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News Fact Sheet

Intel Security Expert's 10 Laptop Security Commandments

Rules for Retaining Your Laptop, Dignity and Identity

Dec. 2, 2010 – Top 10 tips from Intel security expert Dennis Morgan, on how to keep your laptop safe.

- 1. Never leave your laptop unattended and in view.** This includes:
 - The front seat of your car, because the glass windows are easily breakable
 - The table at the coffee shop
 - The hotel room bed or desk (Yes, thieves work for hotel chains too.)
- 2. Don't leave a trail by letting potential thieves see where you put your laptop.**
 - Put your laptop in the trunk before you leave, not when you arrive at your destination.
 - If your job provides you with a badge on a lanyard, stow it away as well. There is nothing better than a corporate logo to indicate to thieves which car has the most valuables.
- 3. Make sure someone you trust has agreed to watch it.** This person does not include someone you just struck-up a conversation with 10 minutes ago or a friend of a friend.
- 4. Shut it down all the way – even if you're just making a pit stop.** If you are driving with your laptop in your car and you make a stop, shut your laptop down completely. Then stow it in the trunk or out of sight. Laptops in standby are easier to break into.
- 5. Eyes on your laptop at all times while going through airport security.** Travelers are often asked to participate in secondary screening measures that can distract you from being attentive to your personal belongings. Ask airport security personnel to allow your belongings to remain in front of you during these secondary inspections.
- 6. Personalize your laptop for easy identification.** Airport security requires travelers separate their computers from the carrying case when going through the X-ray machines. Many notebooks look alike. Use some form of personal identification on your computer to avoid confusion with others.
- 7. Use a backpack-type computer case instead of a laptop case.** Backpacks are less likely a target than laptop bags, and you are less likely to be separated from your equipment if it's on your back.
- 8. Never check your laptop with your luggage.** Your luggage can be easily misplaced, and you do not know who has access to it.
- 9. Use a privacy filter on your laptop's screen.** To keep others from reading confidential information while your computer is in use install a privacy filter on your laptop's screen.
- 10. Protect it the way you would protect a child.** You wouldn't get off a bus or a plane without your child. Always pay attention to where your laptop is and make sure you have it.