

ELECTRONIC COPYRIGHT THEFT

Copyright theft involving computer systems is a widespread but illegal activity which breaches specific parts of the Jesus College terms of computer use, and the equivalent Oxford University rules. In response to the growth of this problem, and to the increasing impact of legal action, we have updated our procedures for identifying and dealing with alleged breach of copyright.

What's the problem?

Copyright is held on a wide range of material, including published information on web sites and other more obvious property such compact disks and computer software. Unless there is a clear statement that the information is not subject to any copyright, then you must assume that it is protected against copying, distributing, publishing and storing. Typical examples of information that is protected by copyright are:

- *Computer software, whether installed or not;*
- *Web sites, including many non-commercial sites;*
- *Music and video files such as MP3.*

The availability of high speed network connections and powerful computer terminals has led to a surge in the illegal distribution of copyright protected information. Many companies who have copyright interests are now investing in methods of tracking down people who breach copyright and are then taking legal action against them. In the case of academic institutions it is clear that individual students are not the main centres of wealth, and several companies have taken action against both the student and their educational organisation.

Our response

We hope to encourage a responsible, self-governing attitude amongst Jesus College members by taking an educational approach, and resorting to disciplinary measures only when earlier positive action has proven ineffective.

To this end we will maintain information about copyright matters on the college web site and on college notice boards. From time to time it may be deemed necessary to actively contact users *en masse* with generic reminders or new information. Fresher induction talks will also include a brief section covering essential points with regard to copyright and copyright theft.

Disciplinary action

In the event that IT staff have reason to believe that an individual has breached copyright regulations they will take action in accordance with the Jesus College Statement of IT Security and Privacy. If it appears likely that the individual's actions (such as making material available via network services such as a file sharing / web site, or downloading copyright MP3 files) infringe copyright regulations then disciplinary action may be taken. This action will normally include:

- *Temporary or permanent blocking of the individual's web site;*
- *Referral to the Dean, and levy of a fine*

and may also include:

- *Temporary or permanent restrictions on the individual's network connection;*
- *Temporary or permanent restrictions on the individual's access to IT facilities.*

Appeal against any the decision to take any such action can be made as detailed in the Statement of IT Security and Privacy.