



Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry secretary-general Datuk Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad (centre) with Software Alliance (BSA) senior director Tarun Sawney (right) and the ministry's Enforcement Division director Datuk Iskandar Halim Sulaiman at the announcement of BSA's partnership with the government in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY SAIFULLIZAN TAMADI

MALWARE RISK

Firms warned not to use unlicensed software

KUALA LUMPUR: Computers using unlicensed software have a 78 per cent chance of being infected by malware, said Software Alliance (BSA) senior director Tarun Sawney.

"Each malware attack can cost a company RM10.2 million on average and can take up to 50 days to resolve.

"It can cost more than RM42,000 to fix the problem per computer, not to mention the downtime and the loss of business data as a result of the malware. There is also the loss of the company's reputation," he said during the announcement of the alliance's partnership with the government, here, yesterday.

BSA is a trade group established by Microsoft Corp in 1988 and represents a number of the world's largest software makers. It is also a member of the International Intellectual Property Alliance.

BSA, together with the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry, launched a 90-day campaign to encourage businesses to legalise their software assets.

Ministry secretary-general Datuk Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad said the campaign aimed to reach 10,000 businesses, mainly small and medium enterprises.

"We have been very vigilant and we look forward to working with BSA to curb the use of un-

licensed software in Malaysia.

"Based on BSA's global software survey in June 2018, the rate of unlicensed software use in Malaysia was at 51 per cent in 2017. We hope this will be reduced through this campaign."

As part of the campaign, BSA will send notices to companies to highlight the operational, legal, security and reputational risks of using unlicensed software.

Upon receipt of these notices, companies have 90 days to voluntarily legalise their software assets. Those that continue to use unlicensed software at the end of the campaign will be deemed to have violated the Copyright Act 1987. **Farah Adilla**