



AbMAN Acceptable Use Policy

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Background and Definitions

1. "AbMAN" is the name given to the collection of networking services and facilities which support the communication requirements of the Higher Education, Further Education, research community and commercial organisations in and around Aberdeen.
2. "JANET" is the Joint Academic NETwork that provides data communication services to Higher Education, Further Education, Research and collaborating institutions across the UK. JANET is linked to AbMAN.
3. UKERNA (the "United Kingdom Education and Research Networking Association") is the trading name of the company contracted by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) for the provision of the JANET service.
4. The provision of AbMAN is the joint responsibility of the those organisations ("Member Organisations") who have formed AbMAN Limited, a company limited by guarantee, for the purpose of providing AbMAN ("the Company"). AbMAN is managed by Aberdeen University which is contracted to the Company as the AbMAN Operating Agent.
5. Any dispute over the interpretation of this Policy will be resolved by the Board of Directors of the Company ("the Board").
6. The Board is the body which is responsible for policy formulation on behalf of the Member Organisations.
7. This Policy applies to any organisation authorised to use AbMAN ("A User Organisation"). It is the responsibility of each User Organisation to ensure that members of their own user communities are aware of this Policy and use AbMAN in accordance with this Policy.
8. It is therefore recommended that each User Organisation establishes its own statement of acceptable use within the context of the services provided to its users, and in a form that is compatible with the conditions expressed in this Policy. Such a statement may refer to, or include this document. If material from this document is included, this must be done in such a way as to ensure that there is no misrepresentation of the intent of this Policy. The Board can advise on this aspect as and when necessary.
9. The connection of organisations to AbMAN is at the discretion of the Board.
10. A third party, where this is an individual, is defined as someone who is not acting as a member of the User Organisation. Where it applies to a separate organisation, this is defined to be any organisation that is in law a separate entity to the User Organisation.

Acceptable Use

11. A User Organisation may use AbMAN for the purpose of inter-working with other User Organisations and with organisations attached to networks which are accessible via inter-working agreements put in place by the Board. All use of AbMAN is subject to payment of the appropriate charges in force during the period of service. Any provision of service must be authorised in advance by the Board.
12. Membership of the Company does not in itself imply permission to use other networks. Only Institutes of Higher and Further Education, sponsored or proxy connections, or other primary connections authorised by UKERNA may use JANET, which is linked to AbMAN. Only those contracted to do so may use any other internet feed which is accessible via AbMAN.
13. AbMAN is provided at present to support teaching, learning and research among academic institutions and collaborating organisations. Its use for any other purpose must be approved in advance by the Board.
14. All use of AbMAN must comply with current legislation where applicable.
15. Although this AbMAN Acceptable Use Policy is intended to cover the conditions laid down in the JANET Acceptable Use Policy, User Organisations who access JANET via AbMAN should note that it is a specific

condition that they adhere to the JANET Acceptable Use Policy, which can be viewed on:
<http://www.ja.net/documents/use.html>.

Unacceptable Use

16. AbMAN may not be used for any of the following:
 - a. the creation or transmission (other than for properly supervised and lawful research purposes) of any offensive, obscene or indecent images, data or other material, or any data capable of being resolved into obscene or indecent images or material;
 - b. the creation or transmission of material which is designed or likely to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety;
 - c. the creation or transmission of defamatory material;
 - d. the transmission of material such as infringes the Intellectual Property Rights of another person or entity;
 - e. the transmission of unsolicited commercial or advertising material either to other User Organisations, or to organisations connected to other networks, save where the material is embedded within or is otherwise part of, a service to which the member of the User Organisation has chosen to subscribe;
 - f. intentional unauthorised access to facilities or services accessible via AbMAN;
 - g. activities which intentionally lead to any of the following characteristics:
 - wasting staff effort or networked resources, including time on end systems accessible via AbMAN and the effort of staff involved in the support of those systems;
 - corrupting or destroying other users' data;
 - violating the privacy of other users;
 - disrupting the work of other users;
 - using AbMAN in a way that denies service to other users (for example, deliberate or reckless overloading of access links or of switching equipment);
 - continuing to use an item of networking software or hardware after the AbMAN Operating Agent or the Board has requested that use cease because it is causing disruption to the correct functioning of AbMAN;
 - other misuse of AbMAN or networked resources, such as the introduction of "viruses".
 - h. Where AbMAN is being used to access another network (e.g. JANET), any abuse of the Acceptable Use Policy of that network will be regarded as unacceptable use of AbMAN.
 - i. Any action which prevents the Operating Agent from maintaining the network.

Passing on and Re-sale of AbMAN Service

17. It is not permitted to provide access to AbMAN for third parties without the prior agreement of the Board with the following exceptions:
 - a. It is acceptable for a Member Organisation connected to AbMAN to extend access to others on a limited basis, provided no charge is made for such access. For example, it is acceptable that a visitor to a Member Organisation be permitted to gain access to AbMAN for the purpose of maintaining contact with his or her home organisation. It is intended that such use be regulated by the Member Organisation in the same manner as it would regulate occasional use by third parties of its other facilities, such as its telephone and IT support systems.
 - b. Sites which have permission to connect to JANET may sponsor connections or provide proxy connections without seeking explicit permission from the Board, provided these:
 - ◆ conform to the JANET Licensing agreements which apply
 - ◆ in the case of a sponsored connection are connected via the User Organisation's Local Area Network
 - ◆ are provided solely for the purpose of providing JANET access, and do not cause the bandwidth approved by UKERNA for the User Organisation to be exceeded .Approval from the Board must be given for any other arrangements for sponsored or proxy connections.

Compliance

18. It is the responsibility of the User Organisation to take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with the conditions set out in this Policy document, and to ensure that unacceptable use of AbMAN does not occur. The discharge of this responsibility must include informing users within the User Organisation with access to AbMAN of their obligations in this respect.

19. Where the User Organisation fails to comply with the conditions set out in this policy, this may be regarded as a breach of the agreement between the Company and the User Organisation ("Members Terms and Conditions"). This may lead to a withdrawal or suspension of the service by the Company in accordance with the termination provisions of the Member's Terms and Conditions.

Trademarks

"JANET" and "UKERNA" are trademarks of the Higher Education Funding Councils for England, Scotland and Wales, which have granted the JNT Association the right to use these marks.

The Company has made an application for the "AbMAN" trademark.

Disclaimer

Information provided in this Policy is believed to be correct, but the Board does not accept any liability for any loss or damage resulting from the use of information provided in this Policy.

Availability

This document is available only through the AbMAN Web Site. A User Organisation may reproduce part or all of this document, in order to ensure that its users comply with this Policy.

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