

? How to Configure Windows Updates to Run Outside Working Hours via Group Policy

This guide configures Windows devices to download and install updates only **outside of business hours** (between 4:30 PM and 6:30 AM) using Group Policy.

Step 1: Open Group Policy Management Console

```
Start ? Run ? gpmmc.msc
```

Step 2: Create or Edit a GPO

1. Navigate to the appropriate **OU** or domain.
2. Right-click and select "**Create a GPO in this domain, and Link it here...**" or edit an existing one.
3. Right-click the GPO and choose **Edit**.

Step 3: Configure Windows Update Settings

Go to:

```
Computer Configuration
  ??? Policies
    ??? Administrative Templates
      ??? Windows Components
        ??? Windows Update
          ??? Manage end user experience
```

Set Active Hours

Find the policy:

```
Turn off auto-restart for updates during active hours
```

Enable this setting and configure:

- **Start time:** 6:30 AM
- **End time:** 4:30 PM

This prevents auto-restart during business hours.

Configure Automatic Updates

Open the policy:

```
Configure Automatic Updates
```

Enable this policy and set it to:

```
4 - Auto download and schedule the install
```

Then set the scheduled install time outside business hours, for example:

- Every day at 5:00 PM

Step 4: Configure Automatic Maintenance (Optional)

To schedule general maintenance tasks (including updates):

```
Computer Configuration
  ??? Administrative Templates
    ??? Windows Components
      ??? Maintenance Scheduler
```

- **Enable** and set the time for automatic maintenance to run after hours (e.g., 5:00 PM).

Step 5: Apply and Test

Run this command on a target machine to apply the new settings:

```
gpupdate /force
```

Then verify by opening **Windows Update Settings** on a client machine and checking the active hours and scheduled install time.

Note: Clients must be running Windows 10 1607 or newer for Active Hours GPO to work.

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