Computers and Society
CPSC 430

Lecture 2 – Course Topics
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http://cs.ubc.ca/~kevinlb/teaching/cs430
Topics (pretty cool stuff, actually 😊)

- History of computing, storage, networking (next 3 classes)
- Ethics & 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
  - 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.

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Small Groups

Networked Communications
“Any social network above a certain size should be required to verify the identities of its members.”
For: 1; Against: 2

Intellectual Property
“The government should aggressively prosecute intellectual property infringement, particularly including peer-to-peer file sharing.”
For: 3; Against: 4

Information Privacy
“It should be illegal for shopping malls to install cameras for tracking customer behavior.”
For: 5; Against: 6

Privacy and the Government
“It should be illegal to sell a mobile phone that cannot be decrypted by the police if so ordered by a court.”
For: 7; Against: 8

Computer and Network Security
“Canadians should be able to vote online in federal, provincial, and municipal elections.”
For: 9; Against: 10

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.”
For: 11; Against: 12

Professional Ethics
“It is unethical for computer scientists to aid in the development of autonomous weapon systems.”
For: 13; Against: 14

Work and Wealth
“The government should attempt to slow or stop the spread of automation technologies that are likely to eliminate large numbers of jobs.”
For: 15; Against: 16
Networked Communications

“Any social network above a certain size should be required to verify the identities of its members.”

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Networked Communications

A total of 83 vote(s) in 122 hours

- 2 (2% of users) - Strongly agree
- 33 (40% of users) - Agree
- 9 (11% of users) - Neutral
- 29 (35% of users) - Disagree
- 10 (12% of users) - Strongly disagree