

iCloud - Turning On Two-Factor Authentication (Extra Security)

For iPhone Users Only

Compiled by the Clinic to End Tech Abuse

Last Updated: April 24, 2020

What is two-factor authentication and what does it do?

It is an extra security step that provides more protection for an online account. If you turn it on, then every time you want to log into your account, you will need to enter your password as well as a second piece of information that only you should know.

Who is this guide for?

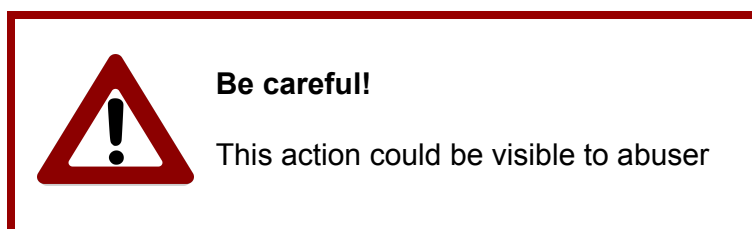
Anyone who would like to strengthen their security and privacy on iCloud, a service offered by Apple that allows users to store their data in the cloud (on the Internet). This guide is especially for anyone who is concerned that an abuser may be secretly getting access to their account.

You can also look at Apple's own guide here:

<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204915>

Before we start:

- If the abuser has access to your account, they may know right away if you turn on two-factor authentication. Turning on two-factor authentication will automatically lock other people out of your account.
- If you are worried about violence or threats, we strongly recommend that you talk to a domestic violence or other appropriate organization to make plans for your safety before you turn on two-factor authentication.
- We have marked changes that could be visible to an abuser with the following sign:



- You will need to be able to log into your iCloud account.
- It will help if you know whether you have already turned on two-factor authentication. For example, after you enter your password, do you also have to enter a code?

Images of Apple and iCloud websites are included here for educational and research purposes only.

Important information before continuing:

- **BE AWARE:** If you turn on Apple's **two-factor authentication**, you will not be able to turn it off again.
- For Apple, **two-factor authentication** is not the same as **two-step verification**. **Two-factor authentication** is a newer security mechanism.
- What you can use will depend on how old your operating system is. An operating system is the basic software that comes with your phone or computer and makes it function.
 - On an **iPhone or iPad**, you can check which operating system you have by tapping:
 - "Settings"
 - Then "General"
 - Then "About"
 - Look for "Software version"
 - On a **Mac laptop**, you can check which operating system you have by following these instructions: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT201260>
- **Two-factor authentication** is available for all iCloud users that have at least one device running iOS 9 (iPhones and iPads) or OS X El Capitan (laptop or desktop Mac computers) or later.
- Anyone with a device running an earlier version of the software, such as iOS 8 or OS X Yosemite, will have the **Two-step verification** option.
- If you have a device that can be updated to iOS 9 or OS X El Capitan or later, we recommend that you update it and switch to the two-factor authentication option.

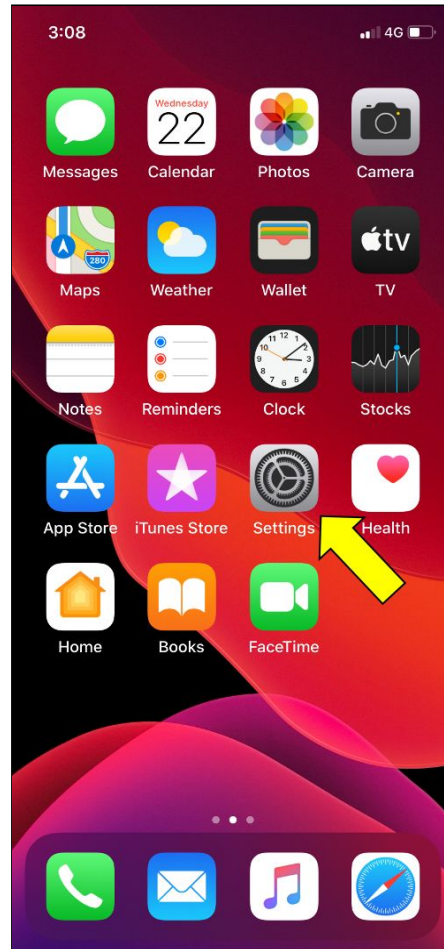
More information on the difference between Apple's **two-factor authentication** and **two-step verification** is available at: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204152>

In the next pages, you will find how to turn on two-factor authentication for your iCloud account using a web browser, a Mac computer, and an iPhone.

Instructions to Activate Two-Factor Authentication using an iPhone

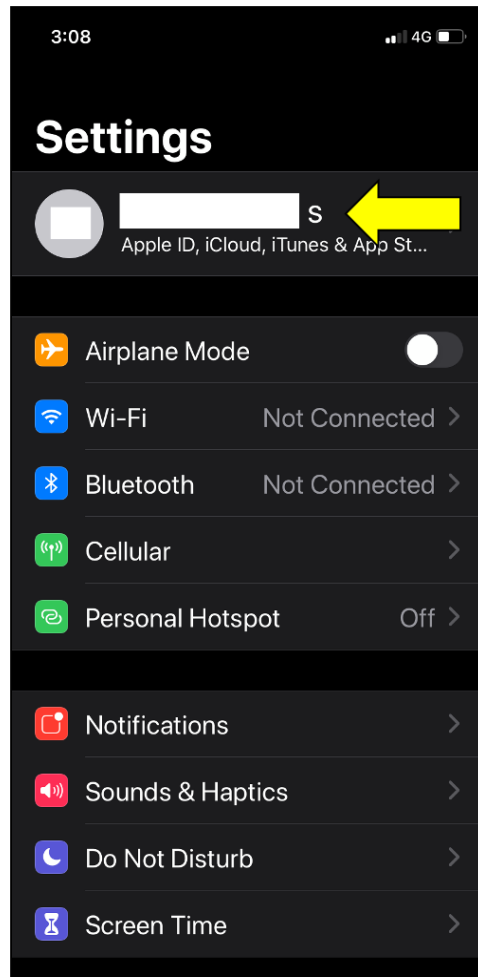
Step 1 - Go to *Settings*

Tap on **Settings**:



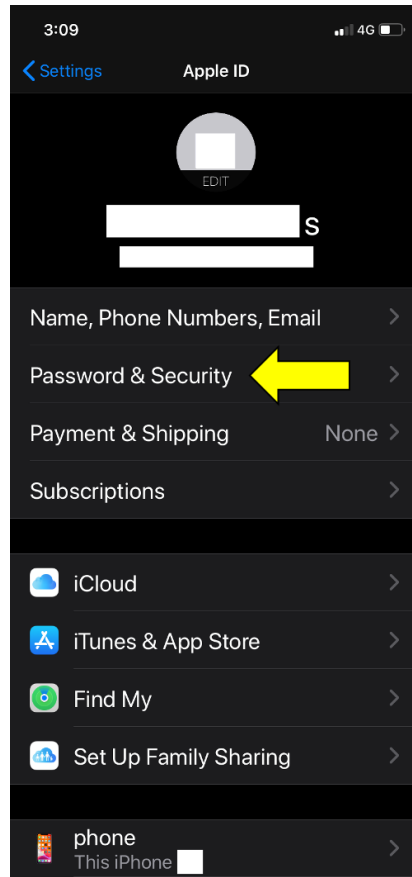
Step 2 - Go to *Apple ID*

Tap on **your name** (below the Settings title). It's okay if your screen looks a bit different from this one.



Step 3 - Go to *Password & Security*

Tap on **Password & Security**:



On the screen that appears, tap on **Turn On Two-Factor Authentication** and follow the instructions.

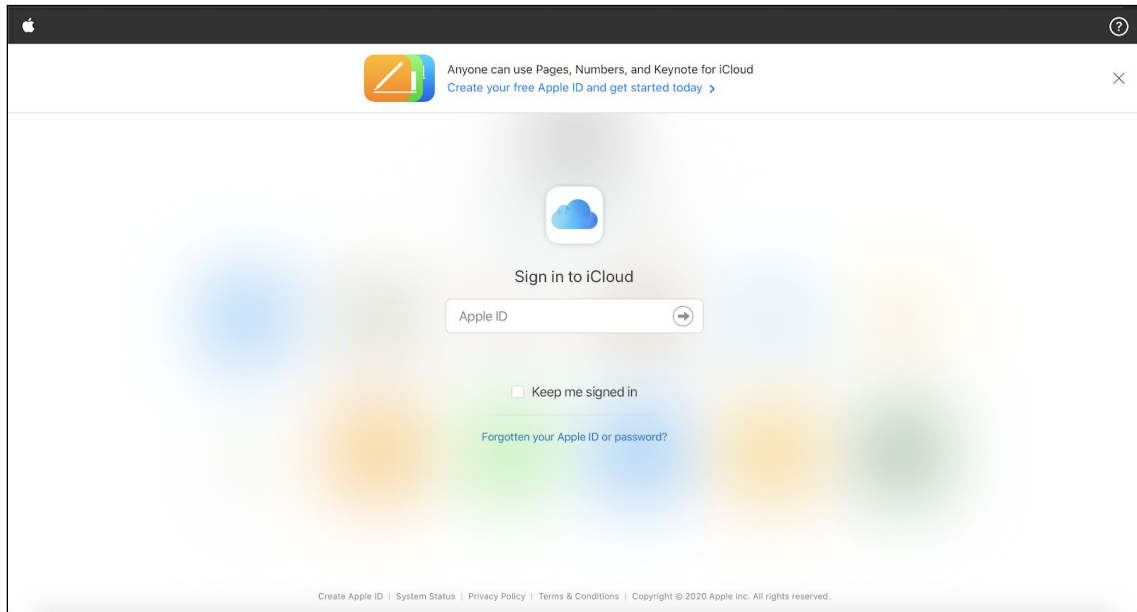
Congratulations!

You have turned on two-factor authentication for your iCloud account!

Instructions to Activate Two-Factor Authentication using a Web Browser

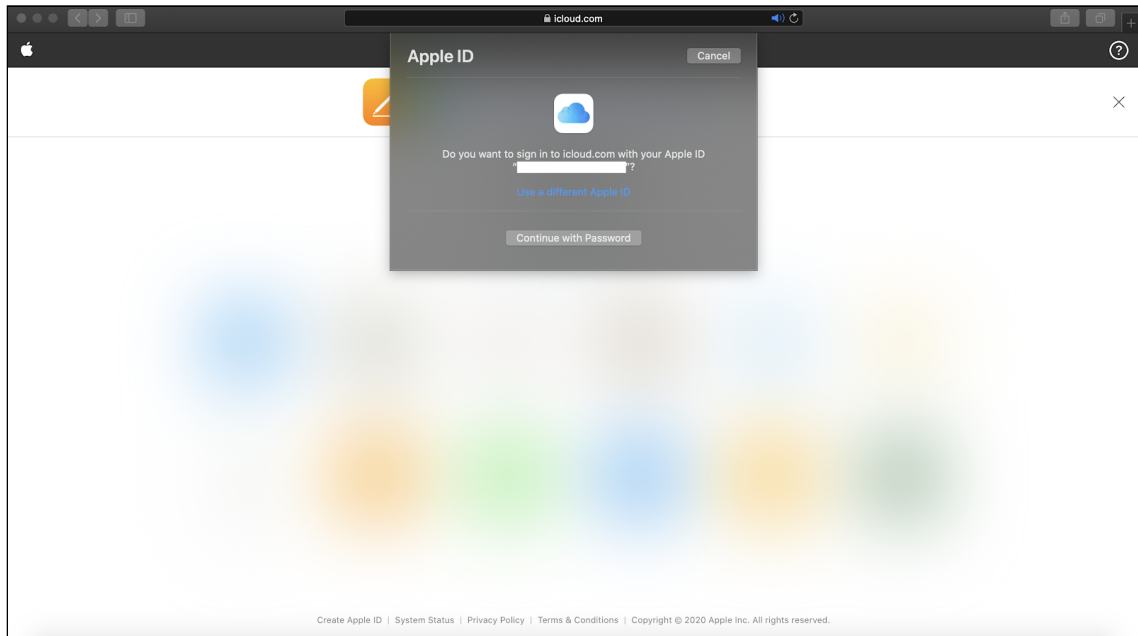
Step 1 - Log into your iCloud Account

Go to <https://www.icloud.com>. You should see a website that looks like this:

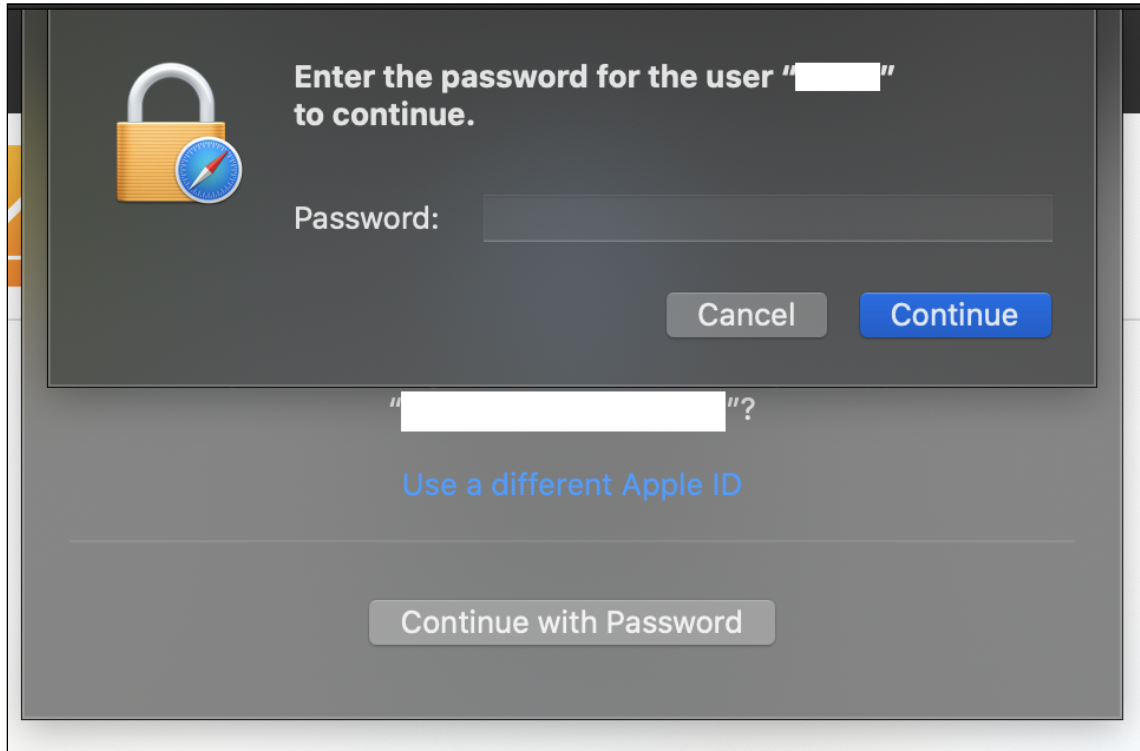


Log into your iCloud account by entering your **Apple ID** (the email you registered to use iCloud) and your password.

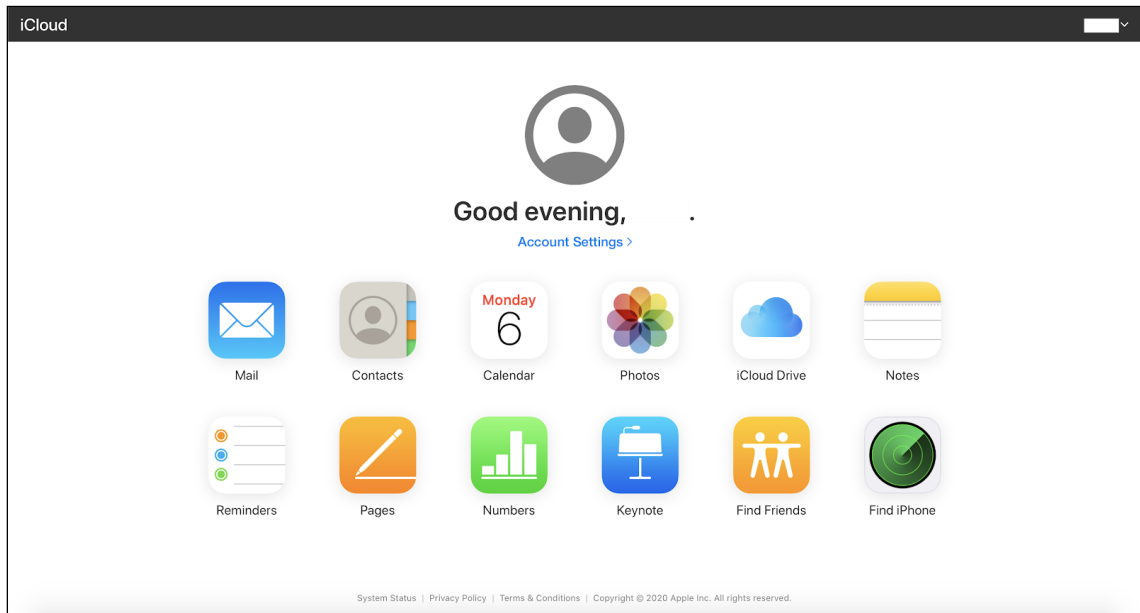
Or, when you go to <https://www.icloud.com>, you may see a message like this:



Click on the **Continue with Password** button. Then, enter your computer's password and click on **Continue**:

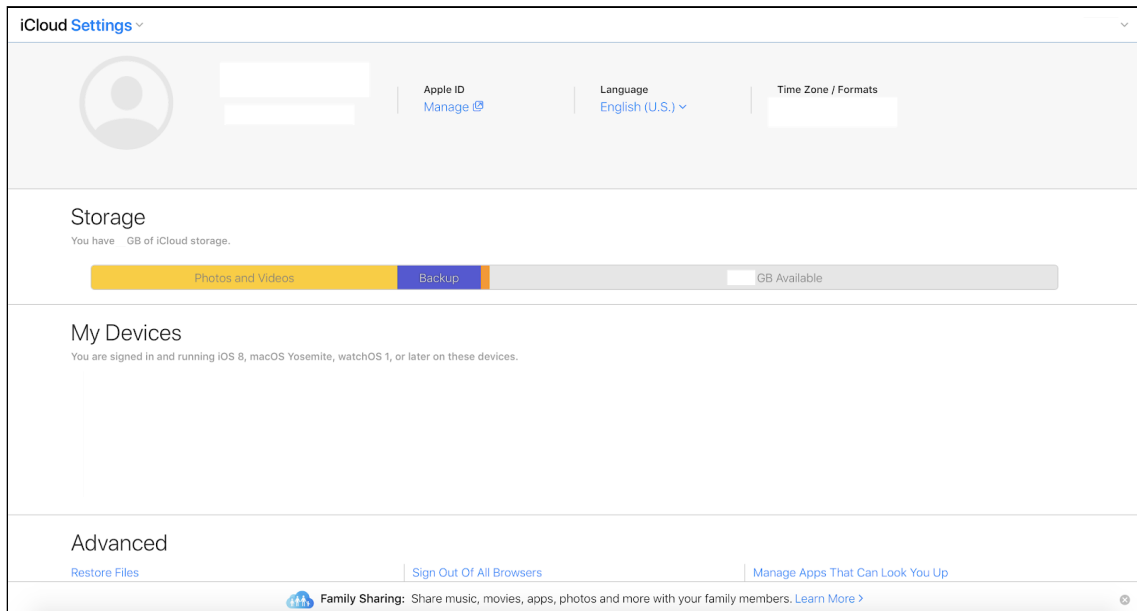


After logging in, you will see a screen like the following one:

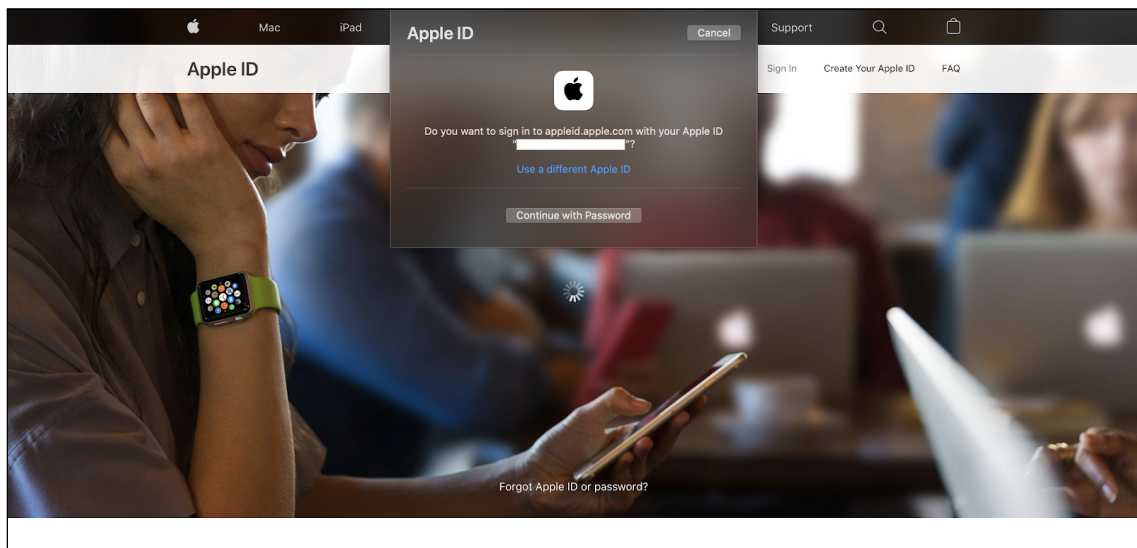


Step 2 - Go to *Apple ID*

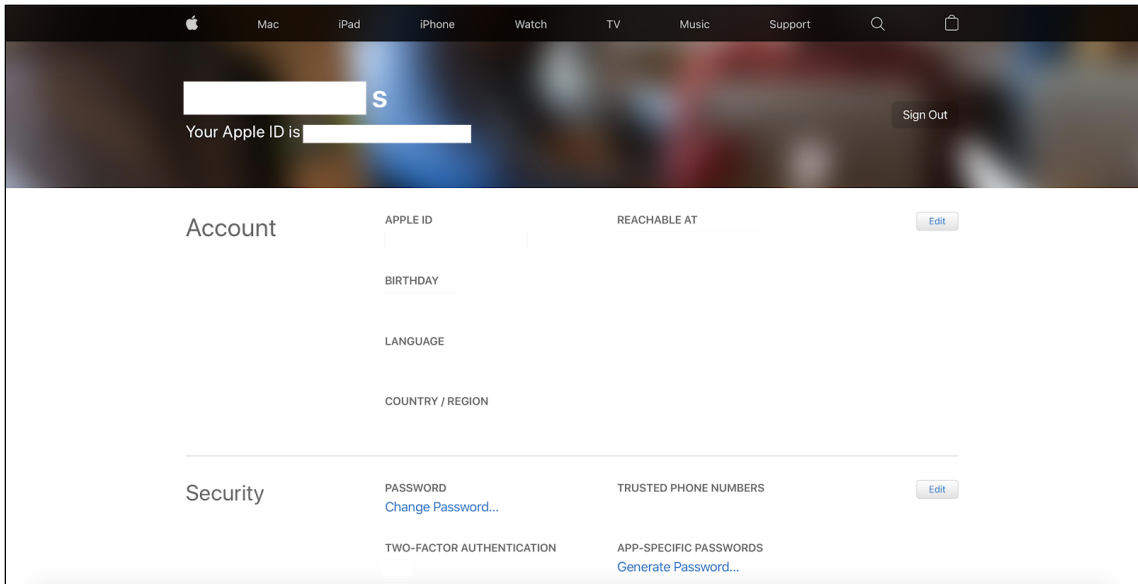
Click on **Account Settings** > (below Apple's greeting in the middle of the screen). A new page will appear:



Click on **Manage** (below “Apple ID” in the first row of options). A new tab on your browser will open (you will be taken to the Apple ID website). You may need to enter your Apple ID and password again:

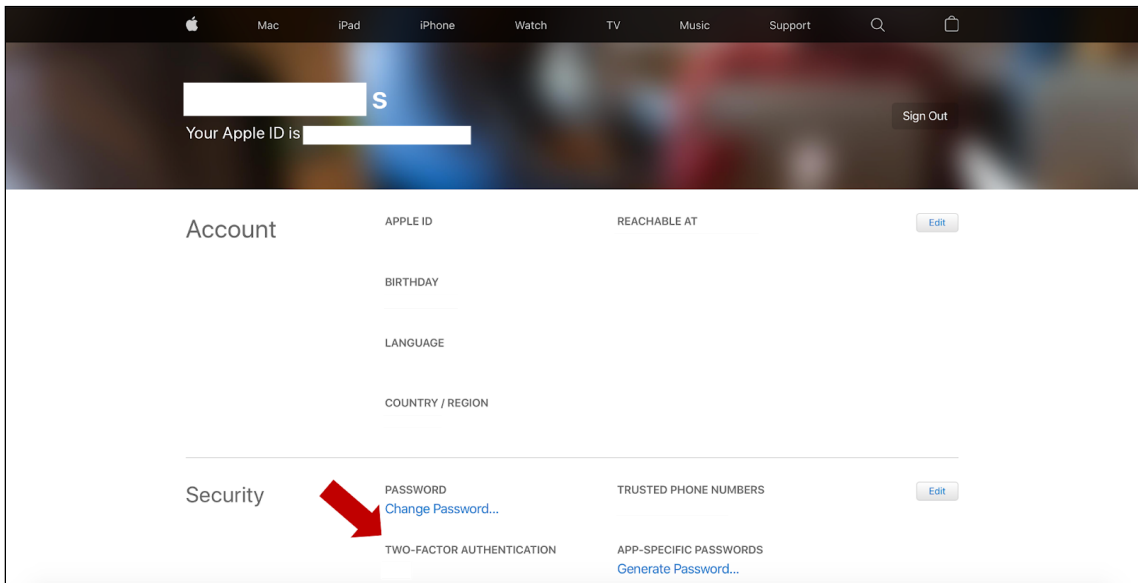


After logging in, you will see a page like the following one:

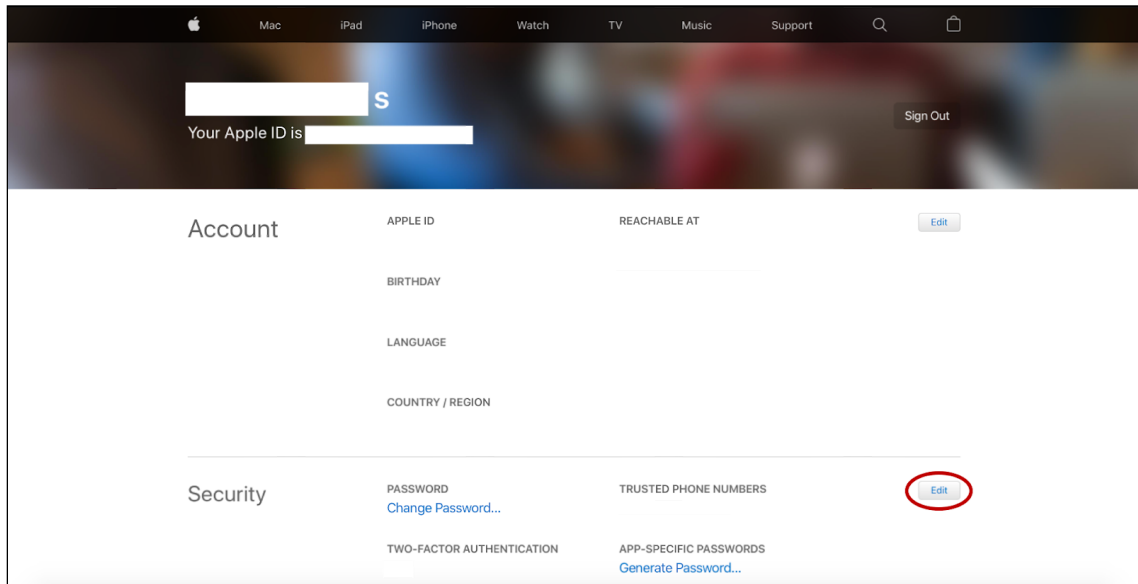


Step 3 - Turn On Two-Factor Authentication

In the Security section, look for **TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION**:



Follow the instructions below **TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION** to enable Two-Factor Authentication. To update your security settings, you'll need to click on the Edit button:



Congratulations!

You have turned on two-factor authentication for your iCloud account!

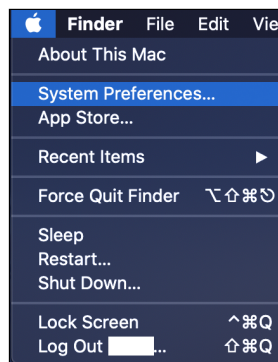
Instructions to Activate Two-Factor Authentication using a Mac Computer

Step 1 - Go to *System Preferences*

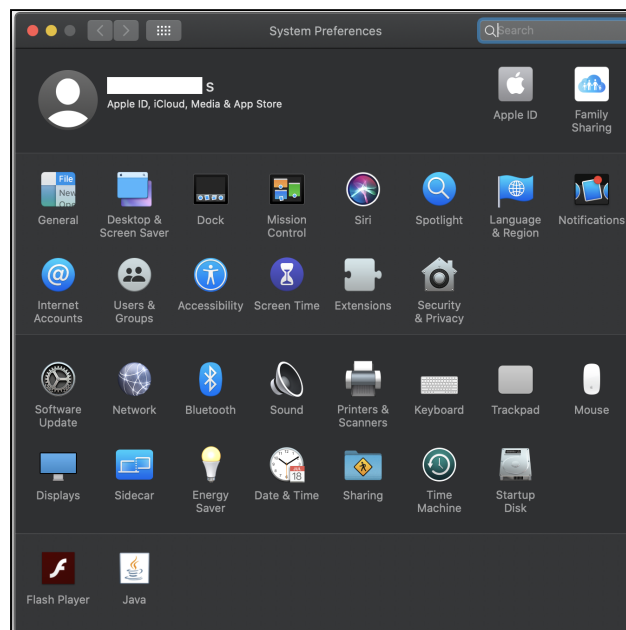
Click on the **Apple symbol** at the top left corner of your screen:



A menu will appear. (Yours may look a bit different.) Click on **System Preferences**:



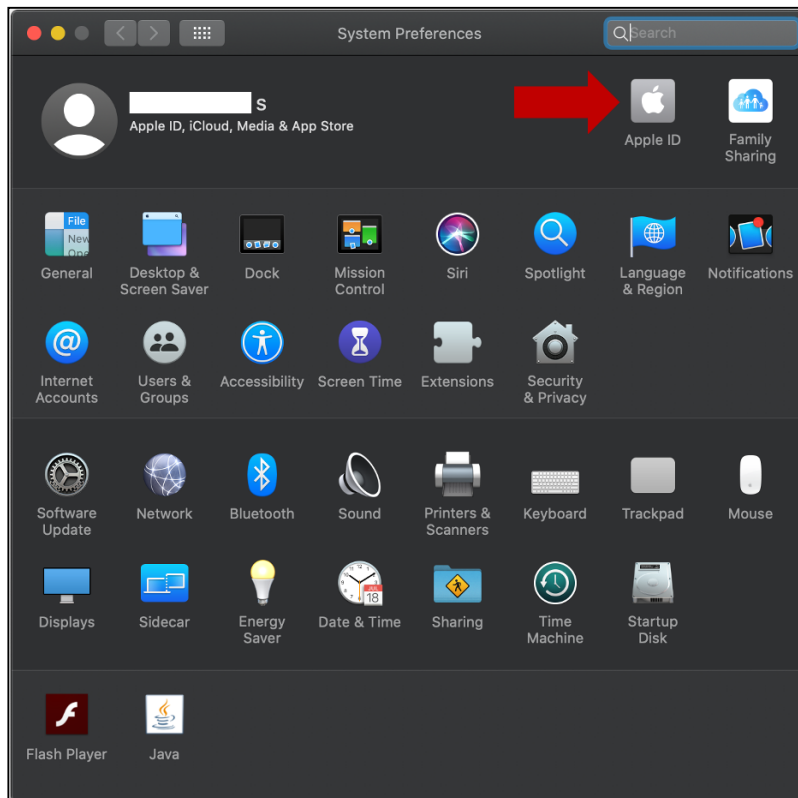
A screen like the following one will appear:



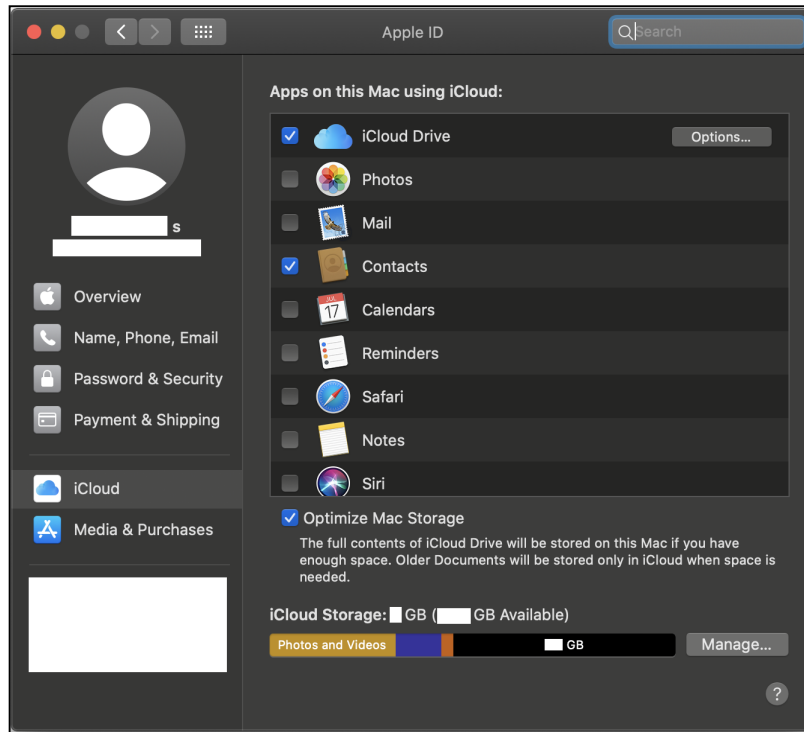
If this is not what you see, you could try installing any software updates first by clicking on **Software Update**.

Step 2 - Go to *Apple ID*

Click on **Apple ID**, in the upper right corner:

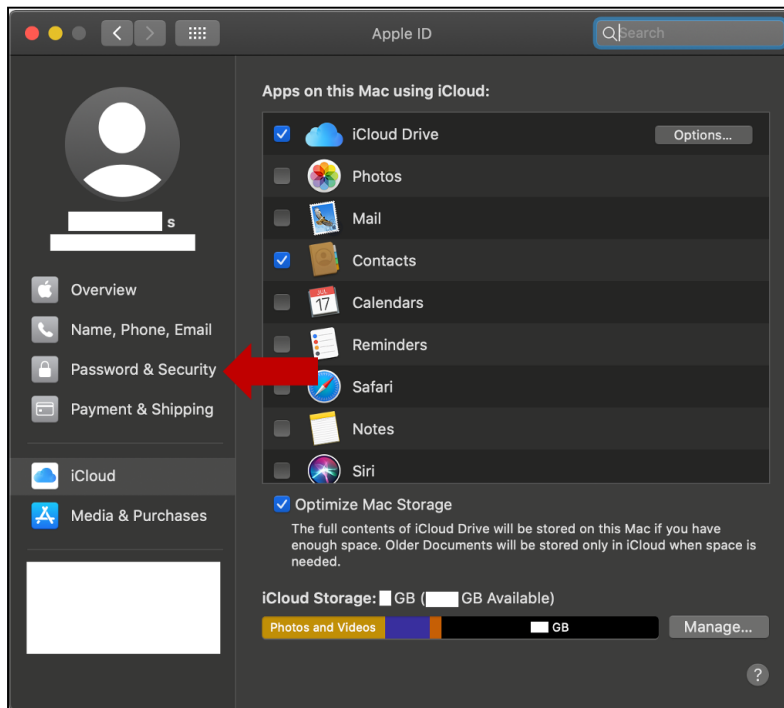


The following screen will appear:



Step 3 - Go to *Password & Security*

Click on **Password & Security**, on the left:



On the new screen that appears, click on the **Turn On** button that appears on the right side of the title **Two-Factor Authentication** and follow the instructions.

Congratulations!

You have turned on two-factor authentication for your iCloud account!

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