

**FACTORS INFLUENCING SOFTWARE PIRACY
IN
SRI LANKA**

By

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The Dissertation was submitted to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Business Administration.

Department of Computer Science and Engineering

University of Moratuwa

December 2008

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the dissertation titled “Factors Influencing Software Piracy in Sri Lanka” is my own work and effort and in part or whole has not been submitted for any other academic qualification at any institute. Where other sources of information have been used, they have been acknowledged.

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December 2008

ABSTRACT

Computers and Software have been swift to gain popularity ever since their advent in Sri Lanka. Though we are behind our immediate neighbour India, Information Technology (IT) as an industry has also seen a dramatic boom in the Island.

Yet, along with the excitement of a techno savvy society in the making, the menace of software piracy too has seen a silent, yet rapid growth. The situation has grown to an alarming level of 90% piracy rate, thus placing Sri Lanka among the top 5 countries in the world with the highest piracy rate and also within the top two in the Asian region.

A low piracy rate is of much importance when it comes to maintaining healthy foreign trade relationships and attracting foreign software vendors and also for the growth of the local software industry catering to the local market. Research of this nature is of much significance as attempts made to combat piracy in the absence of proper analysis would be futile, as even at present the laws enacted have proved to have made little impact considering the high rate of piracy.

This research attempted to fill a void created by the absence of research in the software piracy area in the Island, by giving an insight to the factors contributing to software piracy in Sri Lanka with significant research focus on individual software piracy.

As such several contributory factors were identified through previous research and a pilot study done locally which were verified through a full scaled survey and subsequent analysis done using regression analysis to identify significant relationships between the factor and individual software piracy.

This research identified “affordability of original proprietary software”, “availability of original proprietary software”, “social acceptance of software piracy”, “perception of the piracy issue” and “awareness level of the individual” as the most influential factors contributing towards individual software piracy.

Among the key recommendations made through this research the need to implement measures to increase awareness and change the public perception on software piracy and importance of copyright protection of software. Additional measures to popularise Open Source Software (FOSS) were also among the suggestions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The completion of this research and thesis would not have been a reality if not for the support and guidance of several key individuals.

Initially I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Shantha Fernando, my supervisor, who has been constantly guiding my efforts and providing valuable insight and also Ms. Vishaka Nanayakkara, Head of Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) for her much valued guidance and support.

I owe a big thank you to Mr. Jayantha Fernando, Legal Advisor of the Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka (ICTA), for providing valuable insight to legal aspects concerning the protection of computer software.

I further extend my gratitude to all academic and non-academic staff at the Department of CSE and library staff of University of Moratuwa, for their support in numerous ways.

My appreciation also goes out to all participants of my pilot studies and final survey who provided the crucial data, enabling me to complete this research successfully.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my parents, family and friends who supported me throughout the research in numerous ways and have always been a source of motivation.

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List of Abbreviations

BSA	Business Software Alliance
BU	Business Unit
CD/VCD	Compact Disk/ Video Compact Disk
CSE	Computer Science and Engineering
FOSS	Free and Open Source Software
FSF	Free Software Foundation
ICTA	Information and Communication Technology Agency of Sri Lanka
IDC	International Data Corporation
IIPA	International Intellectual Property Alliance
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IS	Information System
IT	Information Technology
NEA	Nationwide Enterprise Architecture Standards
NIPO	National Intellectual Property Office
OS	Operating System
OSI	Open Source Initiative
OSS	Open Source Software
SME	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
TPB	Theory of Planned Behaviour
US	United States
US\$	United States Dollar