NAPLES COMPUTERS HOW-TO · PC & MAC BASICS

BitLocker Lockouts: Check Your Status, Save Your Key

This guide shows how to check whether BitLocker or device encryption is on, how to find or save your recovery key, and why the Microsoft account behind that key matters more than the drive itself.

Why this is worth five minutes

Encryption can turn on without you ever deciding to.

Often on automatically
Many newer PCs turn on device encryption by default, without you ever deciding to.

The real risk isn't the drive
It's losing access to the Microsoft account your recovery key is saved to.

A few minutes now
Checking your status and saving your key costs nothing; losing both can cost every file.

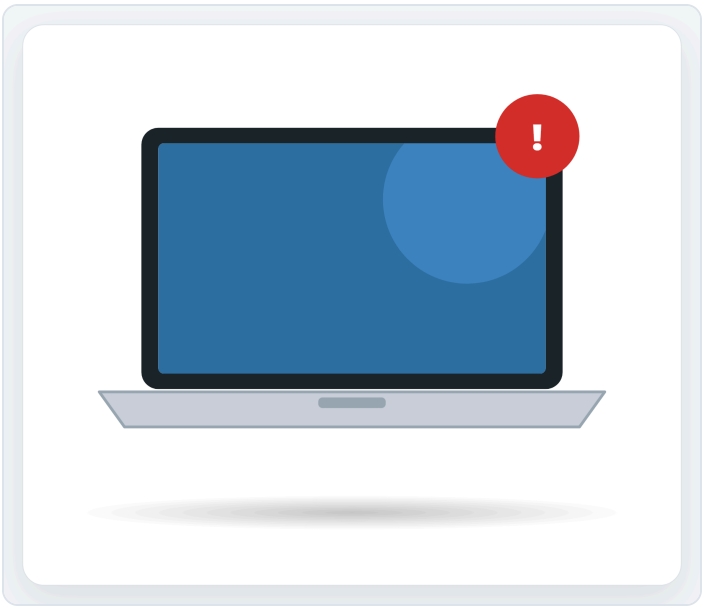
Step by step

BITLOCKER LOCKOUTS

! Ever seen that blue screen?

A BitLocker recovery key screen, out of nowhere, with no idea what it even means.

WHAT TO DO
We're Naples Computers, since 1993.



Check if it's on

- [ ] Open Settings, then Privacy & security
  Where the encryption options live
- [ ] Look for Device Encryption
  Or search the Start menu for “Manage BitLocker” instead
- [ ] On means encrypted, off means it isn't
  Either way, now you actually know

Save or find your key

- [ ] Go to aka.ms/myrecoverykey
  On another device, like a phone or another computer
- [ ] Sign in with the Microsoft account the PC uses
  The same one that's tied to the encrypted drive
- [ ] Match the key I.D., if you're ever asked
  It's shown right on the blue BitLocker recovery screen

A few things to know

- [ ] The real risk is your Microsoft account
  Not the drive itself, in most cases
- [ ] Lose that account, and you could lose your key too
  So keep its password and recovery options current
- [ ] We're not telling you to turn BitLocker on
  Just to know your status, and protect the account behind it

Recap: BitLocker lockouts

- [ ] Settings, Privacy & security, Device Encryption shows on or off
- [ ] The recovery key is usually saved to your Microsoft account automatically
- [ ] Protecting that account matters more than the drive itself
- [ ] We're not saying turn BitLocker on, just know where you stand

Keep the password and recovery options on your Microsoft account current; that account is what actually protects your recovery key.



Locked out, or not sure where you stand?

Call 239-513-1960

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