

# PIRACY IMPACT STUDY: ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF REDUCING SOFTWARE PIRACY



## Hong Kong

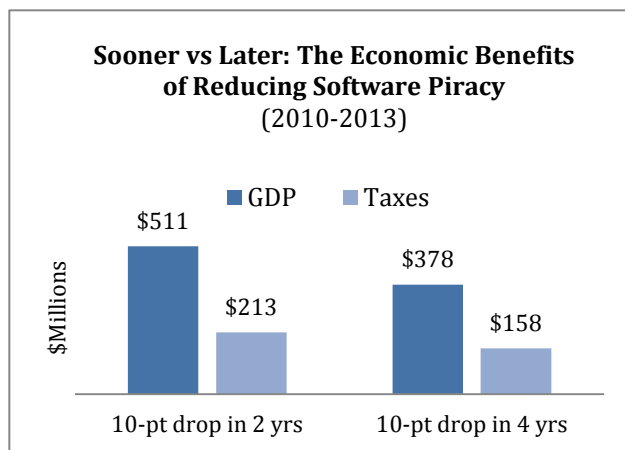
PROFILE

**Reducing software piracy stimulates spending throughout the economy—and the faster software theft is addressed, the greater the benefit.**

47 percent of software installed on personal computers (PC) in Hong Kong last year was pirated, representing a commercial value of US\$218 million. Yet the ripple effects of this theft go beyond the software publishing industry, depriving local distributors and service providers of spending that creates jobs and generates new tax revenues.

Reducing software piracy has the reverse effect, sending ripples of stimulus through the information technology (IT) sector and broader economy. This study, "The Economic Benefits of Reducing Software Piracy," produced by IDC and BSA, documents the economic impact of reducing PC software piracy in Hong Kong:

- Reducing the PC software piracy rate in Hong Kong by 10 percentage points in four years would deliver: **US\$378 million in new economic activity; 2,222 new IT jobs; and US\$158 million in additional tax revenues** by 2013.
- Front-loading the benefits by reducing software piracy 10 points in the first two years of the same four-year period compounds the economic benefits by 35 percent, delivering: **US\$511 million in new economic activity and US\$213 million in new tax revenues** to support essential local services.



The findings show that concerted action to reduce software piracy in Hong Kong should be a priority — sooner rather than later.

### Economic Impact of Reducing PC Software Piracy in Hong Kong (2010-2013)

	New Jobs	Added GDP(M)	New Tax Revenues (M)
<b>10 point drop in 4 years</b>	2,222	US\$378	US\$158
<b>10 point drop in the first 2 of 4 years</b>	2,222	US\$511	US\$213

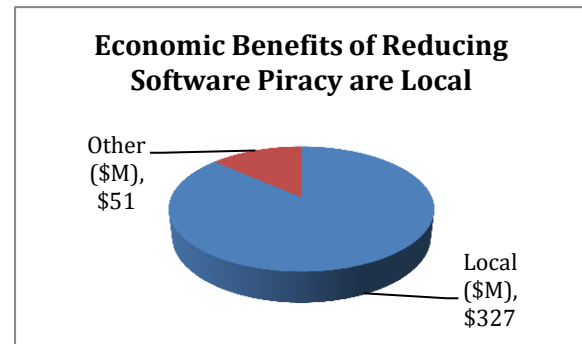
## The Big Picture: Software & the Hong Kong Economy

The IT sector already is a major contributor to the Hong Kong economy. In 2009:

- The IT industry supported 57,038 highly skilled, high-paying jobs in Hong Kong.
- IT companies and their employees paid US\$2.04 billion in taxes.

Just as IT helps drive the economy, software drives IT. Spending on software has a ripple effect on the broader IT industry because selling, servicing and supporting software creates downstream economic activity.

Because of software's unique role as a revenue generator for local service and distribution companies, most of the benefits of reducing software piracy remain in the country. **In Hong Kong, IDC finds that 87 percent of the added GDP from a four-year, 10-point drop in piracy would remain in the market.**



**87% of added GDP from a 10 point drop in piracy accrues to the local market**

## BSA Blueprint for Reducing Software Piracy

Reducing software piracy is a proven way for governments to stimulate the economy. BSA's blueprint for reducing software piracy involves five key steps:

- Increase public education about the value of intellectual property (IP) and the business value of software asset management (SAM) to manage software licenses.
- Implement the World Intellectual Property Organization's Copyright Treaty to create an effective legislative environment for copyright protection, online and offline.
- Create strong and workable IP enforcement mechanisms, as required by the World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement, and provide for vigorous enforcement of misappropriation and infringement of new software innovations, such as cloud computing technologies.
- Strengthen enforcement with dedicated resources, including specialized IP enforcement units, and improve cross-border cooperation among law enforcement agencies.
- Lead by example through active SAM policies, and promote the use of legal software by government agencies, state-owned enterprises, contractors and suppliers.

### About the Study

"The Economic Benefits of Reducing Software Piracy" quantifies the economic impact of reducing PC software piracy in 42 countries representing 93 percent of the packaged software market. For more information and a description of the study methodology, see the full report at [www.bsa.org/piracyimpact](http://www.bsa.org/piracyimpact)