Title: **Use of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Networking Software**

Audience: **The substance of this policy applies to all data network users; however its primary audience is students.**

Abstract:

Transferring any kind of content via peer-to-peer protocols contravenes the terms of the College Network. There is no distinction between legal and illegal file sharing as the ban serves to prevent the detrimental effect of simultaneous uploads and downloads on the network. Exceptions may be made for academic purposes.

Policy:

- The installation and use of peer-to-peer file-sharing programs is forbidden on computers attached to the College Network. Software where peer-to-peer is optional may be installed and used as long as the peer-to-peer element is disabled.

- The 'College Network' comprises both the wired and wireless elements.

- Additionally, the installation or operation of any program or service which assists others in the use of peer-to-peer file-sharing programs is forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, running a Direct Connect hub, advertising lists of Direct Connect hubs, etc.

- These regulations should be considered in the wider context of the CUDN and JANET Acceptable Use Policies. The use of P2P software for academic purposes is acceptable, with authorisation.

- Whilst we are aware of legitimate uses of P2P software, it is the effect on bandwidth about which we are concerned, so these are also forbidden.

- If there is a genuine, academic reason for the use of P2P software then its installation and usage will be permitted provided the claim is substantiated by a tutor.

- The College reserves the right to monitor the network and all attached computers to ensure compliance with this policy. The College firewall is programmed to recognise most popular forms of P2P traffic.

- Where students contravene this policy, the disciplinary process outlined in this document will be followed.

Disciplinary Process:

- A tiered disciplinary approach is observed, with the severity of action escalating.

- First Instance

  - ➢ A warning email requesting removal of P2P software and downloaded files, or academic justification for the traffic.

  - ➢ Requirement for IT Department verification of removal or absence of P2P software.

  - ➢ Resolution e-mail copied to Tutor, Director of Studies & Senior Tutor in the event of P2P being discovered and removed

- Second Instance

  - ➢ Disconnection from the network for 2 weeks.

  - ➢ A fine, which may be made proportional to the scale of the traffic generated.

  - ➢ A reconnection charge of £20. Reconnection to be conditional on a further verification of removal or absence of P2P software.

- Third Instance

  - ➢ Disconnection from the network for the remainder of the academic year.

  - ➢ A further fine, which may be made proportional to the scale of the traffic generated.

Publication and Review:

- The contents of this policy will be subject to periodic review.