Los Rios Community College District

Computer Use Regulations

Purpose and Definitions R-8811

8800 ADMINISTRATIVE COMPUTER USE
8810 Purpose and Definitions

1.0 Definitions

1.1 For the purpose of these Los Rios Community College District Policies and Administrative Regulations, terms shall be defined as follows:

1.1.1 “Access” means to gain entry to, instruct, or communicate with the logical, arithmetical, or memo function resources of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

1.1.2 “Administrative Computing” means all computer equipment, software, services, policies, and procedures which are in place to support all computing except direct instructional use (classroom, video, Internet, or other methods). Administrative Computing includes, but is not limited to systems which serve the following functions, internal Business/Accounting, Human Resources/Personnel, Student Administration/Records, electronic-mail/calendaring, general Internet/intranet use, Desktop office systems, file sharing/printing, and all other general productivity systems. Participation in Administrative Computing systems is applicable to Los Rios Management, Faculty, Classified Staff, Students, Contractors, and Consultants.

1.1.3 “Administrator” means a District employee, or a contractor or vendor authorized by a District employee to provide access to the Systems.

1.1.4 “Computer contaminant” means any set of computer instructions that are designed to modify, damage, destroy, record, or transmit information within a computer, computer system, or computer network without the intent or permission of the owner of the information. They include, but are not limited to, a group of computer instructions commonly called viruses or worms, which are self-replicating or self-propagating and are designed to contaminate other computer programs or computer data, consume computer resources, bypass security programs, modify, destroy, record, or transmit data, or in some other fashion alter the normal operation of the computer, computer system, or computer network.

1.1.5 “Computer network” means any system which provides communications between one or more computer systems and input/output devices including, but not limited to, personal computers, servers, display terminals and printers.
1.1.6 “Computer program or software” means a set of instructions or statements, and related data, that when executed in actual or modified form, cause a computer, computer system or computer network to perform specified functions.

1.1.7 “Computer services” includes, but is not limited to, computer time, data processing, or storage functions, or other uses of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

1.1.8 “Computer system” or “System” means any computers, network, and/or associated facilities which includes hardware, software, data stored or accessible electronically, and documents and manuals available to support the usage and/or operation and maintenance of the System leased or owned by the District and associated facilities, including those located on the college campuses, outreach centers, the District Office, Facilities Management, and other offsite facilities whether wholly or partly operated by the District, as a computer system designed, intended or used for administrative purposes.

1.1.9 “Data” means a representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts, computer software, computer programs or instructions. Data may be in any form, in storage media, or as stored in the memory of the computer or in transit, or presented on a display device.

1.1.10 “Injury” means any unauthorized alteration, deletion, damage or destruction of a computer system, computer network, computer program, or data caused by the access.

1.1.11 “Supporting documentation” includes, but is not limited to, all information, in any form, pertaining to the design, construction, classification, implementation, use, or modification of a computer, computer system, computer network, computer program, or computer software, which information is not generally available to the public and is necessary for the operation of a computer, computer system, computer network, computer program, or computer software.

1.1.12 “User” includes any District employee, student, contractor, vendor or other person who uses the Systems.

1.1.13 “Victim expenditure” means any expenditure reasonably and necessarily incurred by the owner/lessee to verify that a computer system, computer network, computer program, or data was or was not altered, deleted, damaged, or destroyed by the access.

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Adm. Regulation Revised: 9/27/10
Reviewed:
Board Policy: P-8811
1.0 Statement of Responsibilities

1.1 This regulation shall apply to all users of the Los Rios Community College District Systems.

1.2 Users must not share their account with others. With a few exceptions, accounts shall be issued to individuals for specific purposes and are not to be shared, unless otherwise approved by an Administrator.

1.3 Users must use computing facilities and services only for District business.

1.3.1 Accounts must not be used for private consulting or sold to other individuals.

1.3.2 Computing and/or networking resources must not be used for direct personal financial gain (except for appropriate contract and external accounts) or to provide free resources for unauthorized purposes.

1.4 Users must not attempt to interfere with the normal operation of the system.

1.5 Users must not attempt to encroach on others' use of computing and/or networking facilities or to deprive them of resources.

1.6 Users must not attempt to subvert the restrictions associated with their computer accounts.

1.7 Users must not attempt unauthorized access of computer installations outside the District computers or networking facilities.

1.8 Use of the Systems is a privilege that shall not be abused. Users shall be held to a high standard of professional behavior by complying with all Policies and Administrative Regulations relating to the Systems' use. The following are examples of unethical and inappropriate use.

1.8.1 Transmitting unsolicited information which contains obscene, indecent, lewd or lascivious material or other material which explicitly or implicitly refers to sexual conduct;

1.8.2 Transmitting unsolicited information which contains profane language or panders to bigotry, sexism, or other forms of discrimination;

1.8.3 Communicating any information concerning any password, identifying code, personal identification number or other confidential information without the permission of its owner or the controlling authority of the computer facility to which it belongs;
1.8.4 Creating, modifying, executing or retransmitting any computer program or instructions intended to gain unauthorized access to, or make unauthorized use of a computer facility;

1.8.5 Creating, modifying, executing or retransmitting any computer program instructions intended to obscure the true identity of the sender of electronic mail or electronic messages, collectively referred to as "messages" including, but not limited to, forgery of messages and/or alteration of system and/or user data used to identify the sender of messages;

1.8.6 Accessing or intentionally destroying software or licensed software in a computer facility without the permission of the owner of such software or licensed software or the authority of the facility;

1.8.7 Making unauthorized copies of licensed software;

1.8.8 Communicating any credit card number or other financial account number without the written permission of its owner;

1.8.9 Violating any laws or participating in the commission or furtherance of any crime or other unlawful or improper purpose;

1.8.10 Using the computer facilities in a manner inconsistent with the District's contractual obligations to suppliers of computer facilities or with any published District policy.

1.8.11 Using the Internet to gain unauthorized access to any computer;

1.8.12 Using computer facilities for work done on behalf of a commercial firm;

1.8.13 Copying a file from another computer user's account or any recording media without permission;

1.8.14 Copying copyrighted computer software for use on another computer without permission;

1.8.15 Unplugging or reconfiguring computer equipment to make it unusable or difficult to use;

1.8.16 Engaging in personal attacks: writing bullying, intimidating, threatening or harassing entries;

1.8.17 Making threats (directed towards others or yourself) without expecting the recipients of those threats, the college, and the police to consider them real; and

1.8.18 Displaying sexually explicit or sexually harassing images or text in a public computer facility or location that can potentially be in view of other individuals.

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1.0 Programs and Files

1.1 Generally, the Los Rios Community College District will not examine electronic mail or material except in the following circumstances:

1.1.1 Investigating a potential violation of the law or District Policies, Administrative Regulations or guidelines;

1.1.2 Disc capacities are exceeded, and user’s mail storage is a contributing factor;

1.1.3 Performing any necessary maintenance of the System;

1.1.4 Forwarding a misdelivered message;

1.1.5 Closing an account which contains unread mail;

1.1.6 The Chancellor determines that examination is necessary.

1.2 Absent reasonable cause, users shall be notified that electronic mail was examined by a system administrator.

1.3 The District reserves the right to access all information stored on District computers. When performing maintenance, every effort will be made to insure the privacy of user’s files. However, if violations are discovered, they will be reported immediately to the appropriate District/College official(s).
1.0 This regulation is intended to guarantee, to the extent possible, the security and integrity of the Systems.

1.1 The Systems are owned by the Los Rios Community College District and are to be used for District-related activities only. If faculty, staff or students bring personally-owned equipment into the District environment, they will be required to adhere to existing District and College policy as use of their equipment may affect the work of others.

1.2 Informational access to resources connected to local, national and/or international networks may be permitted, as a courtesy to others on the network, as long as their use does not adversely affect campus use and such access provides benefit to the District.

1.3 Users shall recognize their responsibility in the process of maintaining security of District computing and networking resources.

2.0 District Information Security Officer

2.1 The District’s Vice Chancellor, Education and Technology shall be the District’s Information Security Officer (ISO). The District ISO, in conjunction with the District Office Information Technology Department (District IT Department), is responsible for implementing the Information Security Policy and Regulation. The District ISO with the assistance of the District’s Internal Auditors shall:

2.1.1 Ensure the Information Security Policy and Regulation is updated on a regular basis and published as appropriate.

2.1.2 Ensure appropriate training is provided to data owners, data custodians, network and system administrators, and users.

2.1.2.1 Data owners are the person or persons responsible for creating data that is resident on the Systems;

2.1.2.2 Data custodians are the persons responsible for administering the infrastructure to store and transmit data on the Systems;

2.1.2.3 Data users include any District employee, student, contractor, vendor or other person who uses the Systems;

2.1.2.4 The terms system and network administrator as used in this regulation are generic and pertain to any person who performs those duties, not just those with that title or primary job duty.
2.1.3 Ensure each College and the District office appoints a person responsible for security implementation, incident response, periodic user access reviews, and distribution of information security policies and education, (e.g. information about virus infection risks).

2.1.4 Respond to internal and external complaints and/or queries about real or perceived non-compliance with the District’s Information Security Policy and Regulation.

2.2 Each manager is responsible for establishing procedures to implement the provisions of this Policy and Regulation within their areas of responsibility, and for monitoring compliance.

3.0 Data Classification Policy

3.1 It is essential that all District data be protected. Different categories of data require different levels of security. All data should be reviewed on a periodic basis and classified according to its use, sensitivity, and importance. There are three primary categories of data in the District’s Systems:

3.1.1 High Risk Data – High Risk data is information for which the law prohibits unauthorized disclosure and requires notification of the affected parties if unauthorized disclosure occurs. Data covered by federal and state identity theft prevention laws, such as the Information Practices Act of 1977 (Civ. Code, § 1798, et seq.), the Financial Information Privacy Act, (Fin. Code, §§ 4050, et seq.), or other laws are in this category. Any electronic record of a Social Security number, driver license number, or California Identification Card number, or bank/credit account number (with any required access password) when associated with other data that in any way identifies a person falls in this category. A user name or email address, in combination with a password or security question and answer that would permit access to a District online account also falls in this category. Data in this category requires the highest degree of care to safeguard it from unauthorized use and/or disclosure.

3.1.1.1 Other data may need to be treated as High Risk because it would cause severe damage to the District if disclosed or modified. The data owner should make this determination. It is the data owner’s responsibility to implement the necessary security requirements.

3.1.2 Confidential Data – Confidential data is information not meeting the criteria of High Risk Data, but subject to other legal privacy requirements, such as FERPA (20 U.S.C., § 1232g), HIPAA (10 U.S.C., § 1320d-2), the privacy clause of the California Constitution (Cal. Const., Art. 1, § 1), the California Student Records Act (Ed. Code, §§ 76200, et seq.), and the attorney-client or other legally recognized privilege. Confidential data can also include data that would not expose the District to financial or other liability if disclosed without authorization, but that the data owner feels should be protected to prevent unauthorized disclosure. It is the data owner’s responsibility to implement the necessary security requirements for this type of data.

3.1.3 Unrestricted Data – Unrestricted data is information that may be released or shared on an as needed basis. Examples of this data would be schedules of classes, or other publicly available information.
3.2 All District data shall be categorized in one of the three categories set forth in section 3.1 and protected according to the requirements set for each category. The data category and its corresponding level of protection should be consistent when the data is replicated and as it flows through the District.

3.2.1 Managers must ensure that all data collected or stored by persons in their operating unit is properly classified. Data owners must determine the data classification and must ensure that the data custodian is protecting the data in a manner appropriate to its classification.

3.2.2 No District-owned system or network subnet can have a connection to the Internet without the means to protect the information on those systems consistent with its confidentiality classification. (All District computers are connected to the internet unless specific effort has been taken to eliminate such connections.)

3.2.3 Data custodians are responsible for creating data repositories and data transfer procedures which protect data in the manner appropriate to its classification.

3.2.4 High Risk data must be encrypted during transmission over insecure channels (all network connections should be considered insecure unless the District IT Department has provided specific guidance otherwise).

3.2.5 High Risk data, when stored on portable computers or storage devices, shall be encrypted on the disk to prevent access without knowledge of a password.

3.2.6 Confidential data should be encrypted during transmission over insecure channels.

3.2.7 All data necessary for the efficient operation of the District should be backed up, and the backups tested periodically, as part of a documented, regular process.

3.2.8 Backups of data must be handled with the same security precautions as the data itself. When Systems are disposed of, or repurposed, data must be certified deleted or disks destroyed consistent with industry best practices for the security level of the data.

4.0 Required Information Security Practices

4.1 The following information security practices are mandatory:

4.1.1 The District shall use a layered approach of overlapping controls, monitoring and authentication to ensure overall security of the District’s data, network and system resources.

4.1.2 Security reviews of servers, firewalls, routers and monitoring platforms shall be conducted on a regular basis. These reviews shall include user and access privileges, monitoring access logs and results of intrusion detection software, where it has been installed.

4.1.3 All collection and use of High Risk data is forbidden except when required in performance of assigned duties. Collection, storage and use of High Risk data must be approved by management. No High Risk data shall be transported off site without
proper authorization. Where reasonable alternatives exist or can be created in lieu of the use or creation of High Risk data, those alternatives shall be used.

4.1.4 All workstations shall be configured such that after a few minutes of inactivity (not to exceed 30) they shall automatically enter screen saver mode and require a password to resume work.

4.1.5 Servers, desktop computers, or portable computers storing data including Social Security numbers, driver license numbers, credit card numbers, or other financial account information linked to names must be reported to the District IT Department. At least two times each year, vulnerability scans shall be run against these identified machines.

4.1.6 Computers storing High Risk Data shall require a password for access and shall be configured to go into password protected screensaver mode within a reasonable time of non-operation. Encryption is required for High Risk data stored on portable computers and portable storage devices (e.g. USB flash storage or external drives.)

4.1.7 Application development that is intended to store, manipulate, or transfer High Risk data must occur in a secure development environment, and to the extent any development or testing occurs outside the secure development environment must use data with all High Risk elements removed or fictionalized during the development and testing process.

4.1.8 An employee, data owner, data custodian, network and system administrator or user shall immediately notify the District ISO if that person becomes aware that High Risk or Confidential data has been lost, stolen, compromised, or disclosed to an unauthorized person.

4.1.9 When outsourcing application support for applications that store High Risk or Confidential data, asset protection and escrow arrangements in the event of third party failure should be included in the contractual language. Asset protection refers to a process where the agencies agree upon ownership and the classification of information, and documents the process for safeguarding each asset to protect against data loss, data theft, or unauthorized access to data. Escrow arrangements provide for access and use of the application source code in the event the vendor goes out of business or otherwise is unable to continue to support the application.

4.1.10 Critical technology (i.e. remote access technologies, wireless technologies, removable electronic media, laptops, tablets, PDAs, email, and internet usage) with access to credit card processing devices/networks, must have the following usage policies established:

4.1.10.1 Explicit approval by management.

4.1.10.2 Authentication for use of the technology.

4.1.10.3 Log of all devices and personnel with access.

4.1.10.4 Acceptable uses of technologies defined and documented.
4.1.10.5 Acceptable network locations for the technologies defined and documented.

4.1.10.6 Automatic disconnect of sessions for remote-access technologies after a specific period of inactivity.

4.1.10.7 Activation of remote access technologies for vendors and business partners only when needed and immediate deactivation after use.

5.0 Recommended Information Security Practices

5.1 The following information security practices are strongly recommended, but not required:

5.1.1 Vulnerability and risk assessment tests of external network connections should be conducted on a regular basis. A regular basis, at a minimum, includes testing annually, but the sensitivity of the information secured may require that these tests be done more often.

5.1.2 Education should be provided to District faculty and staff to ensure that users understand data sensitivity issues, levels of confidentiality, and the mechanisms to protect the data. This should be tailored to the role of the individual, network administrator, system administrator, data custodian, and users.

5.1.3 Use of existing data stores is preferred over development of new data stores containing High Risk or Confidential data. Creation of any computer file or database that contains High Risk or Confidential data must be approved in advance by a College or District manager. Such approved data stores will be identified and communicated to District IT Department in order that the computer(s) storing such data may be monitored to assure proper configuration to reduce the chance of intrusion by unauthorized users. Sufficient information about the data to be collected and stored and the proposed use of the data must be communicated to District IT Department to support analysis of possible use of existing data stores to meet the work requirements.

6.0 Access Control Policy

6.1 Data shall be captured and stored in a manner that supports employees accessing the data necessary to the job function without permitting access to sensitive or confidential data unnecessary to the job function. There is a delicate balance between protecting the data and permitting access to those who need to use the data for authorized purposes. This balance should be recognized and maintained.

6.2 More than one person shall have full administrative rights to any District owned server storing or transmitting data necessary to the ongoing operation of the district. Data owners or custodians may enact more restrictive policies for end-user access to their data.

6.3 Access to the network and servers and Systems shall be achieved by individual and unique logins, and shall require authentication. Authentication includes the use of passwords, smart cards, biometrics, or other recognized forms of authentication. Access to the administrative network must be achieved by individual and unique logins and must require authentication. Account sharing on the administrative network is prohibited. Access to the WiFi Public network may be granted with shared logins for guests of the District attending a training,
meeting, conference, or other management approved activity. Shared accounts shall not be activated for more than 48 hours.

6.4 Users shall not share usernames and passwords with anyone. Users shall not write down or record their passwords in unencrypted electronic files or documents. When limited access to District-related documents or files is required specifically and solely for the proper operation of District operating units and where available technical alternatives are not feasible, exceptions are allowed under an articulated operating unit policy that is available to all affected operating unit personnel. Each such policy must be reviewed by the operating unit executive officer and submitted to the Dean of the department responsible for Information Technology or the District IT Department for approval. All users must secure their username or account, password, and system access from unauthorized use.

6.5 All users of Systems that contain High Risk or Confidential data must have a strong password - the definition of which will be established and documented by the District IT Department after consultation with the College community. These passwords must be changed at regularly consistent intervals with guidelines developed by the District IT Department.

6.6 Passwords for empowered accounts, such as administrator, root or supervisor accounts, must be changed frequently, consistent with guidelines established by the District IT Department.

6.7 Passwords must not be placed in emails unless they have been encrypted.

6.8 Default passwords on all Systems must be changed after installation. All administrator or root accounts must be given a password that conforms to the strong password selection criteria when a system is installed, rebuilt, or reconfigured.

6.9 Logins and passwords should not be coded into programs or queries unless they are encrypted or otherwise secure.

6.10 Users are responsible for safe handling and storage of all District authentication devices. Authentication tokens (such as a SecureID card) should not be stored with a computer that will be used to access the District’s network or system resources. If an authentication device is lost or stolen, the loss must be immediately reported to the appropriate individual in the issuing unit so that the device can be disabled.

6.11 Human Resources shall be responsible for reporting terminated employees to the District IT Department upon their termination or transfer. Access for those terminated employees shall be reviewed and adjusted as found necessary. Normally, terminated employees should have their accounts disabled immediately upon termination. Because there could be delays in reporting changes in user responsibilities, periodic user access reviews should be conducted by the operating unit security person.

6.12 Transferred employee access shall be reviewed and adjusted as necessary by the new supervisor.

6.13 Monitoring shall be implemented on all Systems including recording logon attempts and failures, successful logons and date and time of logon and logoff. There shall be a documented procedure for reviewing system logs.
6.14 Activities performed as administrator or superuser must be logged where it is feasible to do so.

6.15 Personnel who have administrative system access shall use other less powerful accounts for performing non-administrative tasks.

6.16 Users who are authorized to have remote access to the network, servers, and Systems must review and adhere to the Los Rios Information Technology Remote Access Procedures.

7.0 All individuals employed by the District are held responsible for adhering to District procedures for system access, use and security.

7.1 Computer and network accounts must not be made available to others or used for any purpose for which they are not authorized. Un-sponsored research accounts must not be used for sponsored research or private consulting. Unauthorized attempts to modify system facilities and/or subvert the restrictions associated with computer accounts are a violation of State law.

7.2 Violators of the Administrative Computer Use policies are subject to the termination of their access, referral to the appropriate administrator, sanctions, disciplinary action and/or criminal prosecution depending on the severity of the violation.

8.0 The District is charged with maintaining overall security on the Systems and is responsible for the development and maintenance of appropriate awareness program guidelines, and procedures to assure a secure environment for the District community.

8.1 The District's academic and administrative departments who wish to operate their own systems shall comply with these Administrative Regulations.

8.2 Programs and files are confidential unless they are explicitly made available to other authorized individuals. When performing system maintenance, every effort is made to insure the privacy of a user's files. However, support personnel may access files when required for the maintenance of District computing Systems and networks. All such access will be recorded and reported at an appropriate time to the District. If in doing so, violations of policy and/or procedure are discovered, they will be immediately reported to the Administrator.

9.0 Exceptions to Policy

9.1 In certain cases, compliance with specific Policy requirements may not be immediately possible. Reasons include, but are not limited to, the following:

9.1.1 Required commercial or other software in use is not currently able to support the required features;

9.1.2 Legacy systems in use do not comply, but near-term future systems will, and are planned for;

9.1.3 Costs for reasonable compliance are disproportionate relative to the potential damage.

9.2 In such cases, operating units must develop a written explanation of the compliance issue and a plan for coming into compliance with the District’s Information Security Policy in a
reasonable amount of time. Explanations and plans must be submitted to the Dean of the department responsible for Information Technology at the College or the equivalent officer(s).