



Computer User's Guide

to the Electronic Campus



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Northwest provides many programs and information for faculty, staff and student usage, which have been obtained and purchased under exclusive contracts or special licenses.

The contracts and licensing agreements state that they may not be copied, cross-assembled or reverse-compiled. Consequently, the **user is responsible** for determining whether or not various programs and information are under contract and license and are therefore, restricted. Determining copyright is extremely important before trying to copy, cross-assemble or reserve-compile data in its entirety or in part.

If it is unclear whether or not you have permission to copy, distribute or record in a different medium the material in question, assume that you do not have permission to do so. *Information Systems* will assist with any questions regarding software usage and licensing issues. Northwest regularly receives complaints from copyright holders about the unauthorized use of their works on the Northwest network. These complaints come directly from music and motion picture associations, copyright holders and law firms, which have employees whose sole job is to search for copyrighted material on networks, servers and desktop computers.

You should be aware that several federal lawsuits have been filed by the *Recording Industry Association of America* (RIAA) recently against college students. These lawsuits were against individual college students in New York, New Jersey and Michigan. The RIAA alleges that these students stored thousands of songs and made them available to anyone with access to their university's high-speed networks. The RIAA is seeking maximum damages in the amount of \$150,000 per song. In light of these recent lawsuits, we would like to inform you of the importance of adhering to copyright law.

DMCA

The *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* (DMCA) extends federal copyright law to protect artistic works such as music from unauthorized electronic reproduction or distribution. You could be in violation of the DMCA by doing the following:

- Making an MP3 copy of a song and making it available on the internet (via file-sharing network) to others.
- Joining a file-sharing network and downloading unauthorized copies of any copyrighted material from the computers of other network members. Programs that are frequently used are *Kazaa*, *Imesh*, *Limewire* and *Morpheus*.
- Receiving email with copyrighted material and passing it on to others.
- Transferring copyrighted material using an instant messaging service.
- Making copies of music you have downloaded using your computer's CD writer.

If you are using the Northwest network, then the University is essentially your registered internet service provider (ISP) and the DMCA requires ISPs to take **down** or **block** access to copyrighted materials in a timely fashion when notified that users are sharing copyrighted files across their networks.

To avoid being served with a DMCA violation, you should remove all copyrighted material that you do not own from your computer and cease transferring all copyrighted material. For more information on how the DMCA applies to you, see the following web page at:

<http://www.musicunited.org>



Helpful Copyright Links

Copyright infringement is a serious and escalating issue on college campuses across the nation, particularly with regard to illegally downloading and file-sharing music.



If you have questions about copyright issues with regard to print or electronic media, the following web pages may answer many of your questions:

- *United States Copyright Office*
<http://www.copyright.gov/>
- *Responding to Notices of Alleged Infringement*
<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/dmcaisp.htm>
- *The UT System Crash Course in Copyright*
<http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/cprtindx.htm>
- *Stanford University Copyright + Fair Use*
<http://fairuse.stanford.edu/>

- *Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute*

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/index.php/Copyright>

The above links may answer the majority of your copyright questions. However, if they do not, and you suspect copyright infringement, need assistance removing copyrighted material from your notebook computer or simply have questions about copyright, contact the *Client Computing-Information Systems Help Desk* at 660-562-1634. You can also email the *Help Desk* at: helpdesk@nwmissouri.edu.

Known violations of copyright infringement are subject to university disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution. For more information about the university disciplinary action process, please see the *Disciplinary Action link* on the *Computing Policies* web page at:

<http://www.nwmissouri.edu/compserv/ClientComputing/ComputingPolicies.htm>

