

# ResNet limits students' peer-to-peer file sharing

Students using peer-to-peer media to download programs may find themselves in a superhighway traffic jam

**Andrew Black**  
Environment/Science/Technology Reporter

For students who spend hours with campus computers downloading movies, music or video games, life just got a little tougher.

In an effort to increase campus Internet speed, the University recently installed a \$50,000 network program that restricts peer-to-peer file sharing by slowing Internet connections for users of programs such as Napster, KaZaA, Gnutella and Edonkey.

Residence Hall Computing Service Coordinator Norm Meyers said the new network program, which began in November, was needed to battle bandwidth-hungry peer-to-peer software that tied up almost all University network resources.

"Right now, peer-to-peer programs typically use about half of our network resources," Meyers said. "But before we installed the new Packeteer program, they used 95 percent of our total network."

Meyers said the new system monitors campus Internet traffic and directs music, movie and video game downloads to slower, low-priority

pathways. File-sharing users may find themselves stuck in the equivalent of an Internet traffic jam while students using the Internet for other purposes will be cruising in the fastlane, Meyers said.

Last term, approximately 150 warnings were issued to students who used too much bandwidth to download entertainment media, and 15 students had their campus Internet privileges temporarily revoked for repeated offenses.

Computing Center Officer Jon Miyake said that a handful of students using peer-to-peer software can affect the entire campus community.

"If they're aggressively using the bandwidth, the whole campus will see decreased speeds," Miyake said.

Meyers said the most ravenous file sharing application is KaZaA, a program that automatically hijacks campus bandwidth by turning student computers into file distribution mega-outlets called "supernodes," which are accessed by thousands of off-campus file-sharing users.

Students using file-sharing programs such as KaZaA also risk violating copyright laws outlined in the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Miyake said most students don't understand the severity of copyright infringements, how easily

the owners of copyrighted material can come after violators and the huge fines that ensue for continued copyright violations.

"It's a lot better for students to get caught by the University, rather than by the industry," Miyake said.

Senior Editor of Wired Magazine Jeffrey M. O'Brien said the entertainment industry often targets file-sharing college students. O'Brien said students can serve as "virtual hubs," responsible for the exchange of millions of dollars worth of content.

"This happens at universities around the country," O'Brien said. "The threat from Hollywood coming down on campuses is borne out of fear, but you can't stop technological progress."

Last term, MediaForce, a copyright watchdog based in New York City, filed formal complaints against 15 students for violations that included copyright infringement of Incubus songs and episodes of "The Simpsons."

"We work very closely with universities on behalf of certain clients," MediaForce spokesman Gary Millen said. "And along those lines, we've been very successful."

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## OSA

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the two women appeared to make peace with each other.

"We unified as a board by discussing our differences," board vice chairman Andy Saultz said after the meeting.

Saultz's statement hardly reveals the tenor of the private session, in which tempers ran hot and emotions flared before board members were finally able to reach a consensus. But the vice chairman hit upon a crucial point: With a new state legislative session beginning today, members acknowledged they needed to unite and speak for the more than 70,000 students in Oregon they represent.

Pilliod said she was grateful for the chance to discuss her job performance with the board.

"We wouldn't be in these student leadership positions if we didn't feel so passionately," she explained. "Differences of opinion are good, but differences without dialogue won't get you anywhere."

Most of the "dialogue" dealt with whether Pilliod's appearance at a Democratic get-out-the-vote rally in October at the University of Oregon violated OSA partisanship rules. After the executive session was brought to a close, board members resolved to form an ad-hoc rules committee, led by Burns, that will examine OSA bylaws and help come up with clearer standards.

The two-hour session was the last segment of a six-hour marathon meeting where OSA members dis-



Brook Reinhard Emerald

OSA chairwoman Rachel Pilliod, right, takes notes Saturday morning at an OSA board meeting with vice chairman Andy Saultz, left.

cussed issues ranging from tuition hikes to family planning. As 5 p.m. rolled around, and the boardroom doors were opened, members breathed a collective sigh of relief.

"It never happened," mumbled Western Oregon University member Gregg Magnus, still in a daze.

"An hour and a half of our lives just went through a vortex," quipped Portland State University representative Miriam Gonzales.

After the meeting, Pilliod restated her apology for several actions as board chairwoman.

"Yeah, I apologize for any ill feelings," she said. "I also apologize for not understanding different situations (and) for reacting to things that took place."

Burns said she wasn't surprised by what took place at the meeting.

"I expected what was going to happen," she said. "But I'm still glad I did everything I did. I think it benefits the organization in the long run to have the increased accountability this brought about."

Contact the news editor at [brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com](mailto:brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com).

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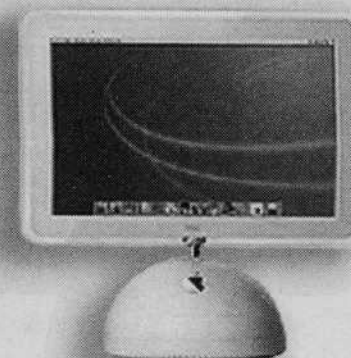
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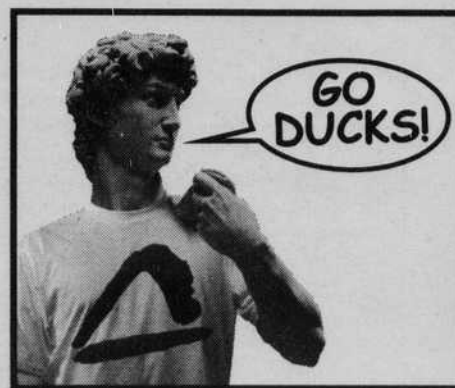
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