

# Ethics in Downloading & Copying Softwares

By Muath Alissa

# Introduction

- Rising Issue
- the issue of illegal download
- copying software

# Copyright

- **What is copyright?**

Copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws of the United States (title 17, U. S. Code) to the authors of “original works of authorship,” including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works.”

# Risks

- **What is personal risk?**
  - You could get sued for using unpermitted software and the fines might get to 500,000\$, it depends on what you did exactly. But are you willing to take this risk?
  - Your computer will be vulnerable for viruses, and you will lose the full features of the software like customer support, updated and so on.”

# Ethics

- **Define ethics?**

It is the discipline that deals with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation. Ethics can also be regarded as a set of moral principles or values

# Ethics Principles Approach

**Ethics Principles Approach:** is the ethical understanding and standards that helps when any person faces an ethical issue. These principles are:

- **Utilitarianism:** it is based on the result of any action whether it is good or bad and make a judgment on it. Also, it should do greater good for greater number.
- **Rights:** These rights can be legal or moral rights.

# Ethics Principles Approach (Cont.)

- **Justice:** on the fair treatment for each other.  
So, is it fair to steal other's work?
- **Golden Rule:** "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

# Ethical Test Approach

**Ethical Tests approach:** Have guidelines that help you to test any action or behavior. These guideline are:

- **Test of Common Sense:** is this action making sense? What are the consequences?



# Ethical Test Approach (Cont.)

- **Test of One's Best Self:** each person has his own perfect image of himself at their best. So, before any action is been made a person ask himself, is this something that I would do? Committing a crime or stealing.
- **Test of making something public:** It raises the question "how can I feel if others knew I was doing this?" This test is to see if the action survives against public disclosure.

# Ethical Test Approach (Cont.)

## Watch out for the Big Four:

- **Greed:** means “the drive to acquire more and more in your own self-interest.” So taking someone else’s work without giving them what they deserve, isn’t that greed?
- **Speed:** Speed means “refers to the tendency to rush things and cut corners because you are under the pressure of time.”
- **Laziness:** is “may lead you to take the easy course of action that requires the least amount of effort.” Downloading music illegally, copying software all come under this category.
- **Haziness:** which means “to act or react without clear idea of what is going on”

# Conclusion

- My Opinion: Don't do it!!!



Thank you

# Sources

[www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov)

[Wikipedia.com](http://Wikipedia.com)

JoAnn Davy, in his article “The Value of using ‘Real Software’”

Business and Society: Ethics and Stakeholder Management”, Archie B. Carroll, Ann K. Buchholtz