



The root of the problem called pirate software

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The use of pirated software is a problem that concerns more than half of the companies in Mexico. According to the 2016 Global Software Survey, carried out by the BSA, 52% of companies in our country work with this type of system.

There are many risks involved in using this software: organizations become more susceptible to cyber-espionage and theft of information, and may even suffer damage to their image - depending on the industry - because they cannot update their systems

or install any antivirus.

The cost that companies can pay for this type of inconvenience is enormous, because in addition to the economic resources involved, in some cases, invaluable information is lost with high risk of being misused.

In addition, they can be subject to heavy penalties in case a software provider chooses them at random to perform an annual review and notify the use of illegal software.

This is a serious and delicate problem, but what is the real root of this situation? Answer is that most companies lack a set of policies, procedures and security controls to prevent their workers from installing unauthorized programs.

When an employee downloads a pirated software, for example, through an app or a game on his computer, whether computer or even smartphone, a series of programs, such as malware or Trojan horse, are activated. Hacking the company's system, putting the security of the company at risk.

How to avoid this bad practice?

Given this situation, companies need, first of all, to promote an awareness program for all employees of the organization, in order to awaken in them a notion of the impact and seriousness of the damages that can be generated by using a Pirated software.

Likewise, it is important for companies to work on the development of a software asset management office, that is, an additional area to the systems department, which is solely responsible for managing the software.

This group, which very few companies currently have, will be in charge of creating policies and procedures for control and use of software within the organization, preventing employees from downloading

and installing an illegal system.

Software development... pirated?

The use of pirated software is a problem that does not distinguish industries. In fact, according to a study carried out by Parametría, one of the most affected segments in this practice is, ironically, the one on which companies are dedicated to software development.

Research data show that, in the country, at least 92% of organizations in this sector have installed in their equipment some type of illegal software.

This phenomenon can be attributed to several factors, however, the main one is that in many cases, companies use beta or range versions of software - test versions

that can be downloaded from internet or bought externally - to be able to develop it. However, it is not taken into account that most of the time this type of software, which is not the final version of the program, has only a certain time of use and can present several problems.

In this sense, the recommendation goes in the same direction once again, in the importance of companies to implement the necessary policies and controls to avoid the installation of pirated software. It is therefore, a question of closing the door to becoming a vulnerable target.

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