

based on peer-to-peer (P2P) technologies developed by Gnutella. Spinello (2008) notes that the methods for indexing the files that are exchanged in P2P systems comprise three categories: (a) a centralized indexing system (such as in the original Napster site), (b) a decentralized indexing system, and (c) a supernode system (where a group of computers can act as indexing servers). Legislation introduced in 2007 to amend and extend the Higher Education Bill of 1965 included the controversial Section 494, entitled Campus-based digital theft prevention. And in what could be viewed as an even more aggressive attempt to prevent students from freely downloading copyrighted music on university campuses, the RIAA tried to tie the unauthorized downloading of files by college students to a loss of financial aid. As P2P file-sharing sites have evolved, they have become increasingly decentralized.