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Computers & Internet: Personal Security and Identity Theft
Expert Says GPS Tracking Will Curb the Rate of Laptop
Computer

[Prev](#)

Personal Security and Identity Theft Expert Says GPS Tracking Will Curb the Rate of Laptop Computer

According to an authority in the field, recent news of the widespread loss of Commerce Department laptops since 2001—many assigned to the Census Bureau—illustrated the need for companies to turn to solutions such as GPS tracking, which will improve laptop computer security.

[USPRwire, Mon Sep 25 2006] News of the widespread loss of Commerce Department laptops since 2001—many assigned to the Census Bureau—has provided possible hints to explain the boom in identity theft seen these past few years, according to an authority in the field. Robert Siciliano, a personal security and identity theft expert, said the Department's revelation of more than a thousand laptops lost, together with previously publicized and the theft of laptops from other firms, illustrated the need for companies to turn to solutions such as tracking to curb the rate of laptops being irretrievably stolen or lost.

"When you lose more than a thousand laptops—many of them containing Census Bureau data—less scrupulous individuals are bound to find the information useful," said Siciliano, who provides consulting and education solutions to Fortune 500 companies and their clients. "With Census Bureau data in hand, an identity thief's puzzle is a particularly easy one to complete."

The Privacy Learning Institute recently featured Siciliano on its Web site. This year, he has discussed laptop theft on CNBC's "On the Money" multiple times, on NBC's "Today Show," and on FOX News. President of IDTheftSecurity.com, Siciliano is also author of "The Safety Minute: 01."

Siciliano advised organizations that use laptop computers to consider solutions from companies such as MyLaptopGPS (www.MyLaptopGPS.com), whose product of the same name not only tracks any stolen laptop worldwide via the Internet, but also silently removes important files once the machine is stolen—returning them to the rightful user while placing them out of the criminal's reach.



As reported by the Associated Press, officials at the Commerce Department have released figures the loss of more than 1,100 laptops since the year 2001. More than half, according to reports, has assigned to the Census Bureau. According to Siciliano, the news was no surprise:

- In May, the theft of a laptop from the Veterans Affairs Department jeopardized millions of U.S. identities. A few months later, another laptop theft there put the personal information of addition at risk.
- In June, Hotels.com reported the loss of a company laptop containing the financial records of al 243,000 customers.
- Also in June, Equifax Inc., one of the three major credit reporting companies, suffered the theft computer containing identifying information on the company's 2,500 U.S. employees.

Research released in August by the Ponemon Institute LLC found that the frequency of laptop the workplace is, in fact, high. Furthermore, findings from an October 2005 report by CREDANT Tech indicated that as many as 90 percent of missing company laptops house sensitive data, with a la percentage of these being noncompliant with California SB 1386's encryption data requirements.

"Laptop security needs a revamp," said Siciliano. "These machines are, apparently, difficult for or to track and keep. GPS and other technologies would go a long way in curbing the rate of laptop theft."

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Identity theft affects us all, which is why Robert Siciliano, president of IDTheftSecurity.com, mak mission to provide consumer education solutions on identity theft to Fortune 500 companies and A leader of personal safety and security seminars nationwide, Siciliano has been featured on CNN Fox News, "The Suze Orman Show," "ABC News with Sam Donaldson," "The Montel Williams Sho Povich," "Sally Jesse Raphael," and "The Howard Stern Show."

The media may reach Siciliano at 1 (888) SICILIANO (742-4542). Visit his Web site, www.IDTheftSecurity.com, or his blog, www.IDTheftSecurity.blogspot.com. Siciliano's full contac follows:

Robert Siciliano
Personal Security Expert
PHONE: 888-SICILIANO (742-4542)
FAX: 877-2-FAX-NOW (232-9669)
E-MAIL: Robert@IDTheftSecurity.com
<http://www.idtheftsecurity.com/>

The media are encouraged to get in touch with Siciliano directly. They may also contact:

Brent W. Skinner, President
STETrevisions
PHONE: 617-875-4859
FAX: 866-663-6557
E-MAIL: BrentSkinner@STETrevisions.biz
<http://www.STETrevisions.biz>

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Company: IDTheftSecurity.com
Contact Name: Robert Siciliano
Contact Email: Robert@IDTheftSecurity.com
Contact Phone: 888-742-4542
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