

9-23-1986

## DOC 1986-03 Policy on Computing Ethics

University of Dayton. Vice President for Administration

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**PROPOSAL TO THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

**TITLE:** Policy on Computing Ethics

**PREPARED BY:** Vice President for Administration

**DATE:** September 23, 1986; October 2, 1986; November 6, 1986; December 4, 1986

Indicate the action required: Legislative, Concurrence, or Consultative, and refer to the appropriate reference in the Senate Constitution (Article IIB, 1, 2, 3).

**ACTION IS:** Legislative Concurrence

**REFERENCE IS:** Article II, B.3.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:** State objectives, rationale, and how proposal is to be implemented

The objective of this document is to make faculty, staff and students aware of their ethical responsibilities for copyrights, right to privacy, and plagiarism when using computing hardware and software.

Software piracy, the illegal copying of a copyrighted software package, is rampant throughout the country and unfortunately it is also true on this campus. There are persons who perceive that copying software products is not illegal. In truth there is no difference between copying and the actual theft of the product from the shelf at the local computer store. Persons rationalize the theft of software because they do not understand the value of intellectual property.

The Computing Committee suggests that the policy be placed in the Faculty Handbook, Student Handbook, and be widely distributed in Campus Report and campus computing newsletters. In addition all persons requesting computing IDs will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by this policy.

The policy will be distributed from the office of the Vice President for Administration.

University of Dayton  
Policy on Computing Ethics

December 4, 1986

All computing resources and facilities of the University of Dayton shall be used, as authorized by the Director of the Office for Computing Activities or designee, solely for legitimate University of Dayton academic instructional, research, administrative, or contract purposes.

Individuals who use the University computer facilities (mainframes, minicomputers, microcomputers, wordprocessors, etc.), for any purpose, assume the responsibility to see that these resources are used in an authorized and legitimate manner. Viewing and/or using another person's computer files, programs, or data without the authorized permission of that person is unethical behavior and in invasion of privacy. Software is protected by the Federal Copyright Act of 1976. Copying of published computer software restricted by the originator in any manner is prohibited. Using software that an individual knows has been illegally copied is also prohibited.

The Office for Computing Activities is the central campus depository for software licenses for both personal computers and mainframe systems. It continually negotiates licensing agreements with software vendors for many products. Departments needing assistance in licensing should call the Office for Computing Activities.

Users are expected to abide by the following code:

1. Files, usernames, and computer output belong to the individual and are to be considered personal property. Users shall not examine or use someone else's file or output or employ someone else's username without explicit permission from the owner. Attempts to circumvent the protective mechanisms in the computer system shall be considered violations of the right to privacy.
2. Users shall not deliberately attempt to degrade system performance or capability. Loopholes in the computer system or knowledge of special passwords shall not be used to damage the system, take resources from another user, or violate privacy.

3. No material that could be considered obscene or offensive shall be entered into the computer or sent through the electronic mail system.
4. University rules concerning dishonesty and plagiarism apply to use of the computer. (Policy on Academic Dishonesty 77-1, June 1978; statement on Professional Ethics, Faculty Handbook D-5.1, January 1982).
5. The University's computers shall not be used for personal monetary gain without the review and approval of the Director of the Office for Computing Activities, or designee.

Any unauthorized or illegitimate use of computer resources, facilities, or software shall constitute a violation of University policy and shall subject the violator to disciplinary and/or legal action by the University.

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