Software and Digital Content Rights Policy

Introduction
Worcester State College recognizes the following EDUCOM\(^1\) policy on software and intellectual rights.

EDUCOM: Software and Intellectual Rights
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 acknowledgement, the right to privacy, and the right to determine the form, manner, and terms of publication and distribution.

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.

Policy
The unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution of copyrighted software or other digital content represents a violation of intellectual property rights. Worcester State College supports the intellectual property rights of software and digital content developers and requires that faculty, staff, and students follow all local, state and federal laws governing copyright protection of software and digital content.

Violations of software or digital content copyrights will result in the removal of unauthorized material from all college systems and possible additional sanctions as outlined in the College’s Information Technologies’ Policies and Procedures (http://wwwfac.worcester.edu/it/policies/default.htm).

The very nature of electronic information requires a significant amount of trust between developers and users. In many instances, it is easy to duplicate electronic information for additional use or distribution; duplication becomes even more attractive when the cost associated with such content is perceived as excessive. It is important that all members of the Worcester State College community carefully read and understand any end user licensing agreements (EULAs) associated with electronic information. In most cases, users must license each individual installation of software or use of digital content; in some cases, there even may be a recurring fee to use the software or digital content over an extended period of time. Worcester State College must by law (and by principle) respect all EULA statements, regardless if they are perceived to be costly, inefficient, or unfair.

Users of Worcester State College computer and network resources must ensure that they are in full compliance with all EULAs associated with the software and digital content installed on or accessed by their assigned workstations and associated network storage accounts. Additionally, the College must ensure that all software installed in campus computing labs and on campus network is in full compliance with associated EULAs and fair use statements. Users who install unsupported software or digital content on their assigned workstations do so at their own risk and assume all EULA responsibilities, as well as any risk to their personal data associated with the installation of unsupported software or digital content.

\(^1\) Note: The EDUCOM Code, a statement of principle about intellectual property and the legal and ethical use of software, was developed by the EDUCOM Software Initiative and intended for adaptation and use by individuals, colleges and universities. See http://www.cni.org/organization.html for additional information about EDUCOM.