

## DOWNLOADING MUSIC & ILLEGAL FILE SHARING



Under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, California State University, Chico is required to take steps to expeditiously remove or disable access to any copyrighted material being shared illegally from within its network.

### *What is illegal file sharing?*

**Using file sharing programs such as KaZaA, BitTorrent, iMesh, and LimeWire to share or obtain copyrighted music, movies, games, and other software without the permission of the copyright holder is illegal.**

Organizations such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), the Business Software Alliance (BSA), MediaForce, and others monitor file sharing systems on the Internet. When they discover an instance of illegal file sharing that is originating from within Chico State's network, they will send an official notice to the University. Upon receipt of this notice, the University must take action to stop copyright infringement from occurring on its network.

### *What are the consequences?*

**If the University receives notification that you are illegally sharing copyrighted files:**

- **Your ResNet network privileges will be suspended and you will be unable to access the Internet from your computer.**
- **You will be billed \$25 to reconnect and will be required to attend a conduct meeting with your Residence Community Coordinator.**

If this happens, you will be notified via an email to your WildcatMail account. It will be your responsibility to follow the instructions in the email to have your network privileges restored. Repeat offenders will lose their network privileges indefinitely and will be referred to Student Judicial Affairs.

In addition to any action taken by the university, the organization that owns the copyright can also file legal charges. Penalties for illegal file sharing and downloading include jail time and fines of up to \$150,000 for each song, movie, or software product.

### *What can I do to prevent illegal file sharing?*

**Use subscription or pay services such as Apple iTunes or Napster.** These services have entered into agreements with copyright holders that allow them to sell music legally.

**Avoid file sharing programs.** The University strongly discourages the use of file sharing programs (such as KaZaA, BitTorrent, iMesh, and LimeWire) because of the risk that the files being shared may be copyrighted. Additionally, many file sharing programs serve as distribution points for adware, spyware, Trojans, viruses, and other malicious programs.

*If you are concerned that your computer may be sharing copyrighted files, please contact the Student Computing helpdesk at:*

**(530) 898-HELP  
resnet@csuchico.edu**