

Problems with using Music/Audio/ Video/Software Sharing Programs

P2P technologies have many legitimate uses. For this reason, NSU does not completely ban P2P programs for its network. We believe, however, that the primary use of P2P technology has been the copying of commercial music and video files, without the copyright holder's permission, for personal enjoyment.

Copyright

- Often files that are shared are copyrighted. Personal music and video CD's are copyrighted material that cannot legally be copied and distributed to others.
- Copying and distributing these files can be seen as piracy and can expose you to prosecution under the law, even if you are not aware of the activity.

Overload

- Peer to peer sharing slows down your computer along with the entire campus network.
- Some applications can eat up enormous amounts of bandwidth and make heavy demands on the network, slowing down response time.

Threats

- Many of the P2P clients (Limewire in particular) are filled with virus and worm infected files. If you download a file that is infected, and open it, you are risking an infection of your computer that may result in your computer failure.

Prevent Uploading

- You are more likely to get caught for sharing files compared to downloading them. Some applications come with default settings that automatically allow file uploading. In most cases you can prevent it by disabling your client.
 - If you insist on using a file-sharing program, configure it to disable file sharing. See <http://nsit.uchicago.edu/services/safecomputing/disableptp/> to disable common peer to peer clients.

Legal music sites provided by the RIAA:

Some music, movies and television shows can be legally obtained through online subscription services or from sites officially permitted by the copyright holders to offer certain downloads. Some of the "pay for play" services from which these files can be legally obtained are listed below.

Music: Apple iTunes Music Store, Rhapsody, eMusic and MP3.com

Movies/TV: AtomFilms, CinemaNow, MovieFlix, Movielink and NetFlix

