

UC Santa Cruz  
Information Technology Services

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## Bandwidth and Network Traffic Monitoring

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**Copyright Education**

**Filesharing**

**Bandwidth**

**DMCA Agent**

**Communication**

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### What is Bandwidth?

Bandwidth is the communication capacity of a network. When you use the Internet, you are using bandwidth. Bandwidth is used in both directions, i.e. for uploads and downloads.

Data flows quickly and smoothly when the amount of traffic on the network is small relative to its capacity. When the amount of traffic nears the capacity of the network, the speed at which data travels begins to drop. When students on the residence hall network share large amounts of data, which could include music and movie files, the speed of the network decreases for everyone in the residence halls. Similarly, very large data transfers using the campus network affect availability for everyone on the campus network. For this reason, UCSC has some bandwidth limitations.

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### Bandwidth Limitations

#### ***Bandwidth Limitations for the Campus Network***

ITS tracks bandwidth usage to protect the quality of the campus network service. Network administrators identify anomalies in traffic, such as spikes in usage, and follow up as appropriate. Devices whose level of network activity is sufficiently large as to interfere with the normal business activity of the University may be blocked from the campus network. Specific campus guidelines and procedures for blocking network access are available at: <http://its.ucsc.edu/policies/blockingproc.html>

#### ***Bandwidth Limitations for University Housing***

Because all residents in the University Housing share the same bandwidth, UCSC limits the amount of bandwidth any one person can use. Bandwidth limits are based upon the network capabilities available in a particular area of campus. Some residential areas will have greater bandwidth access while other areas will have less. Setting limits on bandwidth helps to ensure that network access is available for purposes aligned with the University's mission.

- Family Student Housing: 15GB inbound and 5GB outbound traffic
  - University Town Center (UTC): 8GB inbound and outbound traffic
  - All other campus residential housing areas: 30GB inbound and outbound traffic
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### **Traffic Monitoring and Privacy**

Network administrators pay attention to network traffic as one method to manage the resource and ensure that bandwidth is available for academic, research, and administrative uses in alignment with the University's mission. At UCSC, we take privacy very seriously. ITS monitors the quantity of your usage, not the content of your usage. We monitor network traffic/bandwidth strictly to protect the quality of the network service.

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