

## **BEST OF SUBJECT CATEGORY AWARD COMPUTER SCIENCE – DELHI NATIONAL FAIR**

### **Combating Software Piracy**

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This project is designed to fight against Software Piracy. The focus of this project is to enable only the purchaser to use the software. The software package should consist of an installation Compact Disc, a specially designed Write-Protected Readable floppy disk that will serve the main purpose of our project and a Product Feedback form, which is equally important. The result will be that the Product will not be anonymously used on different systems, which is the main cause of the Home and Local Area Network Piracy.

Making Illegal copies and selling them at lower rates is one of the main causes of Industrial Piracy. When the purchaser starts the installation of the concerned software, the setup will ask the user for the floppy disk which is mentioned above. The floppy disk will contain a program that will create a hidden file in itself that will save the computer's Company name, Read Only Memory number, Basic Input Output Setup number and user name. If the disk is not available the setup will terminate. After this the setup will start and as the setup continues the floppy disk will erase its contents and as the setup ends the floppy disk will only contain the file that was created earlier. If this program is installed later on any other computer the setup will terminate, as the floppy disk will not have the program that the Compact Disk needs to install. This method will check against Home Piracy where a friend buys the software and distributes its copies to his other friends.

If the Hard Disk Drive gets formatted and if the Compact Disk is installed again, it will terminate the setup, as the Compact Disk will not be able to execute the program in the floppy disk, which the floppy disk has already erased. In that case the user will have to send the floppy disk with the product form, which is already mentioned above, to the concerned software company. The software company will examine the hidden file of the floppy disk, which contains the Computer's Read Only Memory number, Basic Input and Output Setup number etc. The company will then create a special floppy disk, which will only work on that computer if the contents of the hidden file match the computer's Basic Input Output Setup number, Read Only Memory number etc. In this way the purchaser would be the only person who is able to use the concerned software.

If a Compact Disk copier illegally copies the Compact Disk, it will be of no use, as it will not work without the Floppy disk. Therefore this process can be used to control Home, Local Area Network, Industrial as well as Corporate Piracies. This project has already been tried and tested in our School Computer Lab by both of us. If this is industrially used, it can be of a great success in controlling Piracy.