Secure Your Computer: Windows 10

At Carnegie Mellon, we strive to provide a safe and secure computing environment for the campus community and recommend that you follow safe computing practices. Complete the steps below to ensure your computer's OS and software are up-to-date and the recommended security settings are configured.

Are you a DSP customer? Do you have departmental IT support? Please contact that person for assistance.

Update Your Operating System

Configure Windows Update
1. Select the Start > Settings > Update & Security.
2. Select Windows Update > Advanced options.
3. Choose Automatic for how updates are installed.
4. Check Give me updates for other Microsoft products.

Run Windows Update
1. Click the back arrow.
2. Click Check for updates.
3. Install updates if available. This may take a few moments as the updates are installed. Restart if prompted.
4. Repeat until no updates are found.

Update Other Software Applications

Update other software applications you may have. Consider the following:
- Adobe products (e.g., Acrobat, Flash, Reader, etc. as well as any plug-ins)
- Web browsers
- Java

Most applications can be updated by selecting Check for Updates in one of the following menus:
- Application, Preferences or Help.

When you update these applications, please make sure to select the "Automatically install updates" option.

To update browsers and plug-ins, use the ISO Patch Check tool at cmu.edu/iso/patch-check/.

Use Windows Defender Anti-Virus Protection

Note: If your computer is managed by your departmental IT administrator or DSP, follow their recommendation.

Remove all other anti-virus software.
1. Click Start.
2. Type Control Panel in the search box and select Control Panel from the results.
3. Select Programs and Features.
4. Select the anti-virus software title you’d like to remove and click Uninstall.
5. After uninstall completes, restart your computer.

Turn on Windows Defender
1. Click Start.
2. Type Defender in the search box and select Windows Defender from the results.
3. Turn on Real-Time Protection.
Set Security Preferences

Password Protect Your Computer
1. Select Start > Settings > Accounts.
2. Select Sign-in options and click Add.
3. Choose a strong password (e.g., at least eight characters, contains upper/lower case letters and numbers, etc.)
4. If others use this computer select Family & other users.
5. Create a password for each account on your computer.

Password Protect Your Screen Saver
1. Search Screen Saver from Settings.
2. Set the following:
   - Choose a Screen saver.
   - Set the Wait time to 10 minutes or less.
   - Select On resume, display logon screen.
3. Click Apply and then OK.

Turn on the Firewall
1. Search Firewall in Settings.
2. Select Windows Firewall.
3. Select Turn Windows Firewall on or off.
4. Make sure Windows Firewall state is set to ON.
5. Click OK.

Know the Rules
Remember that you are responsible for the content and actions of your computer! Read and abide by the Carnegie Mellon Computing Policy, Copyright Violation Guideline and other computing guidelines; see cmu.edu/computing/guideline/.

Subscribe to News and Alerts
If you haven’t done so, subscribe to our news feed for the latest computing news and alerts. Visit cmu.edu/computing/news/ and click the RSS icon to subscribe.

Additional Resources
For additional computing resources and services visit cmu.edu/computing/:
- Read and manage email
- Download software
- Explore your file storage options
- Use public computer labs
- Configure printers
- Get software training

Need Help?
Contact the Help Center
Monday-Friday (7am-7pm)
Call: 412-268-4357 (HELP)
Click: it-help@cmu.edu
Visit: 119 Cyert Hall (9am-5pm)

www.cmu.edu/computing/