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Bandwidth

ResTECH

» What is bandwidth?

Bandwidth is the traffic in and out of your computer over the network.

» What is the policy for bandwidth?

Each Network Connection is currently limited to uploading (sending) 4 gigabytes of data per week to sources outside of the psu.edu domain (to the Internet). Each Network Connection is also currently limited to downloading (receiving) 4 gigabytes of data per week from sources outside of the psu.edu domain (from the Internet). Recently, the allowed bandwidth capacity had been increased to 120%.

- Users who receive their first or second violation--uploads, downloads, or any combination of both violations--will have their Network Connection speed restricted to a shared 56Kbs speed for the remainder of the week.
- Users who receive three violations--uploads, downloads, or any combination of both violations--will have their Network Connection speed restricted to a shared 56Kbs speed for the remainder of the semester.
- Users who receive four violations--uploads, downloads, or any combination of both violations--will lose the privilege of having a Network Connection. The User's residence hall connection will be disconnected from the network and the Users Access Account ID will be restricted from using dialup, wireless, and mobile ports for the remainder of the semester.

» Why do we have a bandwidth limitation?

During the Spring of 2001, TNS (Telecommunications and Networking Services) notified Housing that residence hall students were consuming most of the "shared" bandwidth purchased for all of Penn State University. Housing and the Telecommunications and Networking Services worked together to implement individual bandwidth restrictions for the residence hall population. Analysis showed the residence hall population makes up ~12% of the total population at PSU. This 12% was regularly consuming ~65% of the bandwidth. This was affecting faculty, staff, and administrative personnel, as well as other essential equipment used by departments around campus.

» [How does PSU know the bandwidth usage on my PC?](#)

Equipment at University Park monitors the amount of data going in and out of everyone's computer. The information gathered is completely accurate.

» [Does PSU monitor what I download?](#)

No. Penn State only monitors the amount of bandwidth used and not what it is used for.

» [Can I check what my bandwidth is?](#)

Yes. [Check Bandwidth Here](#).

» [What happens after I get a violation?](#)

After you get a bandwidth violation, your internet connection is restricted. For more information, please click on the question titles "What is the policy for bandwidth?".

» [Why is my 56k connection so slow?](#)

The connection is shared with all the students who have violations. At busy times it will be extremely slow and may not be able to load any web pages.

» [How long will my connection be slow?](#)

For the first two violations, your connection will be restored at the end of the week. For the third violation, your connection will remain slow until the end of the semester. The fourth violation will shut your connection off completely until the end of the semester.

» [Can I get a restriction reversed?](#)

The restrictions are permanent and can not be reversed. However, all restrictions were reset when the new policy was instated. Everyone started with a clean slate.

» [How do I prevent myself from violating the bandwidth policy?](#)

The best way to avoid violating the bandwidth policy is to not use file sharing programs, such as Kazaa. If you do receive a violation/warning and are uncertain why, contact ResTECH immediately after you have received the violation. You can also unplug your network cable to prevent data traffic until ResTECH can fix the problem. If you wait till the 3rd violation to contact ResTECH, there is nothing that can be done and your connection will be slow for the remainder of the semester.

» [What is the difference between download and upload?](#)

Downloading is when you are getting files from another person's computer. Uploading is when files are being shared with the Internet.

» [I got a bandwidth warning/violation and not sure why. What should I do?](#)

Contact ResTECH immediately.

