

Information Security: Protect iOS Devices

This guide covers some of the basic steps you can take to begin to secure your personal iPhone or iPad. It assumes you are running iOS 26.5 Some menu options may differ slightly, and some will depend on the model of your iPhone/iPad.

Update iOS to the latest version

Apple will release updates to iOS to enable new features and address security issues. Try to install updates as soon as possible. You will be prompted when there is a new update, but you can check manually:

- Tap **Settings > General > Software Update**

Set a passcode

Your device will be encrypted, but only if you set a passcode, PIN, fingerprint, or Face ID.

- Tap **Settings > Touch/Face ID & Passcode > Turn Passcode On**

You may also wish to slide off some functions in the **allow access when locked** section, to prevent others from using Siri to reveal data, or viewing personal notifications on the lock screen.

Set the phone to auto lock

- Tap **Settings > Display & Brightness > Auto Lock > Select the time period** to auto lock your device

Turn on fingerprint or Face ID access

The model of iPhone or iPad you have will determine whether you can use Face ID or Touch ID.

You may want to turn on Touch ID to unlock the device or approve purchases with a fingerprint.

- Tap **Settings > Touch ID & Passcode > Add a Fingerprint > Follow the on-screen instructions**

You may want to turn on Face ID to unlock the device or approve purchases with your face.

- Tap **Settings > Face ID & Passcode > Set up Face ID > Follow the on-screen instructions**

Enable 'Find My iPhone/iPad'

To help in the event that your device is lost or stolen, you can enable the **Find my iPhone** feature.

- Tap **Settings > Your Profile Name > Find My > Find My iPhone**. Slide to turn on **Find my iPhone** and **Send Last Location**
- If your device is ever lost or stolen log into <https://icloud.com/find> to attempt to find it on the map, play a sound on the device, and turn on **Lost Mode**¹.

¹ <https://support.apple.com/en-qb/HT210515>

Backup data using iCloud or iTunes

You backup data to Apples iCloud storage when the device is locked, connected to Wi-Fi and power.

- Tap **Settings** > **Your Profile Name** > **iCloud** > **iCloud Backup** > Turn on **iCloud backup**

You can also backup a device using iTunes if you wish to keep a local backup.

- Launch **iTunes** > connect via **USB** > **Trust the computer** > **Select the device** and **Backup Now**

Use two-factor authentication

As passwords are at risk from being guessed or phished, you can use two-factor authentication to further secure your Apple ID. This means when you sign into a new device you will need to have something you know (your password) and something you have (your phone).

Apples [support page](#)² on two-factor authentication goes into detail on how to set this up and how it works in various scenarios.

Apps

Permissions

Check the permissions of an app before you install it, to make sure you are not sharing more data than you realise.

- For example, consider whether you wish to grant a torch app permissions to access your contacts, camera and microphone.

Change permissions

You can review app permissions under **Settings** > **Privacy**. Select a category and review all apps that have that permission. Slide off any you wish to disable.

Selling your device

If you decide to sell your iOS device, then you will need to remove the link to your iCloud account and erase the device. You will be prompted for your Apple ID and password.

To sign out from iCloud

- Tap **Settings** > **Your Profile Name** . Scroll down and Tap **Sign Out**, then enter your Apple ID password and tap **Turn Off**. Follow the onscreen instructions.

To erase the device

- Tap **Settings** > **General** > **Reset** > **Erase All Content and Settings**

Further information and help

The [IT Service Desk](#) are happy to help you connect your device to the University's wireless network. Sorry, but the Service Desk does not provide hardware support, including repairs of any kind.

² <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204915>