

System User Application and Agreement
The Northwest Ohio Computer Association
and
Montpelier Exempted Village Schools

Read the following carefully before signing; this is a legally binding document.

General Information

Internet access is available to all users of the Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA) communications network. This access is be offered as part of a collaborative effort involving the Ohio Department Education, its divisions, the State-licensed regional data processing centers, all known collectively as the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN), and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NWOCA's goal in providing this service is to promote educational excellence to the school districts participating in NWOCA by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. As a member of NWOCA, Montpelier Schools are able to provide its staff and students with a network which offers vast, diverse and unique resources.

The NWOCA communication network is an electronic computer network with access to the Internet. The Internet is an electronic highway connecting thousands of computers all over the world and millions of individual subscribers. NWOCA users, therefore, have access to: electronic mail communication with people all over the world; information and news from, as well as the opportunity to correspond with, research institutions; public domain and shareware software of all types; discussion groups on a plethora of cultural, political, scientific, and general or special interest topics and access to many universities, libraries (including the Library of Congress), non-profit organizations, commercial companies, etc.

Along with access to computers and people all over the world comes the availability of material which may not be considered to be of educational value within the context of the school setting. Montpelier Ex. Village Schools, NWOCA, and the OECN have taken available precautions to restrict access to controversial materials however, on a global network it is impossible to control all materials and an industrious user may discover controversial information. Montpelier Schools, NWOCA, and the OECN firmly believe the valuable information and interaction available on this worldwide network far outweighs the possibility users may procure material inconsistent with educational goals for the district or network.

Internet access is coordinated through a complex association of government agencies, and regional and state networks. The smooth operation of the network relies upon the proper conduct of the end users, who must adhere to strict guidelines. These guidelines are provided here so the user is aware of the responsibilities associated with use of this network.

In general, network use requires efficient, ethical and legal utilization of the network resources. If a user violates any of these provisions, his or her account with NWOCA can be terminated and future access could be denied. The signature(s) at the end of this document is/are legally binding and indicates the party/parties who signed has/have read the terms and conditions carefully and understand their significance.

Guidelines for Acceptable Use

1. Use of the NWOCA network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. NWOCA system administrators, in conjunction with district administrators, will deem what is inappropriate use of the network; their decision is final. The system administrators may close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of NWOCA's member districts may request the system administrators to deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts.

2. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. Individuals identifying a security problem on the NWOCA or OECN network have the obligation to notify the system administrators at the earliest possible time. It is recommended the problem be reported via telephone, if possible, or E-mail if the user is reasonably sure E-mail is secure.

Attempts to log-on to the system as any other user will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access.

3. The purpose of NSFNET, the backbone network to the Internet, is to support research and education in and among academic institutions in the U.S. by providing access to unique resources and the opportunity for collaborative work. Use of other organization's networks or computing resources must comply with rules appropriate for that network. Use of an account must support goals consistent with the educational objectives of NWOCA member school districts.

Transmission of any material in violation of any US or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret. Additionally, commercial transactions, "for-profit" ventures, employee recruiting, extensive personal business, product advertisement, or political lobbying are unacceptable activities.

4. Montpelier Ex. Village Schools, NWOCA, and the OECN make no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, for the service being provided and will not be responsible for any damages suffered, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdeliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors or omissions. Montpelier Schools, NWOCA, and the OECN specifically deny any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the network services; use of any such information is at the user's risk.

5. Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to alter or destroy or reduce the usability of data of another user or any agencies or other networks that are connected to NWOCA, the OECN, or the NSFNET Internet backbone. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, worms, trojan horses, etc.

6. All users are expected to abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - a. Do not use language deemed abusive in messages.
 - b. The network is a public medium. Do not use vulgarities, obscenities, language, or phrases which can be deemed inappropriate; reposting or quoting obscene or inappropriate material is also unacceptable.
 - c. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden, will be reported to appropriate authorities, and can result in loss of privileges to use the network, as well as possible prosecution.
 - d. Do not reveal personal addresses or phone numbers. Electronic mail (E-mail) is not guaranteed to be private; system administrators and operators can access mail and mail software may misdirect messages. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to appropriate authorities.
 - e. The network is a shared resource with finite capacities. Any use of the network which disrupts other users or seriously degrades performance may be determined to be improper by the system administrator; appropriate action will be taken.
 - f. Do not begin or continue chain letters.
 - g. Be sure to clearly identify yourself at all times.
 - h. You may not harass users, either local or remote.
 - i. Respect all copyrighted and licensing agreements
 - j. Please try to forward to correct user any mail not addressed to you.
 - k. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property. Reposting of private communications without prior consent of the author is unacceptable.
 - l. All correspondence via e-Mail is to be written in English. Foreign Language correspondence is not acceptable without permission.
7. NWOCA may occasionally require new registration and/or account information from all or selected users in order to continue the service. Users agree to notify NWOCA of any changes in account information (address, etc.) as soon as possible.
8. Currently, there are no user fees for this service.
9. The NWOCA system administrators reserve the right to limit or suspend access to the OECN and/or INTERNET or to supersede portions of this Agreement as may be deemed necessary for the maintenance, safety or security of the NWOCA member districts or the OECN.
10. All terms and conditions as stated in this document are applicable to NWOCA and the OECN in addition to NSFNET. These terms and conditions reflect the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all prior oral or written agreements and understandings of the parties. These terms and conditions shall be governed and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio, United States of America.