Wright State University

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Travel Restrictions on Encryption Software

General Information

Transporting a computer that has encryption software installed is subject to a number of controls. The U.S. Department of Commerce and the Department of the Treasury both have rules designed to control the movement of encryption technology out of the United States. The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) within the Department of the Treasury accept applications for licenses to export encryption products and technologies. The Departments of Defense, Justice and State also have the right to review license applications. The review can take about 90 days and in some cases longer.

Encryption is controlled or restricted in many countries. Some countries ban, or severely regulate, the import, export, or use of this technology. Traveling with your laptop with encryption software installed on it to certain countries could lead to your imprisonment or cause your laptop to be confiscated. If you are not able to meet the import or export requirements, you should remove (uninstall) the encryption software. It may be safer to remove the software and all sensitive data from your laptop or mobile device than to risk violating compliance requirements in these countries. CaTS can assist you with this.

List of Countries

Here is a partial list of countries with encryption import and use restrictions. Check the U.S. State Department website before traveling to verify that this information is still current.

- Burma (you must apply for a license)
- Belarus (import and export of cryptography is restricted; you must apply for a license from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the State Centre for Information Security or the State Security Agency before entry)
- China (you must apply for a permit from the Beijing Office of State Encryption Administrative Bureau)
- Hungary (import controls)
- Iran (strict domestic controls)
- Israel (personal-use exemption – must present the password when requested to prove the encrypted data is personal)
- Morocco (stringent import, export and domestic controls enacted)
- Russia (you must apply for a license)
- Saudi Arabia (encryption is generally banned)
- Tunisia (import of cryptography is restricted)
- Ukraine (stringent import, export and domestic controls)

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Before Traveling with Your Laptop

- Back up your data and leave a copy of your files in a safe and secure location such as your office or a departmental shared drive.
- Password-protect, encrypt, or remove all student, personal, and proprietary information stored on your laptop.
- Ensure that your operating system has a strong password or passphrase when it boots up.
- Turn off file-sharing and print-sharing.
- Make sure your system's patches are up to date and your firewall is turned on.
- Ensure that anti-virus, anti-spyware, and personal firewall software is installed on your laptop.
- Install the CaTS Virtual Private Network (VPN) client on your laptop so that you can securely access university resources.
- Consider purchasing a tracking application for your laptop in case it is lost or stolen.

Useful Links

- http://www.wassenaar.org - Wassenaar Arrangement
- http://www.wassenaar.org/controllists/index.html - Wassenaar Arrangement Control Lists (see Category 5-Part 2, Information Security and Note 3, Cryptography Note)
- http://www.bis.doc.gov/encryption/lechart1.htm - Encryption License Exemption Chart (view the BAG category)
- http://www.bis.doc.gov/encryption/740supp1.pdf - Country Groups lists where the countries of the world stand in the eyes of the US government and should be consulted before traveling to make sure there are no issues upon traveling there
- http://www.gpo.gov/bis/ear/ear_data.html - Export Administration Regulations Database (see part 740, License Exemptions, then 740.14 BAGGAGE, (BAG))
- http://www.wright.edu/rsp/Security/export_controls.htm - Wright State’s Research and Sponsored Programs