

## Laptop Theft Statistics

“81% of companies reported the loss of one or more laptops containing sensitive information during the past 12 months.”

*Ponemon Institute, 2006*

“Laptop theft has been attributed to 59% of computer attacks in government agencies, corporations, and universities during 2003.”

*Baseline, 2004*

“57% of corporate crimes are linked to stolen laptops”

*McClatch-tribune, 2006*

“The chances of a laptop being stolen are 1 in 10.”

*Gartner Group, 2002*

“1,600 laptops stolen daily in US”

*Time Magazine, 2003*

“Over 600,000 laptop thefts occurred in 2004, totaling an estimated \$720 million in hardware losses and \$5.4 billion in theft of proprietary information. “

*Safeware Insurance, 2004*

750,000 laptops stolen in 2005, and laptop theft is growing at a rate of 20% a year.”

*PC Guardian, 2007*

“Stolen laptops are a bigger burden to businesses than computer viruses.”

*National Hi-Tech Crime Unit, 2004*

“73% of companies do not have specific security policies for their laptop computers.”

*Gartner Group, 2003*

“Most IT departments can only accurately report on 60% of their computing assets.”

*Gartner Group, 2002*

“97% of stolen computers are never recovered.”

*FBI, 2003*

## Laptop Theft Countermeasures Pros and Cons

Countermeasure	Pros	Cons
Chains, Locks and Alarms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• May protect against theft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• User has to remember to use it</li> <li>• Sometimes nothing to lock to</li> <li>• Most laptop locks are little more than a visual deterrent</li> <li>• Does not protect data</li> </ul>
Laptop registration programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• May slightly increase chances of recovery if thief tries to get laptop fixed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does nothing to prevent theft</li> <li>• Does not protect data</li> <li>• False sense of hope that laptop will be recovered</li> </ul>
Laptop marking or personalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• May slightly increase chances of recovery if seen by someone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• Does not protect data</li> <li>• False sense of hope that laptop will be recovered</li> </ul>
Tracking software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sounds “high tech”</li> <li>• May slightly increase chances of recovery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only works if thief connects to Internet</li> <li>• Easily subverted by reinstalling the operating system</li> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• Does not protect data</li> </ul>
BIOS Password	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• May make it more difficult to crack</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible to crack</li> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• Does not protect data if drive is removed</li> </ul>
Operating system password without drive encryption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• Can protect data if using encrypted file system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trivial to crack or reset password</li> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• Does not protect data unless encrypted file system used</li> </ul>
Operating system password with drive encryption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• Protect against data loss even if drive is removed from system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• If password forgotten data could be lost</li> <li>• Password may still be cracked, but not reset without data loss</li> </ul>
Biometrics scanner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sounds very “high tech”</li> <li>• Makes it easier for user to not have to remember a password</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> <li>• Does not protect against data loss if drive removed</li> <li>• Expensive</li> </ul>
Drive lock passwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inexpensive</li> <li>• Similar to a BIOS password on the drive itself</li> <li>• Makes it more difficult to access the hard drive</li> <li>• Prevents drive from being moved to another system to recover data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be cracked or removed</li> <li>• Does not protect against theft</li> </ul>
Encrypted folders, files or partitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More flexible</li> <li>• Allows multiple passwords</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If password is forgotten data could be lost</li> <li>• Can be expensive</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protects against data loss</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Does not protect against theft</li></ul>
--	--	--