



**Red River Center**  
For Watershed Education

## Free Updating GPS unit software

Handheld GPS units have software and operating systems that can be updated to ensure they are using the most current features available from the manufacturer. Normally GPS units continue to function fine without updates however installing the latest updates adds the manufacturers' features that have been added to later versions of your model. Even though installing these free updates normally will not update the base maps that come installed on handheld GPS units they will likely make your unit operate better because the updates have incorporated corrections to issues or operating bugs reported by users.

All Garmin handheld GPS units can be updated as needed by downloading and installing their updating program called **WebUpdater**. A WebUpdater is a Windows-based PC application which communicates with the Garmin server over the Internet and updates your Garmin GPS with the most current software version available. It updates most Garmin products, excluding Palm and Pocket PC devices, fixed-mount marine units, chartplotters, fishfinders and discontinued units. WebUpdater does not perform Beta updates.

The webupdater is easy and automatic. You don't even have to know the model numbers or software versions of your GPS. WebUpdater takes care of all of the details for you.

### Step 1: Download and Install WebUpdater

**Download the webupdater** from the Internet: <http://www.garmin.com/products/webupdater>.

The updating program is designed to be downloaded and installed on a desktop or laptop computer. Any Garmin GPS unit can be updated using this program as long as the computer is connected to the Internet.

### Step 2: Connect GPS to PC

**Connect the GPS unit to your computer** using manufacturers' serial or USB connection cables that normally come with the unit. If you don't have a connection cable they will be available for purchase from the same businesses that sell the GPS units.

### Step 3: Run WebUpdater

**Run the WebUpdater** software. (If you didn't change the default settings during the installation of the webupdater, just click the "Start" button on your computer, then "Programs", "Garmin", and finally "WebUpdater" Otherwise click on the "WebUpdater" at the location where you saved it on your computer.)

The program will indicate the model of GPS unit connected to the computer and then provide a step-by-step wizard to follow to complete the update.

Other brands of GPS units can be updated directly from their website.

Magellan's website is <http://www.magellangps.com/>.

The Lowrance website is <http://www.lowrance.com/>.

Updating the software in a GPS unit does not update the background maps that are loaded into some handheld GPS units. Updating the background maps generally requires a specific request to the manufacturer. Most manufacturers have map updates that they will send to you on a CD or DVD. Generally the map updates are not available without additional costs.

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