

**MONTANA BOARD OF REGENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Policy and Procedures Manual**

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS

Policy 1901.1 – Unauthorized Copying and Use of Computer Software

**Effective: November 18, 1999; Issued: December 10, 1999**

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**I. Introduction**

**A. Software and Intellectual Rights**

1. Respect for intellectual labor and creativity is vital to academic discourse and enterprise. This principle applies to works of all authors and publishers in all media. It encompasses respect for the right to acknowledgment, right to privacy, and right to determine the form, manner, and terms of publication and distribution.
2. Because electronic information is volatile and easily reproduced, respect for the work and personal expression of others is especially critical in computer environments. Violations of authorial integrity, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access, and trade secret and copyright violations, may be grounds for sanctions against members of the academic community. (EDUCOM Software Statement)

**II. Board Policy:**

- A. Employees and students of the Montana university system are prohibited from making or using any unauthorized copy or copies of computer software or related documentation.
- B. Employees and students are subject to disciplinary actions under appropriate employee or student regulations in addition to any civil or criminal penalties which may be imposed as a result of vendor action.
- C. In the event an employee is sued by the copyright owner or licensor, the indemnification policy in section 804.4 of the policy and procedures manual will be utilized.
- D. Each campus shall communicate the foregoing prohibition to employees and students.

History:

Item 55-002-R0687, Unauthorized copying and use of computer software; Montana University System; as revised November 18, 1999 (Item 104-103-R0999).