

Department of Justice

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Internet Seller of Pirated Software Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison for Criminal Copyright Infringement

Robert Cimino, 60, of Syracuse, N.Y., was sentenced to 18 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Trenga in the Eastern District of Virginia for his sales of more than \$250,000 worth of pirated software, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney Neil H. MacBride of the Eastern District of Virginia.

Cimino was also ordered to pay \$272,655 in restitution to copyright owners and sentenced to three years of supervised release following his prison term.

On Feb. 25, 2010, Cimino pleaded guilty to a single count of criminal copyright infringement for manufacturing and distributing pirated copies of popular business, engineering and graphic design copies of software titles by Adobe, Autodesk, Intuit, Quark and others over a more than three-year period. According to court documents, Cimino operated under the business name "SoftwareSuite" and advertised the sale of discounted popular software programs on a variety of Internet-based advertising forums, including www.buysellcommunity.com, www.adpost.com and www.sell.com. Customers would contact Cimino by email and would typically pay for the products by PayPal. Cimino would then mail pirated copies of the programs he had burned to CD or DVD to the customers, including customers in the Eastern District of Virginia. From February 2006 to September 2009, Cimino received at least \$270,035 in gross proceeds from his sales of pirated software products.

The case was prosecuted by Trial Attorney Tyler G. Newby of the Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jay V. Prabhu of the Eastern District of Virginia. The case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office.

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Criminal Division