

CS_130. Professional Issues I: Computers and Society

Attempt all questions

1. ISPs are commercial concerns whose main purpose is to make money. It has been argued that Governmental pressure is being placed on ISPs to make them responsible for the content that users post on them. Give two arguments in favour of such behaviour, and two arguments against.

[8 marks]

2. Give a brief description of a force from each of the elements of Lessig's Four Modalities Model that are influencing the following scenario.

Somewhere University uses Turnitin regularly, to examine student essays for originality. Nathan Aive, a first year student didn't attend the lecture on Unfair Practice, so is unaware of Turnitin and how it works. He works extremely hard on writing his first essay, missing lectures to get the work finished. (DO NOT DO THIS!) He submits his essay and achieves a mark of 83%, with which he is delighted. One of his friends tells him about the Unfair Practice lecture he missed, and explains about Turnitin. Nathan is outraged. He reasons that his essay, which is entirely his own work, and of a very high quality, has been given to Turnitin, a commercial company, who are using it for financial gain, and worse, that his own University have given it to them for free. He believes he is entitled to some form of payment.

NOTE: You are NOT being asked to decide upon a course of action, merely discuss the forces influencing any decision

[4 marks]

3. Discuss briefly (maximum of 1/2 page) the difference between the effect upon general society of warfare in the twentieth century and that of modern day technological war.

[8 marks]

4. In previous ages it was relatively easy for an individual to live in a country without the Governmental authorities being aware of his/her existence. Give brief descriptions (maximum two sentences each) of how ordinary, everyday behaviour forces an individual to give detailed personal information to the authorities.

[5 marks]