

LOCKSY.DEV

Locksy User Guide

Everything Locksy does, in plain English - from installing it to locking your first tab to catching someone who tries to snoop.

VERSION

Locksy v3.4.0

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Always-current version online at locksy.dev/guide

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Install Locksy and set it up

Add the extension, choose a master password, and save a recovery key. Takes about a minute.

1. Add Locksy to your browser

It's free and you don't need an account. Pick your browser in the section below, or search for Locksy in your browser's extension store.

2. Set your master password

The first time you open Locksy it asks you to create one password. This single password locks and unlocks every tab - there is nothing else to remember and nothing to sign up for.

3. Pin Locksy to your toolbar

Click the puzzle-piece icon in your browser toolbar, find Locksy, and click the pin. The icon then stays visible, and it doubles as a live counter showing how many tabs are currently locked.

4. Save your Master Recovery Key

Locksy generates a 16-character recovery key. Write it down or save it somewhere away from your computer. It is the only way to reset your master password if you forget it, and it works entirely offline.

Google Chrome

<https://chromewebstore.google.com/detail/kiediieibclgkcnkkmjlhmdainpoidim>

Microsoft Edge

<https://microsoftedge.microsoft.com/addons/detail/locksy/igobelagfjckjogmmmgcngpdcccnohmn>

Mozilla Firefox

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/locksy/>

IMPORTANT

Your password cannot be recovered

Locksy never stores your master password anywhere - not on your device, and certainly not on a server. That is what makes it safe, but it also means nobody can send it back to you. Your recovery key is the safety net. Save it now, not later.

WHICH BROWSERS LOCKSY WORKS ON

BROWSER	SUPPORTED	INSTALL FROM
Google Chrome	Yes	Chrome Web Store
Microsoft Edge	Yes	Edge Add-ons
Firefox	Yes	Firefox Add-ons
Brave, Opera, Vivaldi, Arc, Comet	Yes	Chrome Web Store
Safari	Not yet	-

Want Locksy to work in private windows too? Open your browser's extension settings, find Locksy, and turn on "Allow in Incognito" (or "Run in Private Windows" on Firefox). Your master password works the same way in both.

Lock your first tab

There are three ways to lock a tab. They all do exactly the same thing - use whichever you'll remember.

1. From the Locksy icon

Click the Locksy icon in your toolbar and press "Lock Current Tab". This is the easiest way when you're first getting used to it.

2. With a keyboard shortcut

Press Alt+Shift+9 (on a Mac, Option+Shift+9). The tab you're looking at locks instantly, without opening anything.

3. From the right-click menu

Right-click anywhere on the page - on the page itself, a link, an image, or selected text - and pick Locksy > Lock this tab.

The moment a tab locks, the page is taken off the screen and replaced by Locksy's lock screen. A small red padlock appears over the tab's favicon so you can see at a glance which tabs are protected, and the number on the Locksy icon goes up by one.

TIP

This is not a cover over the page

Older tab lockers draw a box on top of the page while the page itself is still sitting there underneath - anyone who opens developer tools can delete the box and read your content. Locksy navigates the tab away from the page entirely, so there is nothing hidden behind the lock screen to uncover.

To get back in, type your master password on the lock screen (or use your fingerprint - see chapter 6). Locksy returns you to the exact page you were on. If you have several tabs locked and want them all back at once, use 1-Click Unlock All in the popup: enter your password once and every locked tab reopens.

Keyboard shortcuts

Four shortcuts cover everything Locksy does day to day. All of them can be changed.

LOCKSY KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS ON WINDOWS, LINUX AND MACOS

WINDOWS / LINUX	MACOS	WHAT IT DOES
Alt + Shift + 9	Option + Shift + 9	Lock the tab you're looking at
Alt + Shift + 0	Option + Shift + 0	Open the lock manager
Alt + Shift + 8	Option + Shift + 8	Lock every open tab (3 free uses, then Pro)
Alt + Shift + 7	Option + Shift + 7	Turn Stealth Mode on or off

1. Changing a shortcut on Chrome, Edge or Brave

Type `chrome://extensions/shortcuts` into your address bar and press Enter. Find Locksy in the list, click the pencil next to the shortcut you want to change, and press your new key combination.

2. Changing a shortcut on Firefox

Type `about:addons` into your address bar, click the gear icon, and choose "Manage Extension Shortcuts". Find Locksy and set your own keys.

TIP

If a shortcut does nothing

Another extension or an app on your computer has probably claimed the same combination. Browsers give the shortcut to whoever asked first, so just assign Locksy a different one using the steps above.

Lock tabs automatically

Three ways Locksy can lock tabs without you doing anything: when you walk away, on a schedule, or when the browser starts.

Locking tabs by hand works, but the tab you forget to lock is the one that matters. These three settings cover you when you don't think of it.

1. Auto-Lock Timer - lock after you stop using the computer

Open Locksy's settings, turn on the Auto-Lock Timer, and choose how long to wait: anything from 1 minute to 480 minutes (8 hours). If you don't move the mouse, type, or scroll for that long, your tabs lock themselves. On the free plan the wait is fixed at 10 minutes; Pro lets you set any duration.

2. Scheduled Locking - lock during set hours

Pick a start and end time in 24-hour format, tick the days of the week it should apply to, and Locksy locks your tabs during that window. Use it to keep personal tabs shut between 09:00 and 17:00, or lock everything overnight from 22:00 to 06:00. Overnight ranges that cross midnight work fine.

3. Startup Session Lock - lock tabs when the browser opens

When you reopen your browser and it restores yesterday's tabs, Locksy locks them straight away. It keeps watching for 30 seconds afterwards, so tabs that are slow to come back are caught too. This one needs Locksy Pro.

TIP

It won't cut off your video

The Auto-Lock Timer watches for video and audio playing, not just mouse and keyboard. Sitting still through a two-hour film won't get you locked out mid-scene.

WHICH AUTOMATIC LOCKING OPTION TO USE

IF YOU WANT TO...	USE	PLAN
Be covered when you step away from your desk	Auto-Lock Timer	Free (10 min) / Pro (custom)
Keep tabs shut during work hours or overnight	Scheduled Locking	Free
Protect tabs your browser re-stores on launch	Startup Session Lock	Pro
Always protect a particular website	Domain Lock (chapter 5)	Free (3) / Pro (unlimited)

You can run all of these at the same time. A common setup is Scheduled Locking across working hours with the Auto-Lock Timer covering breaks, and Domain Lock permanently guarding your bank and email.

Lock a whole website, not just one tab

Tell Locksy that a site is always private, and every tab you open on it locks itself.

Domain Lock is the setting most people end up relying on. Instead of remembering to lock your bank each time, you add the address once and Locksy handles every tab on that site from then on - including new tabs, and including after you restart the browser.

1. Add a site

Open Locksy and go to Domain Locks, or right-click on the site you want to protect and choose Locksy > Lock this domain.

2. Choose how wide the rule should be

Type just the address to cover that one site, or put *. in front of it to cover every subdomain as well. The table below shows what each pattern catches.

3. Set what happens when you unlock

For each site you can choose whether entering your password unlocks only the tab in front of you or every tab on that site. Locksy remembers what you picked.

HOW DOMAIN PATTERNS WORK

PATTERN	LOCKS	DOES NOT LOCK
example.com	example.com only	mail.example.com
*.example.com	mail.example.com, docs.example.com, and every other subdomain	an unrelated site
*.bank.com	Every page across your bank's subdomains	other banks
github.com	github.com	gist.github.com

PLANS

Free plan: three sites

The free plan holds up to 3 domain locks - enough for your bank, your email and one more. Locksy Pro removes the limit.

Unlock with your fingerprint or face

Skip typing your password. Locksy works with the fingerprint reader and face unlock your computer already has.

If your computer or phone can already unlock with a fingerprint or your face, Locksy can use the same thing. It works through WebAuthn, the standard browsers use for hardware sign-in, so the check happens on your device and your fingerprint never gets sent anywhere - not to Locksy, not to anyone.

1. Turn it on

Open Locksy's settings and switch on Biometric Unlock. Your browser will ask you to confirm once with your fingerprint, face, or security key to register it.

2. Use it

Next time a lock screen appears, press the biometric button instead of typing. Your password still works as a fallback whenever you want it.

SUPPORTED UNLOCK METHODS BY DEVICE

DEVICE	WHAT YOU CAN USE
Mac / MacBook	Touch ID
Windows PC	Windows Hello - fingerprint or face
iPhone / iPad	Face ID or Touch ID
Android	Fingerprint or face unlock
Any computer	A USB security key such as YubiKey, SoloKey or Titan

PLANS

Free plan: five unlocks a day

The free plan allows 5 biometric unlocks per day, then falls back to your password. Locksy Pro makes it unlimited.

Hide that you're using Locksy

Stealth Mode makes the extension invisible and disguises locked tabs as an ordinary browser error.

A lock screen tells anyone looking that there's something worth hiding. Stealth Mode removes that signal. With it on, the counter on the Locksy icon disappears, notifications go silent, and a locked tab shows the same plain "This site can't be reached" page a browser shows when a website is down. It looks like a broken connection, not a locked tab.

1. Turn it on or off

Use whichever you prefer: the toggle in the Locksy popup, Alt+Shift+7 (Option+Shift+7 on a Mac), or right-click > Locksy > Toggle Stealth Mode.

2. Get back into a disguised tab

Your tabs are still locked, not broken. Open Locksy from the toolbar and unlock from there, or turn Stealth Mode off to bring the normal lock screen back.

PLANS

Stealth Mode is a Pro feature

Your choice is remembered and survives restarting the browser, so you only need to set it once.

Catch someone trying to get in

What Locksy does when a person keeps guessing your password - and how it keeps sensitive text off your screen.

Guessing gets harder the more someone tries. Locksy slows each attempt down, photographs whoever is sitting there, and eventually locks them out completely. All of it happens on your machine.

WHAT HAPPENS AS FAILED PASSWORD ATTEMPTS ADD UP

FAILED ATTEMPTS	WHAT LOCKSY DOES
1-2	Waits a little longer before accepting the next try
3	Quietly takes a webcam photo and saves it to your intruder log
4-9	Delays get longer each time, making guessing impractical
10	Locks out any further attempts for 5 minutes

The delays are counted in Locksy's background process, not in the tab, so opening a fresh tab won't reset them. Photos are stored on your own device and nowhere else. Open the intruder log from the Locksy popup to look through them or delete them.

Privacy Blur Shield handles the other half of the problem - the things visible on screen before anything is locked. It automatically blurs passwords, card numbers, email addresses and one-time codes as pages load, and blurs the entire page the moment you switch to another window. Pro adds control over how strong the blur is, per-site rules, and a list of trusted sites to leave alone.

PLANS

Free plan: three saved photos

The free plan keeps up to 3 intruder photos before it starts replacing the oldest. Pro keeps them all, and adds Real-Time Intruder Alerts that notify you the moment someone fails a password.

What's free and what's Pro

Everything essential is free. Pro is a one-time \$2.99 - there is no subscription.

You can protect your tabs properly without paying anything. The free plan includes password locking, biometric unlock, right-click menus, scheduled locking and incognito support. Pro lifts the limits and adds the automation features below. It's a single \$2.99 payment, once, for good.

FREE PLAN COMPARED WITH LOCKSY PRO

FEATURE	FREE	PRO
Password-lock any tab	Yes	Yes
Biometric unlock	5 per day	Unlimited
Domain locks	3 sites	Unlimited
Lock All Tabs shortcut	3 uses total	Unlimited
Auto-lock timer	Fixed 10 minutes	Any length, up to 8 hours
Scheduled locking	Yes	Yes
Webcam intruder photos	3 stored	Unlimited
Real-time intruder alerts	-	Yes
Privacy Blur Shield	Basic auto-masking	Custom strength, per-site rules, trusted list
Stealth Mode	-	Yes
Startup Session Lock	-	Yes
Weekly Privacy Reports	-	Yes
Custom lock screen messages	-	Yes
1-Click Unlock All	-	Yes
Master Recovery Key	Yes	Yes
Incognito support	Yes	Yes
Works fully offline	Yes	Yes
Price	\$0 forever	\$2.99 once

Weekly Privacy Reports are worth a mention: Locksy builds a private dashboard on your device showing what you locked, how many failed attempts there were, and a simple security score. It is generated offline and never uploaded.

When something isn't working

The problems people actually run into, and what to do about each one.

I forgot my master password.

Use your 16-character Master Recovery Key to reset it - that's what it's for, and it works offline. Without the key, the password cannot be recovered by anyone, including us. You can still reset Locksy from scratch, which unlocks all currently locked tabs and starts you over with a new password.

A shortcut doesn't do anything.

Another extension or a desktop app has claimed the same key combination first. Go to `chrome://extensions/shortcuts` (or `about:addons` on Firefox) and give Locksy a different one.

Locksy doesn't work in incognito or private windows.

Extensions are switched off in private windows by default. Open your browser's extension settings, find Locksy, and turn on "Allow in Incognito" or "Run in Private Windows".

A restored tab says it can't be unlocked.

That was a bug in version 3.1.0 and earlier. Update Locksy to 3.1.1 or later and restored tabs will unlock normally. Each lock now carries its own permanent identifier, independent of the tab numbers your browser reassigns when it restarts.

Auto-lock interrupted my video.

It shouldn't - the timer watches for playing video and audio and holds off while media is running. If it happened anyway, check that the video is playing in the tab that's in front rather than in a background tab.

Do my tabs stay locked if I close the browser?

Yes. Tabs your browser restores come back still locked, and your password or fingerprint takes you straight back to the page you were on.

Does Locksy slow my browser down?

No. It sits idle until you lock something and uses very little memory.

How do I remove Locksy?

Right-click the Locksy icon and choose Remove, or use your browser's extension settings. Unlock any locked tabs first so you don't lose your place - locked tabs can't be reopened once the extension is gone. If something is wrong rather than unwanted, the fixes above are usually quicker than removing and reinstalling.

How your data is handled

Nothing leaves your computer. Here's what that means, and why the lock is hard to get around.

Locksy has no servers, no accounts, and no analytics. It makes zero network requests while locking and unlocking tabs. Your password, your locked-site list, your intruder photos and your reports all sit in your browser's own storage on your own machine. There is no copy anywhere else, which is also why nobody can recover your password for you.

Your master password is never saved. Locksy runs it through PBKDF2 with 600,000 rounds of SHA-256 - roughly twice what OWASP recommended in 2023 - and keeps only the result, which can't be turned back into your password. Checking a password takes the same amount of time whether it's right or wrong, so no information leaks from how long the check takes. Every install uses its own 16-byte random salt.

THE LAYERS THAT STOP A LOCKED TAB BEING BYPASSED

LAYER	WHAT IT PREVENTS
The page is unloaded, not covered	There's no hidden element to delete with developer tools
Navigation guard	Typing the old address back in re-locks the tab
Locks carry their own ID	Restarting the browser can't make one lock release another
Sender verification	A forged unlock request can't pretend to come from a different tab
Central rate limiting	Opening new tabs doesn't reset the delay after failed attempts
Frame refusal	Locksy's own pages won't load inside another page

Is Locksy open source?

No, the extension is proprietary. Everything it does runs locally on your device with no server communication, and the GitHub repository at github.com/vansh-121/Locksy is used as the issue tracker and community hub.

Can anyone bypass the lock?

Not through the browser. But be realistic about what any extension can do: someone who can reach your browser profile on disk, or install software on your machine, is operating below the level an extension defends. Locksy protects an unattended session on a machine you trust - it isn't a defence against a compromised computer.

Do I still need a password manager?

Yes, they solve different problems. A password manager protects logging in. Locksy protects what's on screen after you're already logged in. Use both.

Can I use Locksy on a work computer?

Yes, that's the main use case. Lock the sensitive tabs, leave the rest open, and nothing you do needs an account or an internet connection.