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MALPRACTICE AVOIDANCE NEWSLETTER FOR OREGON LAWYERS

TECHNOLOGY TIPS

More on Computer Security: If you are concerned about your laptop being stolen, you can buy anti-theft software that will lock down your computer after a certain number of unauthorized password attempts. An example of this type of product is nTracker (\$49.95), which includes a tracking mechanism for lost or stolen laptops that have a wireless connection and also provides encrypted security for data and files. For information about it, visit www.synet.biz.

Strong Passwords: Passwords can be the weakest link in a computer security system. Strong, hard-to-guess passwords are important because the tools and software that people use to guess passwords continue to improve. While strong passwords are good practice in general for all your computer accounts, they are especially important for your network logon. A strong password must: (1) be at least seven characters long (Windows 95 and 98 only support passwords of up to 14 characters); (2) contain a combination of letters, numerals, and symbols; (3) have at least one symbol character in the second through sixth positions; (4) be significantly different from prior passwords; (5) not contain your name or user name; and (6) not be a common word or name.

Password management software is available to help you manage, store, and encrypt all your passwords. Two examples of such products are RoboForm (www.roboform.com) or Password Safe (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/password/safe>). The MetaPass Digital Key thumb drive (www.metapass.com/affiliates/vandyke/) is an alternative to password management software.

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