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# The Computer Screen

UpSurf.Net (207) 363-4181 www.UpSurf.net

## Special points of interest:

- Don't be a turkey...
- To do or not to do...

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## Don't be a turkey...

Do not share your software with anyone unless it is licensed for several computers, and the terms and conditions allow you have copies of the software outside the household. I am asked constantly, "If I have a CD why can't I install the software on my friends computer?". If you have software CD's which came in the box with your computer that is known as OEM software. This software is licensed to be used on that computer only. The term OEM means Original Equipment Manufacturer. Large computer companies purchase this type of software in large quantities at a lower price typically in generic packaging to be used with their computers. Software which you have purchased from a retail store or on the Internet are typically Single License software unless otherwise noted by the reseller. Businesses typically would use what is called Multiple Open Licenses Purchases or MOLP. That is a whole new ball game so we will not go there in this article. Unfortunately the issue Software Piracy is a real issue around the world. It not only keeps law enforcement and computer repair companies busy, but it also raises the cost of software for the honest person.

How do you know if your software is legal? Step one is to make sure you keep all your CD's for software you install on your computer. More importantly keep any License Keys, Product Keys and Proofs of purchase for the software. If you have received any of this information electronically such as E-Mail or digital library then print it out and save it with the software. Yes there have been many instances where software which has been purchased is counterfeited prior to the purchase. There has also been issues of software which has been purchased, installed, then electronically being stolen. I know of one particular instance where the software had been installed, the user was happily cruising along using the software, and a few weeks later had a message come up on their screen saying, "This software is not a legal copy. Please purchase a legal copy immediately.". What had come about is the users computer had been tapped into (Hacked), and all the License and Product Key had been stolen.

The end user had to contact the software manufacturer to plead the



case of innocence. This is a good example if the user did not have the original license information and CD's they couldn't prove it was stolen. When purchasing software over the Internet be very careful. If the cost looks to good to be true it most likely is. Remember **caveat emptor** or buyers beware.

Definition of Software Piracy—  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright\\_infringement\\_of\\_software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyright_infringement_of_software).

Stories of software piracies—  
[http://dir.salon.com/topics/software\\_piracy/](http://dir.salon.com/topics/software_piracy/) or perform a search with your favorite Search Engine on Software Piracy Story.

Source—  
<http://archives.cnn.com/2001/TECH/computing/01/29/auction.piracy.idg/>

## To do or not to do...

### If I discard a old computer can I use the software or it's Product licenses?

**The short answer is no.**

If the software and CD's came with the computer or OEM software then no. If the software or CD's were purchased from a retail store, then pending the Terms and Conditions as long as you remove it from your old computer then yes you can install it on another computer.

### Can I make backup copies of my software?

Again pending Terms and Conditions most of the time it is legal to make backup copies of your software for safe keeping. If you do this make 2 extra copies, store one copy off-site possibly in a Safety Deposit Box. Use one of the copies to install you software saving the original just in case your copy is damaged for any reason.

Note—If this is software which is updated on a scheduled basis then keep the most current version off-site.

### How do I know the software I buy from a computer show is legal?

When purchasing software from anywhere even a close friend you will want to make sure you have the original license code, The package is unopened, and ask the vendor if the license code or product key has been used on another computer. This may sound silly but this simple question can save you a whole lot of trouble.

If you purchase or own pirated software notify the manufacturers and law enforcement quickly. The cost of one pirated software can exceed hundreds of thousands of your dollars.

**Keeping the cost of computer repair down since 2004.**



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