

3359-11-10 Access and acceptable use of university computer and informational resources.

(A) Authority.

The university of Akron is the legal owner or operator of all university "IT" systems, university "IT" resources and university information stored on those systems and resources.

(B) Definitions and functions.

(1) "IT". "IT" means information technology.

(2) "Systems Authority." "Systems Authority" is the head of a specific subdivision, department, or office of the university who is responsible for oversight of particular "IT" systems, as delegated

- (8) Specific authorization. Specific authorization is documented permission provided by the applicable "Systems Administrator," "Information Owner," or "Certifying Authority."
- (C) Scope. The access and acceptable use policies and related policies from this chapter apply to all "IT" users at the university of Akron and to all "IT" systems and "IT" resources at the university of Akron.
- (D) Privileges and responsibilities.
- (1) The university of Akron provides "IT" resources and "IT" systems to the university community primarily to serve the interests of the University and its students in the course of normal operations. The provision of such services is in keeping with its academic, instructional, research, administrative and public purpose. Access and usage that do not support the university purpose are subject to restriction and regulation to avoid interference with university work and other applicable directives. All users are obligated to abide by university directives, policies and regulations regarding usage.
 - (2) Use of and access to "IT" systems and "IT" resources is a privilege, not a right. Except as indicated below, the university does not seek to monitor the communications amongst its many and varied users. The university serves to transmit communications on its "IT" systems and "IT" resources from the senders to intended recipients. Users should not expect any right of privacy in the use of university "IT" systems or "IT" resources since the university may be compelled under public records law, subpoena, investigation, or other law to release information transmitted through the university "IT" systems and "IT" resources. Additionally, the university reserves the right to monitor, review, and release any such communications as necessary for purposes of security, public safety, or other situations such as suspected disruption to "IT" systems or other shared resources or suspected violations of university rules or procedures or local, state, or federal law. Accordingly, the university reserves the right to make rules and procedures that govern users' access and use.
 - (3) The university is covered by several federal and state laws and regulations regarding information privacy and security and is committed to protecting the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all such sensitive and confidential information, including, but not limited to, protected health information and customer information. Therefore, effective "IT" security is the responsibility of every university "IT" user, and every "IT" user is responsible for knowing the rules related to access and acceptable use, privacy, and security.
- (E) Acceptable access and use standards.
- (1) Users are expected to use "IT" resources and "IT" systems in a responsible and efficient manner consistent with the instructional, research, and administrative goals of the university of Akron. The particular purposes of any "IT" system or "IT" resource, as well as the nature and scope of authorized, incidental personal use may

vary according to the duties and responsibilities of the user.

- (2) Use of university "IT" resources and "IT" systems must comply with Ohio law and university policies and directives.
- (3) Users are entitled to access only those elements of "IT" systems that are consistent with their specific authorization. Consistent with the organizational structure, "System Authorities," "System Administrators," and "Information Owners" will authorize access to specific systems based on the individual's need to know, the individual's unit, the type of data involved, and the intended use of the information.

(F) Misuse.

Privileges of usage may be denied or removed for the following:

- (1) Use that is harassing or threatening to others, or use that violates others' privacy.
- (2) Potentially destructive or damaging acts to the integrity of the university of Akron's or other "IT" systems, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) Attempts to defeat system security.
 - (b) Knowing distribution of malware (software designed

- (5) Unauthorized access or use, which may include, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Improper access and use of information beyond the individual's authority;
 - (b) Attempts to defeat system security;
 - (c) Disguised use; or
 - (d) Unauthorized sharing of passwords.
 - (6) Misuse of e-mail, such as, but not limited to:
 - (a) Sending unsolicited e-mails to a large number of recipients, i.e. sending spam-mail or unwanted chain letters.
 - (b) Soliciting for personal financial gain.
 - (7) Committing crimes or prohibited acts, including but not limited to the following. [Note: Illegal acts involving the university of Akron informational resources facilities may also be subject to prosecution by state and federal authorities].
 - (a) Use of "IT" systems or "IT" resources for purposes unrelated to the mission of the university.
 - (b) Violating the rights of any person or company protected by copyrights or other intellectual property, or software license agreements, which shall include, but not be limited to installation, distribution or copying of technology products/services or copyrighted material for which the user does not have a license.
 - (c) Exporting software or technical information in violation of international or regional export control laws.
 - (d) Academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, plagiarism and scientific misconduct, as provided in university rule 3359-11-17.
 - (8) Use that impedes, interferes with, impairs, or otherwise causes harm to the activities of others.
 - (9) Use that is inconsistent with or that jeopardizes the university of Akron's non-profit status, use for personal gain, use for personal financial gain, and use for promotion of business enterprises.
- (G) Procedures for implementing penalties, appeal of administrative decision.
- (1) Individuals given the privilege to use "IT" systems and "IT" resources are expected to abide by this and other applicable university of Akron policies, regulations, directives and guidelines. Disregard of this and other applicable policies, regulations, directives and guidelines subjects the user to applicable disciplinary procedures.

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