



July 2012

**DEAR IU SOUTHEAST STUDENT:**

All of us at Indiana University Southeast are excited to have you on campus this semester and are eager to do all we can to help ensure your success as a student here. It is in this spirit that we are writing to alert you to a significant risk related to how you use the Internet connection available to you on campus.

**Copyright and Technology Policy Violations:** Our campus has been responding to an increase in claims that some students have used “peer to peer” software like BitTorrent and Limewire to download and share copyrighted songs, etc. over the Internet without the permission of the copyright holders. **It is important to realize that programs like these, by default, open downloaded files on your computer and make them available to the entire Internet community (hence the sharing aspect).**

Some students may not realize that it is generally illegal to share copyrighted music, videos, games, and software files over the Internet without the permission of the copyright holder. In some cases there can even be criminal penalties. As a student it is critical that you understand the following:

- if one shares copyrighted music, movies and software files over the Internet using peer-to-peer file sharing programs, he or she is most likely breaking the law;
- it is relatively simple for the copyright holders to identify computers on the Internet from which sharing is taking place, and then obtain a subpoena to require that the Internet Service Provider (IU in this case) identify the user of that computer;
- the copyright holders may then take legal action against the individual, potentially seeking thousands of dollars in damages;
- illegal sharing using Internet access provided by IU also violates IU policy; and
- if IU receives a valid notice that a student has used the IU network to engage in unlawful file sharing, the University will pursue appropriate disciplinary measures and apply an administrative charge of \$50 to the student’s bursar bill to cover the costs of the investigation.

**How to Stay Informed:** The University has been educating students for several years about the problems of sharing copyrighted materials over the Internet without permission of the copyright holders, and the serious risks that it poses to students. Our experience has been that some students underestimate or do not understand the seriousness of this issue. Therefore we are writing to inform you of the risks of unlawful file sharing and to encourage you to avoid the legal and policy issues surrounding file sharing. You can get more information at our website, <http://filesharing.iu.edu>.

It is our sincere hope that this information is helpful to you, and we wish you all the best as you pursue your educational goals at IU Southeast.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Skuce  
Interim Vice Chancellor  
for Student Affairs

Thomas M. Sawyer  
Chief Information Officer  
Information Technology