Advisory

Bit Torrent, or Peer-to-Peer sharing at work:

Reasons to not use bittorrent downloaders or peer-to-peer filesharing programs at work:

1. They create a lot of internet traffic. (Uploads & Downloads) This slows down the internet connection and causes problems for other staff, causing major interruptions to critical services, such as mail and remote connections.

2. They use a lot of your download limit. File sharing is a really easy way to go over your limit and get shaped (have your service provider limit your download speed) or charged for going over your download quota.

Guidelines for using bittorrent downloaders or peer-to-peer filesharing programs at work:

There may, very occasionally, be times when one of these programs needs to be used for work purposes. It's quite unlikely, but in the event that this is the case, here are some guidelines for the rare cases where it is necessary.

- Only have the bittorrent downloader on overnight and limit upload speed to 10 kbps. During the day turn it off. These programs are designed to pickup where they left off, so this won't affect your download, however it will free up the internet connection for the normal work of the office. It will also mean that you are using mostly the off-peak quota of your download limit, which doesn't get used much in normal office operation.

- Carefully watch how much you download in a month. If you go over the limit the connection will either be shaped (the download speed will be limited), or you company will be charged exorbitant fees for exceeding your limit. Shaping can have big implications, it can cause timeouts on mailservers, and bring your IT infrastructure to a grinding halt.

[We strongly recommend that bittorent downloaders are not used at work, especially during work hours.]