PEER TO PEER POLICY

Section	Information Technology Services
Contact	Information Technology Services
Last Review	June 2013
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Approval	SLT 13/08/174

Purpose:

To prohibit the use of peer-to-peer (P2P) applications that allow copyright infringement or the illegal sharing of copyrighted files and to protect the University from litigation resulting from breaches of national and international copyright laws following inappropriate use of ICT systems.

Policy:

The following applies:

- Staff have access to the Internet to undertake research and collaboration with external organisations and their peers.
- Students have access to the Internet to further their education by researching resources and collaborating with their peers.
- Use of P2P applications for file sharing and entertainment is inappropriate use of the University's infrastructure and will not be permitted.
- The University will enforce protocol or port level restrictions to prevent P2P activities.
- Exceptions for legitimate use for academic and/or University business reasons must be addressed to the Chief Information Officer, and must be requested by the department head or equivalent.
- If inappropriate use is detected, the University reserves the right to disable access privileges.
- Any breach of this policy may result in disciplinary action.

Definitions:

Chief Information Officer: Person responsible for the development, implementation and operation of a firm's ICT systems; oversees all information systems infrastructure within the organization, and is responsible for establishing information related standards and policies to facilitate management control over all ICT resources.

ICT: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), an umbrella term used to cover all network, computing, software, and telecommunications systems and resources, including storage and peripheral devices, whether used for research, teaching or administration.

Infrastructure: The computer and communication hardware, software, databases, people, and policies supporting the University's information management functions.

Peer: Any device connected to a network that can communicate with another device connected to a network. A device can be an assortment of electronic devices and could include but not limited to a computer, tablet, personal digital assistant (PDA) or mobile telephone.

P2P Application: Software running on the device to provide the communications and file sharing capability between peers. This software is normally downloaded from the Internet and includes but not limited to applications such as Gnutella, Limewire, Azureus, Kazaa, Morpheus, BitTorrent and Edonkey.

Port: The negotiated or common channel identity that is used to communicate between peers.

Protocol: Communications language used between peers.

Audience:

All users of the Internet at Massey University including staff, students, visitors, contractors and affiliates.

Relevant legislation:

Copyright Act 1993

Legal compliance:

P2P communications makes it very easy to distribute copyright protected work. However, the Copyright Act 1993 makes it illegal to make or distribute copyright materials without the specific authorisation from the copyright owner.

Related procedures / documents:

Data Network Policy
Use and Access to Information Technology Systems Policy
Policy on Staff Conduct
Code of Student Conduct
Contract Management Policy and Contractors (Academic and General Stuff Duties) Procedures

The University's Library has information on copyright and this can be accessed at the following location: http://copyright.massey.ac.nz

Document management control:

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