

Unauthorized File Sharing Policy

It is against Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Acceptable Use Policy to engage in activities that would violate federal [copyright laws](#). See the website www.copyright.gov for information. For example, copying or downloading movies, music, or other copyrighted materials is against the law. Peer to peer sharing of the copyrighted materials is also against the law and may be subject to civil and criminal liabilities. A summary of liabilities is available at <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html#506>.

NWOSU relies on two methods to combat illegal file sharing:

1. Ports commonly used by Peer-to-Peer file sharing programs are blocked on the University firewalls.
2. Notification from our Internet Service Provider. Upon notification from our ISP of unlawful activity:
 - a. The NWOSU Information Technology department will notify administration of the violation.
 - b. Using information gathered by our ISP, network activity will be monitored to determine the location of the suspect computer.

Once found, Information Technology will take necessary measures to halt the unlawful activity on the NWOSU network. Violators may be subject to civil and criminal liabilities, and the University may take action for violation of the Acceptable Use Policy.

Legal File Sharing Alternative

In 2010, Information Technology and Student Affairs have reviewed policies regarding legal file sharing alternatives. Northwestern will work to assist students in legal file sharing activities in order to combat illegal downloads. As part of its review, Northwestern has provided its students a list of resources for legal file sharing and downloads, that is available at <http://www.educause.edu/legalcontent>

NWOSU students may store and/or share up to 25GB of files using the SkyDrive feature of their student email account provided by NWOSU through the WindowsLive@edu program hosted by Microsoft.

The NWOSU library offers DVD movies for checkout to current Northwestern Students and Employees.

Policy Review

NWOSU periodically reviews its policies and alternatives. For more information, please contact the Office of Information Technology.