

Week 7 Topic: Intellectual Property Rights

- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Confidential Information
- ☐ Patents
- ☐ Copyright
- ☐ Acts permitted in relation to copyright
- ☐ Remedies for breach of Copyright
- ☐ Plagiarism



Introduction

- ❑ Intellectual property rights are often the most valuable assets owned, used and developed by a software house.
- ❑ Intellectual property rights include:
 - Confidential information
 - Patents
 - trade marks
 - Designs



Copyrights protecting computer programs

Introduction (continued)

- ❑ They protect information stored by electronic means and all of the paperwork which accompanies a program, such as the user manual, plus any multimedia packages and most items on the Web.
- ❑ Great care should be taken to protect, exploit and enforce intellectual property



Introduction (continued)

- ☐ The name under which a product is sold may be registered as a **trade mark**
- ☐ the hardware or a process used in its manufacture may be protected by a **patent**
- ☐ the look of the product may be registered in the **Designs Registry**
- ☐ software can be protected by **copyright**
- ☐ the know-how which goes into the development of the product may be protected as confidential information



Introduction (continued)

- ☐ Unauthorized use of intellectual property can be stopped by injunction and damages may be sought for infringement of these rights
- ☐ The law is constantly changing with technological advance
- ☐ General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) concerned the protection of intellectual property rights in the face of widespread piracy of software products



Confidential Information

- ☐ Information “which is not public property and public knowledge”
- ☐ Any category of information, from personal confidences, to trade secrets and sensitive government information, any or all of which a computer scientist might handle in the course of his or her work, or all or any of which a firm may want to protect against unauthorized use or disclosure by others
- ☐ Information will be protected only if it is confidential. Non-confidential information, unless protected, e.g. by copyright or a patent is deemed to be in the public domain and can be used by

anyone.



Confidential Information

- ❑ Three conditions must be satisfied before an action for breach of confidence can succeed:
 - the information must be confidential
 - the information must have been disclosed in circumstances which give rise to an obligation of confidence
 - there must be an actual or anticipated unauthorized use or disclosure of the information

