

Information Systems Security Changes at MSU

As a member of the MSU community of computer users, you may have noticed a steady increase in the computer and network systems security on campus. We have seen successive releases of Identity Finder (Now Spirion), Vipre, LANDesk, and the soon to be rolled out McAfee EPO, a centrally managed version of McAfee Antivirus. These desktop security tools, increased security activities behind the scenes, and updated policies related to Information Systems security have already significantly improved the safety and security of our computers, networks, and most importantly, data.

This increase in the safety and security of our computers, networks, and data have taken a great amount of time, cost, and effort to implement. End-users have also been impacted by small system performance impacts as well as the time it takes to manage sensitive data, as with Spirion. Nevertheless, we should all be aware of the critical importance of protecting these assets. If compromised, our computers and networks can be used to attack other networks and computers, our data can be used for cybercrime such as identity theft and the disclosure of sensitive information to unauthorized third parties, and the status and reputation of our great institution could be diminished and tarnished, threatening our shared mission and our livelihoods. Please keep this in mind as these changes progress. Understand also, your cooperation is critical to the success of these efforts.

Related to the safety and security as defined above, is the safety and security of your data from loss due to unforeseen circumstances such as the failure of computer system hardware or software. This data protection is the sole responsibility of the end user (You). There are no automated backups made of end user files. If a hard drive fails or an operating system crashes badly and the data is not backed up, all your hard work will be lost. Fortunately, there are easy to implement solutions for end users to back up their data by using cloud data storage services. All MSU faculty, staff, and students have cloud service accounts with Microsoft OneDrive and Box.com (See Links Below)

OneDrive via Office365 <http://www.montana.edu/office365/index.html>

Box.com <https://montana.account.box.com/login>

Working together, MSU-UIT, AgIT, and you, the end user, can protect MSU's Information Systems infrastructure, systems, and data. This, in turn, will support the mission of Montana State University to educate students, create knowledge and art, and serve communities by integrating learning, discovery and engagement."