

## Locking down your Devices

Computers, laptops, cell phones and tablets have allowed us to have fast access to our documents, contacts, e-mail, and much more while at home, work and on the go. Having access to all that data has given us so much flexibility, but with that flexibility comes vulnerability. Protecting your home computer/laptop, smartphone and tablet can all start with one simple step: **password protection!**

The portability of these devices makes them tempting and easy to steal. Even a full desktop can be tempting for a thief since they can pawn it or sell it quickly. In fact, most stolen computers, laptops, cell phones or tablets can potentially be accessed by multiple people before ever being recovered.

Most people don't have highly secretive information on their computers, laptops, cell phones, etc., they do however have access to a lot of personal and financial information and that is exactly what thieves are after! Think about all of your Contacts, their e-mail addresses, home addresses, and telephone numbers that are synced on your device and how now they too have been compromised because someone found your unlocked device and accessed all of your information. Think of websites you visited and how many of them have your saved password linked to them.....anyone who accesses your device now has direct access to all that information. The potential harm that can be done when someone's device is stolen is almost unmeasurable.

Having to remember another password may seem bothersome and adding a few additional seconds to your login can feel like an eternity, but that simple step can prevent someone from having immediate access to your information. Almost all computers, laptops, smartphones and tablets have some kind security feature. If you want to learn more about how to protect your device, contact us at 1-800-373-7521 or [helpdesk@ssndcp.org](mailto:helpdesk@ssndcp.org).

