CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

ANNUAL REVIEW 1997-1998 The Soda Shoppe: A Sweet Deal

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The Soda Shoppe: A Sweet Deal

UF's Soda Shoppe is saving UF both time and money. The SODA (SOfwtaer Data Acquisition) Shoppe has just completed its first year quite successfully. The purpose of the SODA Shoppe is to help UF obtain, advertise, and distribute low-cost computer software for UF faculty, students, and staff. It is being supported by the Office of Academic Affairs, CIRCA, the Health Sciences Center, IFAS, and NERDC.

Its first year has documented a savings of more than $300,000 for the campus. This was based on analyzing SODA Shoppe FTP logs to determine how many copies of site-licensed software had been downloaded and estimating how much more would have been paid at educationally discounted or contract pricing levels. This analysis does not include savings accrued to departmental personnel who used information on the SODA Shoppe Web page to find low-cost information for software purchased from other sources. Dan Arrington, chair of the SODA Shoppe Advisory Committee of the UF's Council for Information Technology Services for Administrative Computing (CITS Admin.), which originally proposed the need for a site-licensing office, says that "Some people are in a hurry and sometimes pay retail because they aren't aware of software contracts or educationally discounted pricing. Others spend a lot of time trying to find the best street price." The SODA Shoppe helps to address both of these problems and has served as a lightning rod focusing attention on software licensing issues.

The primary vehicle used by the SODA Shoppe to communicate with UF'ers is a Web site. This site provides information on campus site licenses and software contracts, freeware and shareware Web sites, and other software vendors that provide educational discounts. The SODA Shoppe also helps to match interested departments who might share an interest in initiating site licenses for software products not currently licensed.

The SODA Shoppe Web site is easy to get to and easy to use. The next time you need to purchase software, try it out: http://www.software.ufl.edu. If you need more information, you can contact the SODA Shoppe at software@ufl.edu [mailto:software@ufl.edu].

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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