

Week 2: Enable MFA Everywhere (Oct 13)

Introduction

This week, we focus on Enable MFA Everywhere.

A password alone may not be enough to protect your accounts. Multi-factor authentication provides an additional layer of security by requiring another method of verification when you sign in.

At CUNY, MFA helps protect University systems and services. CUNY Login MFA is used for applications such as CUNYfirst and Brightspace, while Microsoft MFA protects access to Microsoft 365 services. Whenever MFA is available for your personal accounts, enable it there as well.

Helpful MFA Tips:

- Enable MFA wherever it is available, particularly on accounts containing personal, financial, or sensitive information.
- Never share your password or MFA passcode with anyone.
- Never approve an MFA request you did not initiate, and carefully verify any number, location, or application information displayed before approving the request. For example, if you receive an MFA approval request when you are not trying to sign in, deny the request and report it to your college IT office. This could mean someone is attempting to access your account.
- For Microsoft MFA at CUNY, set up more than one authentication method when possible so you have a backup if your primary method is unavailable. CUNY lists Microsoft Authenticator as the most convenient second-factor option.

MFA Resources:

- [CUNY Microsoft Multi-factor Authentication \(MFA\)](#)
- [CUNY Cybersecurity Awareness Month](#)

- [CISA – Turn On MFA](#)

Facts and Figures:

Insights from the Oh Behave! Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors Report: 2021–2025 (National Cybersecurity Alliance & CybSafe) are as follows:

- Awareness of multi-factor authentication (MFA) increased from **52% in 2021 to 77% in 2025**.
- Despite increased awareness, regular MFA use was only **53% in 2025**.

Helpful Cybersecurity Tips:

- [CUNY Cybersecurity Best Practices](#)
- [Secret Shopper, Personal Assistant, and Other Online Scams](#)
- [CUNY Information Security Resources](#)
- [CUNY Security Awareness](#)
- **CUNY IT Security Awareness Course**

Students, faculty, and staff should [log into Brightspace](#) and complete the latest cybersecurity awareness training course under the Compliance or Organization tab.

Our emails and supporting information are available from the [Cyber Security Awareness Month \(NCSAM\)](#) page on the CUNY web site.

We also provide a growing security resources list on the [CUNY Information Security](#) pages. You may also want to visit the [OUCH!](#) website to read recent security articles or subscribe to its free security awareness newsletter designed for technology users.

If you have any questions about any of this information, please contact your college's [Information Security Manager](#).