

Computation & Culture in a Digital World : Discussion 1 - Ethical Frameworks and Copyright

This page last changed on Jul 19, 2009 by [bl389](#).

Group 1

Gheng Ge- note-taker
Andreea D.- wikimaster
Joey, Ted H.-presenters

Copyright Laws

We are reinventing the laws of copyright. Our main goals are to ensure that proper credit is given to any new, original ideas, considering them the property of their inventor, which gives all the inventors the right to establish whatever price for their work. The resulting issue is that a gap is made between those who can or cannot afford access to information. We have thus attempted to enhance the availability of information in areas where people might not afford it.

What is copyright?

Copyright protect the intellectual standing and economic rights of creators and publishers of all literary, dramatic, artistic, musical, audiovisual and electronic works. Only original ideas can be copyrighted, and these would have to be introduced into a database in order under the copyright protection. Therefore, in order to copyright an idea the first step that is taken is to verify the originality of the idea, after which copyright credits are granted for ever.

How does it work?

Copyright is intended encourage and give credit to inveners. This is why companies have the right to set their own prices for their products. The market would force these price to be realistic though, as if a product is too expensive the obvious result would be that it would not be bought. This may seem an utilitarian approach, since most of the world would have access to information, but there are still some reions of the world where most people could not afford the prices for a bok or a movie.

Out of concern for peoples' right to information, the government has the duty to ensure that all people have access to information. This special problem requires special measures be taken. Special Libraries and Cinemas should be funded, these would allow people to watch the movies, read the books and listen to the mmusic they cannot afford to buy.

Group 2

Michael H., Adam G., Michele E., Yiju H.

Rules for Cornell

We are taking a contractarianistic view on most of these issues, especially about drugs and alcohol. Although we do want the students to be healthy, we are giving them leeway and we are allowing them to do mostly what they want, but we are not giving them complete freedom. Part of our plan will enable and require students to be responsible and make choices where it will not harm them as much as it would in their future. We are also trying to teach students how to act with other students; we give them a lot of choices and hope for them to act responsibly. We are also very concerned with security. We want students to feel safe and at home when on campus. This is why some rules seem a bit extreme. We also feel that with less profanity on campus, students will not feel more relaxed. We are teaching them how to grow into responsible and respectful University men.

Drugs

1. If you enter the classroom, and are visibly altered state of your normal personality, the professor has permission to inspect and administer a Breathalyzer test.
2. Cigarettes allowed but must be at least 25 feet away from all buildings
3. Prescription drugs are allowed
4. Over the counter drugs are allowed
5. Only medical marijuana is allowed, with permission; recreational marijuana and other illegal drugs are not allowed at all
6. Driving while ability impaired is not allowed
7. Alcohol allowed on campus (considering the drinking age has been lowered to 18)

Opposite Gender

1. Roommate will not be of the opposite gender. Floors will be co-ed
2. Separate bathrooms for different genders
3. PDA, to a certain limit, need to be in clothing
4. Opposite gender can be in room

Security

1. You need a card to enter the buildings.
2. A visitor can stay in dorm with permission (obtained 24 hours in advance) from the person in charge of the dorm. Also Cornell may keep a record of the visit
3. If you order out, you have to meet the deliveryman outside the dorm

Driving

1. Seniors will get priority in parking, although very limited spots
2. Everyone is allowed to have cars
3. Students are not allowed to park in visitor spots

Profanity

1. Most profanity on clothing not permitted
2. Personal items (such as posters) with profanity are not permitted

Group 3

Kristin McAvoy - wikimaster
Sean Cheng - secretary
Chris Hahn - presenter
Brandon Lam - presenter

Committee for Clinical Drug Trials

- *Drug: KCSB
- *Function: Lessen arousal so as to increase performance
- *Side effects: lowered heart rate, headache, lose of blood pressure

Thought Process

Our group was charged with the responsibility to create rules to regulate clinical trials of a new drug: KCSB. This drug, taken as a pill, is similar to Ritalin. It lowers the bodies arousal so as to increase everyday performance. All of the side effects are merely minor infractions and the medicine itself is not life threatening. When deciding on the rules for the tests, we were sure to keep in mind the ethical issues and philosophies that are important to such tests. We decided to take a viewpoint that supports utilitarianism and contractarianism.

Philosophies

Everyone who tests this drug must be 18 years old or older and must sign a contract that allows them to drop out of the testing at any point if they feel the need to. This agreement falls under contractarianism. The contract also supports the positive rights of the people. A positive right implies a requirement that the holder of this right be provided with whatever one needs to pursue one's legitimate interests. Our drug will allow a person to do that by increasing the performance of the person, which in turn allows a person to fulfill their interests. Human flourishing is often described similarly to positive rights, although human flourishing is more of an action than a right. Kant's description of imperfect duties can also be fulfilled by this drug. Imperfect duties are duties to develop one's talents where the individual has the latitude to fulfill this duty using many different means. This drug is simply one more mean.

Utilitarianism also comes into play with our regulations concerning this drug. We encourage people to volunteer by explaining to them that their efforts will help benefit the greater good by helping us to find a more efficient and beneficial drug for the public to use. There are very few downfalls and a lot of benefits to trying this drug. We encourage people to try it for the sake of themselves and society as a whole.

Advertising

We will lobby for this drug to be provided under health insurance. This drug, if provided by the government will augment the citizen's positive right. Thus, the drug will help people reach their full potential.

Group 4

Group Members Mark Harman Pratik Dasgupta, Josh, Christophe, Katherine Depardieu
Note taker - Katherine. Wikimaster- Mark Harman Presenters - Pratik Dasgupta, Josh, Christophe

Internet Problems

Main Problems facing a university providing internet access for all students

- Illegal Peer to Peer Downloading
- Cyberporn
- Security and Virus protection
- Hate Speech

Solutions

We solved these problems using a utilitarianism approach. Users in our network unfortunately can not be given complete privacy. Anonymous users could potentially wreck havoc through our network. To prevent this sort of event it is imperative that the rights of users in our network be limited.

Illegal Peer to Peer Activity

To address the problem of Illegal P2P Activity we will monitor the internet connections of all members so we will notice any suspicious uploading and downloading behavior. Also on the school owned computers installing non-approved .exe files is forbidden. Because some of the best and brightest computer science students in the world attend our school we will not think our limitations are hack-proof. Additionally all school owned computers will be wiped to a predetermined image every 48 hours.

CyberPorn

Our network does not want to snoop around on your private computers. What you view on your own computer in a private place is not the networks concern. However on public computers and in public spaces *viewing pornographic media is forbidden.*

Security and Virus Protection

Security is a **top** priority at our University. Because it is impossible to act as a 'big brother' to all the users on our network *it is each users responsibility to prevent virus's* from entering the network threw their computer. To help educate people in the ways of virus protection when users register for the first time with their netID, they will be given a 15 question multiple choice test on this topic. Individuals must

be able to recognize suspicious websites and be able to run virus detection software on their computers. Additionally, roughly once every two weeks while logging in users will be asked to answer a multiple choice question on this topic.

If students notice their computers may be infected they can go to our IT department for advice and help resolving the problem.

Hate Speech

Hate speech is *not tolerated* at our University. However we trust our students enough to give them an uncensored browsing experience. Students should note that we will keep a database of your browsing history. If staff notice you engaging in questionable behavior, we will review your browsing history to see if you have visited hate inciting websites.