

Identity Theft Expert and MyLaptopGPS: University Laptop Theft Again Places Unique Data Records in the Hands of Criminals

(BOSTON, Mass. - Dec. 17, 2008 - IDTheftSecurity.com) Earlier this month, sensitive, unique data records again fell prey to criminals, when a laptop computer belonging to Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) went missing to theft. According to widely televised and quoted personal security and [identity theft](#) expert Robert Siciliano, had the stolen computer been equipped with [laptop tracking](#) and data retrieval technology such as that provided by [MyLaptopGPS](#), OHSU could have sidestepped the mass mailing of warning letters to the nearly one thousand patients whose information is suspected to be on the stolen machine.

"Simple measures to secure laptop computers can spare smart organizations from the headaches they otherwise must endure in the wake of laptop theft," said Siciliano. "A solution that not only tracks the stolen mobile computer, but also allows the rightful owner at once to delete and retrieve her information from the machine is ideal. Few systems combine all this capability."

CEO of IDTheftSecurity.com and a member of the *Bank Fraud & IT Security Report's* editorial board, Siciliano leads Fortune 500 companies and their clients through presentations that explore security solutions for businesses and individuals. Author of "The Safety Minute: 01" and a longtime [identity theft](#) speaker, he has discussed data security and consumer protection on CNBC, NBC's "Today Show," FOX News Network, and elsewhere.

On Dec. 12, OHSU announced that one of its laptop computers, left in an unattended hotel room, had gone missing to theft earlier that week. The school subsequently mailed warning letters to 890 patients whose information such as birthdates, telephones, medical diagnoses and treatment categories may have been on the stolen machine, reported *The Oregonian* and *The Portland Tribune*.

"Laptop theft is readily mitigated with the proper technology," said MyLaptopGPS' chief technology officer, Dan Yost, who invited readers to visit the [MyLaptopGPS blog](#) and discuss the [impact of the OHSU laptop theft](#). "And this technology need not be expensive to be effective. Besides, the alternative—lost data records of untold value and the constant specter of customer retribution, including class action lawsuits—is certainly cost-prohibitive. The clear course of action is to equip laptop computer fleets with technology designed to thwart would-be thieves."

MyLaptopGPS, a laptop security company mentioned in the [August 2008 issue of Inc. Magazine](#), maintains the [Realtime Estimated Damage Index \(REDI™\)](#), a running tally of highly publicized laptop and desktop computer thefts and losses. The REDI also assesses those losses' associated costs by drawing on estimates from the FBI and other sources that reflect the likelihood that identity theft and other crimes will occur whenever a computer is misplaced or stolen. At its website, MyLaptopGPS also keeps a [log of these high-profile laptop thefts](#).

MyLaptopGPS' anti-laptop theft technology combines Internet-based GPS tracking -- more effective than other forms of GPS for tracking and retrieving stolen laptops -- with other functionalities to secure mobile computing devices. A user launches

MyLaptopGPS' features remotely, protecting data even while the machine is in a criminal's hands. Once connected to the Internet, the software silently retrieves, and then deletes, files from machines as it tracks the stolen or missing hardware -- at once returning the data to its rightful owner and removing it from the lost computer.

Additionally, MyLaptopGPS offers SafeRegistry™, a comprehensive system for inventorying entire fleets of mobile computers, as well as a full line of highly renowned SafeTags™, which are police-traceable property tags designed to secure iPods™, cell phones, BlackBerry™ devices, and other mobile property.

Readers may [download a demo](#) of MyLaptopGPS. A white paper [is also available](#).

"Our laptop fleet was certainly worth protecting," said Jim Sullivan, the network, systems and security administrator for FastForms, Inc. "We had procedures in place to help secure the machines, but we realized that we needed some key, additional layers of security, such as covert tracking and remote-controlled data recovery and destruction. MyLaptopGPS' solution is very easy to use, and we are quite satisfied. We would recommend MyLaptopGPS to any business seeking a simple solution to secure their laptops and data."

[YouTube video](#) shows Siciliano on FOX News Network, where he discussed this year's data security breach at Hannaford Bros. and provided consumers affected by the theft with the tips they needed to avoid paying for fraudulent charges to their bank accounts and credit accounts. To learn more about identity theft, a major concern for anyone who's lost a laptop computer to thieves, readers may go to [video of Siciliano at VideoJug](#).

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About MyLaptopGPS

Since 1984, Tri-8, Inc. (DBA MyLaptopGPS.com) has specialized in complete system integration. From real-time electronic payment processing software to renowned mid-market ERP implementations, the executive team at MyLaptopGPS has been serving leading enterprises and implementing world-class data systems that simply work. With MyLaptopGPS™, Tri-8, Inc. brings a level of expertise, dedication, knowledge and service that is unmatched. MyLaptopGPS™'s rock-solid performance, security, and reliability flow directly from the company's commitment to top-notch software products and services for almost 25 years.

About IDTheftSecurity.com

Identity theft affects us all, and Robert Siciliano, CEO of IDTheftSecurity.com and member of the *Bank Fraud & IT Security Report's* editorial board, makes it his mission to educate Fortune 500 companies and their clients. A leader of personal safety and security seminars nationwide, Siciliano has been featured on "The Today Show," CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, "FOX News," "The Suze Orman Show," "The Montel Williams Show," "Maury Povich," "Sally Jesse Raphael," "The Howard Stern Show," and "Inside Edition." Numerous magazines, print news outlets, and wire services have turned to him, as well, for expert commentary on personal security and identity theft. These include *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *Entrepreneur*, *Woman's Day*, *Mademoiselle*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Chicago*

Tribune, United Press International, Reuters, and others. For more information, visit Siciliano's [Web site](#), [blog](#), and [YouTube page](#).

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