

CMPT 320: Implications of a Computerized Society

Final Exam, Take-home Part

Simon Fraser University

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Instructions: See Final Exam quizzes on Canvas (practice and real) for instructions and answer guide.

Canvas will randomly select 2 of the questions below for you to answer.

1 Anonymity, Privacy, Freedom of Expression

1. Explain how anonymity is important for protecting privacy and freedom of expression on the web. Give 1 example.
2. Explain how anonymity protects some undesirable actions on the web. Give 1 example.
3. Discuss ways to balance the pros and cons of anonymity. You should address the examples you described in the first two answers, but of course you can also bring up other examples if they help illustrate your points. Where applicable, explain how your suggestions are related to current legal decisions and government policy.

2 Copyright

One of the issues about copyright is its duration. Imagine intellectual property with a copyright about to expire (e.g., Disney's Mickey Mouse). Suppose that the current copyright duration is 50 years and the company asks lawmakers to extend copyright length for another 20 years so it can continue to benefit from the copyright. How would this question be approached by some of the fundamental ethical perspectives that we discussed in class? Specifically, discuss the following questions.

1. What are pros and cons of extending the copyright length from a utilitarian point of view?
2. What are pros and cons of extending the copyright length from a rights-based point of view? That is, which important rights would be supported by an extension, and which important rights would be supported by not extending?
3. What are pros and cons of extending the copyright length from a deontic point of view?
4. What are your own conclusions – which arguments carry the most weight?

3 Work

1. Describe one way in which telecommuting has improved the working conditions of (some) jobs in Canada.

2. Describe one way in which telecommuting has made worse the working conditions of (some) jobs in Canada.
3. Based on the course material, take a guess at future developments. Do you expect current telecommuting trends continue or intensify? Or do you see new more important trends emerging? Are there actions that society (government, employers, unions, industry) should take now to mitigate harmful trends? What are the pros and cons of such actions?

4 Computer Crime

1. Describe 2 important types of computer crime.
2. If governments (Canadian, U.S., European) have taken measures against these types of crime, describe them.
3. Discuss the pros and cons of 1 major crime-fighting measure, including, where relevant, the implications for privacy and freedom of expression.

5 Responsibility of Technology Providers

1. Give at least one example of illegal activities that occur on websites.
2. When websites are used for illegal activity, who in your opinion bears what responsibility to do something about it? For example, what if anything should website operators do about criminal use of their site? Should website operators be liable for criminal use? Do general principles for the responsibility of technology providers apply, and if so, how (e.g., ethical or legal principles that may also apply to gun makers, video recorder manufacturers etc.)? Are there fundamental differences between website operators and other types of technology providers? If so, what are the differences?

6 Impact on the Economy

Discuss **one** of the following phenomena from the perspective of the major schools of economics we covered (free market competition--Smith, Marxism, Keynesianism, Schumpeter innovation through entrepreneurship). What are advantages, disadvantages, possible approaches to improvements? Which approaches would you favour and why?

- a) Offshoring **or**
- b) Automation **or**
- c) Copyright Length (e.g., should it be longer like 75 years, shorter like 20 years, or not exist 0 years) **or**
- d) Natural Monopolies that arise from networking effects

7 IT development

- a) Describe 2 major problems facing innovation and quality in the IT industry.

- b) What measures would you suggest for addressing these problems? Discuss the pros and cons of such measures, including ethical considerations where applicable.