

Welcome to Securing Your Digital Footprint

And Lastly: Encrypt it all

The last line of defense is to encrypt your entire hard drive. Put a lock on it, that only your password can open. If someone breaks into your house, or your laptop is [Apple Picked](#), the criminals will not have access to your data. Both Apple/Mac and Windows include disk encryption with their OS (operating system). There's been some concerns as to whether a '[backdoor](#)' may have been [installed](#) by Apple. However, if you are concerned about Microsoft inserting a backdoor for Big Brother to access, your fears may not be [unfounded](#).

There are a few things to consider before jumping in to this procedure. Encryption scrambles all of the data on your hard drive, not to take lightly. This is very effective at securing your disk, but in order to work your hard drive must be OFF. While you are using your computer, or it's sleeping it is not 'locked with encryption.' As mentioned is done with a password, that you setup. If the password is lost or forgotten - there is NO WAY to recover your drive. The backup program, [Carbon Copy Cloner](#), has steps that must be followed before you can back up the encrypted drive.

If the decision is made to move forward, first, make a backup of your system. If something happens during the encryption process, you will be able to restore your system.

Good password management, create a strong password/passphrase, then write it down in several places. Apple suggests storing it with them on iCloud.

In the case of Apple it takes [4 steps](#) and you're done. Windows requires a few more [steps](#).

Congratulation, this was the last lesson in this course, and you have successfully completed both! We live in very uncertain times, and technology is no exception. You're now armed with the knowledge to protect your devices and more importantly your data. Implementing any one procedure that you've read about, will make it harder for the hackers and Big Brother to mess with you. Activating all of them will make you a force to reckon with. Security information is constantly changing, and we will continue to send you information that will keep you up to date.

Thanks again for taking Securing your Digital Footprint course, we hope you have enjoyed it, as much as we've enjoyed offering it.