My laptop, tablet or smart phone was stolen. What should I do?

Answer

1. Report the loss

Notify local law enforcement where the laptop, tablet or phone was stolen.

On campus theft: call MIT Police: 617.253.1212 – if stolen from the MIT campus or an FSILG

Off campus theft: call the local police department.
Cambridge, MA police: 617.349.3300
Boston, MA police: 617.343.4200

Be sure you get a case/report number and a primary contact for the case.

2. Contact the IS&T Security team

The Security team will ask you a few questions to assess whether there are any further actions necessary.

3. Remotely lock or wipe the device, if possible

Most cell phone service carriers can remote lock or wipe the data on a smart phone. Contact your carrier immediately to see if they can offer this service.

If you have an Apple device, and have enabled "find my iPhone" on your device, you can track, lock or wipe the device remotely via iCloud.

If you have other similar software for a non-Apple device, contact the software vendor to follow the steps for tracking, locking or wiping the data from the device.

4. Change your passwords

Change passwords that you believe may have been stored or saved in memory on the computer or device. You can reset your MIT Kerberos password at any time online. Don't assume that there is no trace of the passwords you use for online accounts. To be on the safe side, it is a good idea to reset ALL your passwords, including your email accounts.

5. Notify credit cards and banks

If you stored financial data, you should notify the affected institutions. What to do if you think your identity may be compromised.

6. Contact STOP

If the computer or device had a metal STOP tag attached to it, it was registered with the STOP program (Security Tracking of Office Property) provided by IS&T. STOP isn’t a tracking device, but is an identification plate that is permanently affixed to the laptop labeling it as registered property.

- The phone number to call regarding the service is 1-800-488-STOP. The company website is here.
7. Faculty and staff members should notify their manager/supervisor and the Insurance Office of the loss

Regarding a stolen/lost laptop, if it is MIT property, loss may be covered by MIT's insurance. Check with the Insurance Office (617-324-5031) for more information.