SNU Peer-to-Peer (P2P) File Sharing Policy

Policy # IT302 P2P File Sharing Policy V1.1

SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY

Release Control

Release Date	Version No:	Details	Released by	Approved by
01.02.2013	V1.0	First Release	IT team	IT team
05.12.2013	V1.1	Policy recast in standard format with version control	Sunita Surpur	Anand Padmanabhan

POLICY ASSURED BY:

Department:	Represented By:	Date
IT Services (Policy Owner)	Joyjit Roy Ghatak Choudhury	05.12.2013
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POLICY RATIFIED BY:

Office of:	Represented By:	Date
President SNU	Rajiv Swarup	05.12.2013
Vice Chancellor SNU	Nikhil Sinha	05.12.2013

POLICY DETAILS

1. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

As an addendum to the IT Acceptable Use Policy (Policy # IT301) which provides guidelines on utilization of University network, Internet, e-mail, and member's personal computers, this policy prohibits the use of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) file-sharing applications. This policy is applicable to faculty, staff, students and any other user of Shiv Nadar University's (SNU) computing resources and networks.

The University's goal with this policy is to:

- Help University members achieve efficiency and effectiveness while using computing resources
- Address any potential liability from instances when University members' download copyrighted material
- Minimize network disruption
- Protect the network from exposure to malicious code (worm, virus, Trojan horse etc.)
- Protect the University's Intellectual Property Rights

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. Peer-to-Peer (P2P): It is a type of transient Internet network that allows a group of computer users with the same networking program to connect with each other and directly access files from one another's hard drives. Napster and Gnutella are examples of this kind of peer-to-peer software. P2P can create significant loads on participating computers and the connected network along with security risks if the program is poorly or maliciously configured.

2.2. Spyware: This is any software that covertly gathers user information through the user's Internet connection without her knowledge, usually for advertising purposes. Spyware applications are typically bundled as a hidden component of freeware or shareware programs that can be downloaded from the Internet. Once installed, the spyware monitors user activity on the Internet and transmits that information in the background to someone else.

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3. POLICY DETAILS

Peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing applications are used to connect a computer directly to other computers in order to transfer files between the systems. While Peer-to-Peer technologies have many important and legitimate uses, P2P file sharing applications are often used to obtain copyrighted materials (e.g. music, movies, videos, text, etc.) without the permission of the owner or distributor while utilizing a disproportionate amount of network bandwidth and leaving the user's computer vulnerable to computer viruses. It also violates applicable Indian Cyber Laws. Examples of P2P applications are BitTorrent, Gnutella, Limewire, eMule, Ares Galaxy, Kazzaa, Morpheus and Grokster. Therefore, the University has adopted the policy that P2P software (including those mentioned above but not restricted to), will not be permitted to operate on its network.

If there is any legal liability that ensues due to infringement of copyrighted material, SNU will not be responsible for any liability and the respective University member will be held responsible for this infringement. SNU reserves the right, at its discretion, to review any faculty, staff and student's network access to the extent necessary to ensure electronic media and services are being used in compliance with the law, this policy and other University policies.

For sharing of files, SNU provides many services under Google Apps for Education. Using your SNU email ID, you can use Google Docs or Google Drive to share files. In addition there are many free legitimate online services that enable you to share files like dropbox, drop.io, box.net, etc.

If your work requires the use of P2P software, an exception may be made for your system. A request for an exemption may be made by submitting a request with IT team at helpdesk@snu.edu.in or by contacting the IT Help Desk at extension 819.

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