

TO: U-M Students
FROM: Teresa A. Sullivan and E. Royster Harper
SUBJECT: Peer-to-Peer File Sharing
DATE: October 26, 2007

For your own benefit and edification, please take a moment to read this message.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is cracking down nationally on the illegal swapping of songs. A week ago, the University received notification that the RIAA intends to sue or receive settlement from 20 members of the U-M community, whom the RIAA designated through IP addresses. The University has identified and notified these individuals. Most students have settled out of court, typically for \$3,000-\$4,000.

The University of Michigan does not condone unlawful peer-to-peer file sharing. Students who engage in it are violating University policies, including the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities, the Proper Use of Information Resources and the ResComp Conditions of Use.

Students who have installed peer-to-peer file sharing programs on their computers and are concerned that they might be unwittingly sharing files should visit the University of Chicago's useful webpage that describes how to disable file sharing (<http://security.uchicago.edu/guidelines/peer-to-peer/>).

Lawful downloading of music is possible through sites such as Apple iTunes, MSN Music, Rhapsody, Ruckus, etc. Details about a number of these sites are available at:
http://mp3.about.com/od/wheretobuymusic/a/all_profile.htm and
<http://mp3.about.com/od/freemusicdownloads/tp/freeandlegalmp3.htm>.

Many students reported they had not intended to upload, thought they had turned off the uploading feature on their computer or only had uploaded files that were lawful to upload. In an effort to help students avoid unintentionally infringing copyright law, the University will launch a new educational service on October 30 called "Be Aware You're Uploading" (BAYU).

BAYU is a new automated system that notices when computers on residence hall networks upload files using peer-to-peer file-sharing technology. BAYU does not look at the content being uploaded or content on a computer's hard drive. It simply notifies individuals that a computer associated with them is engaged in uploading. When the new service notices peer-to-peer file sharing, it will send an e-mail with a link to educational information and University resources to that individual. For more information on BAYU, please visit: <http://www.bayu.umich.edu>.

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