

## Lost and Found

I was parking my car at Target this weekend and just as soon as I got out of the car I noticed a lady walking away from her shopping cart after leaving it in one of those cart return bins. After a quick glance at her cart I noticed that she had left her purse in the cart. Of course I called out to her and she immediately thanked me for alerting her to the property she was leaving behind. That made me think though, how would I have located her if I had not seen her walk off. A wallet with her license would probably be the best way to locate the rightful owner. What if it were just a lone object like a cell phone, MP3 player, or a set of keys? These objects don't normally have identifiable information in them anywhere, how would you return these to their rightful owners?

The next day after this incident I picked up a PC Magazine and read an article titled "Losing It." In this article, the author Ben Gottesman talks about all of the items he has lost through out the years while traveling. He notes that he never retrieved any of the items except for his train pass, which had his name on it. This got him thinking, what if there was a way to label and identify other items such as mp3 players and cell phones?

There are many services available online that specializes in finding and identifying lost items. One service called zReturn.com will send you six labels and a key chain tag for \$14.95. Each tag will have an identifiable number that will allow the Good Samaritan to find out who the owner of the equipment is and how to return it to the them. The author decided to test this service against an old fashioned method of simply putting contact information on the devices using labels. The author conducted this test by gathering up a half dozen broken cell phones and mp3 players and "losing" them around his city. Surprisingly all but two of the devices were returned.

This test indicates that it does not matter how you label your devices, only that there be some kind of contact information on the device. The moral to this story is that if your portable electronic devices are clearly labeled you will have a 66% chance of having them returned to you. However, if you don't take the time to clearly label your devices why would anyone take the time to return them to you?

In this fast paced information era be sure to label all of your portable electronic devices such as laptops, mp3 players, cell phones, GPS systems, or any other device of value. You may just be surprised to have it returned to you. If you have computer related questions, be sure to contact the best computer technicians in Knoxville. Call the technicians at Computer Depot, Thomas, Roger, or Aaron at 947-0749, or send me an e-mail at [computerdepotonline@att.net](mailto:computerdepotonline@att.net).