

Illegal downloading can be costly

Allowing downloading or uploading of copyrighted materials such as films, music, books, television programmes or games can cost you up to \$15,000 more than you expected.

The changes to copyright law have been operational for a while and there is mixed feedback from the internet providers on whether or not New Zealand internet users have paid heed to the risks.

What are the risks?

As the person or entity who holds the internet account, you could be ordered to pay up to \$15,000 for peer-to-peer file sharing.

What is peer-to-peer file sharing?

It is when internet users



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download or upload from each other by using an application or network where they do not pay for copyrighted materials such as films, music, books, television programmes or games.

How do I know if this is happening?

I understand that common sites include BitTorrent, Gaultella,

Vuze, FrostWire and LimeWire. However, school-aged children are the experts in this field.

If your children, staff or members are using these types of sites you may be in danger.

Sites like YouTube do not breach the laws because they are video streaming and not file sharing.

If a copyright holder wants to enforce its rights, you will be sent a notice through your internet provider. If you receive three notices, the copyright holder will be able to seek an order from the Copyright Tribunal.

If you do receive a warning, take it seriously and sort out the problem before you get another warning. This will help you to avoid things going any further.

What you do when you receive a notice will be taken into account by the Copyright Tribunal.

How do you protect yourself against peer-to-peer file sharing?

If you are the internet account holder it is up to you to stay vigilant and be aware of what is happening on your internet service. You are legally responsible.

There are a number of computer solutions that can help protect you, and you can talk to a computer expert about ensuring that your wireless connection is secure and about options for blocking certain sites and software.

If you are an employer, ensure you have a clear policy around peer-to-peer file sharing and that your employees or others that

may use your system know and understand your policy, and they have signed an agreement to comply with the policy.

If you are a school, hotel, membership organisation, charity, or any entity that allows people access to your internet connection, make sure those people are aware of the law, and do not provide them access to the internet unless and until they sign an indemnity against any cost their internet use causes you.

In the case of schools, you may require an indemnity from the parents or legal guardians.

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