

Date: Sunday, May 25, 2003
To: Stanford Community
Subject: Copyrighted Material and File-Sharing Networks
From: John Etchemendy (provost@stanford.edu)

To the Stanford Community,

I am writing you to reiterate the university's policy on the use of Stanford's computer networks in ways that violate copyright laws. In recent months the Recording Industry and Motion Picture Associations of America have increased their enforcement efforts regarding copyrighted materials. Those efforts have included filing of lawsuits against individual students at other universities who were believed to use peer-to-peer file-sharing networks on university servers in violation of copyrights of musical artists. Those students were personally subjected to a great deal of negative publicity, were forced to pay attorneys' fees to defend against the lawsuits, and ultimately were required to pay monetary settlements ranging from \$12,000 to \$17,500. I want to make sure all members of the Stanford community are aware of Stanford's stance on this issue.

Stanford is committed to facilitating access to information through its computer networks as part of its mission to pursue research and create knowledge. However, the university's research and teaching mission also depends on respect for the rights of intellectual property and the university will not facilitate the pirating of intellectual property through its computer networks.

Stanford has received an increasing number of notices from copyright owners identifying the IP addresses of members of the Stanford community who are sharing copies of music and videos without authorization. The law requires the university to respond to such complaints by eliminating access to the infringing materials, and may further require Stanford to identify students, faculty, staff or others who have violated copyright laws. The university will eliminate access and will provide information as required by law. Furthermore, the university also will suspend or terminate computer access to members of the community who continue to violate copyright laws. Finally, the university will take action through the student, employee, or faculty disciplinary processes if necessary.

Sharing music, videos, software, and other copyrighted material in violation of copyright laws can expose you and others to legal sanctions, as well as sanctions under Stanford's policies. Please do not put yourself, your friends, or your colleagues in that serious and difficult position.

If you would like more information about this, you can consult my earlier memo regarding copyright law at:

http://www.stanford.edu/dept/ucomm/provost/copyright_reminder.html

If you have questions about our policies, please consult the Office of the General Counsel (723-9611).

Sincerely,

John Etchemendy