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LeadsOnline Coordinates Sales From Pawn, Second-Hand Shops



INDIANAPOLIS – A huge online database will make it easier for police to track stolen items pawned or resold, even if it's months later or the country.

LeadsOnline automatically collects and analyzes records from businesses take in property from the public nationwide, 6News' Jack Rinehart reported.

Police are then able to search the database when items are reported missing.

"I can look for something by your name, I can look for something by just 'an Apple computer,' I can have a partial serial number, I can do exact or I can do close. In our other system, you had to be exact," said Detective Mary Horthy with Indianapolis police's Pawn Unit.

Game Stop, a dealer in second-hand electronics, registered with the system on Monday, while many pawn shops, second-hand stores and scrap yards are already reporting their sales. Police even have the option to track items sold on the online auction site eBay.

The system also sends alerts if items are sold months after they're reported missing.

"Maybe it's not there today, but in a week or two, when this particular computer is pawned, then it will send me and e-mail and say, 'You need to go check your **LeadsOnline** account. A computer has been located,'" Horthy said.

In Indianapolis last year, homeowners reported more than 11,000 residential burglaries. Police said they think the new system will make a real dent in the recovery of stolen items.

"We are really thrilled that we have it and we're excited about it," Horthy said. "It's made a big difference just in the few months that we've been working with it."

The **LeadsOnline** system is used by more than 1,100 law enforcement agencies.

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