

Re: Locking Computer Software

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If you are using a "NT CLASS" computer (Windows 2000 Pro, or Windows XP), and you have your disks formatted using NTFS, that is a very secure system. There are NTFS DOS programs that MAY let someone look into your disks, but they would have to be very sophisticated, and have physical access to the machine. first thing I would do is remove (or disconnect) the floppy drive. That would force someone to use a bootable CDROM to try and hack into your system.

As for physical ways, the simplest is to purchase a Key Lock, and use it to interrupt the power to the keyboard. All P.C. Keyboards have microcontrollers in them, that rely on the 5 Volt power. If you disrupt that, then the keyboard gets no juice, and is essentially dead. There are commercial products that are plug in boards, that contain the BIOS Signature AA55, which when booting indicated that that piece of hardware must execute before others boot. These boards then have a ROM BASED program, that asks for a password, before the machine will boot. The only problem is this can be defeated by removing the board.

All these assume that the "hacker" has physical access to the machine, and can take it apart to diagnose. If you are talking about a sibling, co-worker, or Mom and Dad, the NTFS locking method would prevent the casual user from using the system. Of course if someone has unfettered access, then they can always extract the disk drive, and use another machine to read the files.