

COMPUTER USE, E-MAIL, AND INTERNET POLICY

Introduction

LEARN believes in the educational value of electronic communications and recognizes their potential to support LEARN's educational program. Resource sharing and communication for both students and teachers have increased with access to telecommunications and to the Internet. It is imperative that members of LEARN's community conduct themselves in a responsible manner consistent with federal and state law while utilizing the Internet and any other electronic information retrieval system.

This policy applies to all users of LEARN's computer network. This is true, regardless of where the users may be located. Violations will be taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action and civil or criminal liability. It is every user's duty to use the computer resources responsibly, professionally, ethically and lawfully.

What are "Computer Resources"?

When used in this policy, the term computer resources refers to LEARN's entire computer network. The term includes, but is not limited to, the computer system, file servers, application servers, communication servers, mail servers, fax servers, web servers, work stations, stand alone computers, laptops, software, data files, cell phones, smart phone's, PDA's, GPS devices, iPods and all internal and external computer and communications networks (for example, Internet, commercial on-line services, value-added network, e-mail systems) that may be accessed directly or indirectly from LEARN's computer network.

Who is a User

When used in this policy, the word "user" refers to all employees, students, independent contractors, consultants, temporary workers, and other persons or entities who use or come into contact with LEARN's computer resources.

Ownership of the Computer Resources

The computer resources are the property of LEARN. Access to the computer resources is provided solely for the purpose of carrying out the educational and operational needs of LEARN. All use of the computer resources must be supportive of LEARN's educational objectives and must be consistent with academic expectations. Use of computer resources is a privilege that may be revoked at any time.

No Expectation of Privacy

Users should never consider electronic communication to be either private or secure. E-mail can be stored indefinitely on any number of computers. Copies of messages may be forwarded to others either electronically or on paper. In addition, e-mail sent to non-existent or incorrect user names may be delivered to persons that were never intended.

LEARN has the right, but not the duty, to monitor any and all aspects of its computer system. Users consent to allowing LEARN to access and review all materials users create, store, send or receive on the computer system or through the Internet or any other computer network.

Users understand that LEARN may use human or automated means to monitor use of the computer resources. Such monitoring may include, but is not limited to, monitoring sites visited by users on the Internet, monitoring chat groups and news groups, reviewing material downloaded or uploaded by users to the Internet, and reviewing e-mail sent and received by users.

Use of passwords to gain access to the computer system or to encode particular files or messages does not imply that users have an expectation of privacy in such access or materials. LEARN has global passwords that permit it to access all material stored on the computer system, regardless of whether that material has been encoded with a particular user's password.

Quality and Format of Communications

Users should endeavor to make each electronic communication truthful and accurate. Individuals should use the same care in drafting e-mail and other electronic documents as they would for any other written communication. Please keep in mind that anything created or stored in the computer systems may, and likely will, be reviewed by others.

E-mail sent from or to in-house counsel or an attorney representing LEARN should include this warning header on each page:

“Attorney client privilege: do not forward without permission.”

Offensive Material

LEARN has complied with the Children's Internet Protection Act requirements by implementing a “Technology Protection Measure,” for all users, that is, specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access. This includes the installation of a designated server and specific software that may block or filter pre-selected sites; by word; entire categories such as chat and newsgroups or by pre-selected lists of approved sites. The measures used to block or filter a site may be disabled during use by an adult to enable access to bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

The filtering system shall be in addition to all other efforts and is not considered to be a foolproof approach to preventing access to materials considered inappropriate or harmful to minors. The user is advised that misuse of the Internet as it relates to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors, is consistent with the other components in LEARN's Computer use, E-mail and Internet Policy.

The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that contains millions of pages of information. Users are cautioned that many of these pages include offensive, sexually explicit, and inappropriate material. In general, it is difficult to avoid at least some contact with this material while using the Internet. Even innocuous search requests may lead to sites with highly offensive content. In addition, having an e-mail address on the Internet may lead to receipt of

unsolicited e-mail containing offensive content. Users accessing the Internet do so at their own risk. LEARN is not responsible for material viewed or downloaded by users from the Internet.

LEARN will monitor the online activities of minors and educate minor students about "appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber-bullying awareness and response."

Prohibited Activities

Users may not send material that is fraudulent, harassing, embarrassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful or inappropriate. It does not matter how such material is sent, whether it is by e-mail or other form of electronic communication, such as bulletin board systems, news groups, or chat groups. Further, such material may not be displayed on or stored in LEARN's computers. Users encountering or receiving such material should immediately report the incident to the administration.

Users must not alter the from line or other attribution-of-origin information in e-mail, messages or postings. Anonymous or pseudonymous electronic communications are forbidden. Users must identify themselves honestly, and accurately when participating in chat groups, making postings to news groups, sending e-mail, or otherwise communicating on-line.

Without prior written authorization from the administration, users may not do any of the following:

- Copy software for use on their home computers;
- Provide copies of software to any independent contractors or clients of LEARN or to a third person;
- Open/tamper with or install hardware on workstations without authorization;
- Remove software from LEARN premises;
- Download Astreaming content for extended periods of time (i.e. Areal audio, etc.)
- Install software on any of LEARN's work stations or servers;
- Download any software from the Internet or other on-line service to any of LEARN's work stations or servers;
- Modify, revise, transform, recast, or adapt any software; or
- Reverse engineer, disassemble or decompile any software.

Users who become aware of any such misuse of software or violation of copyright law should immediately report the incident to the administration.

Unless expressly authorized by the administration, sending, transmitting, or otherwise disseminating proprietary data or other confidential information is strictly prohibited. Unauthorized dissemination of this information may result in civil liability.

All student use of the computer resources will be consistent with this policy. Encouraging, allowing or ignoring student use of the computer resources in a manner contrary to this policy is strictly prohibited.

Copyright

In their use of computer resources, users must comply with all software licenses; copyrights, and all other state, federal and international laws governing intellectual property and on-line activities.

The ability to read, alter, or copy a file belonging to another user does not imply permission to read, alter, or copy that file. Users may not alter or copy a file belonging to another user without first obtaining permission from the owner of the file.

Security

Users are responsible for safeguarding their passwords for access to the computer system. Individual passwords should not be printed, stored on-line, or given to others. Users are responsible for all transactions made using their passwords. No user may access the computer system with another users password or account.

Users may not use the computer system to “snoop or pry” into the affairs of other users by unnecessarily reviewing their files and e-mail. A user’s ability to connect to another computer system through the network or by a modem does not imply a right to connect to those systems or to make use of those systems unless specifically authorized by the operators of those systems.

Each user is responsible for ensuring that use of outside computers and networks, such as the Internet, does not compromise the security of the LEARN computer resources. This duty includes taking reasonable precautions to prevent intruders from accessing LEARN’s network without authorization and to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses.

Viruses

Viruses can cause substantial damage to computer systems. Each user is responsible for taking reasonable precautions to ensure he or she does not introduce viruses into LEARN’s network. To that end, all material received on magnetic or optical media and all material downloaded from the Internet or from computers or networks that do not belong to LEARN’s system must be scanned for viruses and other destructive programs. Such scanning must be performed prior to placing the material onto LEARN’s computer system. Users should understand that their home computers and laptops might contain viruses. All disks transferred from these computers to LEARN’s network must be scanned for viruses.

To ensure security and avoid the spread of viruses, users who access the Internet through a computer attached to LEARN’s network must do so through an approved Internet firewall accessing the Internet directly, by modem is strictly prohibited unless the computer you are using is not connected to LEARN’s system.

Encryption Software

Users may not install or use encryption software on any of LEARN's computers without first obtaining written permission from the administration. Users may not use passwords or encryption keys that are unknown to the administration.

The federal government has imposed restrictions on the export of programs or files containing encryption technology. Software containing encryption technology is not to be placed on the Internet or transmitted in any way outside of the United States without prior written authorization from the administration.

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