

WSJ: Nintendo Plans Switch Update for 2019

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04 October 2018

The Switch might have been a surprise bestseller, but Nintendo is not resting on its laurels-- according to the Wall Street Journal, next year will see the release of an update of the home/portable gaming machine.



The "suppliers and others with direct knowledge of the plan" acting the WSJ's sources have little in terms of details on the update, other than describing it as a means to "maintain sales momentum." As such, one can imagine Nintendo taking the incremental route, perhaps by replacing the display for a more battery-friendly (maybe OLED, if one is feeling optimistic?) option.

The Kyoto-based company is more than familiar with such an approach to hardware releases-- for instance, the 3DS was just the first in a line of devices including the 3DS XL, 2DS, New 3DS, New 3DS XL and New 2DS XL. Each version kept the same basic form factor of the original, only with design, power and size tweaks, not to mention software improvements.

Released back in March 2017, the Switch was something of a hit, with global sales reaching over 10 million in little more than 9 months. Nintendo hopes sales will reach 20m by March 2019, an ambitious target that might require the release of improved hardware update. Recently Nintendo also released Switch Online, a service complete with cloud saves making it easier to switch between systems.

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