



AbMAN Security Policy 2003

Version: Issue 1.0

Date: April 22nd 2003

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 that 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. It is therefore recommended that each User Organisation establishes its own security policy 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 where necessary.
8. Connection of organisations to AbMAN is at the discretion of the Board.
9. Services:
 - ◆ AbMAN provides an IP service. The IP service, and as such AbMAN, is connected to JANET and forms part of the global Internet for those connected organisations entitled to access JANET.
 - ◆ There is currently no internet feed into AbMAN other than the JANET connection.
 - ◆ AbMAN carries traffic for a video conferencing service integrating with the Scottish MANs (Metropolitan Area Network's) project and SuperJANET video conferencing. Previously run over an ATM network, this has been re-procured to run over the IP Service.
 - ◆ AbMAN (and the local area networks connected to it) provides IP interconnectivity and the assumption is made that any device authorised to be connected to the network may exchange data with devices on any other site(s).
10. AbMAN does not impose any technical restrictions whatsoever in relation to what traffic is allowed over the network with the single exception that traffic between JANET and AbMAN is only permitted for User Organisations authorised to use JANET.
11. The open principle of access is inherent in the use made of the network by the AbMAN community, and in the software which it uses across that network. Any imposed system of general access control and/or monitoring of use would cause extreme difficulty for users and might, in any case, be technically impossible.
12. User Organisations must be aware, therefore, that their exposure to security threats by connecting to AbMAN is for all practical purposes the same as their exposure would be from a direct connection to the Internet. AbMAN

offers no enhanced protection, and the Company is not liable in any circumstances whatsoever for any security incident which arises from the use of AbMAN.

13. Factors which may threaten users on such an open global network include:
 - Unauthorised access to computer systems leading to breaches of confidentiality, ranging from infringement of privacy to theft of intellectual property;
 - Unauthorised access to computer systems leading to destruction of information and/or temporary disabling of or damage to computer systems;
 - Spread of computer viruses.
14. User Organisations are strongly advised, therefore, to fully protect their own networks that lie behind their connection to AbMAN against unauthorised or unwanted traffic.
15. In view of the fact that User Organisations are connected in close proximity on the high speed AbMAN, this Policy requires each User Organisation to maintain effective security and access controls to prevent their own site from being a security threat to other User Organisations or indeed to the network itself.
16. To achieve effective security for the network, each User Organisation must assume overall responsibility for ensuring all proper precautions are taken to enforce adequate access control. In fulfilling this responsibility, each User Organisation must ensure that each user on their network understands their own obligations to safeguard his/her connection to the network.
17. Each User Organisation must be fully aware of the duty, the risks, and of the resources required to fulfill these responsibilities.
18. The JANET-CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) provides JANET users with accurate and comprehensive information and support on security issues via their web site on <http://www/ja.net/CERT/cert.html>. Many of these documents are in the public domain and can be a useful source of information for organisations not entitled to use JANET including:
 - JISC Security Policy and advice for JANET;
 - Current perceived threats reported in the UK or elsewhere, and recommended means of addressing them;
 - Recommended general security tools.
19. In addition to providing a reactive information centre (which only meets the needs of users seeking advice), the JANET-CERT also provides a proactive service, capable of actively disseminating information to the UK HE community by delivering talks and demonstrations, and circulating literature. It aims to ensure all relevant sections of the community are aware of the potential threats to their own institutions, and others, and of the actions they must take to counter these threats.
20. The central point of contact for AbMAN is provided by the AbMAN Operating Agent as defined in the Service Level Agreement between the Company and the AbMAN Operating Agent.

The Policy

21. The duties, and consequences of failure to carry out these duties, shall be made explicit in a written and binding agreement between the Company and each User Organisation. This agreement shall state that each User Organisation is equally responsible for the actions of sponsored sites connected through them to AbMAN.
22. Individual points of contact within each User Organisation shall be identified. These points of contact shall be available to provide and receive information on behalf of the User Organisation, and be able to do so throughout any period for which the organisation is carrying this responsibility. The AbMAN Operating Agent shall be informed of any changes to the local site point of contact.
23. All sites shall accept that, in an emergency, and if the AbMAN Operating Agent is unable to reach the nominated site contact, it may become necessary to disconnect any site until the emergency situation is brought under control.
24. The Board requires User Organisations to act responsibly, this duty includes:
 - encouraging users to act responsibly, and ensuring that they are enabled to do so;
 - exercising responsibility about giving and controlling access to AbMAN and other connected networks;
 - taking measures to protect against breaches of security;
 - providing adequate mechanisms, including a disciplinary procedure, to enforce an appropriate local policy;
 - assisting in the investigation of a breach of security;
 - procedures for conducting local site-based investigations including those which involve a law enforcement agency in conjunction with the AbMAN Operating Agent.

25. The AbMAN Operating Agent shall be responsible for the physical security of the core AbMAN equipment and will liaise with others when that equipment is outwith their site (e.g. equipment owned by contractors). The Operating Agent shall ensure adequate security measures and insurances are in place.

Monitoring and Enforcement

26. The AbMAN Operating Agent shall have the responsibility (in conjunction with JANET-CERT where appropriate) to:
- Monitor use of AbMAN to the extent permitted by relevant legislation (including but not limited to the RIP Act and the Data Protection Act) either in response to information about a specific threat, or generally, because of a perceived situation;
 - Require a connected site, through its nominated point of contact, to rectify any omission in its duty of responsibility;
 - Report any security incident to JANET-CERT or the Board and initiate the procedure for achieving an emergency disconnection should a site be unable or unwilling to co-operate;
 - Obtain evidence and pass on information as necessary in order to assist in an investigation by a law enforcement agency.
27. The responsibilities of the operators of peer networks connected to AbMAN, in respect of their user organisations, are parallel to those of User Organisations in respect of their individual users. So far as is practicable, the Board shall ensure that a written agreement exists with such operators which embodies these principles. In any event, the Board shall have the right to disconnect such a peer connection if these principles are being breached.

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.

© 2003. The AbMAN Limited Board of Directors. All rights reserved.
