K-State's Plan to Combat Illegal File Sharing
July 21, 2010

Introduction

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) included provisions requiring universities to effectively combat the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials by users on an institution's network with enforcement becoming effective July 1, 2010. This document outlines K-State's plan to comply with these provisions of the HEOA.

Technology-Based Deterrents

Since K-State's **Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Policy** prohibits using K-State's information technology resources for "unauthorized acquisition or distribution of copyrighted or licensed material," a commercial product is deployed on the campus network that blocks all traffic associated with peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing applications. Furthermore, K-State policy prohibits installation on University computers of "P2P file sharing applications commonly used for these illicit purposes." Examples of **prohibited P2P file sharing applications** are listed on K-State's i**llegal file sharing web site**.

K-State's likewise has a detailed **procedure for handling DMCA notices** of alleged copyright infringement.

Education

- The Office of Student Life will send an email to all students at the beginning of each fall semester to inform them of K-State's P2P File Sharing Policy and referring them to K-State's illegal file sharing web site for additional information, such as possible civil and criminal liabilities, a summary of penalties for violation of Federal copyright law, and disciplinary actions that may be taken against students who engage in illegal downloading or unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials using K-State's information technology resources.

- At the beginning of each semester, Housing and Dining Services will provide a one-page handout about illegal file sharing to all students living in residence halls.

- Information about K-State's P2P File Sharing Policy is included in annual IT security training that is required for all employees, including student employees. All students will be encouraged to take the training as well.

- A web site with comprehensive information about illegal file sharing will be maintained by K-State's IT security team.

Legal Alternatives

Alternatives to illegal downloading are described on K-State's illegal file sharing web site, which includes links to services where music and movies can be legally purchased as well as a link to EDUCAUSE's extensive list of **legal sources of online content**.

Periodic Review

K-State's IT security team will review the effectiveness of this plan before the start of each fall semester and make adjustments as needed. The review will include:

- Relevance and accuracy of the annual communication sent to all students by the Office of Student Life

- Content of K-State's illegal file sharing web site, including the sample list of prohibited P2P file sharing applications

- Effectiveness of the technology-based deterrent on the campus network

- Trends in the number of DMCA notices of alleged infringement received by K-State

Results of the review and any proposed changes to the plan will be discussed with K-State's Office of General Counsel, the Chief Information Officer/Vice Provost for IT Services, and the Office of Student Life.

Contact

For questions about this plan and/or associated policies and procedures, contact:

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