

Software licensing is good IT governance

Using unlicensed software is a gamble that flouts the principles of good corporate governance. While originally introduced to promote transparency and protect shareholder interest, governance principles are also helping companies in driving performance.

The increasing dependence of companies on technology requires executives to extend governance to information technology (IT), ensuring it sustains and extends the enterprise's business goals. This includes balancing IT risk and the value it offers and harnessing IT's enabling capacity, while achieving an appropriate return on investment.

According to Errol Ashwell, managing director of Autodesk Africa, policies need to be put in place for managing software licensing

and compliance along with other IT risks in areas such as security and data integrity.

"Companies that use unlicensed design software or remain in the dark about its legal status are taking a reckless gamble with company resources," he warns. "Software developers like Autodesk, have extensive online and reseller infrastructure dedicated to providing expert technical support to unlicensed users.

"Non-compliant users cannot access this backup. Should they experience technical problems, the output of designers and detailers can be severely hampered. Project milestones, and associated revenue are put in jeopardy and, sometimes, penalties can be incurred," Ashwell adds.

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