ARE YOU A VICTIM OF COUNTERFEIT WINDOWS SOFTWARE?

We have recently seen more people with older Windows PCs that were running XP or Vista developing unstable operating systems. By unstable we mean that certain attributes do not work well or not at all, e.g. E-mails do not open correctly, other software programs do not function as they should, Wi-Fi connectivity is sporadic even though the signal strength is good, etc. In some cases, the reasons for these malfunctions are bad hard drives, clogged interiors, corrupted software and/or operating system, and a host of other hardware problems.

However, upon investigating the PC's problem it is often found that the culprit is an invalid operating system. This means a pirated copy, not a "Genuine Microsoft" product has been installed and your PC does not have a legal license code. Microsoft knows that there are thousands of pirated copies in the world and consequently have stemmed this movement somewhat through its newer Windows 8/8.1 systems even though piracy exists here too. So what's the harm in a pirated copy?

The market for pirated software is huge because customers fall for the trap of buying a "real" product at a dirt cheap price. Savvy installers disable Windows Updates and change the built-in Firewall rules thereby avoiding detection by Microsoft. Consequently, users are wide open to infection, malware and spyware intrusion which even anti-virus programs cannot stop because the system allows them in. This "open door" means severe trouble for people with confidential information such as financial statements, passwords and personal data. Statistically, as a result consumers worldwide annually spend over €24 billion just dealing with identity theft, data recovery, virus and spyware removal not to mention the dangers, time and inconvenience for the consumer.

Whether we love or hate Microsoft, the majority of the world's PC users are tied to its operating systems and like buying a car, you get what you pay for. Counterfeit operating system software might be cheaper and work for the consumer but the risks are not worth it. So if you have a Windows operating system make sure that you have a genuine product.