

Gonville and Caius College

Network Traffic Charging

The College is charged for its use of the Joint Academic Network (JANET) on the basis of the amount of traffic that leaves it, or arrives, via the University. A certain amount of external traffic generated through recreational use is acceptable to JANET and to the College as part of its running costs, but it is clear that a disproportionate amount of the College's very large traffic is caused by the activities of quite a small number of people. This can result in costs to the College of hundreds, even thousands, of pounds. Not only is there a cost problem, but selfish use of the network can result in agonisingly slow performance for other legitimate users. Much of this traffic is caused by activities that may contravene the rules which govern the use of JANET.

Following a decision taken by the Computing Management Committee, charging for traffic in excess of a pre-determined limit has been introduced for personal computers. Chargeable traffic is that which flows into and out of the Cambridge domain (cam.ac.uk). Note that no charge is made for the following traffic:

- Traffic that is wholly within the University
- Electronic mail via a mail server (such as Hermes) in the University of Cambridge, regardless of where it came from/goes to.

The charging week will run from midnight each Saturday to midnight the following Saturday. Each week the log files will be queried to obtain a list of users and their traffic volumes. Users will be charged £5 per Gigabyte (GB) for traffic in excess of 5 GB each week, and £10 per Gigabyte (or part thereof) for traffic in excess of 10 GB each week

Email warnings will be set to trigger at 3GB, 4GB and 5 GB recorded traffic, which should give you ample warning to check what you are downloading. These warnings are generated using a rolling one-week period and so may not quite reflect the actual traffic for the charging period. They should, however, act as a useful reminder. Any student who needs to exceed this quota for academic purposes will need the support of their Tutor, Director of Studies or the Senior Tutor before this use is authorised. This is expected to apply to very few students.

Please be aware that BBC iPlayer, Channel4 On Demand and similar services can generate high traffic volumes, as will downloading TV series from iTunes. You can monitor your traffic usage by logging on to: <https://register.cai.cam.ac.uk> and clicking on 'Traffic Statistics' in the top right-hand corner. This will show you your total traffic for the indicated time period, i.e. the day, week, or month immediately prior to the time at which you view the page. Or you may want to consider the program available at <http://www.netlimiter.com>. The table below gives typical data content for a range of Internet items or downloads.

Item	Quantity of data	Items/downloads for 5GB
40 page PDF file (typical)	200 kB	25,000
BBC news (audio - 3 mins)	360 kB	15,000
BBC home page (www.bbc.co.uk)	1 MB	5,000
Average MP3 file	2 to 5 MB	1,000 to 2,500
BBC news (streaming video - 30 mins)	7.4 MB	700
Skype conversation – 20 minutes	30 MB	165
iTunes movie* (90 mins)	400 MB	12
Linux image CD	600 MB	8
DVD*	4.7 GB	1

Conversion data: 1 GB = 1,000 MB. 1 MB = 1,000 kB. 1 kB = 1,000 bytes

* Note: items like these are normally subject to copyright. Transmission of data that infringes the copyright of another person is forbidden by JANET.