

MELBOURNE CBD

MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE & CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

April 2009



Welcome to the fourth Melbourne City, Intelligence & Crime Prevention Bulletin. This is a new initiative from Victoria Police designed to provide proactive information on local issues of **Crime, Public Safety and Road Safety**. It also offers an avenue for feedback and communication with your local police on these issues.

Stephen Leane
Superintendent, Melbourne City

There are **four (4)** Police Stations within the City of Melbourne. Get acquainted with your local!

Melbourne West – 637 Flinders Street, Melbourne Ph: 9247 6491
Melbourne East - 226 Flinders Lane, Melbourne Ph: 9637 1100
St. Kilda Road - 412 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne Ph: 9865 2102
Carlton - 334 Drummond Street, Carlton Ph: 9347 1377

Any comments, queries or suggestions for inclusion in future bulletins should be emailed to CRIMEPREVENTION-MEL@police.vic.gov.au or contact the Melbourne West Crime Prevention Officer on 92475495.

LAPTOP SECURITY

Laptops have become a valuable part of life that enables workers and students to take their work with them whilst maintaining contact with their office or educational institution. Unfortunately the portability, technology and information that make laptops so popular, also make them a target for thieves. Some thieves target laptops to sell for cash where others will harvest data from storage devices for identity or corporate fraud. In this newsletter I will address issues to prevent your laptop being stolen and how to protect the data stored on the computer.

PHYSICAL SECURITY

- One of the cheapest ways to secure your laptop is to purchase a steel security cable which can be attached to your laptop and an immobile object.
- Laptop safes/lockers can be used to store your laptop. Many libraries provide lockers to store your belongings.
- Motion sensors and alarms can be installed which emit an audible alarm if the laptop is moved. Some computers may also have the capacity to take a picture of the offender and e-mail it to the victim.
- Label and tag the laptop and all its accessories. Conspicuous identity labels increase the risk of a thief being caught in the act of theft. All internal components should also be labelled as some computers are taken apart and rebuilt.
- Consider carrying your laptop in an inconspicuous carry case so thieves will not know what you are carrying
- Keep your laptop close at hand and never leave it unattended
- If the laptop is a company asset for employees then policies should be in place outlining responsibility and liability for users. Laptops should be asset recorded and the property description including the serial number should be listed.



INFORMATION SECURITY

- Set a separate BIOS (Boot sequence) and Login password that is not easy to guess
- Motion alarm systems can also be coupled with system shutdowns where authentication gestures will only unlock the computer
- Encrypted system files enable sensitive information to be accessed only by parties permitted with a password
- Biometric authentication mechanisms can also be used to replace or supplement passwords with voice or fingerprint recognition
- Tracing and tracking devices can also be used where a tracking company will wait for the laptop to send them a signal when the machine is connected to the internet. Some tracking companies also provide the user with the ability to remotely delete all data on the hard drive.
- Store as little information as possible on your laptop. Use removable mediums such as diskettes and USB drives and secure these items in a safe place.
- Ensure the latest Anti-virus software is installed on the computer to prevent file corruption
- Consider using a privacy screen to hide sensitive information on your screen

For advice on laptop security providers, just search under the heading of laptop security on the internet