

# **Computer Resource Acceptable Use Policy**

## **Introduction**

These guidelines set forth standards for responsible and acceptable usage of all Snead State Community College (SSCC) computing resources. Computing resources are defined as all SSCC owned host systems, personal computers, laptops, printers, software, communications devices, peripherals and supplies. These guidelines supplement existing institutional policies as well as all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

## **User Responsibilities**

The computing resources at Snead State Community College are intended to support the educational and administrative endeavors of faculty and staff. Access to and use of SSCC computing resources is a privilege and therefore should be treated as such. Any violation of this policy could result in privileges being suspended, an official reprimand, expulsion, dismissal, and/or criminal prosecution if laws have been broken.

The following activities are prohibited on all SSCC computing resources:

1. Altering system software or hardware configurations without authorization of the SSCC IT department.
2. Accessing via the internet or any other means of pornographic, obscene or questionable material.
3. Installing, copying, distributing or using software that has not been authorized by the SSCC IT department.
4. Using computing resources for illegal activities.
5. Accessing or attempting to access another user's files, e-mail or other computing resources without their permission.
6. Allowing unauthorized users to utilize your account
7. Using computer resources for commercial or profitmaking purposes without written authorization from SSCC.
8. Creation and/or distribution of viruses or other destructive programs.
9. Originating or proliferating electronic mail or other messages that may be deemed as obscene or abusive.

E-Mail is covered under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986. This act provides for prosecution of individuals found surreptitiously capturing, reading or altering another's e-mail without permission.

10. Violating Alabama Research and Engineering Network policies provided in the Alabama Supercomputer Authority Appendix below.

## **Overview**

The Alabama Supercomputer Network (ASN) is a statewide network administered by the Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA). The purpose of this policy is to provide a definition for acceptable use by authorized users of ASN and to indicate recommended action if the policy is violated. In those cases when information is transmitted across regional networks or the Internet, ASN users are advised that acceptable use policies of those networks apply and may limit access.

## **ASA Primary Goals**

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority has been established to:

- enhance university research in Alabama;
- attract and support high technology industry;
- expand knowledge and use of computational science.

## **ASN Acceptable Use Policy**

- All use of ASN must be consistent with ASA's primary goals.
- ASN is for the use of individuals legitimately affiliated with member organizations, to facilitate the exchange of information consistent with the academic, educational and research purposes of its member organizations.
- It is not acceptable to use ASN for illegal purposes.
- It is not acceptable to use ASN to transmit threatening, obscene, or harassing materials.
- Access to the Internet provided through an ASA statewide contract with a regional network provider. The contract allows ASA to grant access to the Internet to any governmental, educational and industrial entity through ASN. Charges may be assessed by ASA to facilitate network connectivity. Reselling of the Internet connectivity and services is prohibited.
- It is not acceptable to use ASN to interfere with or disrupt network users, services or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, disruption by unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer

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- It is not acceptable to use ASN to interfere with or disrupt network users, services or equipment. Disruptions include, but are not limited to, disruption by unsolicited advertising, propagation of computer worms or viruses, and using the network to make unauthorized entry to any other machine accessible via the network.
- Information and resources accessible through ASN are private to the individuals and organizations which own or hold rights to those resources and information unless specifically stated otherwise by the owners or holders of rights. It is therefore not acceptable for an individual to use ASN to access information or resources unless permission is granted by the owners or holders of rights to those resources or information.

### **Violation of Policy**

All organizations authorized to access ASN are responsible for informing their users of this acceptable use policy. All users of ASN are required to follow the acceptable use guidelines, both in letter and spirit.

ASA reserves the right to monitor and review all traffic on ASN for potential violations of this policy. Violations of policy that are not promptly remedied by individuals and member institutions may result in termination of access to ASN.

Final authority for the determination of violation of the ASA Acceptable Use Policy and subsequent penalty rests with the ASA Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of member representatives to contact ASA, in writing, regarding questions of interpretation. Until such issues are resolved, questionable use should be considered “not acceptable”.