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Acceptable Use Policy

ACCEPTABLE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE USE POLICY

Access to Francis Marion University's (FMU) computer systems and network is a privilege and not a right. As such, access to computer systems and a network owned or operated by FMU imposes certain responsibilities and obligations and is granted subject to university policies, and local, state, and federal laws. Acceptable use is always ethical, reflects academic honesty, and shows restraint in the consumption of shared resources. It demonstrates respect for intellectual property, ownership of data, system security mechanisms, and individuals' rights to privacy and to freedom from intimidation and harassment.

FMU's [Digital Copyright Compliance](#) addresses H.R.4137 of the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) and compliments this policy.

Guidelines

In making acceptable use of FMU resources you are expected to:

Use resources only for authorized purposes.

Protect your user id and system from unauthorized use. You are responsible for all activities on your user id or that originate from your system.

Access only information that is your own, that is publicly available, or to which you have been given authorized access.

Use only legal versions of copyrighted software in compliance with vendor license requirements.

Use only legally obtained versions of sound recordings and movies downloaded from the network or internet.

Be considerate in your use of shared resources. Refrain from monopolizing systems, overloading networks with excessive data, degrading services, or wasting computer time, connect time, disk space, printer paper, manuals, or other resources.

In making acceptable use of resources you are expected NOT to:

Use another person's system, user id, password, files, or data without permission.

Use computer programs to decode passwords or access control information.

Attempt to circumvent or subvert system or network security measures.

Engage in any activity that might be purposefully harmful to systems or to any information stored thereon, such as creating or propagating viruses, disrupting services, or damaging files or making unauthorized modifications to university data.

Use university systems for commercial or partisan political purposes, such as using electronic mail to circulate advertising for products or for political candidates.

Make or use illegal copies of copyrighted materials or software, store such copies on university systems, or transmit them over university networks.

Use mail or messaging services to harass or intimidate another person, for example, by broadcasting unsolicited messages, by repeatedly sending unwanted mail, or by using someone else's name or user id.

Waste computing resources or network resources, for example, by intentionally placing a program in an endless loop, printing excessive amounts of paper, or by sending chain letters or unsolicited mass mailings.

Use the university's systems or networks for personal gain; for example, by selling access to your user id or to university systems or networks, or by performing work for profit with university resources in a manner not authorized by the university.

Engage in any other activity that does not comply with the General Principles presented above.

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Policies

Copying, distributing, and downloading copyrighted materials, including music, videos, and games, for which you do not have the owner's (copyright holder's) permission is a violation of federal law. Compliance with federal copyright law is expected of all students, faculty, and staff at FMU. If you download and/or distribute unauthorized copies of copyrighted music recordings and movies, you are breaking the law and may be held legally liable for thousands of dollars in damages. Federal law provides severe penalties for the unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or digital transmission of copyrighted materials. The FBI investigates allegations of criminal copyright infringement and violators are prosecuted.