

Copyright Infringement and YOU!

Congress enacted the No Electronic Theft (NET) Act in 1997. The NET Act makes it a federal crime to reproduce, distribute, or share copies of electronic copyrighted works such as songs, movies, fames, or software programs, even if the person copying or distributing the material acts have no intention of receiving a profit. Electronic copyright infringement carries a maximum penalty of up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

For more information in the NET Act, go to:
http://www.riaa.com/physicalpiracy.php?content_selector=piracy_online_the_law

Alabama Southern Community College Policy states that it is illegal to share or use files, software, and/or other work creations that are protected under copyright law, without explicit permission from the copyright holder. This includes, but is not limited to, all copyrighted audio, video, games, and published software that is licensed. Users that violate copyright laws may be subject to ASCC disciplinary action and/or prosecution under State and Federal guidelines.

To view ASCC Network usage policies go to:
<http://www.ascc.edu>



Protect Yourself from Copyright Infringement

Avoid Peer-to-Peer Sharing—The safest way to avoid copyright infringement trouble is to avoid using peer-to-peer and other file sharing software.

Use Legal Alternatives—There are plenty of legal alternatives and plenty of options including pay per song, subscriptions and streaming; many are free. Not all free sites are legal, and not all pay sites are legal. It's your job to figure out which is which.

Disable Outbound Sharing—If you still want to use peer-to-peer or other file sharing software, ensure it's configured properly to avoid malware, spyware, or identify theft.

Educate yourself—Learn how peer-to-peer software works and how it can be used to illegally download music, movies and games, and then avoid it. Legal sites should have documentation available proving their service doesn't violate copyright.

Ask—If all else fails, ask the software company in question, the RIAA, a lawyer, or contact the library media services or IT department at ASCC.

Alabama Southern Community College

P. O. Box 2000

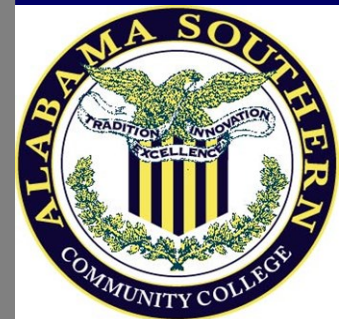
Monroeville, AL 36461

(251) 575-3156

www.ascc.edu

Alabama Southern
Community College

**Copyright
Infringement:
Digital Theft**



Serving the residents of
Choctaw, Clarke,
Marengo, Monroe
and Wilcox Counties.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I know what's legal and what's not legal when it comes to copying music?

If you distribute copyrighted material without permission from the copyright owner, you are breaking the law. Distribution can mean anything from "sharing" music files on the Internet to burning multiple copies of copyrighted material onto blank CD-R / DVD-Rs and giving them to others.

Can I use email or instant messenger services to exchange songs, etc. with friends?

The use of email or instant messenger services to exchange songs is governed by the same copyright laws that apply to any other form of reproduction or distribution.

If all I do is download files, am I still breaking the law?

Yes, if the person or network you're downloading from doesn't have the copyright holder's permission.

Besides record and movie companies, who gets hurt by illegal downloading?

First and foremost, illegal copying hurts the songwriters and recording artists who make the music and depend on royalties from that music. In addition, peer-to-peer file sharing takes up valuable network bandwidth and puts everyone on the network at risk for viruses, spyware and even identity theft.

What happens if I receive a copyright infringement notice and how do I avoid it?

Downloading and distributing whole copies of copyrighted material for personal use or entertainment without explicit permission from the copyright owner is against the law. Copyright law applies to materials such as music, movies, games and other software. File sharing applications such as KaZaA, Bit Torrent, eDonkey and LimeWire are not illegal, but many people use these sites to share materials illegally. They upload files without having permission to distribute them. When you download a copy of one of these illegally distributed files to your own computer, even if it's only one song, you are committing an illegal action. In addition, purchasing a CD or movie doesn't generally give you the right to distribute or share what's on it.

While the law may permit fair use of copyrighted work for such purposes as teaching, scholarship, research, criticism, comment, news reporting, etc., don't assume that all such uses are "fair". Fair use depends on a balance of four factors: the purpose of your use, the nature of your work, the amount of the work used, and the effect of your use on the potential market of the work.

When ASCC receives such a complaint or discovers a violation through investigation into service/network problems and routine security administration, the college actively pursues violations of illegal downloads on its network.

In addition to sending complaints to ASCC, copyright owners may also take direct legal action against alleged infringers, and subpoena the college for information about people sharing files. Lack of knowledge about copyright infringement laws will not excuse you from legal consequences, or from action by the college. It is your responsibility to be aware of the legality of your actions.

For tips on how to protect yourself from copyright infringement, see the back of this pamphlet.

Legal Alternatives:

This list includes music, movie, and gaming sites, and is by no means all inclusive.

Amazon: www.amazon.com

iTunes: www.itunes.com

Napster: www.napster.com

Netflix: www.netflix.com

Pandora Radio: www.pandora.com

Rhapsody: www.rhapsody.com

Slacker Radio: www.slacker.com

For more information, go to:

http://www.riaa.com/toolsforparents.php?content_selector=tools_info_for_parents

www.campusdownloading.com/legal.htm

<http://www.mpaa.org/contentprotection/copyright-info>

No part of Alabama Southern Community College is affiliated with any of the aforementioned websites, artists, or programs.