

# The Gentleman's Rule & Computers

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*You are responsible for your own account and your own actions.*

Choose a good password to keep your account secure. If you believe someone has guessed your password, immediately change it.

Do not share your password with anyone. All Wabash students have network and email accounts, so sharing of accounts is unnecessary. You alone are responsible for any email messages or activities that originate from your account.

If you find a computer that someone is still logged on to, simply log that person off. No need to send "funny" emails from their account.

You must abide by all state and federal laws and regulations, including copyright laws. You may not serve, supply, or display copyrighted images, text, sound or video files, or computer software from your computer or personal web page, without the express written consent of the owner.

Wabash networks are scanned regularly and we also maintain log files that document interactions between computers on campus and the Internet.

Act responsibly when using email lists. Use the on-line classifieds system instead of email to buy or sell something, lost and found, and similar announcements. Use Blackboard forums for general campus-wide discussions. Don't use email to harass or embarrass others.

**While you have the freedom to act, you also shoulder the responsibility of your actions.**

## Music, Video, and Software File Sharing

Uploading or downloading copyrighted music, video, and software without the permission of the copyright owner is a violation of United States copyright law. The Copyright Act imposes a range of statutory damages for copyright infringement, and students who choose to engage in this activity could face severe financial penalties. The minimum damages under the law is \$750 for *each* copyrighted recording that has been shared. See [www.copyright.gov](http://www.copyright.gov) for more information.

Many files distributed over peer-to-peer networks are copyrighted works. To avoid these risks, utilize one of the many low-cost, legal alternatives, such as iTunes or MusicMatch.

## Recent Legal Actions

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), and similar organizations actively monitor music and video file sharing on the Internet. If they find such activity from your computer, they may issue a "cease and desist" order; they may send a "settlement order" that gives you a chance to pay a copyright penalty of several thousand dollars to avoid a federal lawsuit; or they may file a federal lawsuit against you and subpoena Wabash College to disclose your identity. **This has happened at Wabash**, so don't delude yourself into thinking that Wabash is too small to attract attention.