



Newsgroups Terms and Conditions

1. Introduction

Participating successfully in the various newsgroups that make up the Usenet news system is generally a matter of common sense and courtesy to others.

The majority of Power Internet customers are able to use their own sense of what is appropriate to guide their behaviour. From time to time, however, postings of a number of types which are considered unacceptable by the Internet community will occur.

It is not always obvious whether these postings are innocent, inadvertent, or intentional; however, regardless of this, serious cases of abuse will result in actions being taken by Power Internet Ltd. against the originator as described in Section 3 of this document.

Power Internet Ltd. provide news as a free service to our customers. Our decision is final on all matters relating thereto.

2. What is considered unacceptable?

Unacceptable behaviour is always a serious abuse of News, and not necessarily abuse on News. To qualify as unacceptable, an act must interfere with the use and / or enjoyment of a significant number of people rather than one or two individuals.

Under the terms of this AUP, unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. Chain Letters and Ponzi Pyramid-Selling Schemes

Such articles work (or rather, don't work) in much the same way as their paper-based cousins. The most common example of this on Usenet is MAKE-MONEY-FAST. In addition to being a waste of resources, such posts are illegal in certain countries. [Example]

b. Commercial Articles

The vast majority of newsgroups are of a non-commercial nature, and readers of those newsgroups will object most strongly to commercial traffic.

Commercial traffic is accepted as being any posting that solicits payment, in money or otherwise, for the provision of goods or services of some kind.

Whilst Power Internet have a policy of not acting on the content of news articles, most commercial articles will fall foul of one of the other clauses of this AUP, for example by being crossposted or multiple posted and will therefore be judged accordingly and subject to the ACTIONS contained in this AUP. [Example]

c. Binary Postings to non-Binary Groups

Outside of the alt.binaries... and alt.pictures... newsgroup hierarchies, the posting of encoded binary data is considered most unwelcome. The majority of Usenet sites and readers do not have the capability for selective transmission of articles (killfiling) and such posts can result in a significant amount of resources being tied up and wasted in the transmission process,

and as such can be considered as a denial of service attack on multiple recipients. [Example]

d. **Excessive Cross-Posting (velveeta *)**

Simply put, this form of unacceptable behaviour occurs when the same article is cross-posted to a large number of unrelated newsgroups. [Example]

e. **Excessive Multi-Posting (Spam *)**

Simply put, this form of unacceptable behaviour occurs when a substantively similar (perhaps differing only in Subject header) article is posted to a large number of unrelated newsgroups. [Example]

f. **Forged Headers / Addresses**

There are several types of unacceptable behaviour involving the forgery of article headers or posting addresses.

It is abuse to post articles with headers which would mislead recipients into believing that some other system or user had created the articles. Power Internet's systems will add header lines to try and foil such forgery. Articles will still be treated as abuse even if Power Internet's actions make the attempted forgery apparent.

It is abuse to post articles with headers which would cause responses to these articles, solicited or otherwise, to be delivered to unwilling third parties, or to inappropriate or unreasonable newsgroups. In particular, it is abuse to arrange for email replies to be delivered to an email address which you do not have permission to use.[Example]

g. **Other Unwelcome Activities**

The above are the more easily defined examples of unacceptable use. Unacceptable Use of the Power Internet News service is not limited to the above, but may include any activity reported to the Power Internet Abuse team which is considered, in the sole opinion of Power Internet, to be a serious abuse of the News Service.

*A more complete definition of these (and other related) terms, can be found in the FAQs regularly posted to news.admin.net-abuse.usenet.

3. Actions

Unacceptable behaviour via Power Internet ACCOUNTs may result in the offending article(s) being cancelled, and further action as follows:

First offence:

All Usenet News privileges through any of the machines and / or facilities comprising Power Internet's news service may be revoked for the ACCOUNT in question. (and any other ACCOUNT identified as belonging to the same CUSTOMER) [Example letter]

The CUSTOMER will be given seven days to present, in writing, to:

CUSTOMER SERVICES Power Internet Ltd

Tempus House
249 Midsummer Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 1EB

an apology from the POSTER and an undertaking not to repeat the offence. The apology will be held on file for an indefinite period, and at the discretion of CUSTOMER SERVICES and / or the NEWSMASTER, both the apology and the undertaking may be posted to the appropriate Usenet administration newsgroups, or be made otherwise available to the Internet community at large.

Usenet privileges will be restored only after both items have been received by CUSTOMER SERVICES and deemed to be of an acceptable nature. Failure of the POSTER to present such an apology and undertaking after seven days will result in Usenet privileges being permanently revoked for the ACCOUNT in question and may result in the CUSTOMER's account being terminated in its entirety.

Second offence:

The CUSTOMER account will be terminated immediately (as may any other ACCOUNT identified as belonging to the same CUSTOMER).

No refund of monies paid for the account will be made, except as specified in the standard Conditions of Use. [Example letter]

4. Definitions

ACCOUNT

A single billing entity, comprising of all services being supplied by Power Internet Ltd. to the CUSTOMER. This may range from a single host, a number of single hosts, up to a complete network, depending on the level of service.

CUSTOMER

The registered owner of the Power Internet ACCOUNT from which the unacceptable use originates.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

Any and all Usenet News article(s) that are in breach of the Power Internet NEWS-AUP.

NEWS-AUP

This document.

NEWSMASTER

Power Internet employee(s), collectively responsible for the administration of the Usenet news service at Power Internet Network Operation Centres.

POSTER

The author of the Unacceptable article(s). This may or may not be the same as the CUSTOMER, however, CUSTOMERS are ultimately responsible for all POSTER(s) using their ACCOUNTs.

CUSTOMER SERVICES

The staff of Power Internet who manage the provision of services to CUSTOMERS.