CONFIGURING YOUR OWN FIREWALL (MAC)

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Introduction to Cyber Security

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In this, we’ll be enabling the firewall for Mac OS X on Mavericks.

Enabling the firewall

1. Open **System Preferences**, which can be found either in the Dock or via the Apple menu at the top left of the screen.

2. Choose **Security & Privacy**.
3. Select the **Firewall** tab.

![Image of Firewall tab](image1.png)

4. If necessary, click the lock icon and type in an administrator password in order to make changes.

![Image of Unlock System Preferences](image2.png)

5. If the firewall is not already active, turn it on by clicking the **Turn On Firewall** button.

![Image of Turn On Firewall button](image3.png)

6. The Mac OS X firewall will prompt you the first time all applications attempt to connect to the network, your choices are remembered so you will not be asked in future.
Firewall Options

The firewall has a number of options accessible through the **Firewall Options**… button. In each case options can be turned on and off by clicking the small check box next to each one:

1. **Block all incoming connections** stops remote computers sending data to your computer without having been asked to do so by your machine. You can add programs to an exclusion list, using the + button near the middle of the window.

2. **Automatically allow signed software to receive incoming connections** allows applications with a digital signature to bypass the firewall and receive data. In theory, signed applications come from trustworthy sources and are less likely to host malicious data.

3. **Enable stealth mode** stops your computer from responding to messages asking if it is connected to a network. These ‘ping’ attacks can be used to identify likely targets for attack.

If you make any changes to your firewall settings, click the **OK** button to confirm them and click the lock (if necessary) to re-lock your settings.