Overview of Sandia's Laptops On Foreign Travel (LOFT) Program

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Risks while on Foreign Travel

Corporations today are presented with many challenges that were not prevalent a few years ago. Quickly emerging technologies continually change cyber security challenges.

Recommendations from top security analysts include ways to address heightened risks associated with use of computing resources/network access while on foreign travel.

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Risk Mitigation to be Addressed

- **Managing mobile devices must address the issue of compromise of proprietary data on computing devices while on foreign travel**

- **Compromise of computing and/or network resources due to loss, confiscation, theft, unauthorized access and/or introduction of malware or malicious code by foreign entities**

Cyber Recommendations

Cyber security analysts recommend use of encrypted mobile devices while on Foreign Travel - specifically having dedicated and managed assets for proper Risk Mitigation

- **Mobile devices used exclusively for international travel**
- **Mobile devices are controlled (managed, secured, tracked) by a corporation's IT department.**
- **Laptops should be isolated from the corporation's primary network**
- **Full Disk Encrypted Hard Drives and Thumb Drives**
- **Devices should be thoroughly inspected and possibly rebuilt/secured prior to next trip**

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Laptops On Foreign Travel (LOFT)

- **Sandia's LOFT program was implemented in its present form in 2007.**

- **LOFT provides support for an average of 100 international trips per month.**

- **Provides the assurance of secure computer and communication assets in accord with cyber security recommended guidelines.**

- **Works closely with other Sandian asset management and security departments:**
  - **Property Management**
  - **Export Control**
  - **Technical Surveillance Countermeasures**

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Property-Related Services Provided By LOFT

- **Verification of security (encryption, etc) of Sandia-owned computer and communication assets.**
  - **Provision of secure loaner equipment for infrequent international travelers.**
  - **Full IT support for frequent international travelers ("Road Warriors") who retain possession of dedicated LOFT equipment.**
- **Preparation of International Handcarry Forms (IHF's) listing all Sandia-owned hardware and software assets.**
  - **IHF's are submitted to, reviewed and approved by the Export Control Office before assets can be taken abroad.**
- **Tracking of asset availability via online database.**
  - **Available, reserved or on-travel loaner equipment.**
  - **Reporting lost or stolen hardware to appropriate groups (Export Control, Counterintelligence, et al).**

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Property-Related Services Provided By LOFT

- **Post-Trip Services.**
  - **Retrieval, reconfiguration and redistribution of loaner equipment.**
  - **Examination of machines and storage media for evidence of compromise.**
- **Disposition of LOFT assets no longer in use.**
  - **Reassignment of LOFT laptops, thumb drives, etc. in the event of an employee no longer going on frequent international travel.**
  - **Coordination of permanent physical destruction of LOFT assets at end-of-life.**
    - **For security reasons assets designated for LOFT use *cannot* ever be re-purposed for use in Sandia's production networks.**

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In Conclusion

- **Protection of corporate information tools taken on international travel involves multiple considerations. This includes physical, software and administrative controls implemented to safeguard not only physical assets, but also intellectual and software ones.**

- **Conversely, domestic information systems require these same controls as a means to protect themselves from potential threats introduced (intentional or not) into information tools returning from any duration in use abroad.**

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- **Questions??**