**Copyright and the Law**

**Software Copyright Issues**

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There are many sites offering free graphics and clipart. Some are genuine and have the authority to offer you a free download of images. Many sites however may not have this authority. Popular examples are pictures, sound clips, or movie clips from Star Trek. If you visit the official Star Trek site (www.startrek.com) you will see that use of images, and even the name 'Star Trek' is protected and may not be used on 'fan sites'. Even downloading sound clips to replace the bleeps which Microsoft Windows makes is often illegal. Some sites even allow the 'free' download for complete films or music tracks. If you can download a film for free before it is even officially available on video/DVD, it is a pretty good bet that the site is unauthorised. Cover yourself. Get written permission to used downloaded materials and 'if in doubt - don't' is the safe rule. Because CD-ROM writers have become so widely available, it has become possible to copy entire CD-ROMs which can contain software, games or data. Do not do this. Always be careful of software which you may find advertised at very cheap prices, it may be illegally copied.

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