease and software vendors will drop support.

My hope is that Windows 11 has been patched into a more usable state by then so I can skip 10 altogether. But if not, I do have Win 10 set up on a second partition. Personally, I simply prefer 7 as an OS, and as long as it is still patched and software supports it, I feel no need to migrate to an OS I conceive to be poorer/uglier/messier.

Rina said on April 1, 2022 at 3:20 pm

REPLY

This is the pro-telemetry argument they make all the time. I remember them making it about removing compact mode not too long ago, and dropping support for all kinds of personalisations. But they promote themselves as privacy-oriented, so their target audience by definition is turning off their telemetry... it doesn't make a lot of sense for them to rely on it like they seem to.

beemeup5 said on April 1, 2022 at 12:41 pm

REPLY

"Weaknesses" in SHA-1 are greatly exaggerated as there has never been a practical exploit, and even if you could craft say, a malicious Firefox installer with the same hash as the official installer, it would be extremely difficult to get anyone to download and use it since everyone gets it from Mozilla's site anyway, and all the common mirror sites get the binaries directly from Mozilla too.

<https://crypto.stackexchange.com/questions/48289/how-secure-is-sha1-what-are-the-chances-of-a-real-exploit>

<https://www.quora.com/Does-SHA-1s-insecurity-have-any-effect-on-Git>

Including both SHA-1 and SHA-2 signatures doesn't hurt but whatever. I'm not too keen on updating my few remaining Win7 systems because the first time I installed the SHA-2 update it borked the bootloader which has never happened with any update before. Now if a program really insists on SHA-2 or nothing I'll just find a portable version or an alternative. For instance, WireGuard (VPN protocol) for Windows initially refused to install without SHA-2 so I ended up discovering TunSafe which was even easier to use than WireGuard official. A win-win for me!

Tom Hawack said on April 1, 2022 at 12:55 pm

REPLY

Windows 7 here, privacy enhanced with WPD (Windows Privacy Dashboard) at [https://wpd.app/] I had stopped updating Win7 SP1 before July 2019, hence KB4474419 is not installed.

Just downloaded the KB from Microsoft Update Catalog (thanks for the link provided in the article). Unfortunately the update was unsuccessful, which is not a surprise given there's a home-made bug developed by Tom The Great (myself, who else?) which has already in the past prevented successful Windows Updates here. I had searched then for days and days trying to find the culprit, unsuccessfully.

Should Firefox 100 installer be strict with SHA-256 (which, according to this article, seems factual) that I'd be in trouble and stuck with coming Firefox 99. If so, maybe the opportunity to test another browser (Brave, for instance), mainly because I'd be unable to carry on with Firefox future versions' security

fixes (I may not miss future gadgets though). We'll see.

Iron Heart said on April 1, 2022 at 1:09

pm

REPLY

@Tom Hawack

> stuck with coming Firefox 99

You can also roll back to Firefox 91 ESR though this one will be abandoned security-wise around the time of Firefox 104 or so. You also can't just downgrade the Firefox profile, so you'd have to rebuild. There is also Brave, Ungogled Chromium etc.

You could also install Windows 8.1 + Classic Shell which is superior to Windows 7 in every possible way. Or Linux. You are not out of options, and not updating Windows is not advisable from a security perspective.

Tom Hawack said on April 1, 2022 at

1:59 pm

REPLY

@Iron Heart, several opportunities indeed but remains the unavoidable : time, times bringing to its knees sooner or later obsolescence, that of the device (PC here), that of the OS, that of software (Firefox), and, moreover, all three tied.

2022 appears for users as myself (old PC, Windows7) as the limit.

Switching to 91 ESR, "though this one will be abandoned security-wise around the time of Firefox 104 or so" together with what you wrote in your answer above to user Anonymous, "Firefox will drop Windows 7 AND Windows 8.1 support sometime after January 2023. ",

because that's near tomorrows, doesn't thrill me. I appreciate knowing these time issues.

Installing "Windows 8.1 + Classic Shell which is superior to Windows 7 in every possible way" is perceived as the hassle of a new install of an old OS, whatever younger than Win7. What bothers me are two things : 1- updating device & peripherals (new OS), 2- getting used to the new OS (I have all to learn again).

Linux? Once i'll have decided to move on (new PC and new OS) it'll be Win11 or Linux. I still don't know but, given, 1- I'm not a techie and 2- whatever the huge differences between a Win7 and a Win11 ... there are Microsoft standards which remain and to which i've been used to (Win 3.1 -> Win7). Should I be younger that I'd consider the challenge as exciting but seems I'm enduring an increasing cerebral laziness as years increment.

To be totally frank I'd say that in the depths of my unconsciousness Windows 11 will be the one to honor my next PC. But sometimes consciousness prevails :=)

We'll see, but the end is near and, to quote approximately Woody Allen, "Time flies, especially at the end", though I'm referring more specifically to computer + OS (but not only, lol).

akg said on April 1, 2022 at 6:23 pm

REPLY

Librewolf is also a good alternative .but i am not sure whether it will be affected by this change or not ?

Tom Hawack said on April 2, 2022 at 10:23 am

REPLY

@akg, in case Firefox 100 install confirms the SHA-2 code signing requirement, in case updated Librewolf doesn't, then I could very well consider the switch. Thanks for pointing that out.

owl said on April 2, 2022 at 11:13 am REPLY

@Tom Hawack,
> then I could very well consider the switch.

All modern multiprocess browsers will be eating RAM like it's nothing:
<https://www.ghacks.net/2022/03/31/brave-1-37-new-sidebar-custom-new-tab-backgrounds-and-privacy-improvements/#comment-4518627>

Marcin said on April 1, 2022 at 5:50 pm REPLY

Hello Tom,
I have a Windows 7 which has not updated since 2016, have downloaded the KB and installation has succeed. Hope for you you can fix it, at least I can affirm it works on not updated system.

Tom Hawack said on April 2, 2022 at 10:19 am REPLY

@Marcin, thanks for the info. My problem is that whatever Windows Update fails to install correctly here. The .msu launches correctly, then the welcome screen where update starts before rebooting, then, after reboot, the end of the install fails, what had been set is removed and so on. But this is an old dispute between Win7 and me, my fault because I had tweaked the OS quite a lot, carefully but obviously not carefully enough when I modified some important Windows Updates' configurations

(Registry included) *without* a return ticket
(contrarily to my habits) : we were younger,
crazier :=)

Good to know that you've been able to install
KB4474419 on an otherwise non (or partially)
Windows 7 OS.

Bobo said on April 1, 2022 at 3:14 pm

REPLY

Or in other words: Only ESU users will get updates
to Firefox. Which is basically ok, since that freeride
will end in 8 months anyway. It was fun, and
Windows 7 will always be remembered as the last
good Microsoft OS. The last good Firefox on the
other hand..oh boy THAT was long ago. Let's all
just suck it up and move on shall we? Windows 7
and Firefox both belong in museums now.

Anonymous said on April 1, 2022 at
7:49 pm

REPLY

No, you are wrong. Firefox updates will NOT
be limited to ESU users of Windows 7.
KB4474419 (the last version, v3) was released
on September, 2019, so before End-of-
Support, which was after January 14, 2020.
That means: all Firefox users on Windows 7
will get updates (until Mozilla finally drops
support for Windows 7 and 8.1 in the future),
providing they have SP1 (as Windows 7 RTM
did not get SHA-2 support) and KB4474419
installed.

Bobo said on April 2, 2022 at 4:35 pm

REPLY

@Anonymous

Quite funny how using an unpatched, insecure
and abandoned operating system is not a
problem but if Firefox isn't updated it's the end
of the world...

Rina said on April 1, 2022 at 3:15 pm

REPLY

Thank you for this heads up. I don't have KB4474419 and I'm reluctant to even attempt to install it. I'm also pretty reluctant to install Firefox updates nowadays, so this won't be the one thing that makes me finally seriously check out Linux, but it's another nail in my Win7 coffin, definitely.

Mars Attacks (1996) said on April 1, 2022 at 4:53 pm

REPLY

Side Note:

Those of you who still want to cling to Windows 7 as long as possible but are concerned about not getting security patches, here's the way- <https://forums.mydigitallife.net/threads/bypass-windows-7-extended-security-updates-eligibility.80606/>

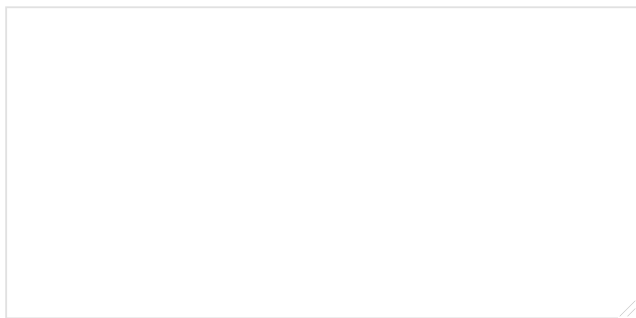
Venus Will Answer said on April 2, 2022 at 4:39 pm

REPLY

Anyone NOT using that patched ESU on Windows 7 is asking for trouble and when disaster strikes actually did it to themselves. Quite a ridiculous amount of severe critical patches have landed on ESU since Windows 7 was left to die, and the bad guys know/use all of them.

Leave a Reply

Comment



Check the box to consent to your data being stored in line with the guidelines set out in our privacy policy

We love comments and welcome thoughtful and civilized discussion. Rudeness and personal attacks will not be tolerated. Please stay on-topic. Please note that your comment may not appear immediately after you post it.

Name

Email

Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.

POST COMMENT

ABOUT GHACKS

Ghacks is a technology news blog that was founded in 2005 by Martin Brinkmann. It has since then become one of the most popular tech news sites on the Internet with five authors and regular contributions from freelance writers.

[About](#)
[RSS Feeds](#)
[Legal Information](#)
[Terms of use](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[Cookie Policy](#)
[Cookie settings](#)
[Advertise with Us](#)

[Martin Brinkmann](#)
[Mike Turcotte](#)
[Ashwin](#)
[We Use](#)

The name and logo of Ghacks are copyrights or trademarks of SOFTONIC INTERNATIONAL S.A.
Copyright SOFTONIC INTERNATIONAL S.A. © 2005- 2022 - All rights reserved