SPC routinely applies Patches and Security updates to all college Windows Machines. This is to follow best practices in order to protect the college from potential vulnerabilities to our systems. Typically when patches are applied, the computer performance impact is minimal. However, when a major Microsoft vulnerability is discovered, it is generally followed by a sizeable patch that could have an adverse impact on your system. This could cause temporary slow performance on your computer while the patch is being applied. Although these patches are sometimes considered a nuisance, they are necessary to maintain the integrity of our desktop systems.

Below we have outlined some experiences you may have during a system patch update.

Illustration 1

When SPC applies Microsoft Patches, most users will typically see what is highlighted in the red rectangle shown in Illustration 1 (above). When you see this it means that all patches have been downloaded and they are ready for install. Most users will notice this when they attempt to shut down their machine at the end of the day. The preferred action is to shut down and allow the updates to install. **Note:** If you have a laptop and are anticipating taking it home, you may be delayed while the updates are installing. Please keep that in mind and plan accordingly.
Illustration 2

You will see Illustration 2 when the updates are applying. It is important to allow this process to finish before attempting to power off any machines. In addition, undocking laptops during this process may have a negative impact on system stability.

Illustration 3

If your machine was off during the update push or your machine was not shut down after the updates were downloaded, you will see a popup as seen above in Illustration 3. If you see illustration 3, it is now up to you to initiate the install. You can choose to restart now which will start the install, or you can choose to postpone to a more convenient time. Postponing can be set up to 4 hours. Choosing to postpone is a great option if you are in the middle of performing a computer related task and cannot afford the downtime. If you choose “Restart now” please anticipate some downtime to allow the updates to apply. Most updates take less than a minute or two, but major security patches can take up to 30 minutes for the updates to apply.