



**University of Pittsburgh  
University Network  
AO 38**

**Implementing Executive:** Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer  
**Responsible Unit:** Pitt Digital  
**Category:** Administration and Operations  
**Effective Date:** June 1, 2023

## **I. Purpose**

Useful and functional network service is critical for all members of the University community and the advancement of the University's mission. This policy provides authority and assigns responsibility for the installation, development, maintenance, operation, documentation, and support of PittNet, to the University of Pittsburgh. It also authorizes Pitt Digital to establish standards, protocols, and guidelines for network use in order to provide for the fair and equitable use of network resources by all members of the University community.

## **II. Scope**

This policy covers data networks at the University including "PittNet," which is the entire system of physical cabling, network switches, connections to other networks (e.g., Internet, Internet2, and various regional networks), supporting equipment, leased network circuits and bandwidth, cloud-based services, and other resources that provide network access to University computing resources through wired ports and Wi-Fi connections. PittNet also includes network segments managed by third party providers on behalf of the University, such as residence hall networking on the Pittsburgh campus.

## **III. Definitions**

Infrastructure Device – A network switch, router, Wi-Fi access point, firewall, or other physical device that is connected to network cable in order to form, extend, or protect a data or voice network.

Network Cable – Fiber optic cable, copper wire, or other cable used to construct a data or voice network.

## **IV. Policy**

Pitt Digital has authority and responsibility for the installation, operation, maintenance, support, and documentation of all physical and virtual devices, cabling, and services that together

comprise PittNet. This Policy provides details on Pitt Digital's role and the rules regarding the use of PittNet.

#### Development of Standards, Protocols, and Guidelines

Pitt Digital has the authority to develop standards, protocols, and guidelines for the use of PittNet and a mission to consult with the University community in their development and implementation, through such advisory groups as the Information Technology Advisory Committee and its Information Security Subcommittee, both of which include members representing faculty, staff, and students.

#### Connecting to PittNet

PittNet is designed to provide network coverage to all areas of the University community where it is needed. Individual users are permitted to connect personal computing equipment to PittNet via wired or wireless connections, as well as network-aware devices. Departments are permitted to install these devices as well as multi-user equipment. Neither individual users or departments may install network equipment such as switches, hubs, routers, wireless access points, or any other equipment intended to extend PittNet or create private networks on University property without prior permission from Pitt Digital. Information on acceptable computing devices is available in the [Pitt Digital Network Usage Standard](#). Users and departments should contact the Technology Help Desk for assistance.

#### Infrastructure Devices and Network Cabling

Pitt Digital is solely responsible for the design, construction, and implementation of PittNet and its components. Individuals and departments are not permitted to install or enter third party contracts to install Network Cable, or any Infrastructure Device(s) to PittNet without prior approval from the VC/CIO or designee. If such approval is granted, the unit must follow design specifications (including Infrastructure Devices and Network Cable) provided by Pitt Digital. Requests for such authorization must be made to the VC/CIO in writing, with compelling evidence of the need for such authorization. Pitt Digital will consider, in consultation with departments and users, special network configurations to support research or unique needs including networks not connected to PittNet or the Internet provided that they do not pose information security risks to the University or negatively impact other PittNet users.

#### Network Service and Connectivity

Pitt Digital will provide suitable network access and throughput, including access to the Internet and applicable internally networked Pitt resources, as well as network technical support, to spaces controlled by the University or in spaces where the University has otherwise agreed to provide PittNet service. While Pitt Digital will endeavor to provide the highest level of network availability, service may be affected by electrical power failures, cable cuts due to construction, effects of flooding, or other circumstances beyond Pitt Digital's control. Pitt Digital will make every reasonable attempt to notify the University community that such outages exist, along with estimated time frames for repairs whenever possible via established communication channels such as the Information Technology website (<https://technology.pitt.edu>).

## Network Security

Pitt Digital will establish, implement, maintain, and review appropriate network security measures in accordance with industry best practices to protect information transmitted via PittNet. These measures include, but are not limited to, network-based firewalls, intrusion detection systems, monitoring, and any other methods deemed appropriate.

Network security is a shared responsibility between Pitt Digital and members of the University community, who use PittNet. Pitt Digital has published all University security standards at <https://technology.pitt.edu/security>, which must be followed when accessing PittNet in order to protect the security of the University's network, including completing any required security awareness training.

## **V. Noncompliance**

University Community members who do not comply with this Policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the University's disciplinary guidelines, including, but not limited to, loss of access to PittNet.

## **VI. Governance or Responsibilities**

- A. The Vice Chancellor/Chief Information Officer has oversight responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.
- B. Pitt Digital has operational responsibility for PittNet, establishing Network Standards, and evaluating Unit requests for delegation. Pitt Digital will consult with users and units to identify and develop secure and appropriate solutions and determine whether special network configurations are needed.

## **VII. Contact Information**

This Policy is posted under Administration & Operations Policies on the Office of Policy Development & Management's website and can be found at: <https://www.policy.pitt.edu/>.

For specific questions related to this Policy, please contact Pitt Digital at: <https://www.technology.pitt.edu/about-us/contact-us>.

## **VIII. Related Authorities and Policies**

[AO 11, Computer Data Administration](#)

[AO 35, University Administrative Computer Data \(UACD\) Security and Privacy](#)

[Pitt Digital Network Usage Standards](#)