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'DATA DOTS' ID KITS AVAILABLE TO SDSU STUDENTS

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(AP) - The latest crimefighting tools available to students at San Diego State University are smaller than grains of rice. They are dots coded with information that can identify the owner of high-tech student gear.

Students can buy DataDots at the campus bookstore, as part of a kit selling for \$19.95, and then apply them to their laptops, iPods, TV's, stereos - anything that is at risk of getting stolen, even textbooks. They register their dot-kit identification number on the Web site of MicroID Technologies, the western distributor of DataDots.

"I can't tell you how many times I've pulled someone over where there's something suspicious, and he's got a bunch of car stereos and iPods in the trunk and I know they're stolen but I can't prove it, so there's nothing I can do about it," SDSU police Lt. Robert McManus said.

Campus police have a special microscope and light to detect and read the coding on the dots.

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