

## Computing Ethics and Security

San Francisco State University is an academic community, dedicated to creating and maintaining an environment for learning that promotes respect for and appreciation of scholarship, freedom, and human diversity. In keeping with this commitment, San Francisco State University makes certain University computing resources available to faculty, staff, and students. These resources include educational, research, and communication facilities, disk storage, and selected software. Access to and usage of these facilities is a public trust, and certain expectations and responsibilities are inherent to this trust.

### **Users of the University computing resources are expected to abide by the following practices:**

Maintain appropriate system security, including the protection of personal passwords, so that computing resources which are intended for the use of all, are not damaged, compromised, or destroyed. This means that users must not share accounts or passwords with anyone not authorized to use the system.

Respect the rights of other account holders to privacy, freedom from theft or copyright infringement, and freedom from harassment, by refraining from accessing, copying, modifying, or destroying work on the University computer system, and from the dissemination of obscene, threatening, or unwelcome electronic communication. This means that account holders must not engage in any behavior which causes harm to other users and/or to the system as a whole.

Share resources equitably, by using the computer system responsibly, and curtailing activities that place a burden on system resources. This means that academic work must take priority over personal use, and class work which uses large amounts of system resource must be accomplished on machines dedicated to the specific purpose.

### **Users of the University computing resources may not:**

- Access or attempt to access unauthorized computing resources, or give unauthorized access to others. Account holders may not use others' accounts without permission, or allow non-student access to campus accounts.
- Access copyrighted material belonging to others without permission of the copyright owner. Making copies of any copyrighted material without the right to do so, is against state and federal laws and university policy. See [US Copyright Law, Title 17 of the US Code](#)
- Use the system for other than education-related purposes. For example, account holders may not use their accounts to engage in for-profit activities, or for playing games.
- Send threatening, obscene, libelous, or offensive messages to individuals, or send unapproved mass mailings.
- Make unauthorized copies of copyrighted software.

- Damage University computing resources physically or electronically.

## Users of the University computing resources are required to:

- Comply with the provisions of the [Division of Information Technology Security Guide](#). A copy of the Security Guide can be found at: <http://www.sfsu.edu/~helpdesk/docs/rules/security.htm>. An electronic copy of the document Computing Practice and Security Awareness, named "readme.security," is provided in each user's account directory.
- Protect their passwords and account names from all others to prevent unauthorized access to the computer systems.
- Report security violations, including theft, vandalism, or unauthorized access to the Division of Information Technology.

These guidelines have been developed for the purpose of providing equitable and secure access to campus computing resources to the entire campus community. Users who do not observe these requirements may be subject to restriction or loss of access to computing resources, and could be subject to civil and criminal penalties. SFSU Students who do not observe these requirements may be in violation of the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and subject to student discipline.

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