

*LIGO Laboratory / LIGO Scientific Collaboration*

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**LIGO Data Grid Acceptable Use Policy**

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## Scope

The purpose of this document is to describe acceptable use regarding utilization of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) Data Grid. The LIGO Data Grid (LDG) includes:

- LIGO Tier 0 clusters at the LIGO Observatories.
- LIGO Tier 1 computing clusters at the California Institute of Technology, and the LIGO Livingston and Hanford Observatories.
- LIGO Tier 2 computing clusters at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Cardiff University, and the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics.
- Other LDG computing clusters that may be designated by the LSC Computing Committee in the future.
- Infrastructure associated with these clusters, including, but not limited to, gateway machines, storage devices, network devices or any other devices connected to the clusters and constituting part of the computing environment for LIGO data.
- Certificates, proxies, keys or other security devices issued by LIGO or the LSC or accepted by LIGO and the LSC for the purposes of authentication and/or authorization to other LIGO Data Grid resources.
- Data, code and other intellectual property that resides on the LDG.

The policy set forth below defines acceptable usage and practices for these LDG resources and associated infrastructure. A separate document, the [LSC Security Policy](#), outlines steps to be taken in the cases where it is believed a violation of this AUP has occurred. In cases of conflict with the Acceptable Use Policies of the LIGO Laboratory, LSC member institutions, or state, national or international law, this document is subordinate.

## General Guideline

The LIGO Data Grid (LDG) is a Wide Area Network resource and infrastructure project that supports the scientific research mission of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration (LSC). Policy management for the LDG is the responsibility of the LSC Computing Committee (CompComm) chairs under mandate from the LSC Executive Committee and the LIGO Directorate. The CompComm is responsible for drafting this policy and ensuring that mechanisms are put in place for enforcing it.

The LDG provides the LSC with computational and data management infrastructure and resources in a grid computing environment. The express purpose of the LDG is supporting the LSC's science research missions. It is recognized that scientific research flourishes in an open environment, and it is therefore the goal of this policy to provide minimal restrictions while still keeping with the scientific missions of the LSC. Any restriction of use contained within this Acceptable Use Policy is intended to protect the LDG, the LSC, and its member institutions from inappropriate, unauthorized or illegal use of LDG resources.

In addition to acceptable usage as outlined elsewhere in this document, users are expected to behave in the reasonable and responsible fashion commonly expected in a scientific community. If users engage in conduct while using LDG resources that is in violation of LSC Policies or is otherwise illegal or improper, the LSC reserves the right to suspend and or possibly terminate the user's access to this service.

LDG usage may be monitored to ensure adherence to this AUP – by agreeing to this AUP, LDG users forgo any right to privacy when using LDG resources and infrastructure.

## Acceptable Use

Acceptable use of the LIGO Data Grid includes, but is not restricted to:

- Secure and approved access to LDG resources for the purpose of conducting LSC scientific research and/or education with or without the use of LIGO data.
- Any other use that expressly promotes, conducts or enables activities consistent with and germane to the scientific mission of the LSC.

## Unacceptable Use

Unacceptable use of LDG includes but is not restricted to:

- Illegal or prohibited activities such as:
  - Use of LDG infrastructure or resources to gain unlawful access to computational, information, or communications devices or resources.
  - Intentional introduction of malicious code, such as computer worms or viruses.
  - Transmission or use of software or other materials in violation of applicable copyright laws, licensing agreements or patents.
  - Attempting to intercept, redirect, or otherwise interfere with communications intended for others.
  - Sharing of passwords, certificates, ssh keys or other security devices with other persons.
  - Allowing unauthorized access to user accounts, data, or other LDG resources or infrastructure.
  - Lobbying of the United States Congress with regard to pending legislation.
- Personal use not related to the conduct of work on behalf of the LSC that uses significant resources, such as:
  - Distributing email, non-LSC related files, or other personal information.
  - Engaging in or in any way supporting unsolicited or commercial advertising of for-profit products or services.
  - Any use other than those that expressly promote, conduct or enable activities consistent with and germane to the scientific mission of the LSC.

## Privacy

All information you provide when applying for a LIGO Data Grid (LDG) account will be used only for the purpose of administering LDG accounts.

## **Modifications**

The LIGO Computing Committee reserves the right to modify the LIGO Data Grid Acceptable Use Policy without prior notice to LIGO Data Grid users. Users and PI's on Institutional MOU's will be informed in a timely manner of any changes to the AUP.

## **Further Information**

Questions about this LIGO Data Grid Acceptable Use Policy should be addressed to:

LDG AUP

Attn: Randy Trudeau (randy.trudeau@ligo.org)

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