Computer and Network Use Policy

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Policy Development Process

1. The “Computer and Network Use Policy” is intended to be a dynamic, "living" document. Consequently, the policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Such reviews are intended to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the policy and to provide an established process for amending the policy. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Director of Information Technology.

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assure that:

1. The Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) community is informed about the applicability of policies and laws concerning the computers and network on the NNU campus.

2. The users of the computer services are informed of their rights and responsibilities concerning these policies.

3. Disruptions to University computing services are minimized.

Authorized Users

1. An authorized user of the NNU network is a person who has been issued a valid account to access network services.

2. Authorized users include, but are not limited to students, faculty, administrative personnel, staff and retired faculty.

3. A computer user must not seek to gain unauthorized access to information resources or to facilitate unauthorized access by others. Sharing a network login and password with others constitutes unauthorized access.

Appropriate Use

The following list does not cover every situation that pertains to proper or improper use of the resources, but it does suggest some of the responsibilities that authorized users accept if they choose to use a University computing resource or the network access that NNU provides.

1. For any computer account, the user is responsible for the use made of that account. The user will be required to set a password which will protect their account from unauthorized use, and which will not be guessed easily. If a user discovers that someone has made unauthorized use of their account, the password should be changed and the intrusion reported to the Office of Information Technology. Passwords are required to be changed on a regular basis, to assure continued security of accounts. Accounts are assigned to
individual users and users must not share passwords with others. For information on Password Management, go to the password management website, http://pwm.nnu.edu:8080/pwm/.

2. Users must not intentionally seek information about, copy, or modify password files or intentionally try to discover passwords belonging to other people, whether at NNU or elsewhere. If an individual has explicitly and intentionally established a public server, or clearly designated a set of files for shared public use, others may assume authorization. However, if it is unclear whether some files are intended to be available for public use, the user should assume that they are private files and are not intended for public access.

3. Authorized users must not attempt to decrypt or translate encrypted material not intended for them, or to obtain system privileges to which they are not entitled. Users must refrain from any action that interferes with the supervisory or accounting functions of NNU systems or that is likely to have such effects. If a gap in system or network security is encountered or observed, it must be reported immediately to the office of Information Technology.

4. Neither authorized users, nor may members of the NNU community, under any circumstances, use NNU computers or networks to libel, slander or harass any person. Computer harassment includes:

   - Intentionally using a computer to trouble, intimidate or threaten another person by conveying obscene language, pictures, or other materials or threats of bodily harm to the recipient or the recipient's family.
   
   - Intentionally using a computer to contact another person repeatedly with the intent to harass, whether or not any actual message was communicated. When the recipient has expressed a desire for the communication to cease, their wishes must be followed.
   
   - Intentionally using a computer to disrupt or damage the academic, research, and administrative or related pursuits of another.
   
   - Intentionally using a computer to invade the privacy, academic or otherwise, of another or the threatened invasion of the privacy of another.

5. Intentionally using a computer to send or display defamatory, pornographic, obscene, or patently offensive sexual materials. Users must avoid wasting computing resources. Following is a partial list of items that may be considered wasteful use of computer resources:

   - Gaming, both networked and stand-alone gaming should only be done during low-use times, such as Friday night.
   
   - Sending chain letters or other frivolous or excessive messages locally or over an attached network.
   
   - Printing excessive copies of large documents, files, images, or data, or printing documents or files numerous times because they have not been checked thoroughly for all errors and corrections.
Users must be sensitive to the specialized nature of software, hardware, and services available in a limited number of locations, and allow access to those people whose work requires these specialized facilities.

6. Authorized users must not prevent others from using shared resources by running unattended processes or placing signs on devices to "reserve" them without authorization from the appropriate system manager. Absence from a public computer or workstation should be no longer than warranted by a visit to the nearest rest room. A device unattended for more than ten minutes may be assumed to be available for use, and any process running on that device terminated.

7. The University presents for use many programs and data which have been obtained under contracts or licenses specifying they may be used but not copied, cross-assembled, or reverse-compiled. The user is responsible for determining that programs or data are not restricted in this manner before copying them in any form, or before reverse-assembling or reverse-compiling them in whole or in any part. If it is unclear whether such permission has been granted, assume that it has not.

8. If a user creates or maintains electronically stored data that is important to their work or to the University in general, the user is responsible for the backup of that data. The University does backup data on its network drive at regular intervals as precaution for a catastrophic loss of resources. However, the user must decide whether or not this is an adequate substitute for making personal backups of the data the user creates or maintains.

9. Authorized users must not create or willfully disseminate computer viruses. Users should be sensitive to the ease of spreading viruses and should take steps to ensure that files are virus free.

10. All users who forget their network password are expected to obtain a new password through the Password Management system, http://pwm.nnu.edu:8080/pwm/.

The above list is only examples and not an exhaustive list of appropriate use of computers. Users should also be aware that there are federal, state and sometimes local laws that govern certain aspects of computer and telecommunications use. Members of the NNU community are expected to respect these laws, and to observe and respect University rules and regulations.

**Electronic Mail Use**

**Purpose**
Email services are to be provided to the NNU community for purposes of academics, administration, and communication important to community-building.

**Spamming**
Computer users must not send unsolicited email to the students, a group of students, employees or a group of employees without approval from the Office of Information Technology or the University administration. Computer users must not forward electronic
chain letters to any person, on or off campus. Either of these instances may result in the user’s account being disabled immediately until they can be personally reminded of the policies in this document. Note: Faculty members may send email to the faculty distribution list without prior approval.

**Personal Use**

University electronic mail services may be used for incidental personal purposes provided such use does not:

1. Directly or indirectly interfere with the University operation of computing facilities or electronic mail services;

2. Burden the University with noticeable incremental cost;

3. Interfere with the email user’s employment or other obligations to the University;

4. Result in personal financial gain, except in an incidental manner.

**Cautions:**

Users should be aware of the following:

1. Email is less private than users may anticipate. While the network manager will do as much as possible to protect data stored on NNU servers, an Email message intended for one person sometimes may be widely distributed because of the ease with which recipients can forward it to others. A reply to an electronic mail message posted on a listserv, for example, may be distributed to all subscribers to the listserv. Furthermore, even after a user deletes an electronic mail record from a computer or electronic mail account it may persist on backup facilities, and thus be subject to disclosure under State and Federal law. The University cannot routinely protect users against such eventualities.

2. Email stored on University equipment, whether or not created on University equipment, may constitute a University record subject to disclosure under the state and federal laws, or as a result of litigation. The University does not automatically comply with all requests for disclosure, but evaluates all such requests against the precise provisions of the laws concerning disclosure and privacy

3. The University, in general, cannot and does not wish to be the arbiter of the contents of electronic mail. Neither can the University, in general, protect users from receiving electronic mail they may find offensive. Members of the University community, however, are strongly encouraged to use the same personal and professional courtesies and considerations in electronic mail as they would in other forms of communication.

4. There is no guarantee that Email received was in fact sent by the purported sender. It is, however, a violation of this Policy for senders to disguise their identity.
Campus Software

Software available on the campus of NNU comes in several different varieties. All users must know that all software loaded on any computer owned by NNU must have appropriate licenses and these licenses must be filed in the Software License File maintained by Information Technology.

Standard Software
Information Technology provides a number of software applications that are available for general use on the campus. It is the responsibility of Information Technology to maintain these software applications with the current versions and patches to make it as easy to use as possible. The licenses are purchased and maintained for general campus use. In some cases, the software licenses limit the number of simultaneous users of the product. The campus wide software includes, but is not limited to, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Microsoft Office 2007 Professional Internet Explorer, and Novell GroupWise.

Area Software
Area Software is networked software for general campus use, but is purchased by one or more administrative or academic areas. The software will be installed by or with the cooperation of Information Technology with updates funded by the sponsoring area(s) or users. Some type of joint agreement between the sponsoring area(s) and Information Technology will usually fund the network storage space. Training and support will usually be the responsibility of the area(s) sponsoring the software. Examples of area software are: SPSS, Maple, Visual Basic, C++, and On-line Bible programs.

Restricted Software
Restricted Software is networked software with restricted use in one or more specific areas of campus. If the software has been approved by Information Technology, they will provide up to four hours of initial Installation support with a charge assessed for additional installation time. It is the responsibility of the specific campus area to seek training and technical support for the product outside of the needs of the network. Any software being considered for purchase must be approved, before purchase, by Information Technology for its compatibility with the NNU network. Examples of Restricted Software are Typo3, and Astra.

Local Software
Local Software is software located on a computer hard drive. This software is purchased, installed, updated, and maintained by individuals in the area using the software. Information Technology is not responsible for this software. In the event that the hard drive of the local machine must be reimaged (all files deleted and campus software restored to it) then Information Technology will not re-install the local software. Because the local machine is owned by NNU, a copy of the license of this software must be kept on file in the office where the software is installed. Examples of Local Software are Photoshop, Visio, Adobe Acrobat.

Internet Use

Use of the Internet is a privilege. Individuals who use the University's computing resources are obligated to adhere to all University policies including, but not limited to those in this document.
Network Drive Access

Access to network drives is provided for several purposes:

- **Application Drives:** Some network drives contain files and resources that allow users to run software applications which are distributed across the network. Generally, users do not have the ability to write or copy files to these drives, only to read from them for the purpose of running the applications. Examples of application drives include the drives designated M: and Z:

- **Shared Drives:** Access is provided to a “shared” drive, generally designated with the drive letter “S:” Users can create folders on the S: drive which can be accessed by other users in their sector. Many campus departments place all their common files on the S: drive. There are separate S: drives for employees and for students. Employee users can access the students’ S: drive (as S:\Students) but students cannot access the employee S: drives. A folder named “Common” is provided on the S: drive for both employee and students use. The Common folder is provided as a convenient place for temporary storage. It is NOT A SAFE place for long term storage, as anyone can open or delete files residing there.

- **Userdata Drive:** Access is also provided to each user’s personal space on the network, named “Userdata” accessed using the drive letter “N:.” This drive is protected by network permissions and passwords specific to the user. This is the recommended location to store all personal files which are needed on a regular basis.

**NOTE:** In NNU’s computing environment, it is **unsafe practice to store files of any importance on the local (C:) hard disk drive.** Information Technology is charged with maintaining university-owned computers. This requires the freedom to reimage the local hard drives at any time, which may cause **all data on the C: drive to be lost.**

Instead, store important files on your N: drive, which is backed-up to tape on a regular basis. It is wise to also make your own backup copy of important files on other reliable media, such as a USB Flash drive or a CD. (This requires a CD burner).

**N: Drive Space Limitations**

Each user is given some personal space on the network, named “userdata” (designated as drive N:). Student accounts are limited to 250 megabytes on their N: drive. Employee accounts are allotted 1 gigabyte. This space is intended as a relatively safe place to store important files. The amount of space is adequate for most users’ file storage needs. It is the user’s responsibility to manage their personal space. That means doing periodic file cleanup. If employees require more storage space in order to do their work, they may request this through the Technology Response Center. **Windows Explorer** is the recommended tool for managing network storage space.

**Purchasing Additional N: Drive Space**

Additional personal network space can be purchased if needed. Students may have their space limits increased in 250 megabyte increments, at a cost of $30 per academic year. To purchase additional drive space, go to Media Technology.

At the beginning of each academic year (around the end of August), all student accounts are reset back to the current default space limitation (currently 250 Mb). If a student’s N: drive exceeds the limit, this will not prevent them from logging in. However, they will not be able to save anything until they delete some files or purchase another space increase for the year.
1. Students of Northwest Nazarene University will have access to many computer stations on campus, which the Office of Information Technology will maintain. These will include, but not be limited to, computer labs, computer classrooms, kiosks and computers in the classrooms. The campus also has ports for individual personal student use in the dorm rooms and in some classrooms.

2. Students will have access during reasonable hours to computer labs within the learning centers, and also have access to the computer labs in each dorm during hours designated by the Residential Director (RD) or Student Development. Computer TAs will be assigned to the Technical Response Center and the Wiley 115 computer center during specific hours, as available, for assistance with computer problems.

Non-Academic Use of Lab Computers
Use of the public computing facilities is for purposes related to the University's mission of education, research, and public service. Students and faculty may use these computing resources for these purposes. Games and other personal enjoyments should be kept to a minimum. Computer users must cease any game playing or personal use when the computer labs become nearly full. If a person needing to work on the computers sees another person playing games, they may ask the game player to allow them to use the computer for work related to the University's mission. If the request to use the computer is refused, the person needing to work should ask a representative of Information Technology to assist them. A person refusing to cease personal computing during these events will lose network privileges.

Printing
Students are given a fixed allotment of laser-quality printing each term. A fee will be assessed for additional pages beyond the initial allotment. Students will be given credit for defective copies that are beyond their control if documented by the Technical Response Center or a Resident Director.

Limitations of Access
Access is limited to email and the Internet. Note: In the case of heavy demands on the computer network, priority will be given to the on-campus computer network.

Limitations of Responsibility
Information Technology will be responsible for the correct installation and operation of the campus software if the computer is brought to the Technical Response Center. This will be the extent of the responsibility of Information Technology to personally owned computers. A release of liability will be signed by the owner of a personal computer before work commences on it in the Technical Response Center.

Dormitory Access
In each dorm, access will be granted to students with their own computers who wish to have access to the Internet from their dorm rooms. They will also be able to access their student email account either with http://webmail.nnu.edu, or by installing the GroupWise program available for checkout in the Riley Library, on the NNU application CD. Information Technology personnel will provide port activation and setup assistance throughout the school year. Help to students with computers that fall below the minimum computer standards will
be extremely limited. If a user is unsure what their computer system has, the Technical Response Center can be contacted for assistance, 467-8111.

## Networked Computers

### Desktop Computers and Peripheral Devices

1. All computer and printer purchases on campus must be approved by the Department of Information Technology. Computers and printers connected to the Network will only be approved from recommended vendors.

2. All computers and printers donated to campus must be approved by Information Technology before they can be connected to the network. Only devices from recommended vendors will be approved unless there is an agreement that the Technical Response Center will not maintain or support the equipment.

3. A computer user must not attempt to modify or remove computer equipment, software or peripherals that are owned by Northwest Nazarene University without proper authorization. If a modification creates a problem on that computer or the NNU network, Information Technology has the right to charge the user or department for the cost and time to fix the problem. An example of this would be connecting a video device to a campus computer that has not been approved.

### Servers

Servers connected to the NNU network must be under the supervision of Information Technology. No school, department or organization on campus may install and operate a server, either autonomous or connected to the NNU network, without the authorization of the Executive Director of Information Technology. Presently, the following areas have been authorized to install servers. These are: Computer Science (for the purpose of teaching the skills of networking), Riley Library, and the Wesley Center. These may continue to run their servers so long as the department / organization involved:

1. Files an updated Administrative / Root Access Password and contact information of the server administrator with the Director of Information Technology.

2. Authorizes Information Technology personnel to access the server, if needed, to solve a network problem that is believed to be caused by that server. This would only be done after an attempt has been made to reach the person listed as the contact person.

3. Agrees to maintain the server on their own.

4. Does not use the server to provide services already provided by Information Technology. Examples include DNS, DHCP and Mail services.

5. Does not, under any circumstance, install a Novell server.

**Note:** Students installing personal computers as servers in their dorm rooms may do so without prior authorization from Information Technology as long as they agree to 2 and 4 above and as long as the activity on the
server meets the requirements of all other items in this policy document. This allows students to learn and practice networking technology. If those machines are used in a way that impacts Network access for the campus, or is used for commercial purposes, their access will be blocked at their port switch. Examples of unacceptable uses would be: Video Streaming, Multiple 56 K streams to the Internet or setting up FTP servers to which Internet users may connect.

**Personally owned computers**

Personally owned computers may be connected to the NNU network ONLY if the current security patches and virus protection have been applied.

**Assignment of IP Addresses**

Information Technology will have sole responsibility for assigning a single IP address to each on-campus student-owned computer, as well as to each piece of computer equipment owned by NNU and connected to the NNU network. Violation of this policy may result in loss of network privilege.

**Privacy Issues**

A user must not intentionally seek or provide information on, obtain copies of, or modify data files, programs, or passwords belonging to other users without the permission of those other users. Users who are authorized to access private information are required to preserve the confidentiality of such information in conformance to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as Amended in 1995 (FERPA).

FERPA establishes that:

- the development of guidelines and policies for restricting access so as to ensure proper use of educational record data are institutional responsibilities, and

- Northwest Nazarene University should establish procedures for initially instructing and periodically reminding school officials (i.e., individuals defined by Northwest Nazarene University as having a legitimate educational interest) of confidentiality requirements prior to granting a school official access to the student information system.

**Intellectual Property**

A user must attribute and honor the intellectual property rights of others. This includes information gathered from the World Wide Web.

**Termination of Accounts**

Accounts will be terminated under the following conditions:

1. Discontinuing students or graduating students - Accounts of students who have not returned by the last day of registration may be terminated.

2. Employee Resignation - The account may be terminated after 30 days, if faculty or staff has resigned their position (in good standing) within the University. It is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor to instruct the employee to dispose of account contents appropriately. Note: Emeritus professors will receive account privileges indefinitely.
3. Terminated Employees - Accounts of terminated employees may be disabled and/or terminated upon completion of the final day of employment by NNU. It is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor to instruct the employee to dispose of account contents appropriately.

4. Computer Abuse - If it is determined that an individual's abuse of the computer network warrants termination, the account may be disabled immediately.

(Extensions of faculty, staff, or student account privileges will be granted for up to a period of six months for individuals with demonstrated administrative or academic needs. Requests for extension must be submitted to the Technical Response Center (help@nnu.edu) and must be accompanied by a letter from a sponsoring department chair, supervisor, faculty advisor, or program assistant.

## Personal Use

### Incidental Use
While the NNU network is not intended for activities unrelated to appropriate NNU functions, incidental personal use is allowed. Any personal use must not interfere with the use of others engaged in the completion of NNU functions.

### Commercial Use
NNU computer and network resources should not be used for commercial purposes except in a purely incidental manner. Employees of the University may seek this permission from the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs. Students may seek this permission from the Office of Student Development. Users shall not use NNU facilities, supplies, materials, equipment or services for commercial use without first obtaining approval of the appropriate dean or director and arranging for the payment of total cost for such use.

## Sanctions
Penalties for violation of this policy range from the loss of computer resource privileges to dismissal from the University, prosecution, and/or civil action. Each case will be determined separately on its merits.

1. If the offender is an employee of the University, the computer resource may be disabled and the immediate supervisor shall recommend to the Dean of their respective School and the Vice President for Academic Affairs the appropriate sanction in accordance with due process and the right to appeal.

2. If the offender is a student, the computer resource may be disabled and all pertinent information will be turned over to the Dean of Student Life and Development who will exercise the student judicial process.
Student Computer Support

Goals
The goals of the student computer support provided by NNU Information Technology are twofold:

1. Help ensure that the computing experience of all NNU students is as positive and helpful to their education goals as possible.

2. Assist students in preparing for the use of technology in their future careers after leaving NNU.

Support Resources
Computer support for NNU is provided through the Technical Response Center (TRC), located in the Emerson Administration Building on the main floor. Students and employees of NNU may contact the TRC for limited assistance on personal computers, as well as full support of NNU owned and managed computers.

- The Technical Response Center Manager is a full-time Administrative Personnel position. This person is responsible to establish and maintain the Technical Response Center. Accessible via email, phone or walk-in visits, the Technical Response Center is staffed 40 hours per week during the normal work hours, and has extended hours into the evening and on weekends as posted on www.nnu.edu/trc.

- Computer Teaching Assistants (TAs) are trained in NNU network and computing support. Computer TAs report to the TRC Manager and are available to support the campus during the hours posted on the IT web site, http://www.nnu.edu/trc. Other Computer TA duties include:
  - Maintain and clean IT-maintained computer labs campus-wide.
  - Maintain and clean teaching station computers located throughout the campus.
  - Maintain and clean kiosk stations across the campus.
  - Maintain and stock supplies for lab printers
  - Provide basic tech support for computers belonging to students and employees.

- The computer support web page, located on the NNU website, http://help.nnu.edu, provides on-line technical information, downloadable resources and support request forms. The TRC manager is responsible for maintaining this web site.

- Self-Help Guides are technical “how-to” documents which are kept up-to-date and available online at http://www.nnu.edu/it.

NNU-Owned Computers
All NNU-owned lab computers are fully supported and maintained by Information Technology Department personnel. The TRC Manager is primarily responsible for the condition of general use labs across the campus.
NNU-Standard Laptops
Laptops purchased through NNU are fully supported by NNU Information Technology as described in the Computer Purchase Policy, located at www.nnu.edu/it.

Student Owned Computers
These include laptop and desktop Windows and Mac computers.

Network Connectivity
Installation, configuration and troubleshooting of hardware and software required or related to connectivity to the NNU network is provided as-needed and free-of-charge by the TRC and TA staff. This includes Ethernet connectivity in dorm rooms and connectivity to the NNU Home page via web from off-campus locations.

Virus Prevention
Installation and assistance in configuring anti-virus software is available. Anti-virus and Anti-spyware programs are available to students and employees for checkout free from the NNU Riley library.

Virus Damage Control
The TRC will provide assistance in recovery of data and disinfecting of virus–infected student computers. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up-to-date anti-virus protection on their personal computers. Additional information on this aspect of the TRC is available in the NNU Virus policy, located at http://www.nnu.edu/it.

Limited Data Backup and Recovery
If the student’s computer has been damaged or shows signs of imminent hard drive failure, the TRC will provide assistance in data recovery and or backup of academic materials only. The TRC will not backup or recover non-academic or pirated materials or software, specifically including music files, media files, pornographic or illicit materials, etc.

Assistance with Software Provided by NNU
The TRC and TAs will assist students in installation, configuration and troubleshooting of such software provided by the University.

Support Specifically Not Provided
The following are examples of the kinds of support NNU cannot provide for personally-owned student computers:

- No “house calls” are made to off-campus locations, and only rarely to dorm rooms.
- Major hardware upgrades or extensive repairs are not provided, with the exception of NNU-Standard Laptops. Major upgrades and extensive repairs include: Operating System upgrades, CPU replacements, extensive diagnostics on motherboards or RAM components, etc.
- Monitors: We cannot open a monitor to diagnose a problem. High voltages are present inside monitors which present safety hazards.
- Research and purchasing of upgrade components for personally owned computers is not provided by the Department of Information Technology. Limited recommendations of what and where to purchase computer components and upgrades may be provided on a
personal basis, but such advice does not constitute NNU-endorsement of any business or product.

- Exceptions: On rare occasions, it may make sense to provide one of the services listed above. If in the judgment of the computer TA the service will not take more than one or two hours at maximum, and will effect a major improvement in operation of the computer, then the TA must discuss the situation with the TRC Manager and receive approval before proceeding.