



FILE SHARING POLICY

Effective Date: March 2012

Review Date: January 1, 2022

Responsible Office: Information Technology Center

Division: Operations

I. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the end users of the risk involved with sharing copyrighted material without permission on the Grambling State University network as it relates to the Copyright Law (Title 17, U. S. Code), Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1996 and Grambling State University's Computer Use Policy #56005.

II. STATEMENT OF POLICIES

The scope of this policy includes all faculty, staff, and students of Grambling State University.

Peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing programs have become a popular way to exchange music, movies, games and software over the internet or to store files in a "shared folder" on a computer hard drive, making them available for download by other users. P2P software, if installed and enabled on your computer, allows digital media to be downloaded or uploaded between your computer and any other computer that also has these programs installed, enabled, and connected to the internet. A majority of the files being shared (software, music, and movies) may contain copyrighted material which is used without the permission of the copyright holder. Downloading, possessing, using, or sharing (distributing) any copyrighted material, electronic or otherwise, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder is against federal law (Title 17, U.S. Code).

All users should assume that material is copyrighted unless they know otherwise, and not copy, download or distribute copyrighted material without permission as defined by the federal law (Title 17, U.S. Code).

P2P and file-sharing programs can also introduce a serious security risk to your computer and other computers connected to the university's network. This could result in files being infected with computer viruses and spyware being downloaded to your computer and the network.

Policy Non Compliance

This policy requires all users to comply with copyright laws. If a P2P program is used on the university's network to upload or download copyrighted material without permission, you may be in breach of the policy.

Violators of copyright laws could be subject to felony charges in state or federal court, and may also be sued by the copyright holder in civil court.

Violation of this policy may also result in suspension or termination of your right to access the university computer resources, disciplinary action by the appropriate university authorities, referral to law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution, or other legal action, including action to recover civil damages and penalties. Violations will normally be handled through the university disciplinary procedures applicable to the relevant user.

The ITC will be responsible for reporting any breach of this policy to the respective Vice President.

Related Information

For more information on file sharing and copyright, please see the File Sharing and Copyright Infringement page on the ITC website.

III. REVISION/REVISED HISTORY

March 2012-Effective Date