GET CONTROL

4 Easy Steps to Computer Security

Northwestern University Information Technology | www.it.northwestern.edu
“My computer has antivirus software. That means I’m protected, right?”

“I don’t need to worry about computer security—I’m not on campus.”

“I trust my friends—why shouldn’t I share my password with them?”

“I have a brand new computer. Do I really need to install updates?”

“I watch streaming movies online instead of downloading them. That’s safer, isn’t it?”

DO THESE SOUND FAMILIAR?
These are all things you risk losing permanently by not taking control of your computer’s security.

Take a few minutes now to check your computer’s security – you’ll be protected this summer and ready to connect on campus in the fall.

Being secure means you’ll be less likely to spend time and money on computer repair or recovery.

You also lower the risk of losing control of vital information or access to resources if your computer security is compromised.

And keep in mind that as a Northwestern student, you are responsible for using University resources in a safe, secure, and legal way.

For more information, detailed instructions, and links, visit: <www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/>.

Get control now — just follow four easy steps.
STEP 1: SECURE PASSWORDS
STEP 2: STOP MALWARE
SECURE PASSWORDS

Put A Lock On Your Password — Keep It A Secret

Your NetID and password are powerful assets that give you access to the NU Network, your financial and academic records, private e-mail, and more. By sharing your password with anyone, you jeopardize your security and the security of the NU Network. And since sharing your password is against NU policy, you put yourself at risk of losing network access, getting fined, or worse! Only you should know your password — keep it secret.

About your password:

- Make it long, make it strong. The passphrase `Mypasswordis31characterslong!!!` is a secure, memorable example. Song lyrics, phrases, or other sentences are also good options to create long passwords.
- Never reveal it to anyone, even parents or friends.
- Find out how to give your parents separate access to your tuition information and other portions of your student account at `<www.northwestern.edu/sfs/payments/guest_access.html>`.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/stepone.html>

STOP MALWARE

Guard Against Computer Bugs — Use Protective Software

Think you’re safe from malicious viruses, spyware, junk e-mail, and other malware if you just run antivirus software? Think again. Malware comes in many dangerous forms — protect yourself in more ways than one. Use multiple types of security: antivirus, a junk e-mail blocker, and a firewall. If your computer doesn’t already have comprehensive protection, NUIT has some suggestions.

Use these programs together for protection:

- Security software is provided by NUIT free for download at `<www.it.northwestern.edu/software/sav/>`.
- Pre-installed firewalls are available on machines running Windows XP, Vista, 7, and Mac OS X. Be sure they’re turned on and configured correctly!

<www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/steptwo.html>
STEP 3 STAY CURRENT

STEP 4 BROWSE SAFELY
Stay Current

Keep Your Computer Up To Speed — Install Software Updates

Even a brand new computer isn’t perfect. Software companies regularly release updates to improve a program’s performance and security. Install these updates when prompted or you leave yourself vulnerable to cybercriminals and slow performance. Keep your computer current and protected.

Check for and install updates to:
- Your computer’s operating systems (Windows or Mac).
- Northwestern’s security software.
- Internet browsers such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, or Safari.
- Other essential software like Microsoft Office, Adobe, iTunes, and Java.

<www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/stepthree.html>

Browse Safely

Stay Aware On The Internet — It Can Keep You Virus Free

Good safety habits on the Internet can save you from viruses and malware. Clever criminals make sites look legitimate to steal your information or spread malware to your computer or mobile device without you even knowing. Be aware of the Web sites you visit, what you download, and the information you post online. Stay safe while you browse!

Be cybersmart:
- Only click links you trust and verify Web sites before providing sensitive information.
- Steer clear of potentially dangerous sites like ones that allow you to stream media. Install Web of Trust at <www.mywot.com> to warn you about these pages.
- Avoid free downloads and files from sources you don’t know.
- Use built-in browser security features for protection.
- When connecting to NetID-secured sites from off campus, use Northwestern’s Virtual Private Network (VPN).

<www.it.northwestern.edu/getcontrol/stepfour.html>