Laptop Theft Prevention

On average approximately 90 laptops are stolen on the University's campus each year. Laptop theft is often a crime of opportunity. Students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to take appropriate precautions to prevent the theft of their laptop computer and to register their laptops to assist the police in recovering the laptop in the event that the laptop is lost or stolen.

» Never leave your laptop unattended in public places, even "just for a minute". Remain in physical contact with it at all times (take it into the restroom if you must). Do not leave your laptop alone!

» Lock offices or dorm rooms where the laptop is stored.

» Lock the laptop in a cabinet in a locked office or dorm room.

» Use a security device such as a steel cable lock or alarm.

» Write down the MAC (Media Access Control) address of your network card.

» Document serial and model numbers of your laptop and accessories (such as hard drives and mice) and keep them in your files or store them on HUPD's online registration system www.hupd.harvard.edu/laptop.php.

» Register your laptop through the manufacturer's product registration program.

» Back up your data, either online or via an external drive and store that drive in some place other than the laptop carrying case.

» Install laptop tracking and recovery software such as LoJack for Laptops.

» Contact the HUPD at 617-495-1212 to file a theft report immediately if your laptop is stolen on campus.
Laptop Registration & Recovery

The HUPD offers you two ways to register your laptop: online on the HUPD website, a free service provided by the HUPD or through Absolute Software’s LoJack for Laptops. The HUPD maintains a database that stores the make, model, and serial number of your laptop. In the event of the loss or theft of the laptop, the HUPD will be able to provide you with that information, which could help facilitate the recovery of the laptop. To register your laptop online please visit www.hupd.harvard.edu/laptop.php.

As a university student, having your laptop stolen can be devastating.

» It’s more than just the laptop—it’s your music, photos, school work.
» The cost of replacing your laptop and everything on it.
» Your personal files and photos are no longer private.

Why LoJack for Laptops?

» The ONLY Investigative Theft Recovery team that works with campus and local police to get your laptop back.
» The technology is already embedded in most PCs, making it very difficult to detect and remove.
» It’s proven! 29,000+ laptop recoveries in 100+ countries.
» Helps cut down crime on campus.

Recover: Every year thousands of people get their personal devices back thanks to the Investigations and Recovery Services Team.

Lock: Remotely display a message and also lock your device so no one can logon and search your files, photos or passwords.

Delete: Remotely delete files, photos, passwords, emails, financial data and records to help prevent costly and traumatic identity theft.

Locate: Use GPS, WiFi or IP to display your device’s general location on a map.

» For additional information on LoJack for Laptops please visit www.hupd.harvard.edu/laptop.php or email lojackforlaptops@harvard.edu.