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**Bitlocker around the world**

This week’s discussion board is about technology and culture, specifically how my particular project—Bitlocker—will be or can be influenced by cultures in other countries. Obviously, my project is about Bitlocker, which is encryption software meant to prevent offline attacks and unauthorized access to data on stolen hard drives. Encrypting hard drives seem like a no-brainer. But, just because it makes perfect sense in the United States, not all countries share this same security belief. When doing this research, I actually learned quite a bit about how Bitlocker (and all encryption) is viewed in other countries. Numerous countries have laws against encryption, this would include having computers with Bitlocker imported or exported. For example, I have a compiled a short list of countries, and what actions must be taken when encryption enters the country. These can be seen in the chart below (Brown University, 2015):

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| **Country** | **Action** |
| Burma | A license is required |
| Belarus | Restricted initially until license is approved |
| China | A permit is required from the Beijing Office of State Encryption Administrative Bureau |
| Hungary | Has laws that foreigners must adhere to |
| Iran | Has laws that all people must adhere to |
| Israel | You can have encryption, but the password must be provided to officials |
| Morocco | Has strict laws against all encryption |
| Russia | A license is required |
| Saudi Arabia | Encryption is normally banned everywhere |
| Tunisia | Importing encryption is restricted |
| Ukraine | Has strict laws against all encryption |

Note, this is only a small portion of the actual list. To see more, you can check the U.S. State Department’s website. Some other things I learned in my research is that even having a laptop can be bad. Not all countries take too lightly of a foreigner showing up with a laptop, due to the possibility of corporate espionage and hacking. Something pretty interesting is that in China it is not recommended to buy a replacement laptop—even if your laptop is broken. But, going back to Bitlocker, I found this great federal regulation that you can review. It is located here: <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=f69a12e71396cdb0037d905024c2eca2&rgn=div8&view=text&node=15:2.1.3.4.25.0.1.17&idno=15>

The Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, or e-CFR, basically outlines laws and regulation surrounding encryption commodities, software and technology (U.S. Government Publishing Office, 2015). I actually read the whole thing, and learned just how complex encryption can be in other countries.

References

Brown University. (2015). Learn About BitLocker (Encryption For Windows). Retrieved from http://www.brown.edu/information-technology/knowledge-base/article/1254

U.S. Government Publishing Office. (2015). Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. Retrieved from http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=f69a12e71396cdb0037d905024c2eca2&rgn=div8&view=text&node=15:2.1.3.4.25.0.1.17&idno=15