

# Country Vision Cable

## File sharing programs secretly use your bandwidth

The advent of peer-to-peer (P2P) technology combined with new utilities to facilitate file-sharing activity causes a hardship to all Internet Service Providers (ISP's). The problem is not unique to Country Vision Cable, but is a worldwide issue wherever a shared network resource exists. The issue grew as awareness increased, and new utilities were made available. The function of downloading MP3s shares the same technology that allows hackers to abuse our resources. In fact it opens a door for them.

A lot of people don't realize that Bearshare, Gnutella, KaZaA, Limewire, Morpheus, etc. will share your downloaded songs and videos, waste your bandwidth (Internet speed), and turn themselves on without telling you. Many people use these programs, but don't realize that the programs run "hidden" in the background using your bandwidth. If you use a peer-to-peer (p2p) file-sharing application like KaZaA, you may be functioning as a server for others to download files from your computer. Not only can this impact network performance for your computer, but it can significantly impact all who use the Country Vision Cable network. Most file-sharing applications enable sharing by default, often without restriction.

You can improve network performance and reduce excessive bandwidth consumption by either managing or disabling sharing. Additionally, many file-sharing applications come bundled with "adware" or "spyware" which are automatically installed on your computer along with the file-sharing application. This software can monitor your activity, sending information to third-party vendors and advertisers on such things as what web pages you browse or what searches you perform. Apart from privacy concerns, these add-ons use your computer's system resources to operate and will affect performance. Depending on how much spyware and/or adware you have installed, this may be significant.

In addition to the bandwidth issue, it is worthwhile to understand that the distribution of copyrighted material violates Country Vision Cable's Terms of Service, and will subject you to suspension or termination of your Internet connection.

Here are the things we want you to do:

- Prevent the program from starting automatically.
- Stop sharing files.
- Close the program when you are finished.
- Prevent the program from acting as a "supernode", which is like a middleman for other programs and secretly uses your bandwidth.
- Our goal is to allow P2P activity, and still maintain a secure and viable network for all to use.

<http://www.countryvisioncable.com/>