



Know the Rules

It is illegal to copy software, music, films, video games, or any other form of intellectual property without the copyright holder's permission. In fact, it's stealing.

You're making an illegal copy when you burn software onto a CD, install borrowed software on your computer, or download software through a file sharing network.

You're buying an illegal copy when you purchase OEM (original equipment manufacturer) software separately, "back-up" copies, or compilation discs that include many different programs.

Know the Risks

Scams: Super-bargain software is usually illegal, often out-of-date, and can even be defective. If it's cheap, prepare to be cheated.

Viruses: Downloading software through a file sharing network can infect your computer with a virus that might erase your hard drive or worse.

Spyware: Illegal software can carry hidden programs that snoop into the personal information on your computer or record your online activities.

Punishment: If you're caught with illegal software you may be suspended, expelled, or exposed to legal liability. Some people have even been sent to jail.



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