

E1.2 : LANGUE ANGLAISE APPLIQUÉE À L'INFORMATIQUE ET À LA GESTION
--

(partie écrite)

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

*L'usage d'un dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé.
Les calculatrices sont interdites.*

Copyright Crackdown

Peter Thomas, PC Advisor, June 2003

Many PC users are under the impression that when they buy software they automatically have the 'right to copy', claiming the need for a backup should something go wrong with the original. This is not the case. You are merely buying the right to use the software in line with the terms and conditions within the licence agreement. There is no such thing as a right to copy.

Under the new regulations laid down by EC Copyright Directive (aka the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003), it will become an offence for anyone to copy and distribute software if he/ she knows or has reason to believe it to be in breach of copyright law.

In plain English, this means that the bosses of any company running a website that demonstrates how to copy the latest electronic bloodbath game could be facing a two-year prison sentence if convicted. What's more, hefty fines can be imposed in addition to the jail term.

You might consider all this harsh. After all, surely a few people downloading a copy of Virtual Rockery 7.0 aren't going to bring the software empires to their knees ?

Each year around 17,000 people in the EC lose their jobs because of software piracy and the illegal downloading of copyright protected music.

The problem is now so serious that a 2002 survey conducted by Fast (Federation Against Software Theft) found that 83 percent of survey respondents estimate that just under half of software in use in the UK is pirated, with 71 percent believing the majority of this is intentional.

Over the whole of the EU the annual loss to the software industry is €2.9bn and the EU music industry reported a 7.5 percent downturn in CD sales in 2003 – attributed largely to P2P (peer-to-peer) download sites like Kazaa.

These are worrying figures and something that member states just can't afford. EU lawmakers say that the introduction of this new regulation will, at last, make it possible to tackle the people who are at the root of the problem – the distributors. "Ignorance of the law does not excuse infringement," says Fast. Nobody should think that they'll be immune to prosecution because they didn't know they were breaking the law.

30 A worrying development is the mounting evidence that software and music piracy is becoming closely linked with organised crime and even terrorist activities. Crooks are tempted by the ease of copyright infringement, the high profits involved and, until now, the relatively low risk of being caught and prosecuted.

35 The web is a copyright thief's dream come true. It's possible to distribute files to thousands of people via a simple site and the sheer volume of internet traffic makes it relatively easy to avoid detection. Millions of illegal downloads occur every day and any legislation that exposes those perpetrators can only be a good thing.

The Internet has made it possible to transfer files at the click of a mouse and this has fuelled the problem. Copyright holders will welcome the new European law, which joins the existing American digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 in the continuing fight against theft.

40 With increased powers to wield their legal stick, the next step for the biggest copyright holders is to provide an appropriate carrot to ensure people buy rather than copy. Implementing pay-per-download services is how the world's largest record labels plan to do this.

45 The challenge now for BMG, EMI, Warner, Universal and Sony is to make these new sites a success. That means investing large sums of cash to raise awareness, as well as making the end-user experience much better than Kazaa and Morpheus could ever provide

QUESTIONS

Vous indiquerez le nombre de mots pour chacun des exercices.

PREMIERE PARTIE (12 points)

Résumer le texte **en français** en 200 mots (+ ou - 10%)

DEUXIEME PARTIE (8 points)

Répondre aux deux questions **en anglais**.

1. Do you practise software piracy or illegal downloading of copyright protected music ?
Explain why you do it or why you don't do it.
(70 words + ou - 10%) (3 points)
2. In your opinion, what are the economic consequences of software piracy and illegal downloading of copyright protected music? Why has the problem become so serious?
(130 words + ou - 10%) (5 points)