

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



PUBLIC SAFETY BULLETIN – MARCH 10, 2008

ALERT:

Critical / Major Incident

ADVISORY:

Important Incident

BULLETIN:

General Information

Public Safety would like to advise the UST community of a recent increase in Digital Millennium Copyright Act violations on campus. Since January 1, 2008, Public Safety has documented 29 DMCA complaints from the Recording Industry Association of America and Home Box Office, Inc.

The DMCA is the US copyright law that criminalizes the act of circumventing approved access to copyrighted materials. Downloading copyrighted material without authorization is illegal. Violations of law are also considered violations of the UST graduate and undergraduate student Code of Conduct.

According to the UST Policy on Responsible Use of Computing Resources, all users of university computing resources must “comply with all federal, Minnesota and other applicable law, with all applicable University rules and policies, and all applicable contracts and licenses.” Please see <http://www.stthomas.edu/irt/support/policies/responsible.html> for more information.

Downloading tips:

- Use of UST computing resources can include, but are not limited to, using UST PCs or laptops, or accessing the internet through the UST network.
- The most common form of illegal downloads are music downloads and video downloads of films or television shows.
- Music, films, and television shows can be purchased legitimately from online sources such as Amazon and iTunes.
- Just as downloading copyrighted material without authorization is illegal, so is uploading copyrighted material without authorization.
- Unauthorized downloading/uploading is accomplished through the use of peer-to-peer file sharing software.
- Using peer-to-peer software, potentially opens access to files from your computer’s hard drive to many people.
- If you have peer-to-peer software on your computer, disable the filesharing feature. If this is not possible, remove the software from your system.
- Peer-to-peer software can continue to run even if you are not using the application. Shut it off when using other applications, or turn your computer off all together when not in use.
- If you are downloading files from an unknown source, you are putting your system at risk for harmful viruses. Keep your virus protection software up to date.
- Additional information on legal and illegal downloading can be found at <http://www.campusdownloading.com>.

**Report crime confidentially or anonymously:
by e-mailing PSTIPS@stthomas.edu,
or calling 96(2-TIPS).**

Public Safety urges you to be pro-active and alert. You can help prevent crime!

If you have information regarding crimes on campus you are urged to contact
Public Safety at (651) 962-5100 and the police (651) 291-1111