



Urgent Message

To: All Students who have file sharing programs on their computers or know someone who does

Date: March 14, 2007

Many of you have probably already heard about the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) new strategy for addressing copyright violation. The RIAA sends campus Internet Service Providers (ISP) "settlement letters" with Internet Protocol addresses of alleged offenders requesting that the ISP forward the letters to users whom they allege have infringed upon copyrights. In addition to these "settlement letters," the RIAA has also sent a number of "preservation notices" to many colleges and universities requesting that the ISP preserve contact information for persons associated with an Internet Protocol address they allege is being used to violate their copyright.

Ferris State University already acts on Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) notices as a matter of University policy by turning the student port off and requiring the student to meet with the Manager of Student and Administrative Technology Services (SATS) and have removed from their machines any offending programs.

Ferris State University will treat RIAA "settlement letters" and "preservation letters" in the following manner:

"Preservation Letters"

If Ferris State University receives a "preservation letter" we will treat this as a DMCA notice. The offending connection will be disabled as usual and the student will be contacted with a letter notifying the student of the violation. Ferris State University will preserve the requested information.

"Settlement Letters"

Should Ferris State University receive a RIAA "settlement letter" it will be treated as a DMCA notice. The offending connection will be disabled as usual and the student will be contacted with a letter notifying the student of the violation along with the RIAA "settlement letter".

Ferris State University has a policy of not monitoring the network for content and does not generate DMCA notices. Ferris State University is not a party to these matters. Please note that if a user receives one of these "settlement letters" or "preservation notices" he or she has complete responsibility to decide or choose how to respond to the RIAA and may want to consult with his or her counsel before making a decision. (A sample RIAA settlement letter can be found at:

<http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/CSD4832.pdf>.)

The Ferris State University Network may be used only for legal purposes. Sharing access to copyrighted software or other copyrighted material (including MP3 files from copyrighted music media and movie files) on the network is prohibited. The Ferris State University policy can be found here:

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/TatFSU/support/sats/Students/Policies/AUG.htm>

Copyright infringement is a national issue as well as a concern for students who enjoy entertainment protected by DMCA. Please take the opportunity to learn more about these important issues through classes, reading newspapers, and journals. Finally, if you have specific questions about this message, please contact us at sats@ferris.edu

The Bottom Line: There will be consequences for illegal file sharing that may be severe from a financial and criminal history standpoint. If you are involved STOP NOW, if not... DON'T START!! We care about your future.