// MOBILE DEVICE HARDENING

IPHONE HARDENING GUIDE

A step-by-step configuration reference for reducing your device's digital exposure. Each setting reflects best practices for principals, family members, and anyone in a high-visibility role.

Note: Settings vary by iOS version. If a setting isn't where indicated, search its name in the Settings search bar.

// GENERAL & SOFTWARE 01

SETTINGS › GENERAL › SOFTWARE UPDATE › AUTOMATIC UPDATES

iOS updates › Automatically download	TURN ON
iOS updates › Automatically install	TURN ON
System files › Automatically install	TURN ON

SETTINGS › GENERAL › AIRPLAY & CONTINUITY

AirDrop	CONTACTS ONLY
Automatically AirPlay	NEVER OR ASK
Bringing devices together	TURN OFF
Apple Intelligence & Siri	TURN OFF

SETTINGS › VPN & DEVICE MANAGEMENT

Unknown configuration profiles	REMOVE

SETTINGS › GENERAL › HANDOFF

Handoff	TURN OFF

// FACE ID & PASSCODE 02

SETTINGS › FACE ID & PASSCODE

Stolen device protection	TURN ON
Face ID with a mask	TURN OFF
Require attention for Face ID	TURN ON
Attention aware features	TURN ON
Require passcode	IMMEDIATELY
Allow access when locked	TURN OFF ALL OPTIONS
Passcode type Use custom alphanumeric code or 6+ digits	REVIEW

// APPLE ID 03

SETTINGS › [YOUR NAME]

Sign-in & security › Trusted phone number	REVIEW
Two-factor authentication	TURN ON
iCloud backup	TURN ON
Private relay	TURN ON
Advanced data protection May require updating all connected devices first	TURN ON
iCloud.com	REVIEW
Associated devices Remove old or unknown devices from account	REVIEW

// PRIVACY & SECURITY 04

SETTINGS › PRIVACY & SECURITY

Location services › Location alerts	TURN ON
Tracking	TURN OFF
System services › Significant Locations	TURN OFF
System services › Product improvement	TURN OFF ALL
Contacts access	CONFIRM APPS
Microphone access	CONFIRM APPS
Photos access	CONFIRM APPS
Camera access Confirm no apps set to Always	CONFIRM APPS

MORE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Journaling suggestions	TURN OFF
Analytics & improvements	TURN OFF
Apple advertising	TURN OFF
Background security improvements	TURN ON
Discoverable by others	TURN OFF

SETTINGS › ACCESSIBILITY › AUDIO & VISUAL

Live Listen › Remote control	TURN OFF

NOTE

Settings vary by iOS version. If a setting isn't where indicated, search its name in the Settings search bar.