

## PROFILE

# THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF LOWERING PC SOFTWARE PIRACY

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## UNITED STATES

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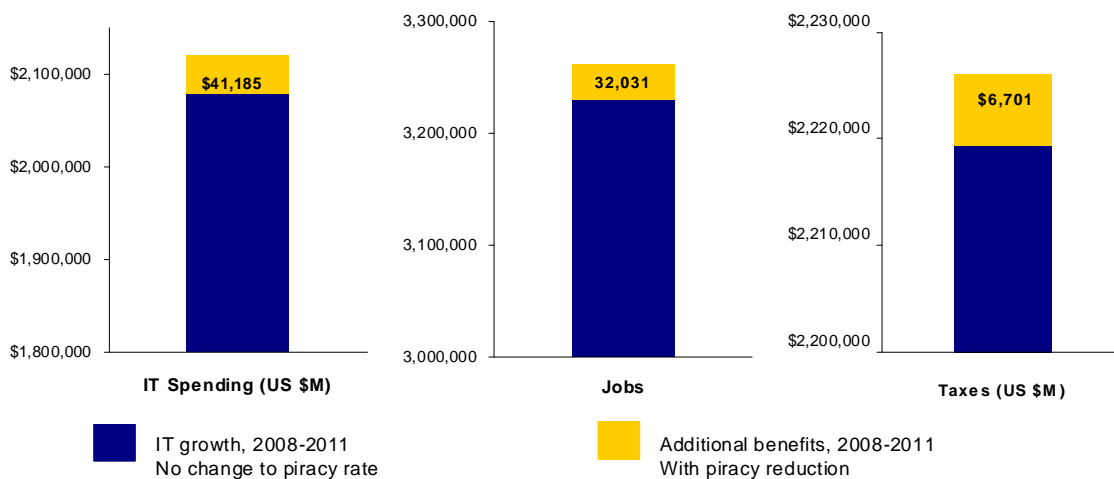
**Ten point reduction in PC software piracy would deliver an additional 32,000 new jobs, \$6.7 billion in tax revenues, and \$41 billion in economic growth in the United States**

In 2007, the United States, a country of more than 300 million people, spent nearly \$458 billion on information technology (IT) – computers, peripherals, network equipment, packaged software and IT services. That spending accounted for 3.4% of gross domestic product (GDP), supported more than 314,000 IT companies with 2.9 million IT industry employees, and helped generate \$485 billion in IT-related taxes.

Yet the IT sector's contribution to the United States economy could be even bigger if America's PC software piracy rate were to be lowered 10 percentage points over the next four years, creating an additional 32,031 jobs, \$41 billion in local industry revenues and \$6.7 billion in additional tax revenues for federal, regional, and local governments.

## Benefits from Lowering PC Software Piracy In the United States

Benefits of lowering software piracy  
from 21%\* to 11% 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](http://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	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%	21%		
Proposed Lower Rate			18.2%	15.7%	13.2%	10.7%		
IT Spending (US\$M)								
Without Piracy Reduction	\$431,815	\$457,938	\$482,328	\$507,542	\$532,551	\$557,033	5.0%	
With Piracy Reduction		\$457,938	\$485,923	\$515,224	\$544,900	\$574,593	5.8%	
Difference			\$3,595	\$7,682	\$12,349	\$17,560		\$41,185
IT Industry Employment								
Without Piracy Reduction	2,828,507	2,927,756	3,002,720	3,078,000	3,156,100	3,229,635	2.5%	
With Piracy Reduction		2,927,756	3,009,655	3,092,449	3,178,966	3,261,666	2.7%	
Difference			6,935	14,449	22,866	32,031		
IT Related Tax Revenues (US\$M)								
Without Piracy Reduction	\$461,946	\$484,779	\$511,952	\$541,405	\$569,193	\$596,797	5.3%	
With Piracy Reduction		\$484,779	\$512,539	\$542,654	\$571,201	\$599,653	5.5%	
Difference			\$587	\$1,249	\$2,008	\$2,857		\$6,701

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

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