

Internet Piracy – Myth vs. Fact:

Myth

None of the software offered was stored on my site – I only had links to the files.

Fact:

You could be liable for anything that you do that contributes to the infringement of copyrighted works. This includes facilitating a download by linking to remote files.

Myth

I have a disclaimer on my site that protects me.

Fact

A disclaimer cannot shift your liability to someone else. You are still contributing to copyright infringement.

Myth

I thought it was okay to download programs to try them out if I delete them within 24 hours.

Fact

This is a common Net Myth. This can only be authorized by the copyright owner. This is not allowed unless explicitly provided in the end-user license provided by the software publisher.

Myth

What about “fair use”? I am only providing a service for “education purposes.”

Fact

It is not “fair use” to engage in wholesale copying of an entire program, to contribute to software piracy, or to put copyrighted works on the Internet.

Myth

I only post serial numbers.

Fact

Serial numbers are provided to protect copyright holders and rightful licensees. Providing them for other to use with pirated software contributes to copyright infringement and the circumvention of technical measures, and is illegal.

Myth

What if I lose my serial number or one of my disks is trashed?

Fact

Most software publishers have provisions for replacing media. Contact them to resolve your problems.

Myth

Software is so expensive, and I've wasted a lot of money just to find out that an expensive program does not meet my needs. If it's any good, then I'll reward the authors. If not, forget the compensation!

Fact

Unless the software publisher allows, you cannot copy software and pay for it only if you want to at some later date. Your dealer should be able to provide demonstrations of various software products before you buy.

Myth

Isn't everything on the Internet in the public domain?

Fact

No. Pirated software is published on the Internet by someone other than the author or without the author's explicit permission; this is illegal. Copyrighted products cannot go into the public domain without the copyright owner's consent during the period of protection.

Myth

It's not really illegal to distribute warez.

Fact

Yes, it is. An author can seek civil damages in the amount of their actual value. Criminal penalties (including fines and jail terms), or both.

Myth

There are so many warez sites on the Net that few people ever get caught.

Fact

The BSA and SPA have filed lawsuits against operators of Internet sites pirating software and shut down hundreds of sites each month. In some cases, computers are confiscated, and the operators are still paying settlements. The BSA and SPA are actively working with law enforcement agencies to bring more criminal cases against Internet pirates. If you know of warez sites on the Internet, please report piracy using the online form at www.bsa.org or www.spa.org.

BSA – Business Software Alliance

SPA – Division of the Software & Information Industry Association