

**ENGINEERING ETHICS: SOFTWARE USE
AND MISUSE**

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➤ *The Journals:*

- ✓ Environmental Software
- ✓ Advances in Engineering Software

➤ *Key Issues:*

- ✓ Misuse of software
- ✓ Copyright infringement
- ✓ Trade secret misappropriation
- ✓ Others

Misuse of Software

- Force - Fitting software to do a job
- Cross - Verification (a second opinion)
- Experience of the software user
- Force - Fitting software parameters to achieve a desired result ("cooking")

Software Piracy

- Copyright Infringement
- Trade Secret Misappropriation

U.S. Copyright Law Does Not Distinguish:

- Duplicating software to sell
- Making multiple copies for users in a company
- Giving a copy to another
- Lending a copy

All are federal crimes, with fines to \$100,000 and jail terms to 5 years!

Software Piracy Takes Many Forms

- Carelessness
- Lack of awareness of the law
- Profit motive
- General disregard of importance in treating software as valuable intellectual property

Unauthorized Copying of Software in an Organization

- Is the most common piracy
- Is one-half of total lost software revenues
- Is common in schools, public agencies, government offices

“Softlifting” ...

- Making extra copies for employees to use at work or at home
- Disk swapping

Some People Believe

- Copying software is harmless
- Copying software "doesn't hurt anyone"
- Copying software "isn't stealing"
- Everyone else does it
- OK to make as many working copies as desired as they are allowed to make backup copies
- OK to make copies as long as the user derives no profit from their distribution

However

➤ It is all illegal

➤ It is all piracy