

## **Press release**

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# **Software: License retroactively now without risk**

**Companies who have too few software licences are assuming a high level of risk, with their managers opening themselves up for penalties. So, what should a company do upon discovering it is underlicensed? The used software market provides an efficient solution, especially now at the end of the year when there are funds left over in the software budget.**

If there are more licenses being used at a company than the number actually acquired, then it is a case of “duplication of a protected work without consent from the owner of the rights”. This is a major infringement of copyright law. And that is a punishable offence. “There is a threat of unpleasant fines for the company, and of prosecution under criminal law”, emphasises Peter Schneider, Managing Director at used software trader usedSoft. “Regardless of intent, the respective managing director is personally liable, as underlicensing does not fall in line with ‘the diligence exercised by a prudent businessperson’.” Even negligence constitutes grounds for liability, and can result in up to three years of imprisonment. While such drastic measures are an exception, there is definitely a risk of criminal proceedings.

So, what can a company do when it discovers it is underlicensed? Simple: license retroactively as quickly as possible. This can, of course, be done directly with the software manufacturer. However, they may apply penalty fees. Or, it can also be done on the used software market, like with usedSoft, the best-known provider in the industry, offering price discounts of 25 to 50 per cent on the retail price. Another factor is that the most current software version is not always needed, especially in cases of retroactive licensing. However, older programmes are often no longer available on the “classic” software market.

Add to this that precisely now, the end of the year, is the right moment to purchase software as a sensible way for companies to apply their residual software budget. It is also quite uncertain how budgets will be dimensioned in the upcoming year considering the weakening economy. “That is why licence managers wipe the slate clean every year in December”, explains Peter Schneider. “Having a clear licensing conscience is the best foundation for a stress-free turn of the year.”

### **About usedSoft**

usedSoft was set up in 2003, and it is a leading European supplier of used software originating from all application fields. Buyers of usedSoft licences are companies as well as software dealers. Customers of usedSoft are, among others, companies such as Edeka, Karstadt, Neckermann, Rewe, a leading soccer club belonging to the German Soccer League and a number of different Savings Banks. German authorities are more and more using used software as well: Next to the Bavarian State Capital of Munich, the German Federal Social Court in Kassel, the Municipal Administration of Bad Salzufflen and the Data Central Office of Baden-Württemberg, there were more than 100 additional local authorities benefiting from usedSoft licences. The cost-saving benefit when purchasing already used licences ranges between 20 and 50 percent of the sales price.

[www.usedsoft.com](http://www.usedsoft.com)

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