

FAQ ON COPYRIGHT TOPICS AT GVSU

At GVSU, we receive several notifications of copyright violations per day. I am writing to you today to clarify the legal implications of this, explain our policy as it relates to copyright law, and provide alternative legal options for downloading.

Copyright Law

It has always been against the law to copy someone else's work without permission, and downloading songs, movies, or software from the Internet for personal use without permission and/or without paying the owner is considered theft. While not all material available on the Internet is protected by copyright, much of it is.

The U.S. Copyright Law, also found under Title 17 of the United States Code, contains serious penalties for violation of the law. Fines are assessed on each illegal copy of an item. Copying more than \$1,000 worth of material can bring criminal penalties and include fines of up to \$250,000 and prison terms of up to ten years.

The recording, software, and movie industries continue their efforts to enforce copyright laws and are able to easily track people who maintain servers with illegal files or have downloaded files from these sites. GVSU has had **thousands** of copyright complaints since 2001 that have been handled within the GVSU student judiciary system.

GVSU Policy

Our policy is to immediately block your network access if we are notified that a violation has occurred. You may be exposed to a civil lawsuit from the holder of the copyright and/or a criminal charge from the federal courts. Should you lie about your having the legal right to the material in question you may also face perjury charges. Complaints are referred to the Dean of Students office and can result in penalties of suspension.

Information on anti-piracy and lawsuits can be found at:

<http://www.riaa.com/>
<http://www.mpaa.org/>

Please review the Digital Media Policy on the IT website for a complete understanding of your rights, responsibilities and ownership of the accounts granted to you through the Information Technology department at GVSU. All policies can be found at www.gvsu.edu/it and then click on Policies and Procedures.

Music Streaming Options

Free Music

Pandora Radio: <http://www.pandora.com/>

Spotify: <https://www.spotify.com/us/>

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Last.fm: <http://www.last.fm/>

Subscription Music

Napster: <http://us.napster.com/>

Pay Per Track Music

Apple iTunes Store: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>

Amazon MP3 Store: <http://www.amazon.com>

eMusic: <http://www.emusic.com>

Video Streaming Options

Free Video

YouTube: <http://www.YouTube.com>

TV.com: <http://www.tv.com>

Subscription Video

Netflix: <http://www.netflix.com>

Pay Per Item Video (rent or buy)

Apple iTunes Store: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>

Amazon Video on Demand: <http://www.amazon.com>

There are many other legal entertainment resources available on the internet too numerous to list in this message.

If you have any questions about this subject please contact:

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