



Traveling Safely

...Or, how to get safely to Planet X

What are the risks?



- ▶ Identity theft
- ▶ Financial fraud/theft
- ▶ Physical theft (like your laptop)
- ▶ Information loss/theft (personal, institutional, passwords, acct info)



Agenda

- ▶ What Needs Protecting
- ▶ Public Wi-Fi
- ▶ Airports
- ▶ Internet Cafés
- ▶ Virtual Private Networking
- ▶ Physical Security





What Needs Protecting

...Or, continuing to be yourself

Identity

- ▶ eIDs
 - This can compromise your email or access to K-State when given in conjunction with your password
- ▶ Passwords
 - Not just K-State passwords, but thieves are looking for passwords associated with all sorts of accounts
- ▶ Personally Identifiable Information
 - SSNs, Mother's maiden name, phone numbers, etc.
- ▶ Credit Card Numbers
 - Or debit numbers, etc.
- ▶ More?



Data

- ▶ Personal records
 - Medical, home finance, etc.
- ▶ Research information
 - The next big breakthrough?
- ▶ Proprietary information
 - University data, etc.
- ▶ Other people's sensitive information
 - Personnel information, student data, etc.
- ▶ More?





Where it Needs Protecting

You wouldn't tell your children to
“go play in traffic,” either

Internet cafés

- ▶ Computers can be infected
- ▶ Avoid using any login passwords
 - If you have to do so, change the password as soon as you get home or to a more secure connection
- ▶ Never use them for financial transactions
- ▶ Check for antivirus software
- ▶ Avoid them entirely, if at all possible



Public WiFi

- ▶ *So useful* but oh, so *risky*
- ▶ Unsecured wireless networks are very easy to snoop – someone near you or even across the street can watch ALL of your traffic
- ▶ Freely available programs can watch WiFi traffic to snoop for account info
- ▶ Just because you have to register or authenticate doesn't mean it's secure



Hotels & Coffee shops

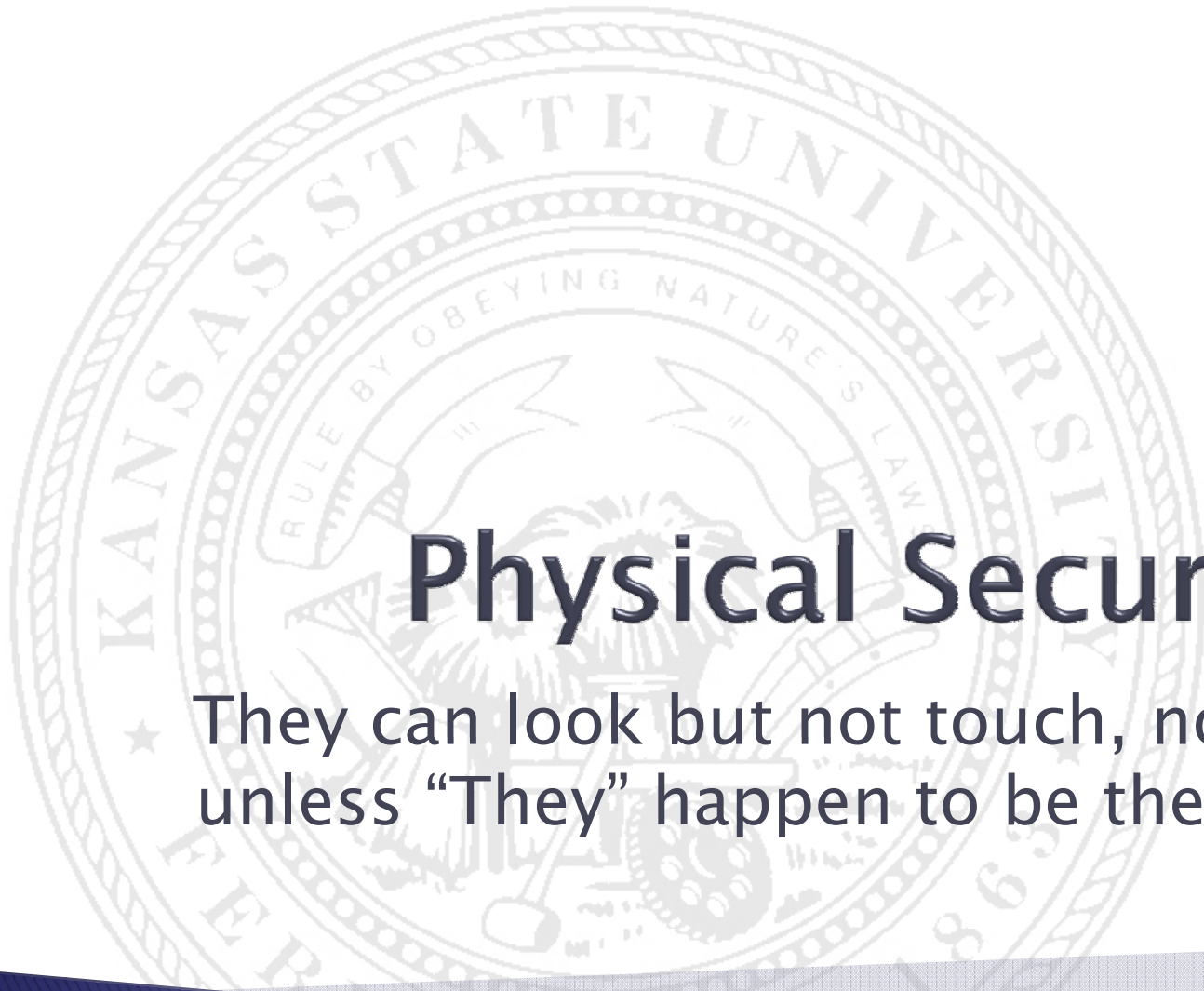
- ▶ These networks are rarely encrypted
- ▶ Even if you have to plug in a wire, most times these connections are wireless
- ▶ What level of trust do you have for the people around you, or even in the next room?



Airports

- ▶ Wireless is offered at many airports for free, or at a fee
- ▶ Neither is generally an encrypted network
- ▶ Not only do you have to be careful of wireless snoopers, but also those sitting in the chair next to you





Physical Security

They can look but not touch, now...
unless "They" happen to be the TSA

Airport security

- ▶ Never let it leave your sight
 - *well don't follow it through the x-ray...
- ▶ Napping is a no-no
 - If you must nap, protect it
- ▶ Non-descript carrying case
 - That laptop case that says "DELL INSIDE!!!" is bad



Hotel room

- ▶ Who has a key to your room?
 - The front desk
 - Housekeeping
 - Maintenance
 - Room service
 - Security
- ▶ Which one has a background check?
- ▶ Which one would do well by selling your laptop?



Vehicle

- ▶ Take it inside whenever possible
- ▶ Out-of-sight, Out-of-mind
 - Trunk is best
 - Beware trunk access through the car





Keeping it safe

Or, a chastity belt for you laptop...

How to protect it?

- ▶ Be sure your antivirus and software firewall is enabled and up-to-date
 - Worms can spread from computer to computer just by connecting to a network with an infected computer
- ▶ Use the K-State VPN client when connecting back to campus
 - Encrypts all network traffic between your computer and the *K-State border*
 - Makes your computer appear to be on campus to get access to restricted resources



Where to get VPN software

Additional Information and software are available at:

<http://www.k-state.edu/infotech/networks/vpn/>



Recovery software

- ▶ Computrace LoJack for Laptops from Absolute Software (www.absolute.com)
 - Stolen computer contacts the company the next time it's on the Internet
 - the company then traces it and contacts law enforcement to recover it
 - inconsistent results outside the U.S.
- ▶ Pre-installed in BIOS on many laptops
 - Dell
 - HP
- ▶ Have to buy the license to activate
 - Costs about \$30–\$50 *per year*



Recovery hardware?

- ▶ Try a cable lock...
 - Cost \$15–\$50, combination or key lock
 - Hotel room
 - Public locations, coffee shop
 - Conferences, training sessions





Questions?

WTFOMGBBQ!