

Alliant International University Peer-to-Peer (P2P) File Sharing Policy

Purpose

While Peer to Peer (P2P) technologies have many important and legitimate uses, P2P file applications are often used to obtain digitally stored copyrighted materials (such as music, movies, videos, text) without the permission of the owner while utilizing a disproportionate amount of network bandwidth and leaving the user's computer vulnerable to computer viruses. Running P2P file sharing on university computers also runs the risk of inadvertently sharing files containing sensitive university data. The purpose of this policy is to articulate Alliant International University's position on the use of P2P file sharing applications and the unauthorized acquisition or distribution of copyrighted or licensed material.

1. Scope

This policy applies to all students, faculty and staff and other individuals using Alliant information technology resources or data.

2. Authority

This policy responds to requirements in the Higher Education and Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) that universities develop plans to effectively combat the illegal use of P2P file sharing and to advise the university community of the consequences of such use.

Alliant will annually inform the university community of this policy and related procedures consistent with the requirements of the HEOA.

3. Policy

Use of P2P file sharing applications for the unauthorized acquisition or distribution of copyrighted or licensed material is prohibited on any university computer or network. Further, P2P file sharing applications commonly used for such purposes, including, but not limited to, LimeWire, eDonkey, KaZaa, Gnutella, Morpheus, and BitTorrent, may not be installed on any university computer.

Individuals using university network resources are also expected to follow all related Alliant policies regarding university network and computer resources, copyright and intellectual property. These policies can be found on the Alliant portal under Alliant Policies at <http://www.alliant.edu/wps/myportal/>.

4. Uninstalling P2P Applications.

If you have installed a P2P file sharing application on your computer that connects to the university network, the application and any material that has been downloaded must be removed immediately. If you need assistance in removing any software and /or files you can contact the IT HelpDesk at 858.635.4357 (HELP).

5. Enforcement of Policy

Any violation of this policy may result in the suspension of access to network resources or other appropriate university discipline, including expulsion and/or termination of employment.

Additionally, violations of this policy may also subject the individual to civil and criminal liability under various Federal and State laws. The downloading or distributing of copyrighted material, e.g. music, video, text, etc. without permission of the owner violates the United States Copyright Act and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and several university policies. In a civil action, those who are found liable for copyright infringement may be required to pay as much as \$30,000 per copyrighted work infringed. The amount can be increased to \$150,000 per infringed work in cases of willful violation. In the most serious cases, criminal prosecution is possible.

6. Alternatives to Illegal File Sharing

Last.fm is an Internet radio and music community website, which includes a music recommendation system that learns what kind of music you like. www.last.fm

Pandora is an Internet radio and music recommendation service created by the Music Genome Project that allows you to search for a song or artist that you like and plays similar music. www.pandora.com

Hulu was started by NBC Universal and News Corp, Hulu is a website where you can stream free, high-quality video of TV shows, movies, and video clips. This service offers videos from NBC, Fox, Comedy Central, PBS, USA Network, Bravo, Fuel TV, FX, Sci-Fi, Style, Sundance, G4, and Oxygen... and the selection is growing! www.hulu.com

SHOUTcast is a collection of online radio stations. www.shoutcast.com

Live365 is an Internet radio network where you can create your own radio station or search for stations that play a particular song or artist. www.live365.com

The **RIAA** is the trade group that represents the U.S. recording industry. Visit this site to learn where to get music online without breaking the law. www.riaa.com

7. Effective Date

The effective date of this policy is June 10, 2010.