

Legal Issues and Cyber Law (HUM 4747)

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Program: B.Sc. Engineering in Software Engineering



Introduction to the course

- Course objectives: To introduce the different legal mechanisms and cyber laws that a software engineer needs to know, and to help them analyze and solve various problem scenarios.
- Course outcomes: To understand the legal controls, explain the cyber threats and laws, examine the problem scenarios, and contribute to national policy development.

Course contents

- Introduction to legal aspects
- Jurisdiction
- Contracts and licenses
- E-contract and relevant laws
- Intellectual property rights
- Professional responsibility and negligence
- Outsourcing and licensing issues
- Cyber security strategy guide
- Threats to information resources
- Digital forensics
- Cyber crime prevention measures

Introduction to legal aspects

- **Legal system:** The set of rules and institutions that govern the behavior of individuals and organizations in a society. There are two main types of legal systems: civil law and common law.
- **Lawsuits:** A legal action that one party brings against another party in a court of law. There are various kinds of lawsuits that a person may face, such as breach of contract, fraud, negligence, defamation, invasion of privacy, etc.
- **Professional responsibility and negligence:** The ethical and legal obligation that a person must perform their duties with competence, confidentiality, integrity, etc. Negligence is the failure to exercise reasonable care or skill in performing one's duties, resulting in harm or damage to another party.






Introduction to legal aspects

- **Outsourcing and licensing issues:** The practice of hiring an external party to perform some or all of the tasks related to software development. The practice of granting or obtaining permission to use or distribute software products or services. Both outsourcing and licensing involve legal risks and challenges, such as quality control, liability, intellectual property rights, etc.
- **Intellectual property rights (IPRs):** The legal rights that protect the creations and innovations of people from being copied or used by others without permission. There are four main types of IPRs: patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and copyrights.

Contract law

Contract: A legally binding agreement between two or more parties that creates rights and obligations for them. A contract can be written or oral, express or implied, formal or informal.



Elements of a valid contract: For a contract to be valid and enforceable, it must have the following elements:

Offer: A proposal by one party to another party to enter into a contract on certain terms.

Acceptance: An expression by the offeree to agree to the terms of the offer.

Consideration: Something of value that each party gives or promises to give to the other party in exchange for entering the contract.

Intention: The mutual willingness of the parties to be legally bound by the contract.

Meeting of minds: The mutual understanding and agreement of the parties on the essential terms of the contract.

E-contracts

A contract that is created or executed electronically using digital devices or platforms.

An e-contract can be classified into different types based on how it is formed or presented, such as:

1. click-wrap contracts (e.g., clicking "I agree" on a website)
2. browse-wrap contracts (e.g., accessing a website with terms and conditions),
3. shrink-wrap contracts (e.g., opening a software package with license agreement), etc.



Elements of a valid e- contract:

For an e-contract to be valid and enforceable, it must have the same elements as a traditional contract (offer, acceptance, consideration, intention, meeting of minds), plus some additional conditions, such as:

- Electronic signatures: Any symbols or data that are attached to or associated with an e-contract and that indicate the identity and consent of the parties.
- Data security: The protection of data from unauthorized access, use, modification, or disclosure.
- Authentication: The verification of the identity and validity of the parties involved in an e-contract.
- Admissibility: The ability of an e-contract to be accepted as evidence in a court of law.



That's All