INTERNET USAGE POLICY

The college provides a high speed Internet connection to all bedrooms on campus. It does so for you to use for academic purposes rather than for entertainment.

The college network is a shared resource that comes with obligations to use it wisely (in contrast to a connection in a home environment). Access to the network for students is provided free of charge by the college, although the college does have to pay usage charges to the University.

EXCESSIVE USE

Use of popular web sites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube does not normally present any particular problem. Even though around a thousand devices are connected to the college network, as long as users are sensible about their usage, the network runs smoothly.

Excessive use commonly results from streaming or downloading television shows, films, and games, or running file sharing "torrent" software. Malware infections can also cause it. College members are expected to avoid both activities.

Automatic warning emails are sent out to the email address that matches the network port. The warning email trigger thresholds are 2 GB and 5 GB, reset daily at midnight. If you suspect that you might be generating a lot of traffic or you start to receive the automatic alert emails, you should identify the cause and rectify the problem immediately. If in doubt, seek advice from the college computer officers.

Exceeding 10 GB usage in a single day normally leads to automatic disconnection from the college network without notice. This may be followed by a disciplinary meeting with the Lay Dean, before which reconnection will not occur.

It will always be assumed that the reason for any excessive usage is non-academic unless you can prove otherwise to the college computer officer in the first instance. Should there be a legitimate academic reason for high usage, you should let the computer office know in advance in order to avoid disconnection.

PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE USE

The penalties for exceeding the 10 GB daily threshold typically are:

  1st offence: a caution / guidance

  2nd offence: disconnection for 1 week

  3rd and subsequent offences: disconnection for 1 week plus a fine

In all three cases it will be necessary to visit the Lay Dean to discuss what occurred. The Lay Dean may use discretion to adjust the penalties as he or she sees fit.

DOWNLOADING ILLEGAL MATERIAL

It is against the law in this country to download copyright protected material without permission from the copyright holder. Typically the materials involved are popular movies or computer games. Illegal activity, at "torrent" sites in particular, is actively monitored by copyright holders, who issue complaints to the University. When such activity has been detected, the University and the college normally apply stronger penalties:

  1st offence: disconnection for 1 week and a fine

  2nd and subsequent offences: disconnection for a longer, possibly indefinite, period and a fine

In both cases above it will be necessary to visit the Lay Dean to discuss what occurred. In addition, a college computer officer will inspect your computer.

OTHER ASPECTS

Besides *not* generating large amounts of entertainment traffic, the two most important practices to be observed on the network are:

- install software for operating system updating (for all systems)

- for Windows and Mac OS - ensure you have an up to date anti-virus program

The University provides free anti-virus software to download. Please visit http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/docs/faq/security/a4 for more information and the download site.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Many other rules and regulations govern connection to and acceptable use of the college network (which is part of the wider Cambridge University Data Network, often referred to as the CUDN). Full details are published online at http://www.cam.ac.uk/cs/security/notes/collegerooms.html. You get an opportunity to read these when you first connect your computer to the college network.

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