Network Resources of the University

The user community of the network resources of Xavier University of Louisiana consists of its current faculty, students, and staff as well as its official organizations and business partners. The Network Use Policy, a copy of which is posted on the Xavier University of Louisiana website with official copy kept in the Office of the President, governs the use of the University's network resources by the user community. The Governance Committee for Information Technology (GCIT) consists of the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Associate Vice President for Technology Administration, the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, and the Conrad N. Hilton Endowed Chair in Computer Science. The GCIT provides oversight and approval authority for matters of strategic importance concerning the network resources of the University. The Information Technology Center (ITC) installs, administers, and maintains the servers (hardware and software) in the University's network. These servers support the University's network resources (e.g., e-mail, web sites, etc.).

The University's network consists of (1) an intranet that is accessible only on campus or through the University's dial-up service, and (2) an extranet that is accessible globally through the Internet and the World Wide Web. To protect the University's network resources, while still allowing access, ITC maintains a firewall. Network resources located "behind" the firewall are accessible only on campus or through the University's dial-up service and constitute the intranet. Resources "outside" the firewall are accessible globally and constitute the extranet.

Although every effort is made to protect the integrity of data transmitted through and stored upon the University's network, some data will occasionally be lost or corrupted. Similarly, though every effort is made to ensure that network resources are available and functioning properly, unforeseen circumstances will sometimes cause these services to be unavailable or to function improperly. Therefore, Xavier University of Louisiana makes no warranty for network services provided. The University takes no responsibility for any resultant losses, financial or otherwise resulting directly or indirectly from the use of the University's network resources. Furthermore, the University cannot protect individuals, organizations, or business partners against the existence or receipt of material that may be offensive. Those who make use of electronic communication on the University's network are warned that they may receive unsolicited material that they will find offensive.

The University’s network supports a variety of group communications systems (i.e., newsgroups, discussion boards, list servers, etc.). These systems are available to members of the user community who can show a need for such services in a written petition to the GCIT and then receive subsequent approval. Any established group communication system will be accessible to the members of the user community who desire such access. The University’s network does not provide access to USENET.

Decisions affecting the University’s network resources are generally made in consultation with the user community. Addressing concerns to the GCIT is one such mechanism for consultation. When significant changes in hardware, software, systems configurations, policies, or procedures are planned, the user community will be notified to ensure that they have as much time as reasonably allowable to prepare for the changes and to voice any concerns.

The main servers of the University’s network require regular periodic maintenance resulting in system downtime. This and any other planned downtime, if more than five minutes, will be announced in advance to the user community. Unforeseeable outages of service, if more than five minutes, will be reported to on campus network users telephonically by ITC broadcast messaging. A full backup of the University's servers is performed monthly with incremental backups performed daily. Monthly server backups are kept for a minimum of one year.