



Software Management – Risks and Benefits:

Risks: *Using unlicensed or pirated software puts Van Buren School District at risk – legal and otherwise.*

Legal costs and fines: Abuse of software licenses can result in financial penalties, legal costs, and damaged reputation. Additionally, administrative personnel of VBSD can be held individually liable, both criminally and civilly, for any copyright infringement that occurs within the district.

Damaged reputation: Abusing software licenses can damage the district's reputation and even hurt individual contributors.

Viruses that can harm computers and networks: Unauthorized software can often contain viruses with the potential to damage both individual computers and entire networks. Viruses can and do cause data loss, which would be devastating to most companies. Why risk it?

Ineligibility for technical support or product upgrades: When using unlicensed software, the district will not be eligible for technical support from the software publisher. If you have a technical issue in need of resolution, often times a work-stopping issue, the district would not have the resources needed to rectify the situation. In addition, product upgrades – less expensive upgrades of existing products – are not available to the district.

Software compatibility issues: Unlicensed software may cause incompatibility between programs that would normally function together seamlessly.

Inefficiency of employees: Legal costs and fines, damaged reputation, computer viruses, ineligibility for technical support and software compatibility issues all negatively affect the efficiency of employees.

Benefits: *Properly managed software can significantly benefit VBSD.*

Saves money: Good software asset management can help in determining what software is needed — and which programs are not needed. It can also help VBSD to take advantage of volume license discounts offered by many software publishers and determine how to most efficiently deploy software across the district.

Manage technological change: Software management can help VBSD identify its software needs, avoid obsolescence, and ensure proper technology to help meet business goals.

Alleviate communication and data transfer problems: In organizations where technology has proliferated without controls, many different software platforms and versions may exist, contributing to communication problems. Managing software can help address and resolve these issues, improving workflow and efficiencies.

Justify investments in technology: Managing software can help organizations understand the value they receive from their software investment as well as identify parts of the organization that may be in need of software upgrades or new software programs.

Invest in the economy: Consumers benefit from the use of legal software as it positively impacts both the local and national economies.

Growth and Development: The high-tech industry is one of the strongest segments of our economy. Protection of the industry's intellectual property will allow the software industry to grow and prosper, and thereby contribute even more to the economy.