Question:
What constraints, if any, is your institution placing on the use of institutionally owned computing and network resources, including conditions under which external access is allowed?

At The University of the South, the only restrictions on student access to institutionally owned computing and network resources are the conditions of responsible use, which are part of the University’s computing policies. All students have full access to the Internet in student labs, and those with computers have access in their residence hall rooms.

Laurence Alvarez
Associate Provost
laurence.r.alvarez@sewanee.edu

At Dartmouth College we enter all faculty, staff, and students into a database that serves as a person’s “key” to network applications that request a name and password (e-mail, licensed databases, etc.) We also enter some names “by hand” to accommodate non-standard relationships with the institution. Of late, as the number of requests for entry has greatly increased, we’ve tightened our policy and, in fact, are about to “purge” many names. A locally based community network that offers very similar services has helped by picking up those who might in the past have been allowed “in.”

Dial-in, used extensively, until recently was not validated! We’re migrating to all-validated (via the abovementioned database) dial-in in the next few months.

An interesting issue, not yet well dealt-with, are fixed IP address machines maintained in various labs, offices, etc., which themselves may then offer, on their own, accounts and dial-in access to those machines, which in turn are on the institution’s network. This doesn’t allow people into validated services, but may place all manner of people “on the Internet.”

Lawrence M. (Larry) Levine
Director, Computing Services
larry.levine@dartmouth.edu

At The University of Virginia’s policies on access to institutionally owned computing and network resources are derived from its policy on the use of the University equipment. This policy, which is not specific to computing-related resources, clearly states who is able to use resources and for what purposes. Our biggest problems come in interpreting the policy with respect to persons who are contributing services of value to the University community, sometimes for no compensation, but who themselves are not defined by policy specifically as authorized users and who request access to make their contribution easier. In general, “external access” questions have been channeled into our work to develop broad-based, high-speed access to the Internet in our local community through a project known as the Monticello Area Virtual Village. That project is a partnership between the local governments, local telephone and cable businesses, other businesses, community service agencies, and the University.

We are constantly struggling to keep up with dial-up service demand, especially now that many users are establishing SLIP, PPP, or ARA connections, which generally average longer connect sessions than older style connections. In the past year, we have required users who dial in to authenticate their status by use of login and passwords, and we have begun exploring other means of managing the resources, including limitations on connect times and “premium” connect options where users can guarantee access for a fee, but we have not yet adopted any of these as a standard practice. We are also examining outsourcing options.

R. F. (Chip) German, Jr.
Director, Policy & Planning
Information Technology & Communication
chip@virginia.edu

Allegheny College is a small, liberal arts college with about 1,700 students. All faculty members have a network-connected workstation on their desks and there are 200 machines in public labs that are network connected. We also have dial-in lines that are available to students, faculty, and staff. At the present time we have no restrictions on network access by students, faculty, or staff. We provide full Internet access, including access to all USENET groups. Spouses and dependents of faculty and staff can request a network account by completing a form. So far we have had only a handful request an account, so it does not pose a burden to our resources.

David Anderson
Director, Educational Computing Services
danders@alleg.edu

Selected responses to the Winter 1995 Readers Respond question will be printed in the next issue of CAUSE/EFFECT, space permitting. All replies will be included in the online edition available on the CAUSE Gopher and Web servers.

Winter 1995 Readers Respond Question

Has your library or IT organization reclassified jobs and/or redefined positions and, if so, why? Is this activity part of a broader organizational restructuring?

Please send your response, along with your name, title, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers by electronic mail to: eharris@cause.colorado.edu; by fax to 303-440-0461, or by regular mail to Elizabeth Harris, CAUSE/EFFECT Managing Editor, CAUSE, Suite 302E, 4840 Pearl East Circle, Boulder, CO 80301.