Laptop Tagging and Registration

On this page:

- Q: Where and when can I have equipment tagged?
- Q: Is there a fee to have equipment tagged?
- Q: Can I have multiple devices tagged?
- Q: What devices can I have tagged?
- Q: What information do I provide at the registration?
- Q: What happens if I want to sell or transfer ownership of the computer?
- Q: Does this registration provide any geo-tracking? Does the tag have a GPS chip?
- Q: Can I register a device for someone else?
- Q: Have devices been successfully recovered?
- Q: Who administers the program?
- Q: How do I determine the serial number of a computer using the OS?
  - Windows
  - Mac OS X
  - Linux

Overview

This is a service to tag and register laptop computers and electronic devices. This loss prevention measure is a visible deterrent to theft. Take a look at the product page to see the results.

Once applied, it takes 24 hours for the adhesive to cure. It then takes up to 800 pounds of pressure to remove the tag. If removed, it leaves a tattoo stating “Stolen Property”.

Please contact the Service Desk (617-253-1101) for more information.

Q: Where and when can I have equipment tagged?

A: STOP tagging is performed at the Atlas Service Center in building E-17. If you have 5 or more computers to be tagged, please contact us and we can make arrangements to visit your department or event. For tagging of single machines, you’ll find us as shown here.

Q: Is there a fee to have equipment tagged?

A: No, there is no fee per item tagged.

Q: Can I have multiple devices tagged?

A: Yes, up to 4 devices.  
**5 or more devices:** Please contact the Service Desk (helpdesk@mit.edu or 617-253-1101) to arrange a special tagging session.

Q: What devices can I have tagged?

A: The tags are primarily intended for laptop computers, and large tablets (e.g. iPads). It may be possible to tag other devices (e.g. projectors), but the device must have a flat surface of at least 3” x 3” in order to affix the tag. We generally cannot tag iPhones, digital cameras, etc.
Q: What information do I provide at the registration?
A: We will record the serial number for the device, and contact information to reach you when a stolen device is recovered.

Q: What happens if I want to sell or transfer ownership of the computer?
A: Registration information can be updated or transferred to a new owner by contacting the central registration organization at https://www.stoptheft.com/ See complete details at the page: https://www.stoptheft.com/support/securityplatefaq#usedreregister

Q: Does this registration provide any geo-tracking? Does the tag have a GPS chip?
A: No, the label provides a deterrent to thieves by identifying the device with an indelible mark, but it does not provide location tracking.

Q: Can I register a device for someone else?
A: Yes. As long as you can provide accurate contact information for the owner, anyone can register a device.

Q: Have devices been successfully recovered?
A: Yes. You may ask for the most recent instances of successful recovery when you come in to have your computer tagged!

Q: Who administers the program?
A: IS&T and Security Tracking of Office Property (STOP) of Norwalk, CT.

Q: How do I determine the serial number of a computer using the OS?
A: Find the serial number of your Mac device (via Apple.com)

Windows
Open a command prompt (by choosing the Command Prompt item from the Start menu, or typing cmd in the Start menu’s “Run” box), and type the following:

```command
wmic bios get serialnumber
```

Note: Windows 8 and 8.1 users may get to the Command Prompt by right clicking on Start button, or by typing “cmd” on Start screen to search it.

Mac OS X
Open the Terminal application and type:

```bash
ioreg -l | grep IOPlatformSerialNumber
```

Linux
Open a shell and type:

```bash
sudo dmidecode -t system | grep Serial
```

Note: The user will need to have root access to the system.
See Also

- Theft Deterrents
- Internal page for IS&T Staff: [hd:Organizing Laptop Tagging and Registration]