

# Hardening a Mac 2021

It is important that you actually complete all these steps, only doing a few will not protect you completely.

After these steps are complete, you ought to read [browse the internet safely](#).

## Show file extensions


In order to see if a file is a malicious one before double clicking it and starting some process, it is smart to start displaying file extensions.

1. Open the terminal by clicking command and space simultaneously, then search for Terminal.
2. Copy+paste the following code into the terminal


```
defaults write NSGlobalDomain AppleShowAllExtensions  
-bool true;
```

## Encrypting files

A sound security strategy is to encrypt important data files and folders for an additional layer of protection.

1.  → System Preferences
2. Security & privacy → Filevault.
3. Click on Turn on FileVault.

## Stop sharing search history with Apple

1.  → System Preferences
2. Unselect "Allow Spotlight Suggestions in Look up"

## Disable spotlight suggestions

To ensure you do not share any search history with Apple you should turn off all spotlight suggestions. This also makes the search more user friendly, as it will only search your own Macintosh, rather than the internet.

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Spotlight
2. Unselect “Allow Spotlight Suggestions in Look up”

## Automatically lock your computer

In case you ever forget to lock your computer when you are at a café or something.

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → General tab
2. Select ‘Require password 1 minute after sleep or screen saver begins’

## Require administrator rights to change settings

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → General tab → Advanced
2. Select ‘Require an administrator password to access system-wide preferences’

## Encrypt your device

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → FileVault tab
2. Select ‘Turn On FileVault’

## Set up the firewall

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Firewall tab
2. Select "Turn On Firewall"
3. Select "Enable Stealth Mode"

## **Limit Ad Tracking**

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Privacy tab
2. Go to the Advertising selection
3. Select "Limit Ad Tracking"

## **Stop sharing analytics with Apple**

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Privacy tab
2. Go to the Analytics & Improvements selection
3. Unselect "Share Mac Analytics"
4. Unselect "Improve Siri & Dictation"

## **Review applications that have access to your harddrive**

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Privacy tab
2. Remove any applications you don't want to have access to your harddrive.

## **Disable location services**

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Privacy tab
2. Select Location Services
3. Unselect "Enable Location Services"

## **Automatic Updates**

For most people automatic updates are a good way to ensure common attackpoints are covered.

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Software Update
2. If you arent on the latest update, update it immediately.
3. Select 'Automatically keep my Mac up-to-date'.
4. Click Advanced
5. Select all of the tick boxes under 'Automatically':
  1. Check for updates.
  2. Download new updates when available.
  3. Install macOS updates
  4. Install app updates from the App Store.
  5. Install system data files and security updates.

## **Change DNS addresses to OpenDNS servers**

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Network → Advanced → DNS tab
2. Change DNS server to OpenDNS:
  1. 208.67.220.220
  2. 208.67.222.222
3. Remove any other addresses.

## Turn off bluetooth

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Bluetooth
2. Click "Turn Bluetooth Off".

## Stop sharing

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Sharing
2. Ensure all of the services below are unchecked:
  - Screen Sharing
  - File Sharing
  - Media Sharing
  - Printer Sharing
  - Remote Login
  - Remote Managment
  - Remote Apple Events
  - Bluetooth Sharing
  - Internet Sharing
  - Content Caching

## Change computer name

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Sharing
2. Change your Computer Name to something that isn't identifiable.

## Disable location services for the time

1. 🍏 → System Preferences → Date & Time → Time Zone tab
2. Deselect "Set time zone automatically using current location"