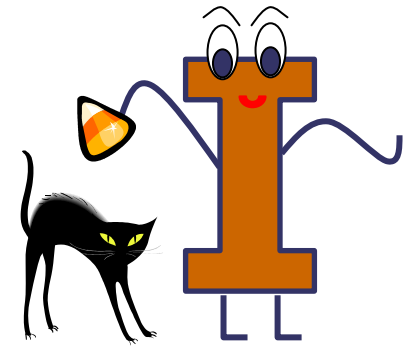


I Watch

Putting the I in Safety



A Newsletter from the
Division of Public Safety

Volume 3 Issue 2

October 2005

Laptop Theft is More than Just a Piece of Hardware

Laptop computers are most commonly stolen from offices, often unlocked and unattended. These thefts account for nearly 30 percent of all laptop losses worldwide according to a survey by mobile data security provider Credant Technologies.

"Everyone knows to guard their devices when they're traveling, but the results we found about the office were quite shocking," says Credant CEO Bob Heard. "What we discovered were corporate environments that are careless and even reckless with laptops, many of which contain crucial company and personal data."

Nearly 87 percent of respondents reported having company-related e-mail on their stolen laptops; 67 percent had other important business information stored; and 90 percent reported that their stolen laptop contained sensitive and confidential



corporate data that was not intended for public view.

The survey also found that nearly three quarters of the stolen laptops did not meet regulatory compliance requirements for data encryption, mainly the stringent privacy regulations dictated by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other government mandates. Twenty-one percent of respondents report they

used no security measures or encryption of any kind on their stolen laptops. Only 10 percent of respondents report using a full-disk encryption security product.

"Eighty-two percent of all our survey respondents claim they never recovered their stolen laptop," Heard says. "That's sensitive information floating out there in the wrong hands."

It is important to secure your laptop at all times. Do not leave it unattended in an unlocked, unoccupied office. If you have questions on how best to safeguard your computer or other valuable equipment, call the University Police Department's crime prevention officer at 333-1216. For information on securing the data in your computer, speak with your network systems personnel.

Another area of vulnerability for laptop thefts is airports, including the security screening area. Always keep your computer close at hand or in view. Be certain your contact information is clearly displayed on the outside of your computer so that if it is lost, you can be notified when it is found.

Red Cross Halloween Safety Tips

With witches, goblins, and superheroes descending on neighborhoods across America, the American Red Cross offers some safety tips to help prepare for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with

surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

- ⚡ Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- ⚡ Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- ⚡ Cross the street only at corners.
- ⚡ Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- ⚡ Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible.
- ⚡ Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- ⚡ Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- ⚡ Keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- ⚡ Visit homes of friends, family, and neighbors that have the porch light on.
- ⚡ Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- ⚡ Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- ⚡ Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- ⚡ Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.



Use Your Head When Using Your Cell Phone

Recent research has shown that people talking on cell phones while driving are four to five times more likely to be involved in a collision. Using a hands-free device makes no significant difference, with the risk remaining the same. The study, from the University of Sydney, was based on a survey of 400 car crash victims.

Governments around the world, including Germany, Australia, several U.S. states, and the city of Chicago have prohibited the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. However, this research suggests the ban should be widened to incorporate all use of cell phones while driving.

"The key message here is that we need to basically avoid using phones while driving. That is what is going to minimize your risk," said Professor Mark Stevenson, of The George Institute's Injury Prevention and



Trauma Care Division at Sydney University. "This research has highlighted that hands-free isn't fine, that it does also elevate your risk of crashing."

"The increased likelihood of crashing was not influenced by gender, age of the driver, or availability of a hands-free device," stated Dr. Suzanne McEvoy, the report's principal author.

While the University of Illinois has no formal policy related to the use of cell phones while driving, this and many other studies point clearly to the increased hazards faced while multi-tasking and driving. Care should be taken to make certain that you are not distracted while driving. As noted above, it is now illegal to use a hand-held cell phone while driving in the city of Chicago.

Parental Rules Linked To Safer Teen Driving

Parents can play an important role in promoting safe driving habits in teens, according to the results of a study published recently in *Health Education & Behavior*.

"Adolescents were much more likely to drive safely when their parents restricted their driving and monitored their whereabouts," says study lead author Jessica Hartos, Ph.D., of the National Institute of Child Health and

Human Development in Bethesda, Maryland. The results of this study also showed that teens were more likely to drive dangerously if they



lacked self-control, thought it was acceptable to engage in deviant behaviors, or had friends who engaged in risky activities.

More than 5,000 people between 16 and 21 die in automobile accidents every year, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Compared with older drivers, adolescents are more likely to engage in unsafe driving behaviors such as speeding, tailgating, and weaving in and out of traffic.

Students "who report that their parents have specific rules about when and where they can go in the car and keep up with their daily activities are less likely to report a range of risky driving behaviors that could lead to traffic violations and motor vehicle crashes or injuries," says Hartos. "As with other adolescent privileges, parents should establish clear expectations and place limits on the behaviors of their adolescents" when they learn how to drive, according to Hartos.