

Setting A Boot Password For Macintosh Computers

Not all Macs support it but some of the new computers (*all* G4s and many G3s) a password preventing users from switching boot devices using the keyboard (ie. holding down the C key to boot from a CD, N for the network, etc.). To test if a computer supports boot passwords hold down the 'option' key when booting. If it does support passwords the computer will soon present you with a list of bootable partitions (from which you can choose which to boot). Note: if you have a G3 or G4 that does not *appear* to be supported be sure to download and install the latest firmware update and try again.

An easy way to enable/disable password protection is with a free utility from Apple (<http://www.apple.com/support>) called 'Open Firmware Password' (OFP). However, OFP only works in MacOS X (10.1 or higher I believe). To set the password with out using *any* operating system (OS 8/9 or X)...

Enabling Password Protection

- 1) Boot into the Open Firmware. (Command + Option + O + F)
- 2) At the command prompt, type "password" (then enter your password)
- 3) Type "setenv security-mode command"
- 4) Then type "reset-all" to restart the computer.

Disabling Password Protection

- 1) Boot into the Open Firmware. (Command + Option + O + F)
- 2) Type "setenv security-mode none" and press return.
- 3) Enter in the password at the password request prompt and press return.
- 4) Then type "reset-all" to restart the computer.