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Algorithms

Computer algorithms should not be able to be patented. There are things that have been deemed unpatentable such as "mathematical formulas, laws of nature and natural phenomena like lightning and electricity" ("What Can Be Patented?"). Since these things cannot have a patent why should a computer algorithm? If a company wants to keep a computer algorithm that they developed a secret, then by all means they should. However, if another company develops a similar algorithm without stealing trade secrets, then they should be able to implement that algorithm also without fear. If a start up information technology business comes up with a better option for teleworking, they should be able to put it on the market without fear of being sued, and without having to waste time and money trying to fight the bigger corporations for patents and copyrights.

Software piracy is a different situation when compared to algorithm patenting. Piracy is the intentional stealing of someone's work. Piracy causes a loss of money to businesses small and large alike. There are five primary types of piracy; "counterfeiting, internet piracy, end user piracy, client-server overuse, and hard-disk loading" ("There Are Five Main Types").

Besides taking money out of the pocket of the developers of the software, there are other reasons that software should not be pirated. When a person engages in piracy of software, they are putting themselves at risk of prosecution. Other reasons that one should not pirate software is that pirated "software could contain unwanted viruses and malware, you do not have access to customer support, no warranties, and a chance that the software could fail" ("What Is Software Piracy?"). The most common type of piracy happens in the workplace and at educational institutions and that is end user piracy, some people also call it softlifting. Softlifting is when using one purchase piece of software, a user will download it to multiple machines ("What Is Software Piracy?").

Works Cited

"There Are Five Main Types of Software Piracy." Types of Piracy, NortonLifeLock Inc., <https://www.nortonlifelock.com/us/en/legal/anti-piracy/types-piracy/>.

"What Can Be Patented? Can You Patent an Idea?" The Michelson Institute for Intellectual Property, 23 July 2021, <https://michelsonip.com/what-can-be-patented/>.

"What Is Software Piracy?" *What Is Software Piracy?*, Panda Security Mediacycenter, 17 Dec. 2020, <https://www.pandasecurity.com/en/mediacycenter/panda-security/software-piracy/>.