1. Introduction

The Fair Usage Policy specifies how a user's internet traffic is managed by Information Services. The SNS is part of the University shared network used by students and the University as a whole – and we need sensible rules in place to ensure that it works well for everyone. The SNS has a large but limited connection to the internet, which is shared with the main University network. Therefore, at busy times it is necessary to prioritise traffic by activity and type.

In previous years a small number of users have been responsible for the majority of network traffic through the SNS. As a result, we have decided to limit the bandwidth used by these few, excessively high users, so that the experience will be improved for the majority. The traffic restrictions are constantly reviewed and, as use of the SNS changes, they are modified to ensure that the service remains available.

1.1. Standard service (all users)

- An up-to 8Mbs connection to the internet through a NAT (Network Address Translation) firewall. Actual speed may vary depending on the number of users and time of day.
- Traffic management according to port, protocol and application to ensure quality of service for all users. **Note that the figures within brackets are correct as of 1 August 2011 but are subject to continual review and change without notice.**
  - Video streaming limited to standard definition (SD) quality only (550Kbps)
  - P2P and similar protocols blocked.
  - HTTPS, SSL, SSH limited to (2Mbs) with elevated priority
  - Games limited to (2Mbs) with standard priority
- Session limits of 30 active TCP/IP connections per user.
- Web browsing protected by a secure web gateway (proxy server).

1.2. Restrictions (all users)

- Sending emails via SMTP except through the University SMTP server (smtp.nottingham.ac.uk)
- File-sharing websites such as RapidShare and MegaUpload (including paid-for and subscription services). These sites may also be blocked by the secure web gateway.
- Access to external Virtual Private Network (VPN) except those to other The University of Nottingham campuses at Ningbo or Malaysia or where agreement has been reached with Information Services.
• Using anonymous proxy services or any service designed to bypass restrictions on the SNS
• Operating a computer or device which provides services to other users, such as a file server or any network equipment or software designed to allow multiple computers to share a single connection such as Apple's Time Capsule, routers (wired or wireless), switches, hubs and printers
• Using two network connections at once, for example a 3G USB dongle as well as a wired connection to the SNS.

1.3. Increased restrictions for inappropriate use
Should Information Services observe inappropriate activity from a single SNS connection, increased restrictions will be enforced for a period of up to one month. These restrictions may also apply if a virus is identified as originating from your connection. You will be informed by email of the reasons for these restrictions.

• All internet traffic will be blocked with the exception of Web traffic through the secure web gateway
• The users connection is throttled to a maximum of 1Mb/s
• You may find that Freewire TV ceases to function due to these restrictions. If you have a subscription you may wish to contact Freewire to have your service suspended during this period.

The University is not liable for any loss of external services as a result of these increased restrictions.

1.3.1. Disconnection and reconnection
For second or subsequent offences, or in extreme cases of abuse, complete disconnection will be considered by Information Services (IS). The user will need to pay a reconnection fee of £25 to IS before reconnection.

If the service is disconnected or unavailable, users are reminded that there are many 24-hour computer rooms available on campus.

1.3.2. Services available during restricted periods
With the exception of a complete disconnection of service either through misuse or external factors, web traffic using the SNS secure web gateway, and connectivity to The University of Nottingham should not be affected by any restrictions in place, to allow full access to University of Nottingham academic resources (e.g. WebCT, eLibrary).