

Summer Conference Computing Services

Preparing Your Computer for the Stanford Network

You will not be able to register your computer until you are physically present on the Stanford campus. Registration is *only* possible while on campus. To facilitate the registration process, complete the items below prior to coming to campus and *bring an Ethernet cable with you to campus* if your device has an Ethernet port.

Make Sure You Have Administrator Privileges on Your Computer

Only computers that have been verified to pose no threat to the Stanford Network may be registered. After you arrive on campus, in order to download and run the required 'health check' tool, the account you are using on your computer must have Administrator (also called 'Admin') privileges. Check with your local tech support person to ensure you have proper privileges.

Update the Operating System

Operating system updates are the most important way to keep your computer protected against malicious software. The health check tool requires your operating system to be up to date, so updating it before you arrive will get you on the network faster.

For Windows Use Internet Explorer to visit <http://update.microsoft.com> and run the Windows Update tool repeatedly until no more high priority updates are available.

For Mac OS Open System Preferences, and click the **Software Update** icon. Click the **Check Now** button to view and install any updates. After your computer restarts, repeat the previous process until no more updates remain.

Install and Update Antivirus Software

To protect your computer and the Stanford Network from malicious software, all Windows computers must have an antivirus program (e.g. Sophos, Norton) installed and running with the latest updates. Antivirus software is *required* on Windows machines and recommended on Mac OS machines. AVG, a free antivirus program for Windows, is available from <http://free.avg.com/>.

Set a Strong Password

Setting a strong password on your computer helps prevent unauthorized users or malicious software from gaining access to your computer both from the computer itself and over the network.

For Windows Open the Control Panel and select User Account. For each administrator account, select the account name, then click the **Create a Password** button to set a password.

For Mac OS Open System Preferences and click the **Accounts** icon. Click the lock at the bottom to enter your password. For each account, click the **Change Password** button.