

Play, Then Pay: The Shareware Ethic

Shareware is an imaginative method of circulating software to potential purchasers. It's an honor system that depends on YOUR sense of integrity.

Shareware developers use networks, BBSs, disc services, and CD-ROMs like this one, to distribute their products to the computing public. You get to try out each program on your own machine so that you can determine if it works for you, if it entertains or is helpful to you, and if you want to continue using it. If you do decide to keep a shareware program and get some real use out of it, then it's up to you to register with the original distributor. This usually involves printing out a form that came with the program and remitting a modest fee; often there's a phone number provided for use with credit cards.

There are many shareware programs, both in the PC subdirectories and in the Mac folders on The DISC!. They display how innovative and attractive this software can be--so, play fair. If you do like a program well enough to keep it, then register and pay the fee. Your support is vital if we are to see more of this exciting software. Besides, it's the right thing to do.