

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

INFR10022 PROFESSIONAL ISSUES

Thursday 5th May 2016

09:30 to 11:30

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer QUESTION 1 and ONE other question.

Question 1 is COMPULSORY.

All questions carry equal weight.

CALCULATORS MAY NOT BE USED IN THIS EXAMINATION

Year 3 Courses

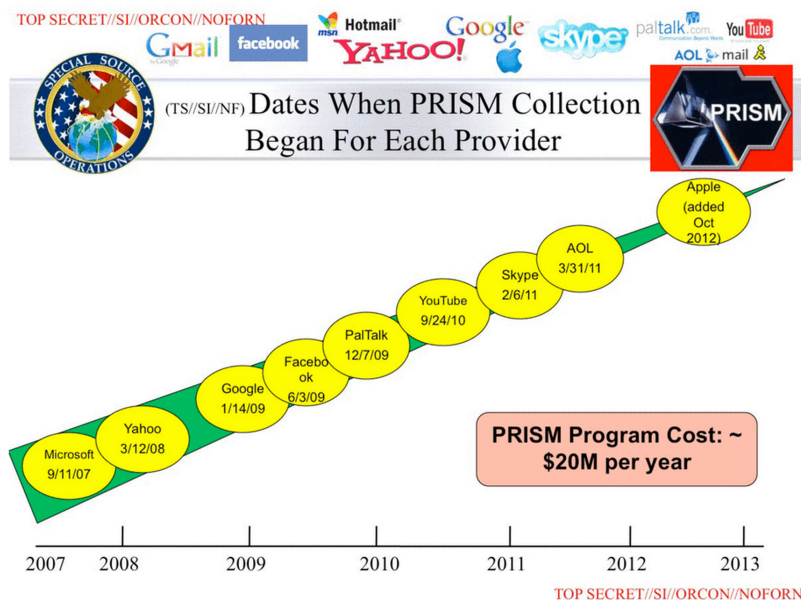
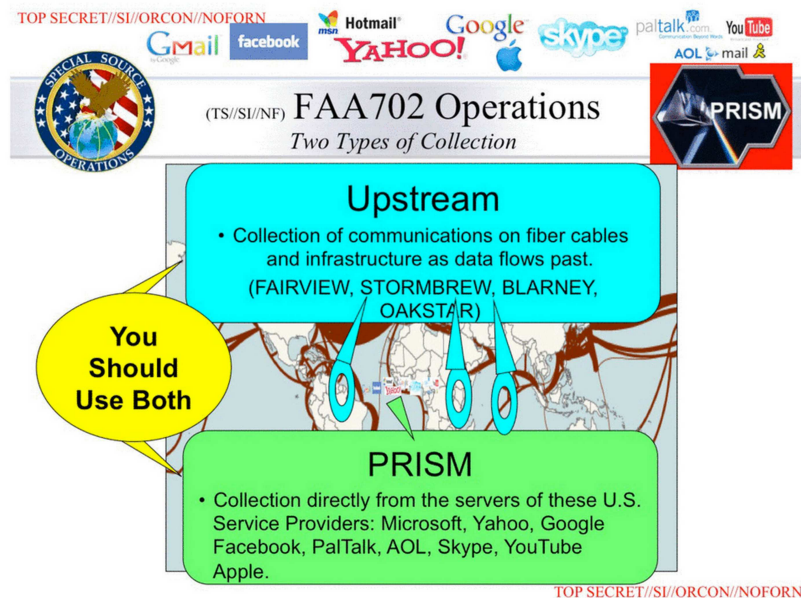
Convener: C. Stirling

External Examiners: A. Cohn, T. Field

THIS EXAMINATION WILL BE MARKED ANONYMOUSLY

1. You MUST answer this question.

Consider the following slide taken from a powerpoint presentation.



- (a) What organisation produced these slides? Why are they in the public domain? [5 marks]
- (b) Critique the presentation of the slides. In what ways is it exemplary, and in what ways is it poor? [10 marks]
- (c) “This slide deck would be improved if it made more use of bullet points.” Discuss. [5 marks]
- (d) The slides mention the FBI and Apple Computer. Describe a news story from 2016 involving these two parties. [5 marks]

2. The following definitions are adapted from the draft Investigatory Powers Bill, presented to parliament in November 2015.

- **Equipment interference** is access to electronic equipment such as computers and smartphones in order to obtain data, such as communications from a device. Equipment interference encompasses a wide range of activity from remote access to computers to downloading covertly the contents of a mobile phone during a search.
- **Communications data** is information about communications: the who, where, when, how and with whom of a communication but not what was written or said. It includes information such as the subscriber to a telephone service or an itemised bill.

Explain how equipment interference and access to communications data, are regulated under current legislation.

Your answer should include consideration of the following questions:

- What risks do these activities pose to individuals and corporations?
- How does the law protect them from these risks?
- What sanctions are there for unauthorised equipment interference and unauthorised access to communications data?
- What provisions exist to enable authorised equipment interference and access to communications data?

It should briefly discuss any conflicts and additional risks associated with legislation of these activities.

[25 marks]

3. The following story appeared in the Sunday Herald in March 2015.

The UK's privacy watchdog has warned that plans to create a "super ID database" may lead to the creation of a national identity number for every Scot by default.

In what critics claim is a devastating blow to SNP proposals, the head of the Information Commissioner's Office in Scotland has called "suitable safeguards" to be put in place for the plan to give more than 100 public bodies the right to request access to an NHS database containing private information about individuals.

Under the proposals, access would be granted to the HMRC, which would use the information to help build up an accurate database of Scottish residents ahead of the devolution of powers over income tax to Holyrood.

Other bodies that would be entitled to request access to records and update the database include the police, airports, Quality Meat Scotland and Scottish Canals.

- (a) What UK legislation is relevant to the above proposal? *[5 marks]*
- (b) Name two data protection principles relevant to the proposal, and explain why they are relevant. *[10 marks]*
- (c) The Identity Management and Privacy Principles, published by the Scottish Government in October 2014, states in Section 4.6:

"If a public service organisation needs to link personal information from different systems and databases (internally or between organisations), it should avoid sharing persistent identifiers; other mechanisms, such as matching, should be considered."

Explain how this impacts on the above proposal. *[5 marks]*
- (d) What might be the impact on data protection if the UK votes in the upcoming referendum to leave the EU? *[5 marks]*