

Computer Troubleshooters Surrey/Langley/White Rock

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Prevent Your Laptop From Getting Stolen!

Laptops have become thief magnets, attracting everything from common thugs and dishonest housekeeping employees to sophisticated conmen, hi-tech crime rings, and industrial spies. 1 out of every 10 notebook (Laptop) computers will be stolen within the first 12 months of purchase. 90% of them will never be recovered. *-FBI Statistic-* Thousands more were simply misplaced or left in hotel rooms, restaurants, airports, cabs or coffee shops by busy employees rushing around. Protect your capital investment and your company's secrets by following these guidelines to better laptop security. **No place is safe** Never assume your laptop will be safe just sitting around. Treat as if it were \$1,000 in cash lying around, and lock it down using a cable lock or secure docking station. Never assume that your laptop is safe.

Basic Security Measures

Choose a secure operating system and lock it down. If you care about your data, pick an operating system that is secure. Windows XP Professional offer secure logon, file level security, and the ability to encrypt data. If you are running Windows 95/98/Me, anyone who picks up your laptop can access your data.

Enable a strong BIOS password

Fool thieves right from the start by password protecting the BIOS. Find out from your laptop manufacturer what the procedure is for resetting the BIOS password. Also find out if the BIOS password locks the hard drive so it can't simply be removed and reinstalled into a similar machine.

Asset Tag or Engrave the laptop

Permanently marking (or engraving) the outer case of the laptop with your company name, address, and phone number may greatly increase your odds of getting it returned to you if you happen to leave it somewhere. Also a number of metal tamper resistant commercial asset tags are available that could help the police return your hardware if it is recovered. According

to the FBI, 97% of unmarked computers are never recovered.

Register the laptop with the manufacturer

Registering your laptop with the manufacturer will "flag" it if a thief ever sends it in for maintenance, and increases your odds of getting it back. It also pays to write down your laptop's serial number and store it in a safe place. In the event your laptop is stolen, it will be impossible for the police to ever recover it if they can't trace it back to you.

Get a cable lock and use it

Over 80% of the laptops on the market are equipped with a Universal Security Slot (USS) that allows them to be attached to a cable lock or laptop alarm. They only work if you use them properly. Tether them to a strong immovable and unbreakable object.

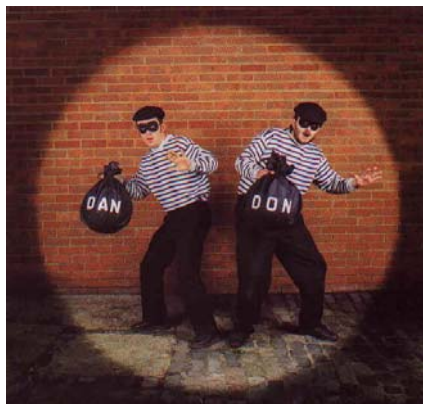
Backup your data before you leave

Always backup you laptop before you do any extended traveling that may put your data at risk. This doesn't have to take a lot of time, and you can use the built in backup utilities that come with

Windows XP. If your network doesn't have the disk space to backup you may wish to look into external hard drives, CD-R's, and tape backup.

Make security a Habit

People are the weakest link in the security chain. If you care about your laptop and your data, a healthy dose of paranoia will help keep it safe. Get into the habit of locking your laptop up when you're working with it, or when storing it. Use common sense when traveling and try to stay in physical contact with your laptop at all times. If you are travel-



ing with trusted friends or business associates use the "buddy system" to watch each others laptops. A determined thief may still be able to get your laptop if they set their mind to it, but why make it easy for them? [For further security updates or security checks on your computer please contact us today!](#)