CSE312/ISE312
Gift of Fire, Fourth edition by Sara Baase

Read:
• Section 3.3-3.4
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WikiLeaks
• https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anonymity

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What We Will Cover

- Posting, Selling, and Leaking Sensitive Material
- Anonymity
- The Global Net: Censorship and Political Freedom
- Net Neutrality Regulations or the Market?
Corporate Free Speech

- Legal, yet possibly offensive material
  - Adult entertainment material
  - Nazi memorabilia
  - Leaked material

- Large corporations often restrict access to such material
  - Yahoo adult on-line store
  - Apple apps
  - Google search

*Do you believe that corporations have an ethical obligation to provide legal material?*

Web Sites With Risks

- Example: suicide site for terminally ill patients in severe pain
  - What are the risks?
  - What are the controls?
  - What are the ethical responsibilities?

*How would you approach the ethical responsibilities of such a site?*
Leaks

- Internet raises the possibility of release of private material to a large audience
- Usually the material that is released is protected by
  - Confidentiality agreement,
  - Government secrets protection
  - Business privacy policy
- Examples
  - Russian hacking of US election material
  - Release of Donald Trump’s tax return and video
  - Snowden
  - Climategate

Ethical Considerations

- Is the publication being done to
  - Address a political point of view?
  - Inform the public about important issues?
  - Cause harm to an individual?
- Are the legal restrictions on publication important?

What is your assessment of the ethical considerations of publication of 1) Russian hacking material, 2) Trump’s tax return, 3) Trump’s video, 4) Snowden, and 5) Climategate?
Operators of Leaking Sites

- Example – WikiLeaks
- Issues
  - Purpose of the site
  - Analysis of the potential harm in publication
  - Anonymity of the provider of the information
  - Analysis of intent of the leak provider

Anonymous pamphleteering is not a pernicious, fraudulent practice, but an honorable tradition of advocacy and of dissent. Anonymity is a shield from the tyranny of the majority.

Anonymity

- History of anonymous press
  - Gulliver’s Travels (Jonathan Swift)
  - Common Sense (Thomas Paine)
  - Federalist Papers (Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay)
- US legal systems support anonymity
- US Supreme Court

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Positive Uses of Anonymity

- Protects political speech
- Protects against retaliation and embarrassment
- Preserves privacy in on-line discussions of personal topics
- Crime tip-line

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Negative Uses of Anonymity

- Protects criminal and antisocial activities (e.g., cyberbullying)
- Aids fraud, harassment, extortion, distribution of child pornography, theft, and copyright infringement
- Enable illegal activity (e.g., Silk Road marketplace)
- Masks illegal surveillance by government agencies

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Anonymity Technology Approaches

- Using cash (including electronic)
- Telephone Caller ID blocking
- Hiding the IP address of requestor
  - TOR (The Onion Router)
  - I2P
- Anonymity services typically use a proxy server

Anonymity

Discussion Questions

- What are some kinds of Web sites that should prohibit anonymity?
- Where (if anywhere) should laws prohibit anonymity on the Internet?