AV-CC

Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
(INCORPORATED IN THE A.C.T.)

AARNet and AVCC Member Institutions

This document outlines the various responsibilities and roles of member institutions of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), and the AVCC itself with respect to the support of the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet).

AARNet Network Charter

AARNet is a private telecommunications network service provided by the AVCC to the participating member institutions of the AVCC, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Organisation (CSIRO), in the interests of providing dedicated telecommunications services in support of members' research, academic and service activities.

In addition AARNet may provide telecommunications services to other organisations affiliated in some way with the academic and research objectives of a member institution, under terms and conditions approved by the AVCC.

The majority of AARNet funding is as a component activity of the AVCC, and its budget is included within the total AVCC budget. The CSIRO and the Australian Research Council also contribute a proportion of the total project budget. The objective of the activity is the provision of necessary national and international infrastructural telecommunications services to member institutions to support their academic and research aims and objectives.

AARNet Acceptable Use Policy

1. The function of AARNet is to carry material which supports the academic and research enterprise of higher education institutions and CSIRO. This material may include news and ancillary materials relevant to the aims and objectives of these organisations.

2. This acceptable use policy includes the use of AARNet in connection with the administrative activities of the member organisations of AARNet, and also includes the use of AARNet for institutional support services.

3. This acceptable use policy includes the use of AARNet in support of the various infrastructural service support activities associated with the academic and research enterprise.

4. Use of AARNet for commercial purposes, and use of AARNet for purposes unrelated to the broad areas of relevance to the academic and research community is not considered acceptable use of AARNet services.

5. The use of AARNet by Australian organisations other than AVCC member institutions and CSIRO divisions requires the execution of an AARNet Affiliate Membership Agreement by the organisation and the AVCC. The AVCC reserves the right to approve each application for Affiliate Membership on a case by case basis.

6. Traffic originating from peer academic and research networks which conforms to the originating network's acceptable use policies is in general considered acceptable traffic to be carried over AARNet.

7. AARNet facilities cannot be used by any individual or group of persons for any activities of an illegal or fraudulent nature, including such illegal activities as defined under the Australian Commonwealth Government Telecommunications Act 1989, or other applicable State and Commonwealth laws.

Additional notes of relevance to acceptable material as described in 1. above:

1.1 the AVCC, in conjunction with CSIRO and through the AARNet Advisory Board, will decide which categories of material it will allow to be transmitted and those it will not transmit;

1.2 specific materials not normally transmitted through the network may be provided to individual sites if the materials are required by network members for legitimate teaching and/or research purposes and if the request for such materials is supported by the Chief Executive Officer of the institution requesting such materials; and

1.3 if material which AARNet has resolved should not be transmitted is injected into the network the membership of the network member responsible for that action may be terminated by the AVCC.

Summary:

This acceptable use policy of AARNet includes the use of AARNet in connection with the administration of the AARNet member institutions, and also includes the use of AARNet for institutional support services, such as library communications activities. Also included within these usage guidelines is usage of AARNet in connection with the various service support activities in relation to academic and research activities.

Provision of Access to AARNet Services

Every member institution has the right to control access to AARNet within the institution. Open access to AARNet by all staff and support members of the institution is seen as providing productive benefits to the institution as a whole, and is therefore encouraged by AARNet.

Every member institution may grant access to AARNet facilities to other individuals who are closely affiliated to the institution and may be deemed to be members of the institution.

Every member institution should undertake its best endeavours not to allow direct access to AARNet facilities to other individuals, organisations or entities unless an appropriate AARNet access arrangement has been endorsed by both the AVCC and the member institution concerned. In most cases this access arrangement would be under the terms and conditions of an AARNet Affiliate Membership agreement.

Provision of Application Layer Gateway Services to Other Networks

It is recognised that AARNet member institutions maintain connections into other private and commercial networks using application layer gateways owned and operated by the AARNet member institution.

The AARNet guidelines concerning the provision of application layer gateway access to other networks by an AARNet member institution is that the member institution should undertake its best endeavours to ensure that:

1. all data traversing the gateway between AARNet and another network should be directed to, or sourced from, an AARNet member site, or site within an AARNet peer academic and research network. Where data is directed to, or sourced from a destination address within AARNet's peer international academic and research networks, then the forwarding of such data on behalf of members of other networks should conform to the AARNet usage policy.

2. the gateway should not forward data originating from a public access commercial data network to a second gateway for re-entry to a public access commercial data network if use is made of AARNet facilities simply for transit purposes to the second gateway.

Member institutions which maintain gateway systems may elect to charge gateway client AARNet members for use of the gateway services (in sending data through the gateway as a value added service). Client AARNet member institutions should not be charged in these circumstances unless there is prior agreement to this effect between the institution providing the gateway service and the client institution. Access mechanisms for such gateways are the responsibility of the service provider, not AARNet.

AARNet Communications Equipment

With respect to equipment installed on the premises of a member institution the following provisions apply:

1. that all AARNet equipment installed within members' sites is the property of AVCC, established within members' sites for AVCC, at AVCC's risk and expense;

2. the institution should provide a suitable environment and physical security for the installed AARNet equipment;

3. the institution agrees to apply its best efforts to keep all software associated with the communications equipment confidential, and not to distribute copies of the software to any third party;

4. the institution agrees not to remove the AARNet equipment from the facility where it was originally installed outside of the provisions of maintenance activity without the prior consent of the AVCC.

AARNet Security and Integrity Guidelines

While AARNet offers great advantages to its serviced member community, it also increases the exposure of its members to security risks of unauthorized access and/or abuse of resources. The basic premise of AARNet is that the benefits gained offset such risks.

The security aims of each institution are to ensure that computing resources within the institution are accessed only by those individuals so authorized by the institution. This objective requires AARNet member institutions and AVCC staff to offer mutual assistance to identify and address security problems within AARNet as they arise.

It is important that institutions connecting to AARNet have an adequate internal computer and network access policy. Security measures to ensure resource integrity and to ensure resource access only by duly authorised users are a matter of high priority to each member site.

Each member institution should fully cooperate with other institutions, and with AVCC staff, in identifying and addressing operational integrity incidents within AARNet.

User data on the network should not be inspected unless absolutely essential for network operation or security reasons, and then only by authorized personnel (authorized AARNet operations staff, or an authorized member of a member institution's network operations staff). All such staff must work within the constraints of due care and attention to the confidentiality of all network user data.