Lecture 13
Intellectual Property;
Privacy Intro
Participation Quiz

• If you choose an answer to this question at random, what is the chance you will be correct?

A. 25%
B. 50%
C. 33.3%
D. 25%
Midterm Recap

• Feedback on the midterm...
  – Curve: (your grade/80)^0.9 + 2/80
  – Mean 72% after curve (67% before)
Let’s discuss the midterm

- What makes a good essay?
- What makes a good outline?

...notice that reading the blog can help
...from looking at the grades, coming to class also helps
Legitimacy of IP Protection for Software

• Software licenses typically prevent you from making copies of software to sell or give away
  – Software licenses are legal agreements
  – Not discussing morality of breaking the law

• Discussing whether society should give intellectual property protection to software
What do you think?

• Break into groups; discuss and debate.
“The producers of software should have the right to prevent others from copying the software they produce.”
Rights-based Analysis

• “Just deserts” argument
  – Programming is hard work that only a few can do
  – Programmers should be rewarded for their labor
    • Mixing my labor with something implies ownership

• Criticism of “just deserts” argument
  – Why does labor imply ownership?
    • Mixing my labor with something means I lose my labor?
    • Pour a can of tomato juice into the ocean: I don’t own the ocean.
  – A society in which all labor went to common good could be just
  – Intellectual property not like physical property
    • I cut logs: I own the logs
    • I write a book: I get to restrict other people from copying the book

• What do you think about this argument?
Utilitarian Analysis

• Argument against copying
  – Copying software reduces software purchases...
  – Leading to less income for software makers...
  – Leading to lower production of new software...
  – Leading to fewer benefits to society

• Each of these claims can be debated
  – Not all who get free copies can afford to buy software
  – Open-source movement demonstrates many people are willing to donate their software-writing skills
  – Hardware industry wants to stimulate software industry
  – Difficult to quantify how much society would be harmed if certain software packages weren’t released

• What do you think about this argument?