

**From:** [REDACTED]=ITHAKA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE  
GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:03 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@MIT.EDU>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@mit.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply. I will ask our [REDACTED] staff to reinstate the suspended Class C range as soon as possible and will confirm once completed.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@MIT.EDU]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 29, 2010 4:01 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked  
**Importance:** High

Hello [REDACTED]

We've investigated this case and, because the origin of the activity was a guest visiting MIT, we believe it will not recur.

We hope you will be able to restore the class C range that has been suspended based on this information.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
MIT Libraries

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@mit.edu

<http://libraries.mit.edu/scholarly>

**From:** [REDACTED]@jstor.org]  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 26, 2010 12:31 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: JSTOR Abuse at MIT: All IPs Blocked

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing you this afternoon to let you know that we have been forced to block access to JSTOR from MIT. Yesterday, around 6pm, we began to see hundreds of PDF downloads per minute occurring from multiple sessions at 18.55.6.215. As these requests began to affect performance of the public site, we were forced to deny access to this IP. Requests continued to pour in from this IP for some time, but were denied access. This clearly indicates robotic harvesting of PDFs which violates our Terms & Conditions of Use.

This morning, at around 8am, this activity started again from IP 18.55.6.216, forcing us to restrict access to the entire range of MIT IP addresses. We rarely take this level of response to abusive activity, but felt it necessary to maintain the stability of the web site for other institutions and users.

Once you have identified the responsible party and can assure us that this activity will not continue, we will be happy to restore access as soon as possible. That said, please note that the block had to be executed at the firewall level to prevent performance degradation (even after denying the PDF downloads, the requests themselves were so frequent it continued to be problematic) and thus will require coordination of our systems administrators to restore, which may take some time.

Please do let me know if I can be of additional assistance or if I can provide additional information. Having worked in this area for some time, I am well aware that this activity is normally a compromised username and password or a student/researcher unaware of the impact of their activities or that this method of gathering PDFs is in violation of our Terms and Conditions of Use. We routinely work with researchers through our [dfr.jstor.org](http://dfr.jstor.org) site or by providing data exports to accomplish the intended research aim and would be happy to do so in this case as well if that turns out to be the motivation.

Best,

[REDACTED]  
JSTOR

[REDACTED]@<mailto:[REDACTED]@ithaka.org>ithaka.org

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