



Apple Mac - Security basics

1. Turn on the built-in firewall. Go to “System Preferences” and then “Security & Privacy”. In the Firewall tab select the button which turns this on - you may need to be logged in as an Administrator to do this.
2. Make sure you use a password. In “System Preferences > General” you should check the “Require password” box and set to “immediately” so that you have to re-input your password when your Mac goes to sleep or the screen saver starts.
3. At the bottom of this “General” panel you should set “Allow apps downloaded from:” to “App Store and identified developers”. Whilst this can be restrictive, it will prevent installing and running something which may be harmful. macOS will allow you to override this but you will have to approve it.
4. Consider turning on FileVault. “System Preferences > FileVault” encrypts your Macs hard drive and requires entry of a password to access files in a users account.
5. Check privacy settings. “System Preferences > Privacy” lists applications which have access to parts of your Mac, files, camera, microphone etc. Review these settings and make sure that they are all appropriate.
6. Review Safari privacy settings. In Safari go to “Preferences > Privacy” and check that “Prevent cross-site tracking” is selected. You may wish to tick “Block all cookies” too but this can impact various websites.
7. Check what you are sharing. “System Preferences > Sharing” provides details of what services are being shared with users of the Mac. Check these settings to make sure they are appropriate.
8. If in any doubt get some advice.