

Intellectual Property and Plagiarism

Intellectual Property

- One of the more controversial areas of computer ethics concerns the intellectual property rights connected with software ownership. Some people, like Richard Stallman who started the Free Software Foundation, believe that software ownership should not be allowed at all.
- He claims that all information should be free, and all programs should be available for copying, studying and modifying by anyone who wishes to do so

Intellectual Property

- Others argue that software companies or programmers would not invest weeks and months of work and significant funds in the development of software if they could not get the investment back in the form of license fees or sales.
- Today's software industry is a multibillion dollar part of the economy; and software companies claim to lose billions of dollars per year through illegal copying ("software piracy").

Intellectual Property

- Many people think that software should be ownable, but "casual copying" of personally owned programs for one's friends should also be permitted.
- The software industry claims that millions of dollars in sales are lost because of such copying.
- Ownership is a complex matter, since there are several different aspects of software that can be owned and three different types of ownership: copyrights, trade secrets, and patents.

Intellectual Property

- One can own the following aspects of a program:
 1. The "**source code**" which is written by the programmer(s) in a high-level computer language like Java or C++.
 2. The "**object code**", which is a machine-language translation of the source code.
 3. The "**algorithm**", which is the sequence of machine commands that the source code and object code represent.
 4. The "**look and feel**" of a program, which is the way the program appears on the screen and interfaces with users.

Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit. If you use others' words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. You must also give citations when using others' ideas, even if you have paraphrased those ideas in your own words.

Plagiarism

“Work” includes the words and ideas of others, as well as art, graphics, computer programs, music, and other creative expression. The work may consist of writing, charts, data, graphs, pictures, diagrams, websites, movies, TV broadcasts, or other communication media.

Plagiarism

The term “**source**” includes published works -- books, magazines, newspapers, textbooks, websites, movies, photos, paintings, plays -- and unpublished sources (e.g., materials from a research service, blogs, class handouts, lectures, notes, speeches, or other students' papers). Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, of any kind, you must cite it.

Forms of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can take a number of forms, for example:

- [?] Including in your work extracts from another person's work without using quotation marks and acknowledging of the source. The source might be a book, another research paper, a website, another student's work, comments or notes from a member of staff, data, or pictures.
- [?] Summarising another person's work without acknowledging that it is a summary of their work and not your own;.

Forms of Plagiarism

- [?] Using someone else's ideas or assistance without due acknowledgement. (statistics or data processing, the provision of materials, or help receive via external collaboration.)
- [?] Collaborating with other people (including fellow students) on assessed work that is required to be completed and submitted individually.

Forms of Plagiarism

- [?] Cutting and pasting from electronic sources without explicit acknowledgement of the URL and the author, and without explicitly marking the pasted text in inverted commas, or labelling the source of the diagram or illustration. The inclusion of large amounts of pasted material, even if acknowledged, always raises doubts about how much of the work presented should be credited to the student. The same applies to over-quotation from a traditional, printed source

Forms of Plagiarism

- Copying and pasting text from online encyclopedias
- Copying and pasting text from any web site
- Using photographs, video or audio without permission or acknowledgement
- Using another student's or your parents' work and claiming it as your own *even with permission*
- Using your own work without properly citing it!

Forms of Plagiarism

- Quoting a source without using quotation marks-even if you do cite it
- Citing sources you didn't use
- Getting a research paper, story, poem, or article off the Internet
- Turning in the same paper for more than one class without the permission of both teachers (this is called self-plagiarism)

Forms of Plagiarism

- Copy an entire article from the Web or a subscription online database
- Download a free research paper from the Web
- Buy a paper from a commercial paper mill
- Fake a citation to get by so as to meet the deadline
- Use a paper with permission from a friend who took the same course or chose the same research topic

Forms of Plagiarism

- Paraphrasing without giving credits to the original source
- Quoting less than what has been copied
- Creating a paper by cutting and pasting phrases, sentences, or paragraphs from other publications

Why Students Plagiarize

- **Intentional Plagiarism**

Just like hacking into websites, plagiarizing papers can be something of a thrill in itself

- **Searching vs. Researching**

Today's students learn quickly that finding and manipulating data on the Internet is a valuable skill. With the wealth of information available online, the production of original analysis and interpretation may seem like "busy work" compared to finding the best or most obscure sources.

Why Students Plagiarize

- **Poor Planning**

Students are not always the best judges of how much time their assignments will take. They may not be aware of the extent of work involved in a research paper.

Scheduling stages of progress on their papers is a very effective way to deal with this. Having them submit bibliographies, outlines, thesis statements, or drafts on specified dates before the final draft is due will give them a good idea of the amount of work involved. It will also help them organize their time and make the task in time

Why Students Plagiarize

- **Citation Confusion**

Perhaps the most common reason for inadvertent plagiarism is simply an ignorance of the proper forms of citation