

Computers and Society

CPSC 430

Lecture 2 – Introduction, History
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Topics (pretty cool stuff, actually 😊)

- History of computing, storage, networking (next 3 classes)
- Ethic & Argumentation (5 classes)
- Social issues (1 week each):
 - Networked communications
 - Intellectual Property
 - Information Privacy
 - Privacy and the Government
 - Computer & Network Security
 - Computer Reliability
 - Professional Ethics
 - Work & Wealth
- Rest of today:
 - break into 16 groups (count off from 1 – 16) using Droid
 - get assigned a statement and a position for or against
 - develop arguments for your assigned position
 - present your list to the class; we'll discuss briefly
 - everyone votes on the issue (you vote freely)
 - we'll revisit these questions throughout the course. You'll get to see if your opinions change.

Networked Communications

“For the protection of children, computers in libraries should be configured to block objectionable content.”

Intellectual Property

“The producers of software should have the right to prevent others from copying the software they produce.”

Information Privacy

“It should be illegal for a search engine to publicly disclose users’ search histories, even in anonymized form.”

AOL.com did this in August, 2006

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AOL_search_data_leak

Privacy and the Government

“The government should work to intercept all encrypted communications.”

Computer and Network Security

“Canadians should have the right to vote online in federal, provincial and municipal elections.”

Computer Reliability

“Self-driving cars should be allowed to operate on public roads once they have been shown to be at least slightly safer than the average human driver.”

Professional Ethics

“A UBC CS sysadmin accidentally discovers pornography in a student’s private department file space, depicting a woman the sysadmin believes may be under 18. The sysadmin should inform the department head.”

Work and Wealth

“It is immoral for a corporation to pay its CEO 400 times as much as a production worker.”

Computer History

- You wrote an essay about a particular date range
- Three topics:
 - computing
 - networking
 - information storage and retrieval
- ...may not all be equally important for your range
- Prepare a presentation with others who got the same range
 - max 3 slides (PDF)
 - max 7 minute presentation
 - 1-3 presenters
 - we'll do this next class
- Your whole group will get in-class participation points /10%