Emerging Tech Assignment 1 – License to Design

Implementing a license to design would be like a license to operate as a doctor, lawyer, or architect. Governing bodies license and permit people to legally practise a certain profession. In Ontario, for example, we have the CPSO1 (College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario) which is responsible regulating the practise of medicine in Ontario by providing licenses and requiring membership with the College to practise2. Similarly, a group, or college, of tech developers and designers would be a body of people with degrees in their field that would regulate licensing and practicing of tech development and design. These bodies, like the CPSO, would also have jurisdiction over a particular level of government. In the case of the CPSO, their jurisdiction would extend to the government of Ontario. Therefore, a tech body could also be as on the level of the country of Canada or a single province or territory.

Requirements for obtaining a license and subsequently practising tech development and design could include a certain number of years of study in a specific or general field within the region the governing body operates within. That would mean with an example of a governing body for Ontario, a person seeking a license would need to study for how ever many years to obtain their degree at a college in Ontario, culminating in a standardized final exam also regulated by the governing body.

The governing body would also need to have specific rules in place to prevent unintended and/or negative consequences of providing developers and designers with a license. This would be like a Hippocratic oath for coders to ensure the present and future of web and application development and design, and the handling of user data, would be ethical as determined by the body.

Ideally, the governing body will have heads that are well-versed in their fields and have a full understanding of what exactly would be the required education for a licensed developer. Therefore, it would also be in the governing body’s interest to investigate how colleges, right now, are teaching and training the next generations of developers. From there, they would also have the authority to weigh in on potential changes to the education process in these fields, which could then lead to a healthier body of developers and designers which follow a strict moral code of conduct.

References

1. <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/hhrsd/physicians/licensing.aspx#:~:text=Licensing%20of%20Physicians,-The%20following%20organizations&text=The%20CPSO%20is%20responsible%20for,is%20a%20self%2Dregulating%20body>.
2. <https://www.cpso.on.ca/About/What-we-do>