



TIP OF THE WEEK

What Can I Do To Protect My Laptop?

Laptop theft does occur. This information can provide users with an overview on how laptop theft can be prevented.

The main reason why laptops are a sought after by thieves is the same reason people like to use them. They are small, easily carried, powerful mobile computers that provide the user with the means to work outside of the office easily.

Of course, not all laptop thefts are committed in an attempt to grab valuable property but to gain the proprietary information stored on the laptop itself. According to some research approximately 10 percent to 15 percent of laptops stolen are taken with the intent on selling the data.

Given the risk of laptop theft and the potential losses that laptop theft can cause, what are some of the steps that individuals and organizations can implement to prevent it.

NON TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

- Keep the laptop out of sight. When not in use the laptop is safely tucked away in a locked desk drawer or cabinet. Never leave a laptop in a locker. Always take it with you or put it in the trunk of your vehicle...out of sight / out of mind.
- If you work in an office, keep your office space locked when you are not in it. Everyone is busy working so relying on coworkers to watch your office while you are out is taking a significant risk. It is amazing how fast items can grow legs when left unattended.
- Communicate employee responsibility of owning a laptop. Extra care must be taken to ensure it is safe and secure.
- Be aware of your environment and report suspicious people or events to Protective Services at 780-471-7477.

CABLES

One of the cheapest and most cost effective solutions to deter thieves is to attach a security cable to your laptop. In most cases, the very fact that you have made the effort to physically secure the laptop to an immobile object will be enough to cause a potential thief to look for easier prey.

SECURE STORAGE CABINETS

Don't leave laptops unsecured in general areas. If your work group has 'common use' laptops lock them in a storage area or cabinet. Do not leave them in the general work area for everyone to see and potentially steal.

LABEL AND TAG THE LAPTOP AND ALL ACCESSORIES

Make sure that everything that can be labeled is labeled with the name of the individual or organization it belongs to and ensure that these labels are conspicuous. Record the serial number of the laptop and have that information accessible if you need it.

Laptop theft will always be a possibility. Do your part to ensure that it doesn't happen to you. For more tips and information visit www.nait.ca/security.

If you have information regarding a crime, contact Protective Services at 780-471-7477. If you see a crime in progress, call 911 then Protective Services. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your identity will remain anonymous, and if the information you provide leads to a conviction, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$2000.00.

Everybody benefits, except the criminal.