



# 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?

*Corresponding page number:*



## 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?

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## 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?

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## 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

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## 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?*

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## 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

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## 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

*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.*

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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

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## Anonymity

### Discussion Questions

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

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