

## **AUP Regarding Bots/Drones**

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It seems a couple people have the wrong impression regarding our AUP where bots or drone connections are concerned. Simply put, our MOTD is to make sure you understand that our right to removal is all-encompassing where bots are concerned, and that no bot connections are protected under any implied right to use our services. Thus, if we deem a a specific bot to be a negative presence, we can and will remove them without any requirement regarding "legality".

In order to say that this means we are "harboring" anything, one would have to assume that all bot connections are illegal. This is far from reality. There are a lot of open source IRC bots that people use for various purposes. A couple of the most common are Eggdrops and eMechs. The eMechs even have "networking" capabilities, and they all have the ability to interact with users and perform activities on IRC. Often people use these for advanced channel management, amusement, and even relaying messages between channels they own on different networks.

Another common legitimate bot is iroffer, and similar file sharing bots. Again, file sharing is a similar situation. A lot of it is legal, and again some is not. There are provisions available under DMCA establishing a protocol for notifying and removal of copyright infringements. The owner or a legitimate representative thereof can contact us, and we can and will work with them to get the problem solved.

So what makes a bot illegal? Pretty much one thing: its hosting. Almost all bots that are 'illegal' are so die to how and where the owner hosts the bot. If the bot is hosted on a "hacked" machine, or on any resource that the bot owner does not have the right to host IRC processes, it becomes illegal. In almost all cases, if a bot is hosted on someone's personal internet connection, or on leased/paid hosting services, the bot itself is legal. In some cases the bot doesnt need to be hosted illegally to be "illegal", and a few examples are:

1. bots using proxies without proxy owner's authorization, or using hacked machines for proxies.
2. bots that are actively searching for vulnerable systems to exploit, aka "scanning".
3. bots that are engaged in activity to attack anyone or anyone's resources, such as DDoS, flooding, etc.

Please keep in mind, that IRC "bots" are not hosted on our servers, any files they are "offering" are not hosted on our servers, and the only way we know anything is going on is if we receive a valid abuse contact. Just like almost any services, bots and file sharing both can be legal or illegal, depending on the means, the activity, and the rights to use of the user who is in control of said resource.

Abjects network management provides neither bots or file sharing resources.