Computer Software Piracy

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September 16, 2006

Researching online for information and cases involving computer software piracy has taught me a lot. I had no idea how big of a problem this actually is. There are many online businesses that sell popular computer software at substantially low prices. They call their software academic or backup versions, which are actually bootleg copies of copyrighted software.

The largest recorded prison sentence was given to Nathan Peterson, owner and operator of a company called iBackups. This man made over $5 million in profits from his illegal copies of computer software and was sentenced to seven years in prison. Another long prison sentence was handed down to Danny Ferrar, who operated the www.BUYSUSA.com website. He profited over $4 million from pirated computer software and was sentenced to six years in prison. Both men not only have to serve their prison terms, but they also have to make restitution for the money they made.

Peterson was ordered to pay back the $5 million + at the rate of $200 a month. I'm sure he will be long gone from this world way before he reaches the pay off! Both men were just sentenced this year. I believe that their will be others who will top these two men resulting in longer prison terms. It seems to me that this is a growing problem that should be stopped. I do believe that it is wrong to make money from someone else's hard work.

References:

1. http://www.siia.net/press/releases/Ferrar_sentencing_0806.pdf

2. http://sev.prnewswire.com/computer-software/20060908/DCF03308092006-1.html

3. http://www.siia.net/

4. www.buysusa.com (Check this out!)