

Traveling This Summer?

Before you leave:

VPN: Do you need a VPN account? These accounts provide secure data transfer between Rice University and a user connected to the Internet outside of Rice. If you need to access secure Rice-only sites from home or while traveling, please visit the Help Desk to activate this account before you leave.

BACKUP: Backup everything before you leave. Make note of your laptop's serial number and machine address as well as license numbers of installed software.

EMAIL: Set an Auto reply for your email: Call the Help Desk for assistance or go to <https://www.mail.rice.edu/> and click FORWARD

TELEPHONE: Set up a temporary VOICEMAIL greeting for when you are away from Rice.

DIALUP: If you are traveling in the United States and plan to connect to the Internet using your computer's modem, print out the appropriate sets of dialup numbers from <http://apply.rice.edu> , Account Maintenance, Dialup Phonebook.

Note: Many hotel & business phone lines are NOT standard analog lines and may burn out your laptop's modem.

INCREMENTAL BACKUPS: Bring a set of blank CDs to use for incremental backups of work and research.

SECURITY: Laptops are prime targets for thieves. Do not leave one in sight in a locked car. We also recommend that you get a security cable for use when traveling.

CELL PHONES: Activate for international use. See information below.

LAPTOP BATTERY CHARGE: If you plan to use your laptop on battery power for longer time periods, than one battery usually provides, please buy and charge up an **additional battery** before you depart.

You can also buy a "**Power Inverter**" that allows you to charge a laptop with a car battery.

Taking your laptop:

INTERNET ACCESS: Check with Hotels about **Internet access** when you make reservations. Some hotels provide Internet access in every room at a small service charge. Sometimes the service is wireless, other times through the use of an Ethernet cable – bring an Ethernet cable with you. Other hotels have a "business center" where you can access the Internet through one of their computers or your own while some hotel provide no internet connections at all.

USING ELECTRICITY ABROAD: Are you taking a Laptop out of North America? (United States, Canada, and Mexico) You may need a **Plug adapter** for your power supply if you are traveling outside of North America. Although most laptops will work with different voltages, in many countries, the design or the actual power outlets are different from those in the United States. Travel Adapter Plug Sets are readily available at electronics stores and through the Internet.

Taking digital cameras, cell phones and PDAs:

Power Issues outside of the North America (United States, Canada, and Mexico): Check voltage requirements for chargers. If 110v only, you will need a **small transformer** as well as the plug adapter (See note under Laptops).

Digital camera: If it (or the batteries) needs to be charged, see the Plug Adapter and transformer note above, do not forget the connector for downloading digital images to your laptop

Cell phones: Within the USA, no problems should be expected although some vendors have more coverage in some areas than in others. Most American cell phones run on TDMA and CDMA networks while GSM is the standard in the rest of the world. More information on cell phones is available at <http://kropla.com/mobilephones.htm>. Some international cities do have networks compatible with American cell phones but the cost of using your cell phone may be higher than usual. When charging a cell phone, see the Plug Adapter and transformer note above, Please visit the Official Tourism website for any countries that you will be visiting and look for cell phone information for that country. Some providers in the US support GSM as a primary or secondary communication protocol. If your cell phone is supported for use and you plan on using it outside of the United States, you will need to activate the international service with your provider before you leave.

PDAs use cell phone networks. Please refer to that section. Blackberries have the widest international coverage.

ACCESS to Rice accounts while you are away

IT provides access to Rice email and Calendar systems through web interfaces.

EMAIL via Webmail: <http://webmail.rice.edu>

ORACLE CALENDAR via Webcal: <http://webcal.rice.edu>

VOICE MAIL MESSAGES: Check your messages when you are away from your telephone: 713-348-2000

Other Resources:

Rice University Help Desk: 713-348-4357 (HELP)

Plug adapters: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestic_AC_power_plugs_and_sockets

Long distance options: <http://www.rice.edu/it/resources/telephones/office/longdistance/index.html>