

# Risk Management

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## Risk Management Alert

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## Laptop Theft and Recovery Device – STOP Security System

Security of laptop computers, one of the most commonly stolen items on the campus, concerns everyone. Personal computers, flat screen monitors and other audio visual equipment are also popular targets for thieves. The University of Toronto Campus Police has implemented a plan to reduce thefts of these devices — STOP security system.

STOP is an anti-theft system, a unique theft deterrent, will help reduce theft by eliminating the reason for most theft: resale value. Professional thieves usually are not interested in the laptop or notebook itself, only its resale value on the open market. The STOP security system reduces the street value of the item to zero.

How it works: Every piece of equipment protected with a STOP security plate is automatically registered with STOP and the Campus Police. Registering your STOP security plate number and pertinent equipment information is critical for equipment recovery. Security plate numbers and item information are stored in a registry system that is accessible online 24/7. A STOP security plate can withstand 800 pounds of force. If removed a permanent "tattoo", indicating stolen property, is left behind diminishing the resale value.

How it can benefit students: University of Toronto students who are required to purchase a laptop or already own one will have an added sense of security knowing their laptop is registered with the STOP program. Approximately 300 to 400 computers and related equipment is stolen every year from various University buildings. In most of these cases, laptop owners are unable to provide campus police with the serial or model number of their stolen item. The likelihood of recovering the stolen item diminishes without this information. Students who purchase a STOP plate will automatically have their item information recorded. The STOP plate will help deter theft and aid in the recovery of lost equipment.

How it can benefit University departments: Staff and faculty members will be able to secure University property such as laptops, CPUs, projectors and other office technology. The STOP program also acts as an asset tracking program. Alerts can be sent to specific employees or management notifying them when loaned equipment is to be returned.

Purchasing a STOP plate: The UoT students, staff and faculty can purchase individual plates at the Campus Police office which is located at 21 Sussex Avenue for \$20 each (tax included). For more information please contact Peter Franchi, University of Toronto Police Service, at 416-978-2323 or visit the STOP website at [www.stoptheft.com](http://www.stoptheft.com)

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