Memo Laptop locks



December 14th 2023



Introduction

The safety at our university is something Front cares deeply about. One of the pillars of Front is a living campus. It is important to us that students enjoy studying on our campus. Although there is a safe and familiar atmosphere at the university, there is always room for improvement. Therefore, Front would like to address the need to offer laptop locks for loan in the university library.

Proposal

There is no denying that the university library is a busy place and a popular study location of students. This also brings the risk of items being taken away when a student briefly leaves their study spot for a short break or toilet visit, for example. Currently, lockers are available in the library. However, it is a lot of trouble for students to store their valuables in a locker for a short period of time. To increase students' sense of security, we propose to make laptop locks available in the university library.¹

Motivation

TU Delft and the University of Twente already offer these laptop locks in their university libraries. We met with them to discuss their experiences with the laptop locks and to investigate whether these locks could also be a valuable addition at Tilburg University. Both universities like the laptop locks a lot. At TU Delft, students can borrow a laptop lock from the front desk against the surrender of their student or ID card. After use, they return the lock, also getting their pass back.

^{1.} Example laptoplock: https://www.bol.com/nl/nl/p/universeel-computerslot-sleutelslot-4-5mm-kabeldikte-incl-2-sleutels-geplastificeerd-staal-1-5-meter-allteq/9300000139541287/?Referrer=ADVNLGOO002013-S-

^{-9300000139541287&}amp;gad_source=1&gclid=CjoKCQiAj_CrBhD-ARIsAliMxT-Rn-kd4HG6fhQVbF6XHDSLPFYkpezBiomn3QYkE667S2JzSoVC_ZlaAvxJEALw_wcB



So far, Delft has not experienced any problems with offering these locks. The locks are handled with care, as students have to hand in their student- or ID card for them. In recent years this loan service was used daily. Meanwhile, this use has decreased because newer laptops no longer have the recess where the lock could be attached. We want to provide for this problem by offering adapters. These can be attached to the laptop so that the lock can still be used with the new laptop models. Since the use of such an adapter involves a permanent attachment to the laptop, we propose to offer this adapter for sale. This is because these cannot be reused by other students. This may vary in price but it is possible to offer them for a price between €10 and €25 euros each.²

During contact with Student Party DAS from Twente, we were told of a similar experience. At the University of Twente, laptop locks can also be borrowed in exchange for a student card. The locks are used there an average of 5 times a day. The campus is very busy during exam periods and almost all the study places they have available are used then. Nevertheless, laptop locks are not used to claim a study spot. The locks are also always returned the same day in Twente and are not left overnight. Because of this, we believe that offering laptop locks in Tilburg University's library will not significantly increase "towel-locking" beyond the extent it currently occurs. It will mainly contribute to a safer feeling for students who want to take a short break.

^{2.} Example adapter 1 (€13): https://discountoffice.nl/p/security-lock-slot-adapter-kit-k-slot/?

<u>utm_campaign=2014&utm_content=all&utm_source=producthero&utm_medium=cpc&gad_source=1&gclid=CjoKCQiA7OqrBhD9ARIsAK3UXh2oDdKsMQjeFptCxzitZ-UB9ES2BW_OMsaSSroDgpaYTHvDxmz3a88aAo85EALw_wcB</u>

Example adapter 2 (€19): https://www.kabeldirect.nl/startech-security-slot-adapter-universele-k-slot-adapter.html?

gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAiA1MCrBhAoEiwAC2d64ZkYv9Gl99JmbWm7HiJQlalctWiePULrzAtLUjEQsjPzovmzKjxTmhoCxhoQAvD_BwE



Conclusion

We would like to ask the Executive Board to offer laptop locks for loan in the university library in order to increase students' sense of security. In addition, we would like to ask the Executive Board to offer adapters for sale at the library desk so that every student can use this facility. By doing so, we want to promote that the campus is a pleasant place for everyone to study.