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Cyber Security Alert

Apple IOS 16.5.1

Police Scotland Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team.
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IOS 16.5.1

Following the recent discovery of two critical security flaws, Apple have released urgent updates for millions of iPhone and iPad users.

Apple has issued an urgent update for millions of iPhone users after two critical security flaws were discovered in the iOS 16 operating software which apparently exposes users' photos and audio recordings to hackers.

Apple have highlighted their latest update, IOS 16.5.1, is an urgently required software update to protect apple devices against two vulnerabilities which hackers are said to be aware of and know how to exploit.

One exploit has been identified as using a malicious attachment sent via iMessage. Once opened, this allows cyber criminals to gain access to the users' photos, audio recording and geo-location information together with other activities from the device.

This bug has been described as a form of spyware and is effectively hidden as it quietly transmits the data without the users' knowledge.

The second exploit is believed to affect the browser engine WebKit which leaves the device being exposed and could lead to data being stolen or device being hacked.

Both exploits can cause serious privacy threats to all Apple devices such as iPhone, iPad and Mac users and Apple watches.

Apple Watch, iPhone, iPad and Mac users can update their devices by going to the Settings app and selecting 'General' > 'Software update', and then following the instructions.

We also include the link to guidance from our colleagues at the NCSC [Install the latest software and app updates - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/install-the-latest-software-and-app-updates)

If you have been a victim of crime, and it is not an ongoing emergency, you can report this to Police Scotland on 101.



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