

THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON INTERIM POLICY ON ACCESS AND ACCEPTABLE USE OF UNIVERSITY COMPUTER AND INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

Approved by President Marion A. Ruebel on April 16, 1996

Approved by the Board of Trustees on September 25, 1996

1. Resources

The University of Akron is a state of Ohio institution dedicated to the advancement of education and research. To assist in carrying out the instructional, research, and administrative goals of The University of Akron, computer facilities and computer access codes (called user IDs) are made available to University faculty, students, staff and approved guests. These facilities include computing, networking, telephone, and information resources. The University is an equal opportunity, educational institution.

2. Privileges and Responsibilities

The University of Akron provides computer and informational resources and accounts to the University community in keeping with its academic, instructional, research, administrative and public purpose. Access and usage which do not support the University purpose are subject to restriction and regulation to avoid interference with University work and other applicable directives. All users are obligated to abide by University directives, policies and regulations regarding usage.

3. Responsibility, Acceptable Access and Use Standards

Users are expected to use computing and information resources in a responsible and efficient manner consistent with the instructional, research, and administrative goals of the University of Akron. The University of Akron provides academic computing resources to support its missions of education and research and to foster a community of scholarly inquiry. Use of University computer facilities and computer access codes (called user IDs) must comply with Ohio law and University policies and directives.

4. Misuse

Privileges of usage may be denied or removed for the following:

- a. Harassment or violating the privacy of others.
- b. Destruction or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to the University or others.
- c. Disruption or performing unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications.
- d. Violating computer system security.
- e. Use, without authority, of computer accounts or access codes.
- f. Use of computing facilities for purposes unrelated to the mission of the University.
- g. Violating copyrights and software license agreements.
- h. Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism, and scientific misconduct.
- i. Violating applicable University policies, including but not limited to sexual harassment, student disciplinary procedures, access and use of computing, networking, telephone, and information resources, etc.
- j. Committing crimes or prohibited acts. [Note: Illegal acts involving The University of Akron informational resources facilities may also be subject to prosecution by state and federal authorities].

5. Procedures for Implementing Penalties, Appeal of Administrative Decision

Individuals given the privilege to use these facilities are expected to abide by this and other applicable University of Akron policies, regulations, directives and guidelines. Disregard of this and other applicable policies, regulations, directives and guidelines subjects user to applicable disciplinary procedures. This may include or lead to loss of privileges.

A. Procedure for revocation of privileges:

The Associate Provost for Information Resources shall designate a representative who shall review and receive complaints about violations of this policy, and other applicable policies governing computer and informational resources. This designated representative shall have authority to take the following action concerning privileges for violations of access and use standards:

1. Warn users of violations (transmitted electronically or in writing to the user).
2. Temporarily deny access or suspend usage, based on seriousness of the violation or recurrent violations of other prohibited access and use standards.
3. Deny access or suspend privileges for a definite time.
4. Terminate access and privileges for an indefinite time.

Every attempt shall be made to assess the least serious penalty. Warnings are generally meant to instruct users who may be prone to mistakes, especially while learning new software. Privilege suspension shall only be used for serious or repeated violations of pertinent University rules, regulations, and directives.

B. Appeal of an administrative decision:

Appeal of a decision made by the designated representative shall be made to the Associate Provost for Information Resources. Thereafter, further appeal may be made to the Senior Vice President and Provost.