

VAN HORNE COOPERATIVE TELEPHONE COMPANY

Acceptable Use and Network Management Policy

Van Horne Cooperative Telephone Company (Company) commits to the open and non-discriminatory use of the Internet by its customers and commits to use reasonable network management practices to ensure an open Internet. Company will manage its network and provide access in accordance with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) Open Internet Rules (adopted December 21, 2010 in 25 FCC Rcd 17905) and in compliance with any future rules adopted by the FCC.

Transparency

Company shall make available public information on its website (http://vanhornetelephone.com/interior_internet_services.html) regarding its network management practices, performance and commercial terms of its service sufficient for consumers to make an informed choice regarding their use of such services.

Company will not unjustly or unreasonably prevent or interfere with competition among Content, Applications, Service, or Device Providers.

Network Security and Congestion Management

Company uses generally accepted technical measures to provide acceptable service levels to all customers, such as application-neutral bandwidth allocation, as well as measures to address service attacks, illegal content and other harmful activities to protect network integrity and reliability. In the event of Denial of Service (DoS), Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack, spoofing or other malicious traffic, Company will implement inbound and outbound filtering on specific hosts. These actions will be performed to ensure reliability and availability of the Network. These actions will not be utilized for normal Internet applications and traffic.

Company reserves the right to prioritize traffic based on real time and non-real time applications during heavy congestion periods based on generally accepted technical measures. Company may set speed thresholds on the amount of data you as a customer can upload and download within stated time periods. If you exceed these thresholds, Company will temporarily limit the speed at which you can send and receive data over the Company access network. Company may use other traffic management and prioritization tools to help ensure equitable access to the Company network for all customers.

Company monitors customer usage to efficiently manage the performance of the network to ensure a sustainable quality broadband service is provided. Peak network usage is between 4 pm and 11 pm Monday – Friday and 10 am – 11 pm Saturday and Sunday. During peak usage times, priority is given to applications such as browsing, email, streaming, instant messaging, gaming and VoIP.

Congestion due to malfunctioning hardware and/or software will be remedied as quickly as network engineers can diagnose and identify the offending hardware / software.

Congestion due to malice will be remedied using any technique available, including protocol-aware filtering and rate-limiting, to control and limit the offending source. Company may seek criminal charges against those who inflict network malice. Company may also attempt to recover costs incurred from network malice.

It is not acceptable to use the Company network for any purpose that violates local, state or federal laws or to transmit communications that might be highly offensive or damaging to any recipients or to use the service in a manner that is unintended. It is not acceptable to interfere with, violate, circumvent, misuse, distribute or disrupt network users, equipment or services, which include but are not limited to:

In General

- Equipment, accessory, apparatus, circuit or devices that are harmful to the network, shall not be attached to or connected with Company facilities.
- Circumventing copyright laws and regulation, including the unauthorized download of music, video, images, books, software or content and/or other copyright protected works.

Network facilities

- Attempting to circumvent user authentication or security of any host, network, or account on Company systems or the Internet at large ("cracking"). This includes scanning or probing ports without the consent of the owner of the machine being scanned.
- Activities which violate local, state, or federal statutes.
- Attempting to obtain unauthorized access to any network or account. This includes accessing data not intended for end user customers, logging into a server or account without being expressly authorized to access or probing the security of other networks.
- Attempts to interfere with the Service of others including users, hosts and networks. This includes "denial of service" attacks, "flooding" of networks, deliberate attempts to overload a Service and attempts to "crash" any host.
- Reselling any Company Internet Services, without Company's written consent.
- Distribution of Company Internet Services beyond the scope of your end-user account.

Email

- Sending unsolicited mass mailings of any nature, including those with a "negative option" for continuation. The negative option is inviting those who do not wish to receive more email to reply to you.
- Sending a large number of email messages, or singularly large email messages, to a single address in order to flood someone's mailbox.
- Forging email headers to obscure the true originator of the message.
- Creating or participating in pyramid schemes or chain letters.
- Sending harassing email, either by language, size, or frequency. This includes sending email (or real time) messages to a person who has asked explicitly that you do not.
- Activities which violate local, state, or federal statutes.

Web/FTP space

- Distribution of pornographic or otherwise indecent or offending materials.
- Distribution of restricted software or materials in violation of copyrights or distribution licenses.
- Distribution of materials which violates local, state, or federal statutes.

Usenet News service

- Posting unsolicited messages to a large number of Usenet newsgroups either by cross-posting or posting to individual groups ("spamming").
- Attempting to cancel, supersede, or otherwise interfere with Usenet posts other than one's own.
- Blatant posting of articles which violate the named charter for specific newsgroups.
- Publishing someone's real-world data (such as phone number, address, social security number, etc.) in such a way as to cause the person trouble or to incite others to do so.
- Forging Usenet header information to obscure the true originator of the message.
- Activities that violate local, state, or federal statutes.

Company reserves the right to restrict or terminate service without refund in the event of a policy violation. Company also reserves the right to take action on abuse which is not specifically named in this policy at the sole discretion of Company. Use of the Company system and network constitutes understanding and agreement of this policy.

Company provides Spam filtering with each customer's email address. Details of this service are listed on Company's website. Company will not ask you for your password in an unsolicited telephone call or email. If you believe your password has been compromised, you should immediately change your password to prevent the unauthorized use of it.

Statement of Responsibility

- Each Company Internet account has a password that is the key to gain access to the account. The customer who registered the account is solely responsible for all access and actions taken with regard to the account. It is the account owner's responsibility to safeguard the account password and to ensure that Company Acceptable Use Policies are honored. Company will hold the account owner responsible for any violations of this AUP.
- Company enforces this policy with respect to Company customers only. We are not responsible for abusive actions which originate from other sites or networks on the Internet.

Blocking

Company shall not unjustly or unreasonably block access to lawful content, applications, services or non-harmful devices, subject to reasonable network management.

Discrimination

The Company shall not unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful network traffic over a consumer's broadband Internet access service, subject to reasonable network management practices. Company does not discriminate against any customer traffic. Company utilizes the network management techniques that are equal and standard across all user applications. Company does not modify its network to make Company directly served applications perform better than applications a user would access over the general Internet. The network management practices employed by Company do not differ between its directly offered applications and those general applications offered over the Internet.

Commercial Pricing

Please click on the following website link for pricing information including monthly prices, usage-based fees, and fees for early termination or additional network services: http://vanhornetelephone.com/interior_internet_services.html . Company partners with INS in the offering of Internet services and INS offers a speed test site to any user or customer who would like to test their bandwidth speed. It can be accessed at <http://netins.net/speed.htm>.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Company customer service at: http://vanhornetelephone.com/contact_us.html or 319-228-8791.