



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
UNIVERSITY *of* ROCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER

Security Tips

Safeguarding Research Data

Anjan Bagchee
Director, Academic IT

Ben Cheung
Manager, Academic IT Security



Who has access to your data:

- ▶ Faculty
- ▶ Staff
- ▶ Administrative personnel
- ▶ Students
- ▶ Fellow collaborators



Why should we safeguard our data?

- ▶ Because education institutions should do more to protect research data
- ▶ Because our intellectual property is our lifeblood
- ▶ Because we need to keep our information security at the forefront of our minds
- ▶ Because disasters / theft / espionage happens
- ▶ Because sometimes, bad things happen to good people



What should we consider safeguarding?

- ▶ Intellectual Property (Project info, lab detail, results)
- ▶ PHI (Protected Health Information)
- ▶ Legally restricted information (SS#, Credit card #, address, etc)
- ▶ Confidential information (budget information, internal department information, etc.)



How should we protect our data?

► Encryption

- Protect your Mac or PC using Full Disk Encryption (Filevault 2, Pointsec, Bitlocker)
- Protect your mobile data on Flash Drives/USB storage/ Smartphones (Media Encryption and Port Protection)
- Protect your data in transit (HTTPS, FTPS, SFTP, encrypted DVD's)

► Passwords

- Change your passwords often (at least 2x/yr) to protect account integrity.
- Use pass phrases (easy to remember) - mix in #'s, special characters, case
- Update systems - Keep systems (desktop/servers) patched to mitigate new vulnerabilities found



How should we protect our data - continued

- ▶ While BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) is allowed, you should ensure it meets URMCC minimum security guidelines
- ▶ **Back up...Back up...Back up!** If your data is important to you, please back up your data reliably so that a recovery can happen in the case of data loss.
- ▶ Utilize our in-house network storage solutions (current mapped network drive, SONAS etc)



In Summary

- ▶ Maintaining the security of research data is a responsibility we ALL share
- ▶ Imagine that the data you are exposed to is your own PERSONAL data. Would you handle it any differently?
- ▶ While Information Technology (Academic IT, University IT, or ISD) provides the support and guidelines for safeguarding data, it is ULTIMATELY the responsibility of the individual to safeguard their data
- ▶ Never hesitate asking for more information/assistance. We are just a phone/email away