

Here's how it was learned that Ed was going to be a problem, *on day-1*. As soon as the contract was signed many indicators made it clear that HDC intended to take the ITB away from me for their own purposes. The first red-flag happened within 24 hours of the 1st commercially produced ITB from my ATECo arriving at HDC.

The very day that it arrived Ed tried to steal the software program out of the ITB by copying all of its program files from the ITB computer into another computer trying to make a second ITB - for free.

The security hack that detects and reacts to this is a simple routine that reads the serial-number of the C: Hard Drive and compares it to the hard-coded serial-number embedded in the ITB program. If they match, the program will run normally, if they don't match a snarky error message will display. The snark is intended to annoy whoever saw it after the program halted so they'd complain about it. It worked perfectly. When Ed started the ITB program up in another PC, the serial numbers did not match and this snarky message appeared:



Fig 1. ITB Copyright Alarm

Ed got angry and called me straightway to grouse about my disrespectful error message. After apologizing for offending, I explained how the security hack works as intended; I knew because he called, which means he had copied the ITB program files into another computer to make an unauthorized copy and tried to run it. A stern reminder that Software Piracy is a crime, even in the frontier wilderness of western Oregon State - and that he was busted.

(Looking it up later found that under ORS 164.377, unauthorized access, copying, or distribution of software can be classified as a computer crime.)

When I complained to my Contracting Officer about Ed doing this, he said Ed had also complained about me being so unpleasant for him to deal with. Ed felt abused by me because he was only doing what his boss had ordered him to do. Good to know.

As far as the Corps was concerned, it was nothing personal, it was only business... and I should be a *good-sport* about it. When I explained that while waiting for Woodward's Patent to expire, I'd spent most of my spare time (evenings, weekends, holidays etc.) building a new ITB as my own enterprise - getting it ready for what Lee said would be my "chance of a lifetime" – for me it was **intensely personal**.