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Over RM1b worth of pirated software seized in JB raids

JOHOR BARU, Wed. - Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry enforcement officers seized pirated computer software worth RM1.155 billion during raids on four outlets yesterday.

All the raids were conducted at the Holiday Plaza shopping centre, infamous for being the biggest retail hub for pirated software, including video compact discs, CD-ROMs and compact discs.

The raids followed a call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday that the illegal production and sale of intellectual property be curbed.

The 165 pirated copies of CD-ROMs seized yesterday retailed at RM7 each. The price of each genuine copy would range between RM8,000 and RM20,000.

The Ministry's State director Alias Mohd Noh said the raids started at 12.30pm with 11 officials from the Ministry led by deputy enforcement director Ong Seng Chye, and also Autodesk Asia Pte Ltd legal affairs manager (Asean) Ronald Chua.

He said the operators of the outlets were believed to have supplied pirated CD-ROMs to end-users who included firms and students.

"We are stunned by the speed the software reached the country for mass duplication. For instance, the new Auto CAD 2000, launched in the US last month and scheduled to be launched in Malaysia next month, is among the seized items."

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