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# CONFIGURING YOUR OWN FIREWALL (MAC)

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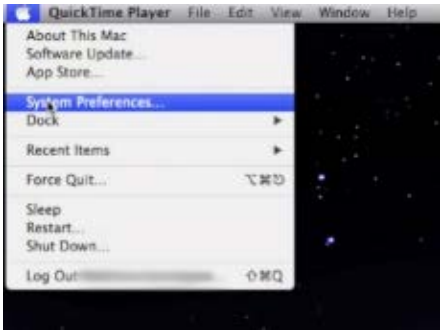
# Introduction to Cyber Security

## Configuring your own firewall (Mac)

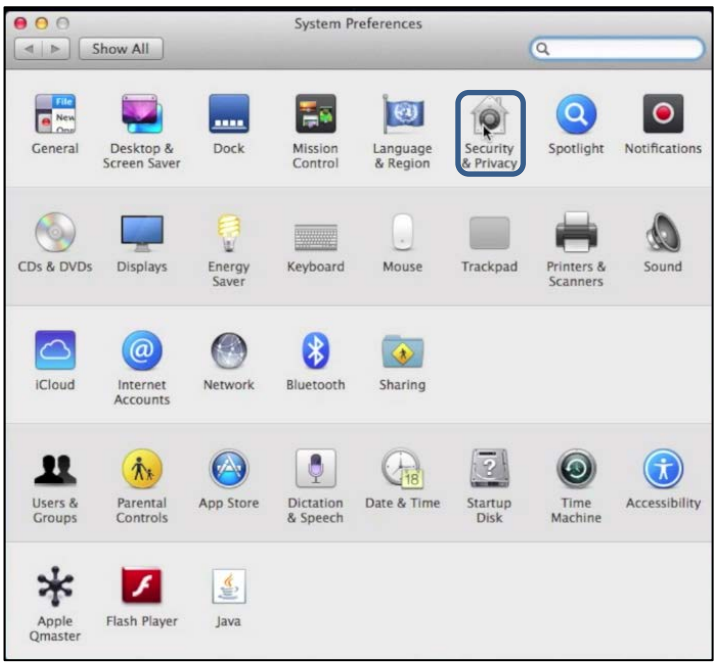
In this, we'll be enabling the firewall for Mac OS X on Mavericks.

### 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.

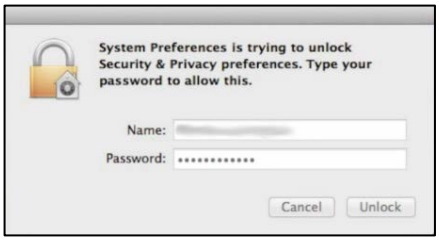



2. Choose **Security & Privacy**.



3. Select the **Firewall** tab.


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

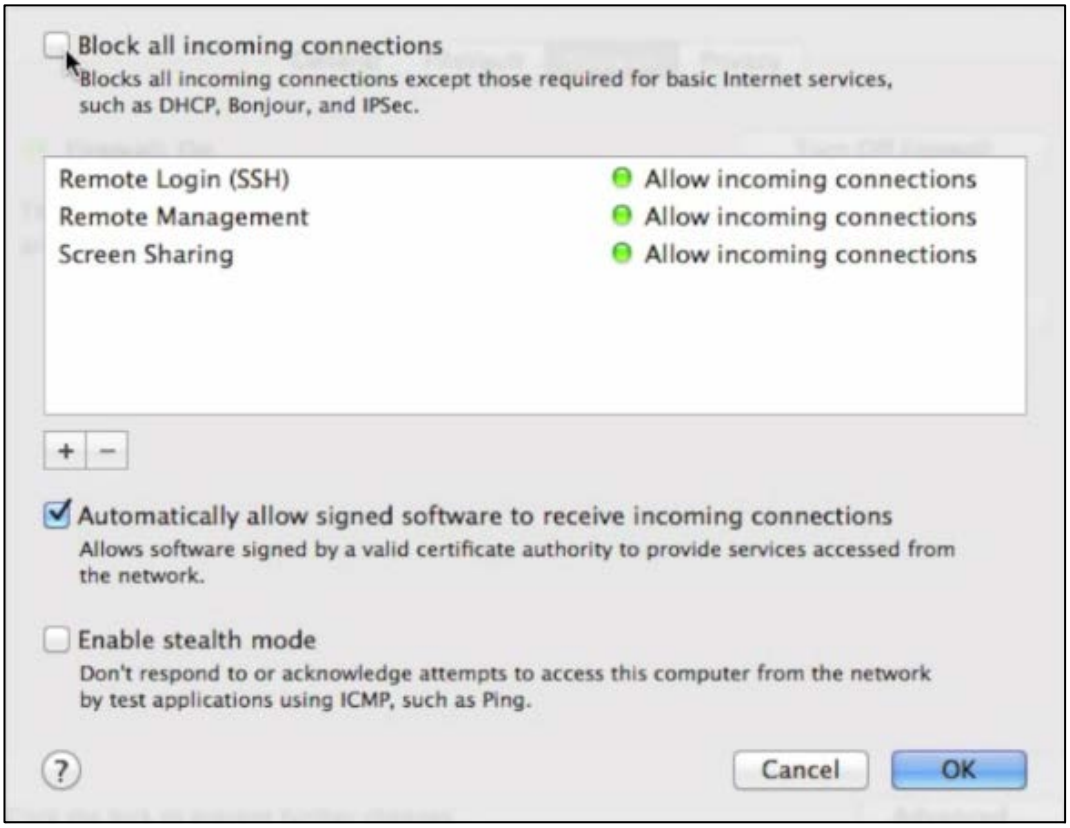



5. If the firewall is not already active, turn it on by clicking the **Turn On Firewall** button.


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.