**Lab 1. Managing computer setting and controls for strengthening security**

As result of this lesson you will learn how to configure security on computer. You will master skills to understand and customise security settings to keep computer protected from security risks.

**1. Privacy settings**

For Windows: Settings - Privacy

For Mac: System preferences - Security and privacy - Privacy

One security risk with using the computer is the sharing of private data, particularly for the use of personal services.

From here you can toggle different privacy settings, such as disable advertising ID and location tracking. You can also restrict access to your camera and microphone, as well as control which apps have access to your contacts, calendar and messages. You can set how much data is collected about your speech, typing and other computer usage.

**Task 1. Check next settings and make conclusions how your private data is managed:**

- Ad tracking

- Permissions of your apps: to determine your location; access to contacts, photos, camera and microphone, and other data; to monitor your actions; to control computer; to run software.

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2. Updates**

Updates are needed to fix problems, as security patches. Sometimes they are installed automatically. The problem arises when updates interfere with your work or slow down performance, and when there are security risks to installing them.

Although users don't have the freedom to choose parts of an update to install, security settings do let you choose how updates are delivered and when you want to install them.

To access Windows updates settings: Settings - Update & Security - Windows Update - Advanced options

Mac: System preferences - Software update

From here you can choose to have updates to be automatically installed when you are not using your computer, as well as make sure your updates are coming directly from vendor and not third-party networks or services.

**Task 2: Check if updates are available and answer questions: When was your system updated last time? Is it possible to receive updates from several sources?**

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**3. Wi-Fi settings**

Securing your Wi-Fi settings is one of the ways to protect yourself from cyberattacks. Hackers can easily access your private data over public networks, so your best bet is to turn off connections to open hotspots.

There is also the public database of default usernames and passwords of wireless routers, modems, switches and other networking equipment: https://cirt.net/passwords

Windows: Settings - Network & Internet - Manage Wi-Fi Settings

Mac: System preferences - Network

**Task 3: Check your Wi-Fi settings and answer questions:**

Is it possible to share your Wi-Fi connections with friends using Facebook or Outlook? Does your router have a unique password?

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**4. Backups**

Your OS can automatically create backups to restore your system in the event of a crash or cyberattack. However, these backups are not secure and can be accessed by anyone who hacks into your computer. As an alternative, you can create your own full-system image on external storage, such as a USB, DVD or external drive.

Windows: Control Panel - File History - System Image Backup.

Mac: System Preferences - Time Machine

**Task 4: Check your backup settings and answer questions:** Do you have backup of your system (files)? Is it done automatically or password-protected?

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Hidden extensions**

Sometimes OS automatically hides file extensions. For example, instead of “document.docx" you will see only "document." Hiding file extensions gives the interface a less cluttered look. But it makes it easy to inadvertently open malicious files that only look safe because you can't see what type of file they are.

As a security measure, it may be safer to display file extensions. Showing file extensions is easy.

Windows: Control Panel - File Explorer Options - View tab - "Hide extensions for known file types.”

Mac: Finder - Preferences - Advanced - “Show all filename extensions”

Here you can also adjust settings for hidden files. Some files are hidden automatically, but some viruses and malware also store themselves in your system as hidden files. To unhide files, toggle "Hidden files and folders" to "Show hidden files, folders and drives" and uncheck "Hide empty drives."

**Task 5. Check your file settings and describe whether or not extensions are hidden on your computer. What do you know about potentially dangerous extensions?**

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Antivirus/firewall**

Recent version of Windows includes Windows Security, which provides the latest antivirus protection. Your device will be actively protected from the moment you start OS. Windows Security continually scans for malware (malicious software), viruses, and security threats. In addition to this real-time protection, updates are downloaded automatically to help keep your device safe and protect it from threats.

Mac Os has technologies like XD (execute disable), ASLR (address space layout randomization), and SIP (system integrity protection) make it difficult for malware to do harm, and they ensure that processes with root permission cannot change critical system files. FileVault 2 encrypts the entire drive on Mac, protecting data with XTS-AES 128 encryption.

Windows: Settings - Windows security

Mac: System Preferences - Security and Privacy

**Task 6. Check the features of your built-in (or acquired) antivirus/firewall and describe available tools to protect your data** (settings that protect your account, threat detection, virus scans, blocking network connections, user account control settings, activation lock, status of safety level)

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Internet browser’s security features**

Most browsers store info about the websites you visit and the info that you provide, like your name and address. While it can be helpful to have these details stored on your PC, there are times when you might want to delete some or all of them—for example, when you're using a public PC and don't want to leave personal info behind. Some websites might try to use your personal info for targeted advertising, fraud, and identity theft.

Don't open email messages from unfamiliar senders, or email attachments that you don't recognise. Many viruses are attached to email messages and will spread as soon as you open the attachment. It's best not to open any attachment unless it's something you're expecting.

**Task 7. Check your browser settings and answer questions:**

Do you have the most recent version of the browser?

How often do you have your browsing history and cache deleted?

How are cookies managed?

Are there any passwords or any other private information saved by the browser?

Do you use autofill for the web forms?

Can websites get access to your camera or microphone, to your location?

Is it allowed to automatically download content from websites?

Is any plug-ins available?

Do your browser block pop-up windows?

Is there any potentially harmful extensions?

Results: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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