



BSD Information Security



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Tales From the Encrypt

In this issue of the BSD ISO Cybersecurity Newsletter...

- **Tales From the Encrypt** - Have you ever lost your laptop? Read about Dr. Lisa Jones and her experience. Ask what you could do to prevent the same occurrence in your department.
- **BSD Information Security Standards** - Do you run a database? Implement the new BSD Security Standards for Databases to safeguard your research data from hackers.

Tales From the Encrypt

It had been one of those travel days for Dr. Lisa Jones. On her way back from a conference in New Orleans, she had endured a two-hour delay, a missed connection, a spilled coffee, and several other indignities. By the time she was finally in a cab home, she could barely keep her eyes open.

Preventative Measures

- All users in possession of a laptop must now ensure they satisfy the BSD directive to encrypt BSD-owned laptops.
- The BSD Information Security Office provides three options - Self-Service Portal, Encryption by Appointment, Do It Yourself- that users can pursue. For more information about the three laptop encryption options go to security.bsd.uchicago.edu/encryption.

So it wasn't until the next morning that she picked up her workbag and noticed it felt suspiciously light. A glance inside and her heart sank -- her laptop was gone. Quickly, she thought back to the last time she had used it in yesterday's harried travel. Was it the coffee shop at the New Orleans airport? Was it the first plane or the second? Was it in the cab?

Closely following thoughts of all the phone calls she would have to make to locate and recover the missing laptop, Dr. Jones started to worry about its contents. There was a lot of unpublished data on that computer, data she couldn't be sure was adequately backed up. There were also the e-mails, the important lab documents, the credit card and social security numbers.

Suddenly a very paranoid, Dr. Jones called the BSD Information Security Office. The helpful security officer reassured her that the contents of the laptop had been automatically backed up shortly before Dr. Jones left on her trip, and could be easily recovered. But before Dr. Jones' heart rate could drop back to normal, he asked an unexpected follow-up. "Was the laptop encrypted?" "You mean like a password when I turn it on?" Dr. Jones asked, confused. "Not exactly," the security officer replied. Encryption, he explained, converts all of a computer's contents into an unreadable code. Without it, anyone could easily break into the computer and access financial records, medical information, student and employee data, and other sensitive information. A forensic investigation, with a price

tag of over \$1000, would have to be conducted, he said, not to mention the fines and liabilities over identity theft, federal grant status, and other concerns.

Just then the doorbell at Dr. Jones' house rang. It was the previous night's cabdriver, returning her laptop, safe and sound. After giving him a generous tip, she returned to the phone with the BSD security officer and shared the good news. "Now, when can I make an appointment for encryption?"

NEXT MONTH: An employee learns a hard lesson about hacking and the need for Two-Factor Authentication in...The Power of Two.

BSD Information Security Standards

The [BSD Security Liaisons Group](#), consisting of IT professionals from the University of Chicago, BSD and UCM, is working to develop information security standards, based on the security principals of NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology). These standards are designed to improve the BSD's Security Framework. The group has worked together to publish the [STA-01-BSD Minimum Security Standards for Systems](#) and the [STA-02-BSD Security Standards for Databases](#). Please visit the BSD ISO website at <http://security.bsd.uchicago.edu/For Departmental IT> for the published and draft standards.

What to do if you become aware of an information security incident?

Contact the BSD-ISO team via the following phone numbers or e-mail addresses:

You may also send an e-mail to the BSD Security mailbox: security@bsd.uchicago.edu

Visit the BSD-ISO website: <http://security.bsd.uchicago.edu>

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