The College of Arts and Sciences Network Resources Access Management Interface Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is a "network resource"?**
  - A functional entity accessible from the network with a unique set of access permissions.
  - Examples:
    - Research share (e.g. "\\s06\SmithLab")
    - Folder at root of department share (e.g. "\\s05\English\Office")
    - Printer share (e.g. "\\p1\SOCxerox5500")
  - Note that this definition considers different kinds of access to the same entity to be different network resources. For example, *Read-Only* access and *Modify* ("standard") access to the same folder at the root of a departmental share are considered two different resources.

- **Isn't there a shorter name for this?**
  - Some people call it NRAM (*/en-ram/*).

- **How was access to CAS network resources determined in the past?**
  - Access to network resources used to be based on the role of the users. Every user was assigned a role (e.g. "faculty", "student", etc.) which granted rights to a set of resources. This system was established when access to the relatively few network resources seemed more long-term and cut-and-dried. Over time, it was determined to be:
    - Insecure as users often had access to multiple resources when they only needed one.
    - Insecure because users often retained access indefinitely.
    - Not transparent: Opaque for resource owners and only translucent for CAS Computing.
    - Bureaucratic as owners had to request and wait for CAS Computing to grant access.
    - Tedious and slow to adjust when users didn't fit into a defined role.

- **How will access to CAS network resources be determined now and in the future?**
  - In most cases, the resource owner will have the ability (not requirement) to both easily see and change the list of users who have access to each of their resources through the College of Arts and Sciences custom Network Resource Access Management (NRAM) interface. CAS Computing will always remain willing and able to add and remove access to network resources by request, but departments are in a far better position to determine who should or should not have access.
  - There are a few exceptions:
    - There are some types of access that CAS Computing considers elevated rights. Incorrect assignment of these rights can adversely affect how others can utilize or modify the underlying access structure of network resources. Assignment of these rights will be administrated solely by CAS Computing in consultation with the resource owners to make sure that the changes made will help them accomplish their goals without compromising any other functions or resource access while maintaining appropriate security. For example, administrative rights to workstations in a research lab or the ability to manage all

print jobs on a particular printer will be handled administratively by CAS Computing at the written request of the resource owner.

- Access to network resources by generic accounts will be <u>assigned</u> only by CAS Computing after discussion with the resource owner. Access by generic accounts will be directly <u>revocable</u> by the resource owner through the interface.

- A few network resources continue to be based on roles. These roles should be well defined between the owner of the resource and CAS Computing. For example, the members of a search committee is a role that may have modify rights to some folders/files and read-only rights to others.

- **Aren't there some security implications to this?**

  - **YES!** That is why anyone managing network resources must have a signed the Employee Access and Compliance Agreement form (http://www.albany.edu/its/images/EACA_10_06_2010.pdf) to be stored in the CAS Dean's office. It is likely that you have already signed this document, but the CAS Dean's office will double check that a form is on record.

  - **Do not give (file) network resource access to users who should not have it** – even if it's "only for today". <u>You are responsible to limit the access you grant though this utility to only the appropriate people</u>. Because the interface presents a simplified view of potential access, CAS Computing will periodically audit the access to resources to ensure that the list of users whom you grant access through this utility are the only users who actually have access.

- **How do I create new network resources?**

  - In order to reduce the complexity of the back-end configuration required to allow resource owners to easily mange access, network resources (by this definition) can only be created in consultation with CAS Computing. Except for special circumstances negotiated with CAS Computing, folders that are network resources must be at the root of a share and no deeper. For example, a folder for the TAs in your department that Faculty can't access would be a new network resource that CAS Computing could establish at the top level (or root) of the departmental share (usually the O: drive).

- **How do I install the interface?**

  - The CAS Network Resources Access Management Interface does not need to be installed, you just open (or "run") it by double-clicking. It is available on the Software share (V: drive). You can make a local copy of it if you wish, but if you run it directly from the V: drive ("V:\Licensed\NRAM") you will always be using the most up-to-date version. If you want easy access to it, you should make a shortcut on your desktop by right-clicking and selecting "Send to" and "Desktop (create shortcut)".

- **I double-clicked on it. Why is nothing happening?**

  - Because of the type of program it is, the interface can take up to 10 seconds for anything to appear on your screen after double-clicking.