

Syracuse University
Electronic Copyright Protection Plan
August 10, 2010

Introduction

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) of 2008 includes a requirement that institutions develop and implement a plan to effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material by users of the institution's network without unduly interfering with the educational and research use of the network.

The plan should include:

1. The use of technology-based deterrents;
2. An educational component;
3. A description of the institution's procedures for handling copyright infringement; and
4. A required periodic review of the plan.

Use of Technology-Based Deterrents

Syracuse University (SU) relies primarily on the use of a traffic managing device to manage unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. This device sits on the campus network border, detects known peer-to-peer traffic, and blocks it from entering or leaving the University network. This method has proven highly effective as measured in the low number of Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) violation notifications received since its implementation. SU also has the ability to monitor network traffic for high utilization, and can flag for further investigation individual source and/or destination hosts that demonstrate an anomalous amount of traffic.

Educational Plan for Electronic Copyright Protection

Information Technology and Services uses a multi-pronged approach for educating faculty, staff and students about the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and the ramifications of sharing electronic copyrighted material. The following methods are employed:

1. At the beginning of the school year, students moving into the residence halls are provided with a handout directing them to the ITS website which:
 - a. Explicitly informs them that unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, including unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, may subject them to civil and criminal liabilities.
 - b. Provides a summary of the penalties for violation of Federal copyright laws; and
 - c. Provides a description of the institution's policies with respect to unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing, including disciplinary actions that are taken against students who engage in illegal downloading or unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials using the institution's information technology system.
2. SU provides the same information as in item (1) via an annual e-mail to all faculty, staff and returning students.

3. Information Technology and Services provides a public web page describing the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and Syracuse University's policy of not allowing the sharing of electronic copyrighted material. This web page is located at <http://its.syr.edu/filessharing/>

Description of Syracuse University's Procedures for Handling Copyright Infringement

Syracuse University employs a "three strike" policy for dealing with individuals who have infringed on copyrighted materials.

- Strike 1: The offending computer is quarantined from the network. The user who has registered that computer is contacted via e-mail and directed to SU's Computing and Electronic Communications Policy regarding the sharing of electronic copyrighted material. The user is required to assert that they have read and understood the policy. Once this is done, the quarantine is lifted.
- Strike 2: The offending computer is quarantined from the network. The user who has registered that computer is contacted via e-mail and required to make an appointment with the Director of Information Security for a counseling session. During this session, the user is instructed on the Computing and Electronic Communications Policy regarding the sharing of electronic copyrighted material. Once this is done, the quarantine is lifted.
- Strike 3: The offending computer is quarantined from the network. The user who has registered that computer is referred to Judicial Affairs (if a student) or Human Resources (if faculty or staff) for disciplinary action which may include loss of all network privileges at SU.

Periodic Review

This plan will be reviewed annually between January and March. The results of the review will be placed in the Annual Report.

Annual Report

An annual report of this plan will be produced and submitted to the Chief Information Officer prior to the end of the academic year. The report will include an assessment of each procedure used for technology-based deterrent of copyright infringement and descriptions of any allegations of copyright infringement, and any actions taken to address the allegations.