



Press Room

Search:

Two Ohio Companies Settle Software Copying Claims

Software Watchdog Group Collects \$107,000

Washington, D.C., (Tuesday, August 14) -- The Business Software Alliance (BSA), a watchdog group representing the nation's leading software manufacturers, today announced that two Ohio companies agreed to pay a combined total of \$107,000 to settle claims relating to unlicensed copies of software programs installed on office computers. In addition to making their respective payments, both companies have agreed to delete any unlicensed copies, purchase replacement software and strengthen their software management practices.

Most of BSA's investigations begin with a call to its hotline 1-888-NO PIRACY or with a report to the Online Reporting Form on its website www.bsa.org. In these cases, BSA's counsel contacted the companies, who then cooperated in the investigations.

The following companies settled claims with the BSA:

- August Mack, an engineering firm located in Columbus, OH, paid \$55,000 to the BSA after a self-audit revealed more copies of Autodesk and Microsoft software programs on its computers than it had licenses to support.
- Northeast Tire Mold, Inc., a tire mold manufacturer located in Akron, OH, paid \$52,000 to the BSA after a self-audit revealed more copies of Autodesk, CNC Software/Mastercam, Microsoft and Symantec software programs on its computers than it had licenses to support.

"We are sending a clear message to businesses that copying software is more expensive than acquiring it legally in the first place," said Bob Kruger, vice president of enforcement for the Business Software Alliance. "Many companies operate under the assumption that if they get caught with illegal software copies on their computers, the result will be like a traffic ticket. In reality, U.S. copyright law allows for up to \$150,000 in damages for each work infringed."

"We never intentionally copied software, but when BSA investigated us, we simply did not have receipts for every program we had," said Bryan Petriko, vice president of August Mack. "Ultimately, we decided that settlement was cheaper than defending the lawsuit BSA threatened. We have since upgraded our computers and purchased new software. We will certainly keep the receipts this time."

According to the 2000 Global Software Piracy Study, * the U.S. software

