



# Dickinson State University

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## *Network Traffic Procedure*

Over the past few years, we have observed a significant increase in network traffic. Our campus utilizes local area networks (LANs) and wide area networks (WANs). It is possible for one or two users to consume excessive resources, leading to degraded response times for all users on our system. These instances often involve unauthorized servers sharing copyrighted and/or licensed software or media.

Some of the more common programs and activities responsible for this include peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing applications, streaming services, and malware. Examples of such programs are BitTorrent, eMule, and various streaming platforms. Additionally, malware can generate spam emails or engage in other malicious activities that consume network resources.

To ensure optimal network performance and compliance with legal standards, we will monitor network traffic and take appropriate actions to mitigate any issues. Users found to be violating this policy may face disciplinary actions.

When an individual system is causing a problem, we will attempt to contact the owner and take action to reduce the impact on the network. Various tools are used to monitor for capacity issues, including real-time network monitoring software and automated alerts for unusual activity.

It is the responsibility of the system owner to ensure that their device has an appropriately configured and updated antivirus program installed. This includes regular scans, timely updates, and adherence to best practices for cybersecurity. Network bandwidth has a cost. The more bandwidth used the higher the cost. The mission here is to allow adequate resources for academically relevant applications with priority, balance resources so all users have equal access and response time, educate users on network activities and oblige licensed and copyrighted software and media

Please refer to the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education Policy Manual: North Dakota University System | SBHE Policies

Through your cooperation and responsible use/monitoring of our network, Dickinson State University will be able to continue to offer a user friendly, responsive system and effectively manage costs associated with the delivery of services.