

Policy Regarding Abuse of Montana Tech Computers and Network Systems

In February of 2000, Montana Tech of The University of Montana adopted a college-wide "Policy Regarding Responsible Use of Electronic Communications", which was adapted from a statement of principles developed by the College Telecommunications Committee. This college-wide policy is incorporated into the Code of Academic Integrity, and it is also incorporated by reference into the Montana Tech Campus Code of Conduct.

Within the framework of the broader college-wide policy, each Montana Tech department has the authority and responsibility to establish the limitations on authorized use of the computers and network systems that department provides. It is your responsibility to be aware of both the college policy and these departmental limitations. The document you are now reading describes the limitations on authorized use of the computers and network systems provided by Montana Tech.

In addition to all of the limitations described in this document and in the college-wide policy mentioned above, you are also required to follow the policies and procedures governing authorized use of the specific computers and network systems to which you are given access by Montana Tech, including all accounts, userids, network ids, telephone codes, and any other such codes associated with those computers and network systems. These policies and procedures are set forth in documents provided at this link <http://mtech.edu/netserve/layout.htm>. Note that restrictions on authorized use may apply, for example, to your individual identity or source of funds, or may apply to the entire computer or network system.

A key element of authorized use is whether the access privileges you receive for a particular computer or network system may be used by other parties. For the computers and network systems provided by Montana Tech, except as explicitly noted to all access privileges -- including all accounts, userids, network ids, telephone codes, and any other such access codes -- are granted for your exclusive the contrary, and individual use, and are authorized for use by no other individual. To use or assist in the use of access privileges other than by the specific individual to whom those privileges were granted constitutes a violation of Montana Tech's policy on acceptable use.

Violations of any of the policies or documents mentioned here should be presumed to violate this document and hence, the Montana Tech Campus Codes of Integrity and Conduct as delineated in the Montana Tech Community Expectations Program.

Within this document, the computers and network systems provided by Montana Tech include all computers owned or operated by Montana Tech, the voice and data networks that connect them, and all devices connected to these computers or networks. Also included are the hardware and software associated with these systems and the information managed by these systems.

The following sections expand upon the Montana Tech of The University of Montana Policy **Regarding Responsible Use of Electronic Communications**. The examples in the sections below illustrate some types of violations of the policy, but are not meant to be a comprehensive list of policy violations.

The use of computers or network systems in no way exempts any member of the College community from the normal requirements of ethical or legal behavior in the Montana Tech community. In particular, data, software, and computer capacity have value and must be treated accordingly. Use of a computer and network system that is shared by many users imposes certain additional obligations.

Legitimate use of a computer or network system does not extend to whatever an individual is capable of doing with it. Although some rules are built into the system itself, these restrictions cannot limit completely what an individual can do or can see. In any event, each member of the community is responsible for his/her actions whether or not rules are built in, and whether or not they can be circumvented.

Members of the College community are expected to follow certain principles of behavior in making use of computers and network systems, in particular, to respect, and to observe policies and procedures governing the privacy of or other restrictions placed upon data or information stored or transmitted across computers and network systems, even when that data or information is not securely protected.

Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to: Accessing, or attempting to access, another individual's or entity's data or information without proper authorization regardless of the means by which this access is attempted or accomplished; giving another individual the means to access data or information they are not authorized to access; obtaining, possessing, using, or attempting to use passwords or other information about someone else's account; inspecting, modifying, distributing, or copying data, mail, messages, or software without proper authorization, or attempting to do so; tapping phone or data lines; accessing files by circumventing privacy or security restrictions.

Members of the College community are expected to follow certain principles of behavior in making use of computers and network systems, in particular, to respect, and to observe policies and procedures governing an owner's interest in proprietary software or other assets pertaining to computer or network systems, even when such software or assets are not securely protected. Refer to [Support Staff Guidelines](#) for related information.

Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to: Making more copies of software than the license allows; duplicating someone else's copy of proprietary software with or without that person's permission; inspecting, modifying, distributing, or copying data or software without proper authorization, or attempting to do so; giving another individual the means by which to inspect, modify, distribute, or copy proprietary data or software; theft of phone services. Refer to [Software Piracy: What You Should Know](#) for related information.

Members of the College community are expected to follow certain principles of behavior in making use of computers and network systems, in particular, to respect, and to observe policies and procedures governing the finite capacity of computers or network systems by limiting use of computers and network systems so as not to interfere unreasonably with the activity of other users.

Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to: Knowingly tampering with, obstructing, or impairing the availability of Montana Tech resources, or attempting to do so; using Montana Tech resources without proper authorization; knowingly

sending a crippling number of files around a network; introducing damaging, self-propagating, or otherwise harmful software into a machine or a network; hoarding computer or network resources in ways that interfere with the operation of the system (including the unauthorized use of distribution lists); attempting to remove or modify computer or network equipment or software without proper authorization; altering wire, telephone sets or associated equipment for any purpose.

Members of the College community also are expected to follow all other policies, rules, or procedures established to manage computers or network systems, including those established to control access to, or the use of, computer data, files, or other information.

Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to: Using Montana Tech Resources without proper authorization or for unauthorized purposes, or attempting to do so; using Montana Tech Resources to violate College, Local, Federal, or State regulations; supplying false or misleading information or identification in order to access Montana Tech Resources, or attempting to do so; repeatedly trying to log on to an account that you are not authorized to use; sending electronic mail, messages, or facsimile transmissions as pranks or in a threatening or harassing manner; using campus phones to harass or threaten others; using Montana Tech-owned workstations or systems for commercial purposes unless explicitly authorized; using campus phones for fraudulent purposes.

Those who cannot accept these standards of behavior will be denied use of Montana Tech computers or network systems. Violators may also be subject to penalties under College regulations and under state and federal laws.

In addition to the policy described in this document, as a user of Montana Tech resources you are subject to applicable Montana State and Federal laws. Violations of this policy may be prosecuted under the **Montana Tech Community Expectations Program**. Violations will be referred to the appropriate Montana Tech body adjudicating entity, and/or to the appropriate local, State, and Federal authorities, at Montana Tech's discretion. Montana Tech reserves the right to investigate suspected violations using all appropriate means. Furthermore, Montana Tech may terminate or restrict any person's access to its resources, without prior notice, if such action is necessary to maintain availability, security, and integrity of operations for other users of the Resources.