



Laptop computers are on the hit list. Organized theft rings steal them – on-order. Why? For their information, sale overseas, espionage (main frame telephone numbers and passwords are often stored on the hard drive), and for high profit chop-shop consumption.

Rules of the Road...

- **NEVER leave your laptop unattended.**

Don't leave it in the trunk of your car, a hotel room (or Front Desk), in your luggage while traveling, or even in the offices of the people you visit. Theft only takes seconds. Loss of data could have devastating consequences.

- **Password disk access. Encrypt stored files.**

Several inexpensive software programs are available which will accomplish both chores for you quite easily. Not having this capability is simply negligence. Computer sites (pcmagazine.com, cnet.com) review these products often. Check on-line for the latest details.

- **Beware of *shoulder-surfers*.**

Using a laptop in public invites the modern version of someone reading the newspaper over your shoulder. Polarizing screen covers can help, but using your laptop in a more private place is better.

- **Fax and modem transmissions can be intercepted.**

Whether you are in your home, or in a hotel, your phone line can be tapped. Fax and modem transmissions can be eavesdropped on, just like regular phone calls. Office and home phone lines should be inspected by an eavesdropping detection consultant on a regular basis.

When traveling, you must provide the security. Encrypt e-mail transmissions, and change passwords often. If these options are not practical, at least use code words to replace actual names and topics.

- **Before your laptop is stolen...**

Add tracking software.

<http://www.sentryinc.com/>

<http://www.computrace.com/>

<http://www.absolute-protect.com/>

- **After your laptop is stolen...**

report it to these folks.

<http://www.stolencomputers.org>

<http://www.amcoex.com/Stolen/default.html>