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**SNAPSHOT**

Airport Laptop Losses Put Sensitive Corporate Data at Risk

- **More than 16,000 laptops** per week are lost, stolen or reported missing at 114 major U.S. and EMEA airports
- **1,200 laptops** go missing every week on average at Los Angeles International vs. **900** at London Heathrow and **400** at Dubai International
- **42%** are lost at departure gates in EMEA vs. **40%** at security checkpoints in the United States
- **67%** of missing laptops handed to airport lost property desks are not reclaimed in the United States vs. **57%** in EMEA
- **57%** of surveyed U.S. travelers and **49%** of EMEA travelers say their laptop contains confidential or sensitive information
- **65%** of U.S. travelers and **55%** of European travelers do not take any steps to protect this information
- **42%** of all travelers do not back up the data on their laptop

Source: *Airport Insecurity: The Case of Missing & Lost Laptops*, a Ponemon Institute research study sponsored by Dell, June 2008 and *The Business Impact of Data Breach*, Ponemon Institute, May 2007

Everyday, business travelers are putting their organizations' sensitive and confidential data at risk, according to research conducted by the Ponemon Institute and sponsored by IT company Dell.

Airport Insecurity: The Case of Missing & Lost Laptops surveyed 3,034 business travelers and captured data at 106 airports in the United States, seven in Europe and one in the United Arab Emirates. The results show **that thousands of laptops are lost, stolen or reported missing every week** at airports around the world while only a minority are reclaimed. Although around half of all travelers say their laptop contains confidential or sensitive data, most do not take any steps to protect this information. To limit the risks associated with laptop loss, the report recommends actions such as labeling laptops with contact details, encrypting and backing up data, and limiting the information carried on a trip.

This advice may be particularly relevant for travelers passing **U.S. borders**, where **officials have the right to search and seize laptops** or storage digital devices. Over the past two years, the Association of Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE) has been campaigning for more transparency in this system and safeguards to protect data privacy. In September, the "Travelers' Privacy Protection Act of 2008" was introduced in the U.S. Congress. If passed, this bill will require officials to demonstrate reasonable suspicion and obtain a warrant before seizing a laptop or other electronic device. The proposed legislation also limits the time data can be kept and provides for compensation in the event of damage to a traveler's computer. ACTE immediately endorsed the bill and appealed to industry players to support it. ■

