

***February 2012: Announcement – Two New DMCA / HEOA Tools***

SUBJECT: Illegal File sharing on UCR's Network – Prevention and Protection

Dear UCR Students:

Although trading of copyrighted music, movies, games and software over the Internet has become commonplace using various file-sharing programs, it is NOT LEGAL to do so under provisions of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, also known as the DMCA. Indeed, illegal file sharing may be punishable with civil and criminal penalties, including incarceration and monetary damages. When copyright holders resort to legal actions, there is little the University can do to protect copyright infringers.

Given the importance of this issue to and the potential negative impact to students (and the recent dramatic increase in DMCA violation notices), Computing & Communications, in close collaboration with the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Office, has deployed new automated systems to help prevent illegal file sharing and thus protect student from loss of access to campus systems, disciplinary sanctions, and in some cases, formal legal actions. An overview of these two new systems is as follows:

*Peer-to-peer Software Activity Identified on UCR's Network.* When personal computers become infected with viruses or malware, it is relatively common for these computers to download and then share copyrighted material without the computer owner's knowledge. Given this reality, UCR has deployed new systems that will detect peer-to-peer network activity and inform the owner (via e-mail) that that file sharing is occurring. With the information, students can ensure their computers are not engage in illegal file sharing and can resolve any problems with viruses or malware if required. Of course, if the peer-to-peer network traffic is supporting legal file sharing, gaming, etc. the automated notifications may simply be ignored.

*Notification of Illegal File Sharing, Education, and Online Remedy.* Should UCR receive a DMCA violation notice from a copyright holder (for example, the Recording Industry Association of America), the individual responsible for the computer in question will receive a wireless login message that such a notification has been received. Additionally, online educational materials, including information about how to remove peer-to-peer software from personal computers, will also be provided. Once the computer owner has agreed to remove the peer-to-peer software and not engage any further illegal file sharing, complete network access will be restored. Please note that if an individual receives a second DMCA violation in a given year, wireless access will be suspended for the remainder of the academic year.

If you have any questions concerning these new automated systems, please feel free to visit UCR's Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) web site at <http://dmca.ucr.edu/>. Additionally, students may contact the Student Help Desk at [helpdesk@student.ucr.edu](mailto:helpdesk@student.ucr.edu).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Access to campus instructional and academic content is a very important aspect of student life, and avoiding interruptions to network access due to illegal file sharing is everyone's concern. Thank you again.

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