



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 60 - COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME

N.C.G.S. § 14-458.

Computer trespass; penalty.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 03:34 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 39f1bbbe85c215fc86da7e64 - 4eba7a25a2f9b3b7126914b5 - 990dd8c88a2bbe11
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§ 14-458(a) Except as otherwise made unlawful by this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person to use a computer or computer network without authority and with the intent to do any of the following:

- (1) Temporarily or permanently remove, halt, or otherwise disable any computer data, computer programs, or computer software from a computer or computer network.
- (2) Cause a computer to malfunction, regardless of how long the malfunction persists.
- (3) Alter or erase any computer data, computer programs, or computer software.
- (4) Cause physical injury to the property of another.
- (5) Make or cause to be made an unauthorized copy, in any form, including, but not limited to, any printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network.
- (6) Falsely identify with the intent to deceive or defraud the recipient or forge commercial email transmission information or other routing information in any manner in connection with the transmission of unsolicited bulk commercial email through or into the computer network of an email service provider or its subscribers.

For purposes of this subsection, a person is "without authority" when (i) the person has no right or permission of the owner to use a computer, or the person uses a computer

in a manner exceeding the right or permission, or (ii) the person uses a computer or computer network, or the computer services of an email service provider to transmit unsolicited bulk commercial email in contravention of the authority granted by or in violation of the policies set by the email service provider.

§ 14-458(b)

CLASS I FELONY

Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of computer trespass, which offense shall be punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor. If there is damage to the property of another and the damage is valued at less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) caused by the person's act in violation of this section, the offense shall be punished as a Class 1 misdemeanor. If there is damage to the property of another valued at two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) or more caused by the person's act in violation of this section, the offense shall be punished as a Class I felony.

§ 14-458(c)

Any person whose property or person is injured by reason of a violation of this section may sue for and recover any damages sustained and the costs of the suit pursuant to G.S. 1-539.2A.

§ 14-458(d)

It is not a violation of this section for a person to act pursuant to Chapter 36F of the General Statutes. (1999-212, s. 3; 2000-125, s. 7; 2016-53, s. 2; 2025-25, s. 29(1).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

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. 1-539.2A	(c)	"costs of the suit pursuant to"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-458 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-458(a) (2026).

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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