



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **IOWA MAN SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS FOR EBAY SALE OF PIRATED SOFTWARE**

**Washington, D.C., (March 31, 2006)** – The Business Software Alliance (BSA), the organization representing the world’s leading software developers, commended the recent efforts of the Department of Justice after the sentencing of Steven Brock to 18 months in prison for selling and distributing pirated software through the Internet.

Brock, 54, from Storm Lake, admitted to using the popular online auction site eBay to sell hundreds of copies of illegally reproduced software. Brock was sentenced this morning in Sioux City after pleading guilty to criminal copyright infringement, and will be ordered to pay his entire gross revenue as restitution to the software companies he victimized.

The matter was referred to authorities by BSA, who encourages online consumers to take the necessary cyber safety precautions to avoid getting misled by similar online pirates. The BSA has several tips for consumers to be more aware of how to spot pirated software. Among them are to watch out for products labeled as “academic” or “backup” versions, programs that don’t contain manuals or other documentation, and software titles from different publishers on a single disk. If the price is too good to be true, it probably is.

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"The sale of pirated software greatly harms the legitimate market and consumers, costing billions of dollars each year," said John Wolfe, Director of Internet Enforcement for the BSA. "We encourage consumers to be aware of the risks involved with buying 3<sup>rd</sup> party software on the Internet, and hope that the increased attention to this problem by law enforcement agencies will send the message that software piracy is a crime that can result in very serious consequences."

An independent study\* shows that 21 percent of software in the United States is unlicensed. Last year, the U.S. lost \$6.6 billion as a result of software piracy.

\* "Global Software Piracy Study," conducted by IDC for the Business Software Alliance, May 2005

*The Business Software Alliance (www.bsa.org) is the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world. BSA is the voice of the world's commercial software industry and its hardware partners before governments and in the international marketplace. Its members represent one of the fastest growing industries in the world. BSA programs foster technology innovation through education and policy initiatives that promote copyright protection, cyber security, trade and e-commerce. BSA members include Adobe, Apple, Autodesk, Avid, Bentley Systems, Borland, Cadence Design Systems, Cisco Systems, CNC Software/Mastercam, Dell, Entrust, HP, IBM, Intel, Internet Security Systems, McAfee, Microsoft, Phoenix Technologies, PTC, RSA Security, SAP, SolidWorks, Sybase, Symantec, Synopsys, The MathWorks and UGS.*

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