FACTORS INFLUENCING SOFTWARE PIRACY IN SRI LANKA

By

Isuru Upendra Pieris Suriyapperuma

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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.

I.U.P.Suriyapperuma  Date
MBA/IT/05/9069

Approved by:

Mr. Shantha Fernando (Supervisor)  Date
Senior Lecturer
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Moratuwa

MBA in IT
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering
University of Moratuwa
Sri Lanka
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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.
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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