

## COMPUTER THEFT - Excerpts from news across the web

### Laptops Most Popular Target

Safeware Insurance, a Columbus, Ohio-based insurer that estimates it insures one of every 1,000 personal computers in the U.S., is widely recognized as a reliable source for statistics concerning computer theft. The insurer reports that 65 percent of the total computer losses reported each year are due to theft. The most popular target is an expensive, easy-to-conceal laptop computer.

- In 1997, \$1.3 billion worth of PCs were stolen. (Source: Safeware Insurance, 1998)
- Laptop PCs are the primary target. While approximately 100,000 desktop PCs were stolen in 1997, 309,000 laptops were pilfered that year. The number of laptops stolen represented a 17 percent increase over the number stolen in 1996. (Source: Safeware Insurance, 1998)
- As a result, at least 5 percent of all newly purchased laptops are stolen within their first 12 months of service. (Source: Safeware Insurance, 1998)
- In another survey, 65 percent of 458 corporations, government agencies and universities reported stolen laptops in 1997. (Source: San Francisco-based Computer Security Institute, 1998)

### Hardware Loss Just Tip Of The Iceberg

The Federal Bureau of Investigation estimates that 97 percent of stolen computer equipment is never recovered. But the value of stolen hardware represents a small percentage of the total loss. Valuable data - estimated by Safeware Insurance to be worth \$15 billion in 1997 - is often lost, requiring that hundreds of thousands of hours be spent restoring files that sometimes contain highly sensitive and confidential information.

- 57 percent of corporate crimes ultimately are linked to stolen laptops used to steal data stored on the computer or - via the laptops' own modem settings - used to break into secure servers where hackers can steal, alter or destroy business-critical data. (Source: Study conducted for the FBI by the Computer Security Institute, 1998)

### Theft Often An Inside Job

- It is estimated that full-time employees, as well as contractors with access to the workplace, are responsible for 75 percent of all cases involving corporate computer theft. (Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1997)

### Everyone Pays The Price

- Because distribution channel theft (computers stolen during shipping and handling) has increased substantially over the past few years, computer manufacturers have been forced to add \$150 to the average price of a laptop. (Source: Chubb & Son, Inc., a Washington D.C.-based technology insurance consultant, 1998)
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