

Copyright Infringement Notice

You must follow all these instructions

Your computing device has been implicated in a copyright infringement allegation reported to Columbia University while on the Columbia University network and/or Columbia Business School network. In order to restore network access to this computing device on the Columbia Business School network, you will need to:

- (1) immediately remove files on your computing device that are violating copyright infringement,
- (2) read this notice in its entirety and
- (3) sign-off that you understand and agree to adhere to the Columbia University Copyright policy. For a copyright violation on the Columbia University network, you will be routed to an automated online process separate from the Business School's process.

Please note that under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, a copyright owner can request the issuance of a subpoena by a Federal district court, even after sending the report that led to this notice, which would require the University to provide your name to the copyright owner. If a subpoena has not been issued, CUIT nor CBS ITG, will not disclose your name or any other personal information to any outside agency.

• How did Columbia University become aware of this incident?

All Internet providers, including universities and commercial ISP's, are required to register and respond to complaints about a copyright infringement traceable to an address on their network. Third party companies monitor for copyright infringements on behalf of major motion picture studios, the Motion Picture Association of America, the Recording Industry Association of America, the Interactive Digital Software Association, as well as other copyright owners and their agents. These companies search for infringing files using popular peer-to-peer (P2P) filesharing programs and report what they find to Internet providers, who must act on the complaints.

• Is it illegal to use programs like LimeWire and BitTorrent?

The programs are not illegal, but they can force your computer to share copyrighted material, which is illegal.

• Is it illegal to download music, software, and movies?

It is illegal to obtain copyright protected materials that are offered for sale such as music, software and movies, in any form, without paying for them, unless the copyright owner explicitly allows it. For music files, you must buy the album or track, or subscribe to a download service where you pay by the number of songs you download. For movies and TV shows, you must buy a VHS, DVD, or digital copy. For computer software, you must purchase on media or from a download service provided by the vendor, unless the vendor has explicitly stated that the program can be obtained free of charge.

• If I own the DVD of a movie, and I want to watch it on my computer, why can't I download it from a file sharing service?

The person who is sharing the file is doing so illegally. If you obtain it through illegal means, it cannot become legal because you own the DVD. If you want to store a copy of a DVD movie on your computer, you need to obtain software which allows you to "rip" the files to a computer hard drive. Remember that sharing your legal copy of the file is illegal.

- **If I "rip" a DVD that I own to my computer, can I still get in trouble for having it?**

If you allow other people to access it, you are breaking the law. For example, if it is in a folder which is being shared through a filesharing program, or if it can be downloaded by others.

- **If I am just downloading files, but not sharing anything, how would anyone know?**

Columbia University has received many responses from students who insist that they were not sharing any files. Many filesharing programs share files automatically, and others make it hard or impossible to turn off sharing to prevent "lurking."

- **Why am I being singled out, when everyone I know uses these programs?**

Columbia University did not single you out. The infringing files were found by an enforcement agency that passed the complaint on to the University. We are upholding our responsibilities under the law with our current course of action. Columbia University does not monitor its network for content. We have measures in place to prevent people from using large amounts of network bandwidth, but we do not monitor or review content.

- **Is this copyright infringement serious?**

The companies who hold the copyrights have the legal right to have subpoenas issued to obtain personal information about the people infringing upon their copyrights. If a company wished to do so, Columbia University would have no power to stop them from seeking legal action against a student who was found to be violating the law. Furthermore, a repeat offense (a second complaint traced to you) will initiate a formal disciplinary hearing with the Dean of Students for your college. Such a hearing can have significant consequences on your academic career.

- **What do I need to do now?**

You will need to confirm that you are in compliance with the law. You must delete any copyrighted files that you do not have the right to possess or acquired illegally. To paraphrase the information already provided, if you do not own a purchased copy of any given media, you do not have the right to possess it. Once you have destroyed any infringing files, we request that you do not use filesharing software anymore. As stated previously, Columbia University does not monitor user content, so we will not make this an absolute demand. However, the consequences of a second offense (a formal hearing with your Dean) should be enough to convince you that it is not worth the risk. Keep in mind that although Columbia University does not monitor content, copyright owners do.

It is also important that you understand Columbia University's policy on computer ownership: all traffic which originates from a computer you own, or the network jack your equipment is connected to, is your responsibility. So if other people have access to your computer (friends, roommates, etc.) and one of them distributes something which triggers a complaint, it will be your responsibility because it is your computer.

Additionally, if you have an unsecured access point, you will be held responsible for the traffic. Keep your operating system up to date with the latest patches, since a compromised machine can be configured by an attacker to distribute copyrighted material.

- **Then what?**

Information about this case will be forwarded to the designated institutional office of your college for their information. You will not be required to meet with them if this is a first offense, however, you must understand you are on probation and a second offense will result in a disciplinary action.

Once they process the information, they will send you a message indicating that they are aware of the case and communicating any additional requirements. That will be the end of it, as long as you are never implicated in another complaint.

• **What if I still have questions about this?**

For more information about Columbia University policies, please see the Computer and Network Use Policy: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/policy>

For more information about copyright, please see Copyright Information for Network Users at Columbia: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/policy/copyright-info.html>

For more information about our copyright process:

http://www4.gsb.columbia.edu/itg/student/policies_resources

If you agree that you have:

- a) removed the material from your machine,
- b) read and understand the implications of this notice and
- c) will not knowingly repeat this offense,

Please sign and date below:

Name

Date