

Data Encryption

Protecting Sensitive Data

The privacy and financial security of individuals are increasingly at risk due to the widespread collection of personal information. As a result, over 30 states have passed laws that require residents to be notified when their "personal information" is compromised. SB205 [Act 499](#), known as the "Database Security Breach Notification Law," was signed by Louisiana Governor Blanco on July 12, 2005 and became effective on January 1, 2006. This legislation requires notification to any Louisiana resident whose unencrypted "personal information" was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person as a result of a "security breach." In addition, the notification must be made in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs to law enforcement or any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach, prevent further disclosures, and restore the reasonable integrity of the data system.

If you are required to store sensitive data on an electronic device, you should protect yourself and the University by encrypting the data when it is not in use. The cheapest and easiest way to protect sensitive data is to simply not store any sensitive data on your electronic device. A device with no sensitive data on it can be stolen with no risk of sensitive data disclosure. However, if you cannot find an alternative to storing sensitive data on your device, here are some software programs you can use to encrypt data while it is not in use.

Table of Data Protection Products

Product	Vendor	Protection
CompuTrace	Absolute Software	Locates and recovers a lost or stolen PC
Data Vault	Reflex Magnetics	Virtual drive encryption and secure wipe
Encryption Anywhere	GuardianEdge	Encrypts entire hard drive
Encrypting File System (EFS)	Built into Microsoft Windows	Secure files and folders
FileVault	Built into Mac OS X	Encrypts home files and folders
GNU Privacy Guard	Open Source	Encrypt e-mail, files. Free alternative to PGP Desktop for Windows, Unix, and Linux
Mac GNU Privacy Guard	Open Source	Secure e-mail and files
PGP Desktop	PGP Corporation	Secure e-mail, files, and full disk
TrueCrypt	TrueCrypt Foundation	Secure files, folders, removable disks. For Windows, Linux, and removable devices