

STATEMENT ON THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMPUTER USERS Adopted November 17, 1994

Freedom of expression and an open environment to pursue scholarly inquiry and for sharing of information are encouraged, supported, and protected at New School University. These values lie at the core of our academic community. Censorship is not compatible with the tradition and goals of the University. While some computing resources may be dedicated to specific research, teaching, or administrative tasks that would limit their use, freedom of expression must, in general, be protected. The University does not limit access to information due to its content when it meets the standard of legality. The University's policy of freedom of expression applies to computing resources.

Concomitant with free expression are personal obligations of each member of our community to use computing resources responsibly, ethically, and in a manner which accords both with the law and the rights of others. The campus depends first upon a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation to create and maintain an open community of responsible users.

New School University is committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which all persons treat others with respect. All individuals who have access to the University's network or other computer resources - regardless of their physical location - must use them in a manner that is consistent with the University's educational purposes. Access to the University's network or other computer resources is a privilege - not a right - granted solely to the University's faculty, staff and registered students. The University reserves the right to limit, restrict or extend computing privileges and access to its resources.

The University has a responsibility to protect against misuse of the University's network or other computer resources and liabilities, which may arise as the result of such misuse. The University prohibits any use of the mail system which burdens the network, including mass mailings. All users of computer resources are expected to act in a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation, while adhering to the regulations for their use set forth in this statement. The computing facilities of the University may not be used in any manner which contravenes University policies, including but not limited to the Sexual Harassment and Discriminatory Harassment policies, or federal and state laws, including Article 156 of the New York Penal Law, 'Offenses Involving Computers.' The user bears responsibility for the material that he or she chooses to access, send or display.

All users are required to have a valid authorized account, or officially approved system access, and may use only those computer resources that are specifically authorized. Users have access to their accounts only in accordance with authorized purposes, including not permitting access to the account by anyone else through disclosing to them the account password. A condition of receiving an authorized account is the verification by signature that the user has read this statement and pledges to abide by it.

Computing resources are the property of the University; the content within these is the intellectual property of the user. It is the responsibility of the user to retain personal copies of documents on external storage media. Game playing is not an authorized purpose of the University's network or computer resources. Users are expected to cooperate with computing personnel and follow their instructions. The University reserves the right to limit a computer user's session if there are insufficient resources or to protect system performance. Responsible use of computing facilities and services requires that users:

1. Respect the legal protection provided to copyright owners and licensees to programs and data: do not engage in unauthorized duplication, transmission, alteration or destruction of data, programs or software.
2. Respect the rights of others by complying with all applicable University policies, including those regarding intellectual property, sexual and other forms of harassment and by preserving privacy of personal data.
3. Respect the privacy of others by not tampering with their files, tapes, password, or accounts, or representing yourself as others when sending messages or conferencing.
4. Respect the integrity of computing systems and data, for example, by not intentionally developing programs or making use of already existing programs to harass other users, or infiltrate a computer or computing system, and/or damage or after the software components of a computer or computing system, or gain unauthorized access to other systems, facilities or data via the network.
5. Respect and adhere to all state and federal laws which govern the use of computers for the storage and transmission of data, research, and communication. Criminal and illegal use may include threats, harassment, copyright infringement, defamation, obscenity, child pornography, theft, and unauthorized access.
6. Not use computing resources for commercial or profit-making purposes without written authorization from the University.
7. Ensure that all materials published on web sites conform to academic standards for appropriate attribution and do not use materials without the permission of the owner.

The University considers the data in administrative computing systems the property of the University. The contents of user accounts are considered the property of the authorized user, subject to applicable University copyright and intellectual property policies and applicable federal and state laws. The University reserves the right to monitor information in user accounts and, therefore does not represent that the information contained in user accounts is confidential. In the case of a written complaint of serious misuse (understood as the failure to observe any of the conditions in this document), the Provost may authorize access to information contained in user accounts. All such access will be recorded and the users notified. Users may respond to the Provost concerning any complaints made against them that have resulted in access to their accounts. Frivolous complaints or knowing false complaints may be subject to disciplinary action.

In the case of a written complaint of serious misuse, or evidence indicating that computer virus may be present in certain material in the system, the University reserves the right to temporarily remove material from the system for its review. If a complaint of misuse appears to have a basis, it will be reviewed by an ad hoc panel annually appointed by the Provost. The panel will determine whether such misuse has occurred. Upon receipt of a determination of misuse, individuals who are found to be in violation of these regulations are subject to the following:

- Suspension of computer privileges
- Disciplinary action by their academic division and/or the University up to and including termination
- Referral to law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution
- Other legal action, including action to recover civil damages and penalties.

I have read the Statement on the Responsibilities of Computer Users and I agree to abide by the rules of the Academic Computing Centers and to keep my account information confidential.

Name:
(please print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____