

ONTARIO REGIONAL WINNER

University of Toronto

Laptop theft prevention program: utilizing the Security Tracking of Office Property (STOP) theft deterrent device

In 2006, the University of Toronto (U of T) Campus Police (CP) joined forces with STOP to address the theft of laptop computers and other electronic devices. STOP anti-theft system is a unique patented protection device that significantly impacts equipment theft by eliminating the reason for most theft - black market resale value. To date, the CP have registered approximately 3,200 pieces of electronic devices including laptops, CPUs, flat screen monitors and televisions, none of which have been stolen.

STOP is the only program that works from a prevention theme as well as recovery. It works by permanently attaching a security plate to the electronic device. There is a unique bar-coded ID number for each plate and a dissuasive warning message written on top. If the laptop is found, a toll free number to STOP is located on the plate to call for owner verification. It takes approximately 800 pounds of force to remove the plate, usually damaging to the surface of the device. If removed, a patented, indelible tattoo that is chemically etched into the case becomes visible, indicating stolen property. Each STOP plate is registered and entered into a database, available 24/7 to police and second hand shops. CP and STOP will facilitate the recovery of lost or stolen equipment, ensuring its return to the owner.

Students, alumni, faculty and staff members purchase a STOP plate at a one time cost of \$20. Ownership of the device is transferable through the program and provides added value to the device.

Unique to the marketing of STOP, CP created a community network that included bookstores, the Students Union and a number of faculties and administrative offices. It is strongly supported by the university's Risk Management group and recommended as an effective alternative. The success of the program has attracted the attention of local and national media. The U of T is the first university in Canada to use the STOP program and it is one of the largest in North America.

For further information on this project, please contact:
Dan Hutt, Manager, U of T Campus Community Police
(St. George Campus)
(416) 978-7472
dan.hutt@utoronto.ca or peter.franchi@utoronto.ca



(L-R) Mike Munroe, Sam D'Angelo and Peter Franchi.