

PROFILE

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LOWERING PC SOFTWARE PIRACY

Sponsored by Business Software Alliance



HONG KONG

January 2008

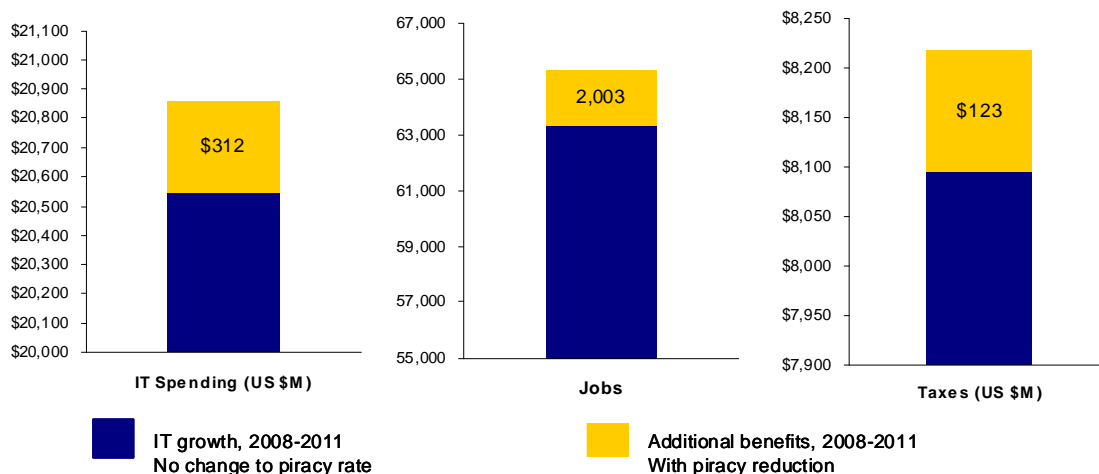
Ten point reduction in PC software piracy would deliver an additional 2,000 new jobs, \$120 million in tax revenues, and \$300 million in economic growth in Hong Kong

In 2007, Hong Kong, harboring almost 7 million people, spent \$4.6 billion on information technology (IT) – computers, peripherals, network equipment, packaged software and IT services. That spending accounted for 2.3% of gross domestic product (GDP), supported more than 8,500 IT companies with 54,500 IT industry employees, and helped generate \$1.7 billion in IT-related taxes.

Yet the IT sector's contribution to the Hong Kong economy could be even bigger if Hong Kong's PC software piracy rate were to be lowered 10 percentage points over the next four years, creating an additional 2,000 jobs, \$312 million in local industry revenues, and \$123 million in additional tax revenues for federal, regional, and local governments.

Benefits from Lowering PC Software Piracy In Hong Kong

Benefits of lowering software piracy
from 53%* to 43% from 2008-2011



* 2006 PC Software Piracy Rate, IDC Global Software Piracy Study

This incremental boost to the economy would add highly skilled jobs to the labor force, support the creation of new companies, and fund public services. Because most of the benefits accrue to services and channel firms, most of the benefits from lowering piracy stay within the country.

Lowering PC software piracy delivers such benefits because other sectors derive revenue from working with, installing, servicing, and reselling software.

Therefore, a 10 percentage point drop in PC piracy not only impacts the performance and economic contributions of the overall software industry, but also ripples outward into the IT services and distribution sectors, each of which is larger than the software industry itself.

Study Background

The cornerstone of this research is IDC's Piracy Impact Model (PIM), which takes inputs from IDC's market research around the globe on IT spending and software piracy along with other information on IT employment levels and IT-related taxes. IDC has been conducting economic analysis on the impact of IT and software on local economies since 2002. Key inputs to the study include:

- ☒ IDC forecasts of IT spending by hardware, software, and services.
- ☒ IDC estimates of imports and exports of hardware, software, services.
- ☒ Macroeconomic data on GDP, workforce, population, tax rates, and total government tax receipts.
- ☒ IDC estimates of services and distribution channel activity that revolves around software.
- ☒ The annual BSA-IDC Global Software Piracy Study which estimates rates of packaged PC software piracy around the globe. The most recent version can be found at www.bsa.org/globalstudy.

For more information on the study methodology see, *The Economic Benefits of Lowering PC Software Piracy: Methodology and Definitions*, published in January 2008.

The Economic Benefits of Lowering PC Software Piracy

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2007-2011 CAGR	2008-2011 Cumulative
PC Software Piracy (BSA Rate)*								
Current Level	53%	53%	53%	53%	53%	53%		
Proposed Lower Rate			50.6%	48.1%	45.6%	43.1%		
IT Spending (US\$M)								
Without Piracy Reduction	\$4,272	\$4,608	\$4,833	\$5,047	\$5,234	\$5,435	4.2%	
With Piracy Reduction		\$4,608	\$4,861	\$5,106	\$5,327	\$5,566	4.8%	
Difference			\$28	\$59	\$94	\$131		\$312
IT Industry Employment								
Without Piracy Reduction	52,277	54,479	56,497	58,871	61,100	63,363	3.8%	
With Piracy Reduction		54,479	56,951	59,810	62,556	65,366	4.7%	
Difference			454	939	1,456	2,003		
IT Related Tax Revenues (US\$M)								
Without Piracy Reduction	\$1,561	\$1,684	\$1,808	\$1,942	\$2,089	\$2,256	7.6%	
With Piracy Reduction		\$1,684	\$1,819	\$1,965	\$2,126	\$2,309	8.2%	
Difference			\$11	\$23	\$37	\$53		\$123

Source: IDC Piracy Impact Study, 2008; *IDC Global Software Piracy Study, May 2007

Copyright Notice

External Publication of IDC Information and Data — Any IDC information that is to be used in advertising, press releases, or promotional materials requires prior written approval from the appropriate IDC Vice President or Country Manager. Copyright 2008 IDC. Reproduction without written permission is forbidden.