All faculty and staff are being asked to use encryption on all mobile devices (e.g., laptops, tablets, phones, memory sticks). This includes all University-owned equipment, as well as any non-University devices that contain University information. The first phase of the encryption project begins immediately and is limited to laptops.

The University has been developing a plan to fulfill compliance and align with best practice through deploying data encryption. Alberta's Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) and the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) require all organizations to encrypt data on their mobile computing devices if storing personal or sensitive information. You should be aware that there have been several recent incidents of lost or stolen laptops, mobile devices, and storage drives containing University personal and sensitive information. If we are not attentive in meeting our management obligations and responsibilities, issues can arise that can damage the University’s reputation.

The first phase of the encryption project is limited to laptops. An encryption standard and encryption instructions are available (see URL below). With the help of your local IT support staff and AICT, all Faculties, Departments, and Units need to start encrypting University laptops. Personally owned and other external laptops storing University personal and/or sensitive information must also undergo disk encryption according to the standard.

It is important to acknowledge that disk encryption alone is not a panacea for information privacy and security assurance. Awareness of risks, and diligently handling and managing University information, is a key requirement. Consequently, to better safeguard the University’s information from loss and theft, there is a Mobile Computing Security initiative underway where disk encryption is one among a number of other components.

The VPIT office is also working with a number of faculties including the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, on an implementation of data encryption appropriate to their faculty needs.

See the Mobile Computing Security website for the encryption standard, instructions, and other details: http://vpit.ualberta.ca/encryption.

Thank you.