Strengthen Data Security with Intel® Anti-Theft Technology

Encryption protects data against viewing by intruders and thieves, but sometimes companies need a deeper level of protection. Intel® Anti-Theft Technology (Intel® AT) provides smart, hardware-based data protection and triggers a lockdown state—automatically or by remote instruction—to disable a laptop on command.

Think of data encryption as a key to the front door of your home. If the key is kept secure, thieves are kept out. But, if you leave the key under the mat, the private contents of the home are available to any thief who knows where the key is hidden. Having Intel AT embedded in the hardware of a laptop is like having a vigilant security guard watching the front door and frequently checking with a central command to guard against intruder entry. If suspicious activity is detected or a thief finds the key, an additional lock can be activated to reinforce the existing security.

Embedded in the silicon of laptops powered by the 2nd generation Intel® Core™ processor family, Intel AT protects assets and data in these ways:

- **Lockdown.** Provides a way to lock down lost or stolen laptops, locally or remotely, rendering the laptop and hard drive data useless unless a reactivation code is provided.
- **Tamper detection and protection.** Detects component tampering, such as hard disk removal, and logon failures, automatically disabling the laptop to prevent access.
- **Hardware-based authentication override.** Augments the authentication process with an encrypted data string (called a “blob”) that resides in a restricted access region in the laptop’s hardware. The blob is stored on the Intel® chipset, binding the data to a specific laptop. When a user logs on to that laptop, a validation operation confirms the blob state is valid before the user can access the encrypted hard drive. If the laptop is reported lost or stolen, the IT administrator sends a poison pill that hides the blob from the protected storage region, revoking authentication even if the right encryption passphrase is entered. Once the laptop is disabled in this manner, it remains unusable until it is reactivated.
- **Unite encrypted data with laptop.** An Intel AT locked laptop can also lock down access to the encrypted data in a non-destructive way. It keeps the data intact but locks down access to the encrypted data by hiding the blob. This blob binds the data to the laptop preventing a clever thief from accessing the data using a different laptop even if the thief has the encryption keys.

These features work in combination with other security software and services to provide strong, multi-level data protection.
DISABLING A LAPTOP FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY
Even if the encryption passphrase is accessed, the data is protected by this second level of lockdown security.

1. Stolen or Compromised Laptop with Intel® AT
2. Central IT service is alerted to the problem by a phone call and they remotely disable the laptop.
3. Disabled Laptop. Only a screen with the owner’s contact info will appear.

*Or, automated lockdown measures kick in.

Intel Anti-Theft Protection Advantages

Intel AT provides a strong, hardware-based approach to protecting laptops and the data stored on them, ensuring that if one layer of security is circumvented, there is another layer of protection available. Among the advantages of Intel AT:

- **Backs up full-disk encryption with local and remote disabling.** If the passphrase to an encrypted laptop is available, an unauthorized person can enter it to access encrypted data on the disk drive. Intel AT backs up full-disk encryption by providing a means to shut down the laptop. Local timers, invalid passphrases, missed server connections, and other measures can cause lockdown.

- **Gives IT administrators greater control over assets.** By being able to disable any registered laptop equipped with Intel AT, IT administrators can control corporate assets in the field. Laptops can be locked to prevent access by disgruntled employees, dismissed teleworkers, or internal thieves.

- **Discourages theft by reducing the value of a stolen laptop.** A disabled laptop displays the rightful owner’s contact info when booted. The laptop can’t be used unless IT reactivates it with a code. The yellow AT sticker lets everyone know the laptop has little value if stolen.

- **Reduces the cost of data breaches.** Internal theft of laptops poses a serious data breach risk to corporations. One effective way to protect the data is to maintain maximum control over the asset. The poison pill delivery confirmation can prevent further access to sensitive data. Since the user personally reports exposure following the laptop’s loss or theft, corporations also gain an extra layer of accountability.

RE-ACTIVATING A RETURNED LAPTOP
Once a laptop has been disabled, the authorized user can reactivate it.

1. RETURNED Disabled Laptop with Intel® AT
2. Laptop owner or IT staff member requests reactivation from the central IT service.
3. Once the reactivation code is provided, it is entered at the boot screen—the laptop is once again accessible.

A Powerful and Effective Solution

Full-disk encryption is widely recognized by security professionals as one of the best solutions for protecting private or sensitive data on a computer. A locked door is good protection, but it’s better to have an additional layer of protection with a central command providing additional security. The hardware-based protection built into laptops equipped with Intel AT complements and extends full-disk encryption, offering a multi-layered approach to data security and asset protection that can defeat the efforts of even determined thieves and unauthorized persons.

No computer system can provide absolute security under all conditions. Intel® Anti-Theft Technology (Intel® AT) requires the computer system to have an Intel® AT-enabled chipset, BIOS, firmware release, software and an Intel AT-capable service provider/ISV application and service subscription. The detection (triggers), response (actions), and recovery mechanisms work only after the Intel® AT functionality has been activated and configured. Certain functionality may not be offered by some ISVs or service providers and may not be available in all countries. Intel assumes no liability for lost or stolen data and/or systems or any other damages resulting thereof. Information in this document is provided in connection with Intel products. No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property rights is granted by this document. Except as provided in Intel’s terms and conditions of sale for such products, Intel assumes no liability whatsoever and Intel disclaims any express or implied warranty relating to sale and/or use of Intel products including liability or warranties relating to fitness for a particular purpose, merchantability, or infringement of any patent, copyright or other intellectual property right. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by Intel, the Intel products are not designed nor intended for any application in which the failure of the Intel product could create a situation where personal injury or death may occur. Intel may make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time, without notice. Designers must not rely on the absence or characteristics of any features or instructions marked “reserved” or “undefined.” Intel reserves these for future definition and shall have no responsibility whatsoever for conflicts or incompatibilities arising from future changes to them. The information here is subject to change without notice. Do not finalize a design with this information. The products described in this document may contain design defects or errors known as errata which may cause the product to deviate from published specifications. Current characterized errata are available on request.

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