

Policy #:	Title:	Effective Date:
GEN-015	Peer to Peer Copyright Infringement Prevention Policy	05/15/2009

Policy Description— Per The University of Findlay’s (UF) Acceptable Use Policy, UFNet account holders must comply with U.S. and Ohio law pertaining to copyright. Copyright infringement through the illegal downloading or sharing of copyrighted materials, including music, games, and videos is expressly prohibited on The University of Findlay’s network. This protection includes illegal file sharing through Peer-to-Peer (P2P) applications. Enforcement of this policy will follow the guidelines established within the Enforcement and Sanctions section of UF’s Acceptable Use Policy.

Definitions—

Peer-to-Peer applications— Electronic file sharing (common P2P programs include, but are not limited to BearShare, Kazaa, and Limewire).

Copyright Infringement— A violation of the rights secured by a copyright.

Rationale for Policy—

The U.S. Copyright Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, prohibit the distribution or sharing of copyrighted works without the copyright owner's permission.

"Peer-to-peer" software used for file sharing may bypass a computer's operating system security and open access to all files—including personal information—to anyone on the Internet. Programs such as Kazaa, BearShare, Limewire, and others may affect a computer's performance and cause system crashes or loss of data.

Peer-to-peer software degrades network performance. Because these programs are designed to share files with as many computers as possible the volume of network traffic generated by them can slow down or disable an entire network.

The violation of copyright is illegal and unethical. Artists, writers, musicians, and other creators of intellectual property rely upon copyright to protect their works. Without copyright, there would be no way to protect their income and no incentive to make their works available to the public through books, music CDs, videos, etc. When copyrights are violated, those creating new works are deprived of income.

Responsible Department/Person— Information Technology Services/Network Services Manager

Reference/Related Information—

Who should be notified about this policy— All UFnet account holders

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Review Date: 07/01/2010

Modification History—