

manuals seized

Computer
manuals.



PENALTY

THE sale of infringing copies of manuals is an offence under Singapore's Copyright Act 1987.

Offenders can be fined up to \$100,000, and/or jailed up to five years.

BY AUGUSTINE PANG

ABOUT 3,000 pirated copies of WordPerfect and Microsoft computer manuals were seized from an electronics company at Tan Boon Liat Building yesterday.

This is believed to be one of the largest computer anti-piracy raids over the last two years.

The last major seizure was in March when 300 diskettes and about 1,000 computer manuals were seized.

Five private investigators from Commercial Private Investigation and Security (CPIS), armed with a court warrant, found the manuals stored in the company's storeroom at about 11 am.

The company is believed to be one of the suppliers of pirated computer manuals to retail shops in Sim Lim Square, Sim Lim Tower and Funan Centre, said Mr Philip Tan, CPIS' chief investigator.

Mr Tan said the manuals, which allegedly infringe copyrights belonging to members of Business

The genuine ones, which include instructional materials for Microsoft's DOS, MS-DOS and Windows, cost between \$100 and \$700 a copy.

BSA is an organisation set up to combat software piracy. Besides Microsoft and WordPerfect, its other members include Aldus, Apple Computer, Autodesk, Lotus and Novell.

Mr Tan said the pirated copies were exact replicas of the originals.

He said: "They look like the real thing, the instructions are the same and are copied word for word".

Mr Alban Kang, the lawyer acting for BSA, said the only difference between the two is the inferior quality of paper used in the pirated versions.

Mr Kang said these pirated versions were believed to be imported from Indonesia and Malaysia.

The genuine ones are sold together with the computer programs and diskettes.

Mr Kang said BSA is likely to take legal action against the supplier

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