



Pennsylvania Association of REALTORS®

The Voice for Real Estate® in Pennsylvania

Tech Tips for Data Security

- ❖ Make sure your Windows Updates are current. This will correct any known operating system flaws.
- ❖ Always run both virus software and spyware software. Keep those definitions up to date as well.
- ❖ Consider anti-theft devices for your laptop. These can include:
 - Laptop cable locks – You can attach your laptop to any heavy object near you. Imagine it as a bicycle lock for your computer.
 - Sonic laptop alarms – A combined motion detector and alarm system
 - Tracking software – These programs turn on as soon as your computer is on, and if the correct password is not entered, it will send a tracking signal once it is connected to the Internet
- ❖ Windows has built-in, free, encryption features. People can encrypt files or folders so that only they can open them, regardless of who is using the computer.
- ❖ Never leave your laptop unattended.
- ❖ Always setup a password that must be entered before your computer will logon.
- ❖ Consider purchasing a laptop with fingerprint recognition technology.
- ❖ If you use a USB drive to move data, make sure you purchase one with security features. Many of the newer drives have a security zone, a portion of the drive reserved for data that needs a password to access. The latest technology has a fingerprint scanner built into the drive itself. If lost, no one can access the data without the correct fingerprint.
- ❖ When disposing of old data devices (desktops, laptops, PDAs, cell phones, etc.) be sure to thoroughly and completely erase any potentially sensitive data. For computer hard drives just hitting “delete” won’t do; consider purchasing a commercially available software program to “wipe” or “erase” the drive.



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Data Security Product Links

The following links were compiled by PAR staff in September, 2006. This list contains links to certain products and services that may help PAR members implement and maintain effective data security procedures.

In each of the categories of information listed below there may be dozens or even hundreds of products or services that might be of use in your business. PAR is not recommending the listed products over any other; the listed links are simply provided as being representative of the many products available. Further, PAR makes no warranties or representations as to the effectiveness of any of these products or services.

PAR members or anyone using this list should test and evaluate any product or service to ensure that it functions effectively and meets your business needs.

Spyware:

Microsoft Windows Defender

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=435bfce7-da2b-4a6a-afa4-f7f14e605a0d&displaylang=en>

Spybot Search and Destroy

<http://www.safer-networking.org/>

Ad-Aware

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/>

Virus Protection :

Symantec

<http://www.symantec.com/index.htm>

McAfee

<http://www.mcafee.com/us/>

Avast

<http://www.avast.com/>

Fingerprint Recognition Devices:

Silex

http://www.thegrafixguy.com/index.php?main_page=product_info¤cy=USD&products_id=5193

EyeNetWatch

<http://www.eyenetwatch.com/>

Laptop Security Tips:

<http://labmice.techtarget.com/articles/laptopsecurity.htm>

<http://www.securityfocus.com/infocus/1186>

Laptop Security Products:

<http://www.computersecurity.com/laptop/>

<http://www.tryten.com/products/Wceeba74d9045d.htm>

http://www.securitykit.com/drive_locks.htm#alarms

Data Encryption Products:

Pointsec

<http://www.pointsec.com/products/pc/>

DESlock+

<http://www.deslock.com/>

Meritline

<http://www.meritline.com/usb-securilock-data-protection-key.html>

Lexar USB Drives

http://www.everythingusb.com/lexar_jumpdrive_mercury_1gb.html