

Mac OS X includes powerful built-in security features. What follows are my suggested security settings for Mac OS X (10.6). This should only be viewed as an introduction and does not take into account Terminal command line scripts or third-party applications.

## Go into **Preferences > Security > General**

Check the following:

- \*Disable automatic login
- \*Require a password to unlock each System Preferences Pane
- \*Use secure Virtual Memory (requires a reboot to become enabled)

## **Security > Firewall**

Make sure it's switched on! It's an obvious one, but I'm reasonably certain that it's switched off by default.

## **Firewall > Advanced**

Check the following:

- \*Block all incoming connections
- \*Enable stealth mode (Alas, sounds cooler than it actually is)

## **System Preferences > Sharing**

Uncheck everything you're not using, even if you think you will. Turn it on when you need it and turn it off when you're done.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

In addition to the above.

## **Safari > Preferences > General**

Uncheck the following:

Open "safe" files after downloading  
(I've switched to Google Chrome for Mac. However, your mileage may vary.)

## **Software Update**

Again. Obvious, but make sure that you've installed the latest Mac OS X and security updates.

To reiterate. These are only suggestions and no networked computer is ever 100% secure. However, with a few basic clicks your Mac's security will be increased from its default settings. Every little helps.

**About the author:**

John Hood has a BA (Hons) in Media Production from the Media School of Bournemouth University and was featured in the Alumni Association magazine, The Talbot, a Media Careers special.

After graduation John worked for the BBC, Thomson Reuters and Dow Jones in various capacities.

In 1998 John started developing original content (in mixed media) for internet distribution. The ability to work cross-platform, and conceptualise, and apply that thinking to print, broadcast or interactive content is key to successful multimedia practitioners!

John's artwork, photographs and blog posts are featured on Saatchi Online, Thomson Reuters, Nielsen, Chicago Sun-Times, TV Guide and USA Today websites.

[Cloister Bell](#) | [Generation Star Wars](#)

When not attending preview screenings of upcoming television series or providing consumer product feedback for companies including 3, Google and Sony, John writes about film, television, interactive entertainment, and more in the geek galaxy! Read John's [Top ten Sci-Fi films](#).

If you'd like to contact John, please email him at [jrhood\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:jrhood[at]gmail[dot]com).

[Twitter](#) | [Flickr](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Last.fm](#)

**Disclaimer**

Every care was taken in the preparation of this eBook. However, it is for informational purposes only and is provided "as is". The author accepts no liability for any loss or damage incurred as a result of acting on or refraining to act on information or other material contained within this eBook. You should always seek professional advice on the facts of your particular matter.