Pirated Software: Costing You More Than You Bargained For

Too good to be true: Consumers across Asia are falling for “Free Software” offers and low price carrots dangled by retailers when buying PCs.

Vendors Selling PCs with Pirated Software Endangering their Customers

According to Microsoft’s Asia PC Test Purchase Sweep, which examined 166 new PCs sold in Asia:

- 83% of the PCs were loaded with pirated software.
- PC vendors installing pirated software typically turn off the PCs’ security features.
- PCs with malware or without security features on are left vulnerable to cyberattacks and other risks.

The Cost of Using Pirated Software

- Loss of data
- Identity theft
- Compromised PC performance

Cybercriminals are exploiting pirated software to spread malware and gain access to systems:

- 84% of the PCs loaded with pirated software were infected with malware.
- Provide cybercriminals remote access and control of the PCs.
- Shut down anti-virus software, send spam messages and download additional malware.

Don’t Fall Prey to Cybercriminals

“Using genuine software is the first line of defense against cybercriminals.”

Mary Jo Schrade
Assistant General Counsel & Regional Director, Digital Crimes Unit, Microsoft Asia

The Asia PC Test Purchase Sweep examined a total of 166 new PCs from 9 markets across Asia – India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. The PC samples selected for this study were purchased from retailers that offered PCs at much lower cost and free software bundles to lure customers. In many cases, these retailers also sold pirated software at their store.