Encrypting Your Personal Computer with FileVault

Full disk encryption is only required on your personal computer if you store confidential (Category I) or controlled (Category II) University data on it. You are not required to encrypt your personally owned computer if you do not store University data on it, always use a VPN to connect to an on campus computer to work, or only access data through web applications such as MyMav. The following instructions are provided to help you encrypt your personally owned computer using native filevault2 encryption. Before you proceed please make sure you have read all the notes and cautions:

NOTES

- Filevault2 encryption is a Apple product and there are widely available instructions on the internet on how to encrypt your computer using it. The instructions provided are a best effort to simplify the instructions for you. They are provided “as is” and we do not make any warranties about its accuracy; you do not have to follow these instructions.
- Filevault2 does not work on all versions of Macintosh OS and there are alternatives to Filevault2 for full disk encryption.
- By opting to deploy full disk encryption on your personally owned computer, you are assuming all risks, including data loss. Before beginning the encryption process, make a backup of your data!
- All University owned computers are required to be encrypted using SecureDoc encryption management software. Do not use these instructions for University owned computers.
- You must safeguard your encryption key and make it or your personal computer available for e-discovery searches for University data in the event of open records requests, litigation holds or subpoenas.

Enabling FileVault for Your Mac:

1. Open System Preferences.
2. Select the Privacy and Security icon.
3. In the next window, choose the FileVault tab.
4. Click Turn On FileVault. OS X will generate a recovery key. Store this key in a safe place; you will need to share it with Information Security:

5. Apple requests that you share this key with them. However, this is against UT Arlington policy.
6. Finally, you will be prompted to restart in order to begin the encryption process.

In order to check the status of the encryption process, you can open the FileVault screen. When the process is complete, you will need to create a screen image to submit to Information Security as proof that the laptop is encrypted. Follow the steps below to create the screen image with the required information.

1. Click the Apple icon.
2. Click About the Mac.
3. The About this Mac shows the computer’s name, hardware configuration, and serial number. Depending on the version of OS X, you may need to click More Information in order to display all of the information. Keep this window open on your screen.
4. Click on Finder.
5. Open FileVault. The FileVault screen should show the disk is encrypted.
6. Resize both windows so they are both visible on your screen.
7. Capture a screen shot of the windows. To capture the entire desktop, press Command-Shift-3. The screen shot will be automatically saved as a PNG file on your desktop.
8. Email this screenshot and the key to the Information Security Office. (security@uta.edu)