Investigating Intellectual Property Theft

Intellectual property theft includes the theft of the following:

- Unregistered trade secrets
- Copyrighted, patented, or registered works
- Trademark violations
- Confidential proposals
- Confidential work papers
- Technical notes
- Strategic business planning
- Gray-market distributions
- Counterfeiting
- Illegal distributions
- Unauthorized product diversions
- Trade names or partials

Steps for Investigating Intellectual Property Theft

The following are the steps involved in investigating intellectual property theft:

1. Check the type of theft.
2. Look for clues that indicate theft of intellectual property by:
   a. Performing a plagiarism check
   b. Checking whether the theft is from a single source or more than one
   c. Checking if there is a lack of reference or quoting for referred information
   d. Checking if the information is directly taken from the source
3. Search and find the source of the theft.
4. Use detection tools or various plagiarism detection tools to find the source.
5. Check for unauthorized sharing of software.

Digital Rights Management (DRM)

Digital rights management (DRM) is access-control technology used by manufacturers, publishers, and copyright holders to limit the usage of digital devices or information. It describes the technology that prevents unauthorized distribution and usage of content, media, or devices. It has been adopted by the entertainment industry, most online music stores, and e-book publishers.

DRM involves the following:

- Users pay for the content and gain it through their provider.
- The content provider or Internet service provider (ISP) takes the billing list from the DRM center and sends authorized or encrypted content to the user.
- The payment gateway takes payment requests from the DRM center and sends an approval of payment to it.
- The DRM center takes content requests from the user after payment approval and then sends the billing list to the content providers or ISPs and authentication to the user.

This process is shown in Figure 9-19.

Tool: Windows Media Digital Rights Management

Windows Media Digital Rights Management (DRM) is a DRM solution included with Windows and is shown in Figure 9-20.