

Case Study : Develop a Policy To Protect Information On Laptops Against Attacks

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1 INTRODUCTION

The ABC corporation is a multinational corporation with more than 30,000 employees in over 50 countries. ABC maintains tens of thousands of laptops and information loss from these laptops is a serious problem to ABC corp. The Chief Information Officer of ABC has to develop a policy to protect against information loss on the laptops. Information loss is a problem for ABC corp, "... recent security report shows that over three hundred laptops were lost or stolen last fiscal year and ten information leakage incidents were related to the lost or stolen laptops"

From the case study, "... One of the incidents disclosed personal information of about 50,000 customers. These days, the average cost to deal with illegally disclosed information is about 90-300 per record. Information Security Policy and International Standards This incident alone could potentially damage the corporation financially by about 7.5 million. The damage to the corporation's reputation can be enormous and irreparable."

ABC corp has issued Windows laptops, loaded with Microsoft BitLocker, which protects the hard drive by encrypting all of the data on the hard disk with an encryption scheme. This is useful for stopping data from stolen laptops from being recovered and potentially lost or used for illegal purposes. However BitLocker still does have some issues, specifically, it isn't able to protect against cold boot attacks.¹.

¹Attacks that are used by stealing the contents of RAM, containing the encryption key, then gaining access to the encrypted hard disk. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cold_boot_attack