



Laptop Theft Fact Sheet

Causes of Laptop Theft

- Companies do not train employees on what is expected of them when they are out of the office with a company computer.
- Disgruntled employees are often found to steal laptops from employers.
- Employers do not effectively secure their workplace.
- Most laptops do not have a computer-tracing device and thieves are aware of this.
- Most laptops do not have an advanced encryption to deter thieves and protect data.
- Laptops and their data are very valuable to thieves and are easy handle.

Statistics on Laptop Theft

- According to VNU Business Publications, in May 2004 the NHTCU (National Hi-Tech Crime Unit) noted that laptop theft is a greater cost burden to businesses than viruses.
- According to IDG News Service, in May 2006 a laptop containing credit card numbers and personal data of 243,000 customers of Hotles.com was stolen from an employee of Ernst & Young Global Ltd.
- According to EPIC (Electronic Privacy Information Center), in May 2006 a laptop containing sensitive information on more than 26 million veterans and service members was stolen from the Veterans Affairs employee.
- According to Baseline Magazine, laptop theft was attributed to 59 percent of computer attacks in government agencies, corporations, and universities in 2004.
- According to Computerworld.com, a laptop containing over 65,000 Rhode Island and Massachusetts YMCA members debit card, credit card and Social Security numbers were stolen from a YMCA administrative office in Providence, R.I. in May 2006.
- According to Reuters, in July 2006 a U.S. government laptop containing about 133,000 drivers' and pilots' records and Social Security numbers was stolen from a government vehicle in Florida.