



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 60 - COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME

N.C.G.S. § 14-453.

Definitions.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-25, s. 29(1), (3), (5) — eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 06:16 UTC	b37ed6bd93c37ec6954adb13 - a371cae9e42dab78bfca790a - 647250494c637cbf

As used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms have the meanings specified:

"Access" means to instruct, communicate with, cause input, cause output, cause data processing, or otherwise make use of any resources of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

"Authorization" means having the consent or permission of the owner, or of the person licensed or authorized by the owner to grant consent or permission to access a computer, computer system, or computer network in a manner not exceeding the consent or permission.

"Commercial email" means messages sent and received electronically consisting of commercial advertising material, the principal purpose of which is to promote the for-profit sale or lease of goods or services to the recipient.

"Computer" means an internally programmed, automatic device that performs data processing or telephone switching.

"Computer network" means the interconnection of communication systems with a computer through remote terminals, or a complex consisting of two or more interconnected computers or telephone switching equipment.

"Computer program" means an ordered set of data that are coded instructions or statements that when executed by a computer cause the computer to process data.

"Computer services" means computer time or services, including data processing services, internet services, email services, electronic message services, or information or data stored in connection with any of these services.

"Computer software" means a set of computer programs, procedures and associated documentation concerned with the operation of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

"Computer system" means at least one computer together with a set of related, connected, or unconnected peripheral devices.

"Data" means a representation of information, facts, knowledge, concepts, or instructions prepared in a formalized or other manner and intended for use in a computer, computer system, or computer network. Data may be embodied in any form including computer printouts, magnetic storage media, optical storage media, and punch cards, or may be stored internally in the memory of a computer.

"Email" means the same as the term is defined in G.S. 14-196.3(a)(2).

"Email service provider" means any person who (i) is an intermediary in sending or receiving email and (ii) provides to end users of email services the ability to send or receive email.

"Financial instrument" includes any check, draft, money order, certificate of deposit, letter of credit, bill of exchange, credit card or marketable security, or any electronic data processing representation thereof.

"Government computer" means any computer, computer program, computer system, computer network, or any part thereof, that is owned, operated, or used by any State or local governmental entity.

"Internet chat room" means a computer service allowing two or more users to communicate with each other in real time.

"Profile" means (i) a configuration of user data required by a computer so that the user may access programs or services and have the desired functionality on that computer or (ii) a website user's personal page or section of a page made up of data, in text or graphical form, which displays significant, unique, or identifying information, including, but not limited to, listing acquaintances, interests, associations, activities, or personal statements.

"Property" includes financial instruments, information, including electronically processed or produced data, and computer software and computer programs in either machine or human readable form, and any other tangible or intangible item of value.

"Resource" includes peripheral devices, computer software, computer programs, and data, and means to be a part of a computer, computer system, or computer network.

"Services" includes computer time, data processing and storage functions.

"Unsolicited" means not addressed to a recipient with whom the initiator has an existing business or personal relationship and not sent at the request of, or with the express consent of, the recipient.

APPARATUS I
8 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.

	1979				2002				2025
	TICK HEIGHT = ACTS IN THAT YEAR DASHED = RECODIFICATION, NOT AMENDMENT								
Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER						
01	1979	c. 831, s. 1	ENACTED						
02	1979	1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 764, s. 1	AMENDED						
03	1999	S.L. 1999-212, s. 2	AMENDED						
04	2000	S.L. 2000-125, s. 3	AMENDED						
05	2002	S.L. 2002-157, s. 1	AMENDED						
06	2009	S.L. 2009-551, s. 2	AMENDED						
07	2012	S.L. 2012-149, s. 2	AMENDED						
08	2025	S.L. 2025-25, s. 29(1), (3), (5)	AMENDED						

APPARATUS II
1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 14-196.3(a)(2)	(null)(6b)	"as the term is defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-453 (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1979, c. 831, s. 1; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 764, s. 1; 1999-212, s. 2; 2000-125, s. 3; 2002-157, s. 1; 2009-551, s. 2; 2012-149, s. 2; 2025-25, s. 29(1), (3), (5).)

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