

6 ways to

# STAY SECURE

... at home

## → Patch your system.

Patching your computer is one of the most important ways to protect yourself online. Windows users should turn on Windows Update (<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-update>) and set it to download and install patches automatically. For Mac OS X, patches are installed via the App Store (<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201541>), and the settings can be checked under System Preferences -> App Store.

## ← Patch your applications.

In addition to patching your operating system, you should regularly check for updates to applications. Attackers can use vulnerabilities in browsers, Adobe products (e.g. Flash and Reader) and Java to take over your computer. The Duke IT Security Office recommends Secunia PSI for Windows users ([https://secunia.com/vulnerability\\_scanning/personal](https://secunia.com/vulnerability_scanning/personal)) and Mac Update Desktop (<http://www.macupdate.com/desktop>) for Mac users.

## → Use multi-factor authentication.

Just as Duke faculty and staff use Duke's multi-factor service to protect their Duke accounts, the Duke IT Security Office recommends applying the same approach to personal accounts. Many cloud providers (Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) offer similar multi- or two-factor services. Check <https://twofactorauth.org> for a list of sites and links on how to set it up.

## Choose a long password or passphrase and protect it with LastPass.

With so many breaches occurring, it's important to have long, different passwords for each site. Duke offers a free premium subscription to the LastPass password management service (<https://oit.duke.edu/software>) to securely generate and store all your passwords. Find out more information about using LastPass at [https://lastpass.com/how\\_it\\_works.php](https://lastpass.com/how_it_works.php).

## ← Install anti-virus software.

Don't forget to install anti-virus software on all computers. Duke offers Symantec anti-virus software free for personal use for faculty, staff and students (<https://oit.duke.edu/software>).

## Set up different accounts for family members on shared computers.

Many of us share a single computer with multiple family members. Microsoft and Apple make it easy to set up different accounts on the shared computer. Read more on the Duke IT Security Office website at <http://security.duke.edu/home-security-basics>.