

## **Otis College of Art and Design Policy Regarding Appropriate Use of Campus Computing and Network Resources**

An overall guiding mission of Otis College is education in an environment where the free exchange of ideas is encouraged and protected. Otis College makes available computing and network facilities (CNF) resources for use by College students, faculty and staff. These services are provided for educational purposes and to carry out the legitimate business of the College.

The College and members of the college communities are expected to observe Federal, State and local laws that govern computer and telecommunications use, as well as the College's regulations and policies. You must not use campus computing or networking resources or personal computing resources accessed through campus network facilities to collect, store or distribute information or materials, or to participate in activities that are in violation of federal, state or local laws or other College policies or guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, policies and guidelines regarding intellectual property and sexual or other forms of harassment.

Computing and network facilities resources users are required to use these resources within the College's standards of conduct. Individuals with expert knowledge of information systems or who make extensive use of these facilities, or with a position of trust regarding these facilities will be held accountable to a higher standard.

Responsible, considerate, and ethical behavior expected by the College extends to use of computing and network facilities resources, and networks throughout the world to which electronic access has been provided. These CNF resources include but are not limited to:

- Computers and associated peripheral devices;
- Campus video cable;
- Classroom presentation systems;
- Voice messaging equipment;
- Data networking equipment systems, including remote and wireless access;
- Computer software;
- Electronically stored institutional data and messages;
- All other similar resources owned, controlled, and/or operated by the College; and
- Services to maintain these resources.

### **OWNERSHIP**

The College retains absolute ownership rights of the CNF resources. Such resources are not owned by a department or by any individual. CNF resources leased, licensed, or purchased under research contracts or grants, are administered under the terms of this Policy for as long as they remain within the lawful possession or control of the College.

### **PRIVACY & SECURITY**

- ***File confidentiality***

Your documents, files and electronic mail stored on a College-owned networked computers or servers are normally accessible only by you. However, any file or document placed on a College-owned computer or network is subject to access pursuant to this Policy, and thus, should not be regarded as private or confidential. The system managers have the ability to monitor traffic and directly view any file as it moves across the network, and they must occasionally do so to manage campus network resources. In short, files may be monitored without notice in the ordinary course of business to ensure the smooth operation of the network. All staff members working in Information Systems have clear guidelines that prohibit violations of privacy and confidentiality and, in the

normal course of their work they do not view the contents of user files or e-mail. However, you should be aware that authorized College personnel will take appropriate steps to investigate when there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of campus computing or networking resources. This may include monitoring network traffic, its contents, and examining files on any computer system connected to the network.

You should also know that all files on shared (i.e., networked) systems, including e-mail servers, are backed up periodically on schedules determined by the College. Backup tapes are preserved for lengths of time also determined by the College operating procedures. These tapes can be used to restore files that you have deleted accidentally. This means that the files on the tapes are also available to someone else with reason and authority to retrieve them.

- **Network monitoring**

Troubleshooting on the campus network, as well as planning for enhancements, requires the collection of detailed data on network traffic. Information Systems regularly runs monitoring software that records and reports on the data that is transported across the campus networks. The reports include the origin and destination addresses, and other characteristics of files, including the URLs of the World Wide Web sites that are contacted. This data is accessed and used only by authorized IS staff members responsible for network performance, operations and planning. You should also be aware that many Web host machines on the Internet collect and log information about you and your identity when you visit their sites. This information may include, but is not limited to, information about the computer you are using, its address, and your e-mail address.

Many educational and business activities at the College require network access to resources on the Internet. To ensure adequate bandwidth to these sites for the Colleges' primary educational and business purposes, Information Systems staff may restrict the amount of traffic to particular sites and the amount of traffic of specific types.

From time to time these network monitoring activities may allow systems managers to identify individuals whose activities downgrade the performance of the campus network or a segment of the network, or which appear to violate the general guidelines for appropriate use of campus computing and network resources. In such instances, an Information Systems staff member may ask you to cease these activities. If you continue such activities, or if they include illegal activities, appropriate College authorities may be notified. In extreme cases, network privileges may be revoked on an interim basis pending resolution of the issue.

- **Passwords and Codes**

Individuals entrusted with or that inadvertently discover logins and passwords are expected to guard them responsibly. These passwords are not to be shared with others. The same policy applies to door codes for restricted-access rooms/areas. Those who need logins or door codes can make a formal request to the administrator of those codes/passwords. Passwords may be used for the purpose of security, but the use of the password does not affect Otis College ownership of electronic information.

**ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

Access to CNF resources is a privilege, which is allowed only to the College's authorized personnel and students. All users must understand and abide by the responsibilities that come with the privilege of use. Such responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. You must understand and comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
2. You must not intentionally seek information about, browse, copy, or modify non-public files belonging to other people, whether at Otis College or elsewhere. You must not attempt to "sniff" or eavesdrop on data on the network that are not intended for you.
3. You are authorized to use only computer resources and information to which you have legitimately been granted access. Sharing your passwords with others is expressly forbidden. Any attempt to gain unauthorized access to any computer system, resource or information is expressly forbidden. If you encounter or observe a gap in system or network security, immediately report the gap to the Director of Information Systems.
4. The College Policy on Harassment applies as equally to electronic displays and communications as to the more traditional (e.g., oral and written) means of display and communication.
5. Messages, sentiments, and declarations sent as electronic mail or postings must meet the same standards for distribution or display as physical (paper) documents would on college property.
6. Unsolicited mailings and unauthorized mass mailings from campus networks or computing resources (i.e., "spam") are prohibited.
7. Spoofing, or attempts to spoof or falsify e-mail, network or other information used to identify the source, destination or other information about a communication, data or information is prohibited.
8. You must not degrade computing or network performance in any way that could prevent others from meeting their educational or College business goals. You must not prevent others from using shared resources by running unattended processes, by playing games or by "locking" systems without permission from the appropriate system manager.
9. You must conform to laws and College policies regarding protection of intellectual property, including laws and policies regarding copyright, patents, and trademarks. When the content and distribution of an electronic communication would exceed fair use as defined by the federal Copyright Act of 1976, users of campus computing or networking resources shall secure appropriate permission to distribute protected material in any form, including text, photographic images, audio, video, graphic illustrations, and computer software.
10. You must not use campus computing or networking resources or personal computing resources accessed through campus network facilities to collect, store or distribute information or materials, or to participate in activities that are in violation of federal, state or local laws.
11. You must not use campus computing or networking resources or personal computing resources accessed through campus network facilities to collect, store or distribute information or materials in violation of other Colleges policies or guidelines. These include, but are not limited to, policies and guidelines regarding intellectual property and sexual or other forms of harassment.

12. You must not create or willfully disseminate computer viruses, worms, or other software intended to degrade system or network security. You must take reasonable steps to prevent your system from being used as a vehicle for such actions. This includes installing system and software patches as well as anti-virus signatures files.
13. Use of CNF resources for advertising, selling, and soliciting for commercial purposes or for personal gain is prohibited without the prior written consent of the College. Faculty, students or staff who has questions about the legitimacy of a particular use should discuss it with the Director of Information Systems.
14. The disclosure of student individually identifiable non-directory information to non-college personnel is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The disclosure of financial or personnel records that are owned by the College without permission or to unauthorized persons are not permitted and may be prosecuted under California Penal Code 502.
15. Willful or unauthorized misuse or disclosure of information owned by the College will also constitute just cause for disciplinary action, including dismissal from school and/or termination of employment regardless of whether criminal or civil penalties are imposed. It is also expected that any user will report suspected abuses of CNF resources. Failure to do so may subject the individual to loss of CNF access and/or the disciplinary action referred to above.

The Information Systems group of Otis College may immediately suspend service to an individual or computer found to be significantly degrading the usability of the network or other computer systems. Inappropriate use will be referred to the appropriate College authority to take action, which may result in dismissal from school and/or termination of employment.