Software piracy

This type of crime is the most common type committed in the industry. We can differentiate between three types:

“Buddy‑to‑buddy”

Johnny buys a program and makes a copy for Susie to use on her computer. This is a violation of the copyright law by both Johnny and Susie. Johnny can make a backup copy for himself but he may not give a copy to anyone else.

Buying one copy of a program and loading it onto a number of computers

Computer centres and companies buy one copy of a program and then copy it onto all computers in the centre or business. Unless the distributor gave permission for this, they are in violation of the copyright law.

Full scale copying of whole package

The biggest problem occurs when the whole package, manual, packaging material and diskettes are copied and sold as an ‘original’ package. Such packages come from places such as Hong Kong and Singapore and are sold at flea markets.