



NevadaNet Appropriate Use Policy

(Revised 9/22/2005)

1.0 Background

The NevadaNet network is owned and operated by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). The purpose of NevadaNet is to develop and maintain wide area voice, video, and data facilities for the primary benefit of NSHE affiliated institutions. NevadaNet also provides support for a number of non-NSHE educational, governmental, and public service entities within Nevada. The NevadaNet network provides connecting participants with high performance networking resources to support educational, research, clinical, and institutional administrative objectives.

This policy deals specifically with the NevadaNet network, and is supplemental to, but consistent with, the overall NSHE Computing Resources Policy as approved by the NSHE Board of Regents on 6/18/99.

2.0 Definitions

NSHE Institutions – The entities comprising the University and Community College System of Nevada; currently including the following:

- University of Nevada – Reno
- University of Nevada – Las Vegas
- Truckee Meadows Community College
- Community College of Southern Nevada
- Western Nevada Community College
- Great Basin College
- Nevada State College
- Desert Research Institute

NevadaNet Participant – Any NSHE Institution or affiliated entity that meets NevadaNet connection requirements and has been formally authorized by the NSHE to physically transmit voice, data, or video information over the NevadaNet backbone network.

3.0 Network Conditions and Restrictions

1. NevadaNet is prohibited from providing for-profit telecommunications services to the general public or effectively to the general public.
2. NevadaNet, being funded as primarily a research and educational network, will not subsidize the operation of non-educational /research entities.
3. Any entity wishing to become a NevadaNet Participant will be required to execute an interconnection agreement that outlines the specific terms and conditions under which access and utilization of the network will be made.

4.0 Privacy/Filtering

Interconnected computer networks can, and do, provide the means to effectively and efficiently enable collaboration and exchange all types of information among the users of the network.

- All NevadaNet Participants will respect the privacy of other users, and not inspect the contents of files or communication unless clearly necessary to protect system and/or network operations, or there is reasonable evidence of the violation of this Appropriate Use Policy as determined by the Vice Chancellor for Technology or his/her designee. ***NevadaNet cannot guarantee the privacy or security of transmissions over the network and encourages the use of legal and appropriate means (such as encryption) to protect the privacy of transmissions.***
- NevadaNet serves a multitude of educational and research entities covering the whole spectrum of users from K-20+. Each NevadaNet Participant has its own standards relating to what type of content filtering, if any, is appropriate for its constituency making a universal NevadaNet filtering philosophy impractical to establish. Consequently, NevadaNet has taken the position that it will not provide content filtering of any kind. ***The development, implementation, and maintenance of any content filtering system/software required by a NevadaNet Participant is the sole responsibility of the connecting entity.***

5.0 Appropriate Use

All voice, data, or video traffic must originate or terminate at device(s) directly attached to a network owned and operated by a NevadaNet Participant site.

All NevadaNet voice, data, and video traffic connected via a NevadaNet Participant site, including state networks and other connections must:

- Be for purposes of, or in support of research, education, telemedicine, State, local, or national government affairs, or non-profit public service
- Comply with the acceptable use and other policies of any network over which such traffic must be routed to reach its final destination
- Not interfere with the operation of NevadaNet or unreasonably interfere with the use of NevadaNet by other participating entities
- Not indirectly violate this policy by using services of another network provider to circumvent the intent or meaning of this policy

NevadaNet Participants must also insure that connections made to them and through them to the NevadaNet backbone are consistent with the efficient and effective use of a shared and finite resource. They are obligated to know what networks are connected and what use is being made of the connections.

6.0 Inappropriate Use

It is not appropriate to use NevadaNet for any purpose that violates NSHE Code, federal or state laws and/or regulations.

It is not appropriate to use the NevadaNet network in a manner that violates the conditions stated in paragraph 3.0 or results either directly or indirectly in interference or disruption to NevadaNet Participants' services or equipment. Such inappropriate uses include, but are not limited to:

- Distribution of email or other traffic containing non NSHE related commercial advertising, chain letters, or other non-business related activities e.g. use of NevadaNet as an open forum for the unsolicited distribution of a personal position or grievance
- Providing NevadaNet connectivity to other parties through reselling, trading, bartering, or any other means
- Establishing or maintaining personal or non-NSHE related commercial business endeavors
- Propagation of computer worms or viruses
- Using the network to make unauthorized entry to other computational, information, or communications devices or resources

7.0 Enforcement

NSHE System Computing Services (SCS) will initiate an inappropriate use investigation when a complaint is received or a network problem is discovered that appears to be caused by use that violates this policy. SCS will investigate the validity of the complaint or event, examine the available facts, and make a determination as to the party(s) responsible for the infraction.

Once identified, the administrative contact(s) of the offending party(s) will be contacted by SCS personnel via electronic and/or land mail providing notification of the findings of the investigation and requesting resolution of the infraction within five (5) business days or as may otherwise be legally required, whichever is sooner.

If the infraction is not resolved within the specified period, the NSHE/SCS Director of Network Services may, at his/her discretion, authorize interruption of NevadaNet access until it can be demonstrated that the infraction has been resolved.

Violation of NSHE Code provisions may result in disciplinary action. Violation of applicable laws may result in civil and criminal sanctions under state and federal law.

In urgent situations when failure of a NevadaNet Participant(s) to take appropriate action in a timely manner to resolve a violation of this policy may lead to critical problems of network performance, or lead to legal or other serious liability to the NSHE, the NSHE/SCS Director of Network Services may authorize the *immediate* disconnection of NevadaNet access by the offending NevadaNet Participant(s).

8.0 Complaints

Complaints regarding violations of this policy or comments on this policy should be addressed to:

Ed Anderson
Director – Network Services/NevadaNet
NSHE/System Computing Services
1664 N. Virginia St.
M/S 270
Reno, NV 89557-0023
Phone: (775) 789-3710
FAX: (775) 789-3700
Email: eandrsn@nevada.edu