Week - 7

Q.1. A large company has a policy prohibiting employees from blogging about the company products. What are some of the possible reasons for the policy? Does it violate the First Amendment? It is reasonable?

Answer:

Since being one of the largest companies it encompasses its successful ideas, thoughts, confidential information, trade secrets, essential documents which if exposed may hamper and create great loss to the company. But because of the use of the blogging policy, an unknown employee can share such confidential information to his/her blog and can degrade the success and reputation of that particular company. So for the sake of their company, some of the large companies have the policy of restricting the employees from blogging about the confidential information or company products. By blogging unnecessary content, the employees not only kill their valuable time but also can expose their employers for blackmailing, harassing, discriminating and for so on purposes which is not a good reason. There are also some cases of the employees that were fired for their inappropriate blogging. Like a Microsoft contractor, named Michael Hanscom, was fired after he had taken pictures of Apple G5 computers being unloaded onto the software company's campus and posted them to his blog.

First Amendment is the US principle which protects the citizens from the government. It prohibits the restriction of press, religion, speech, assembly and peaceful. It explains that citizens have freedom of speech but that does not mean that they can speech whatever, wherever and whenever they desire. There exist certain restrictions towards it. According to the given scenario the company does not violate the first amendment. A company only prohibits its employees not to blog regarding the exposure of the confidential information of the company and do not perform those activities that may obstruct the prestige of the company. But besides this they can speech whatever they desire personally but not professionally. The company only request its employees that you can speak about yourself but not about the company. Blogging about the company then you must follow certain restrictions. So the first amendment is not considered to be violated.

In these cases, the employees are taken action for their contents and inappropriate deeds in their personal blogs. Since being the employee of such a large company they have great responsibilities, they adore the company, they are being admired by the citizen, they may be the source of the inspiration for a lot of people. But if they post some sensitive and confidential content in their blog then it might result in the loss of the company's reputation, their economic status and so on. And even if the employee I wrong then it's worse for them too. So I think that this policy is a reasonable policy to implement by such companies.

Q.2. Facebook, banned in China since 2009, planned to establish a presence there. It would have to comply with China's censorship requirements and requirements to provide user information to the government. Is Facebook now in China? If so, how has it dealt with the censorship and reporting requirements?

Answer:

China being an autocratic nation. The head of the country i.e. President is elected by the National People's Congress (NPC), who has the whole power in his hand. He is the ruler of the country. He plays the vital role in the ban of the Facebook in China. Chinese government controls overall contents of the internet regarding the restrictions, bans, deletes and so on of the contents if they feel that they are not the matter of the interest of the state. The Chinese authorities censor social media and internet through **The Great Firewall of China** which is a strict set of censorship protocols enforced by the Chinese government to keep its citizens far away from viewing or posting unfiltered content. As a result, in July 2009 Urumqi riots in Xinjiang, a western Chinese province paly the main role in banning Facebook. Not only Facebook but The Great Firewall of China resulted in the ban of some of the major social sites like: Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter, YouTube, Snapchat, and Reddit. According to the Communist Party in China, Facebook is considered as the threat that could undermine Communist Party rule in China so that they are banned. Banning Facebook and other social medium has assisted China in their economic progress.

The major reason that the Facebook is banned in China is that the Facebook could not come to an agreement with the Chinese censors. Since, China is one of the most populated country so Mark wants to introduce Facebook to China but there is some sort of agreements that China desire to fulfil by the Facebook team. The reason behind not introducing Facebook to china is that the Chinese government want all the data that the people go through. In short china desires to monitors all the people and know their choices, plans and strategies etc. Chinese government wants to share the private or public data of the users. They want those enormous data to make google, Facebook, YouTube and so on to run in their nation. China in replace of google they have their own application called Baidu, similar to YouTube they have YOUKU and also have Renren,

WeChat and Weibo in replace of Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter respectively. They think that these social sites like Facebook, YouTube, google, Instagram, Wikipedia, etc. contains the inappropriate contents which may harm their nation's youths so as they are concerned about the youth of their nation seriously so such social sites are therefore banned in China. China monitors their internet consumers every second. They inspect your searches, browsing history, private messages and so on. According to the survey it is found that China is the only country that has the most internet prisoners that are being arrested for performing unwanted online illegal activities. The laws and regulations of China are also too much strict. In 2001 an activist sent the email through yahoo. In spite of only sending email the Chinese government arrested the activist for 10 years.

Mark Zuckerberg one of the major goal of course is to bring Facebook to China which has been blocked by Beijing since 2009. Adding just half of China's 668 million internet users to Facebook would increase the social network's total by 20% and create a lucrative market for publishing and advertising. For making these run the Facebook team need to accept the term and policies of China. They need to accept the agreements of China as well. They are interested in China and are spending a lot of time learning and understanding more about it. They must focus on helping Chinese business through their ad platforms. Mark tried hard to bring Facebook in China but became unsuccessful. In 2016, the New York Times reported that the company was experimenting with a special censorship tool that could censor posts, a move to curry favor with governments that didn't favor free expression. Over the years, Mark has learned Mandarin (common language of mainland china), joined the advisory board at Tsinghua University's business school, and met with President Xi Jinping on several occasions. In March 2016, he even shared a picture of a morning run through a smoggy Tiananmen Square on Facebook, drawing condemnation from critics who thought he was making light of China's censorship on the matter and providing internet users with plenty of meme able material. Last year Facebook also briefly won approval to open a subsidiary in the eastern province of Zhejiang. But all these efforts are meant to be in vein because China has been refusing these social sites in their country for the betterment and overall development of their citizens and country.

Q.3. Find out whether your school restricts access to any websites from its computer systems. What is its policy for determining which sites to restrict? What do you think of the policy?

Answer:

Today's world is the world full of science and technology. Technology are developing and evolving rapidly day by day. Technologies have become must at present context in every fields and sectors. Moreover, the education systems are also being run by the assist of technology. Schools and colleges are running their courses through the help of computer and projectors. There exists the must policy, of seeking the computer in each and every schools and colleges to make our knowledge effective, informative, qualitative and productive for sustainable basis. As a coin has its two sides similarly advancement of technology carries its two side i.e. bright and dark side. In the name of introduction to computer and internet in schools and colleges these technologies may invite some bad deed as well. As internet is the wide network. It contains anything and everything which may be good and even bad. Some contents may be productive and some may be offensive and vulgar. Schools primary and essential job is to properly educate and glance their students and show them the right path. Considering these thing in mind schools and colleges allows internet accessibility but restricts some of the unacceptable and inappropriate contents.

I myself find this policy as a good one because whatever we consider but safety is the number one priority. Many schools block certain websites which contains the harmful contents for students. We always want our kids and students to be the best of the best. There are many offensive and dangerous contents in the world of internet. Students must have the ability to choose the right one. For that family, teachers and friends play very vital role because they spent their entire life around them. Executing internet filters in schools can preserve students from indulging in any online fraudulent activities. For example, there is a best parental control and web filtering software called **Net Nanny** which monitors and controls the children's computers and phone activities. Students can easily be engaged to those websites containing vulgarity like pornography. For children the pornography might not be their cup of tea they need to be far away from such topics.

Teacher and parents are not everywhere to cop up with them but if the such filtering tools are used then these websites can be easily banned or blocked and finally children can never access such contents. Everything has its own right time and everything must be done at that right time. So children must be taken good care and look at the early time which is the right time otherwise it may be late and after then it may be hard to bring them from it if they become addictive in it. Website filtering even protects students from scammers, hackers and other unusual and strange contents. Schools must remember that educating their students correctly is the most powerful weapon that they can give. So considering the future career of the students most of the schools take such steps or policies for the betterment of the students therefore I find it as the best policy made by schools.

Q.4. Do you believe that anonymity should be allowed on the Internet? Write your answer in four paragraphs: an introduction, a paragraph listing two arguments for, paragraph listing two arguments against, and a conclusion.

Answer:

Anonymity is regarded as the state of being anonymous (unidentified) or unknown. It refers to the condition of an individual's personal identity or detailed information being publicly unrevealed. Individual does not want to disclose his/her identity which can be termed as anonymity. As the facility of internet is rapidly evolving and changing. Anonymity is very much essential for the protection and preservation of freedom of speech, views and expression.

Anonymity can be considered as essentiality at some context. Since, our community where we live is much more conservative and narrow. They compel us to think anything wisely when we speak or deliver in front of anyone. We need to be aware, to speak even simple and casual words. We even do not have proper right to express our views, opinions, feelings and thoughts. Anonymity is often important for discussing the topics like sex lives, abuses, harassments, minority issues and so on. These are the things we feel quite uncomfortable to express to others. So in such cases anonymity plays the vital role. Because of anonymity the identity is hidden so people feel free to express whatever they desire. Here we can say that, freedom to speech and express is promoted and prioritized. **For example,** *the state of Florida maintains an anonymous hotline for government workers to report wastes and abuses to the comptroller's office. Without anonymity, these actions can result in public ridicule or censure, physical injury, loss of employment or status, and in some cases, even legal action. Protection from harm resulting from this type of social intolerance is a definite example of an important and legitimate use of anonymity on the internet.* Furthermore, *an anonymous communication can be achieved in real life by sending an unsigned letter or making an anonymous phone calls with unknown names.*

Along with its necessity, if its crosses it boundary line then it may create huge problem. There are some of the cons of anonymity as well. If the contents are anonymous then consumer can post whatever they want which may contain exposure of personal

information and secrets, offensive, abusive, bullying, personal threats, hate speech and comments that may hurt someone personally and can lead to great loss. Even some may attempt suicide because of the regular these deeds. Everything has its limit so if these activities crossed its limit then it may create harmful consequences. Every individual has their different nature of reacting. Some may not give damn care about this deed and someone might get hurt and result might be painful. We do not have right to harass someone. Moreover, the illegal activities like blackmailing, financial scams, disclosure of trade secrets, confidential documents and information regarding the organization or company might lead to the loss of such authorities. Leaking the confidential information through the post or blog anonymously might eradicate the prestige and reputation of that company and their employees. So we need to keep in mind that one post or view can ruin the entire life or career of some personnel or organization or company. So anonymity can be taken as the great con as well. In one scenario of anonymity in criminal case, *Gene Howland and Daniel Van Deusen ran a bulletin board service called "Lifestyles" in Houston, Texas which provided its more than 1000 subscribers with pornographic material, including child pornography. The two men, using the pseudonyms "Poo Bear" and "Wild One", lured two young boys to their home and forced them to commit sexual acts. Both men were indicted on March 11 on charges of sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault and indecency with a child. Cases such as this one encourage assertions that the internet should be regulated and that anonymity should be eliminated since it enables people to use on-line services to commit criminal acts more easily.*

Hence anonymity has its both side, it can be beneficial if applied for the good deed rather than for expression vulgarity and inappropriate content. On the other hand, it might lead to great loss and negative consequences if applied casually or for fun purposes. The fact says that more than 15000 email messages are sent anonymously each day which symbolizes that there is the essentiality of anonymity.

Q.5. What do you mean by Net Neutrality? Search on the internet about its concept? Describe the pros and cons related to it.

Answer:

In this term i.e. **net neutrality**, the word net refers to the internet and neutrality means neutral so to sum up the net neutrality means the neutral internet which indicates the equality in terms of the use of internet for all. Everyone is allowed to access internet equally. Nowadays internet has been one of the major effective source of communications so it must be accessed to every individual in an equal manner. Net neutrality indicates that there must not be any kind of discrimination regarding the accessibility of internet.

Pros of Net Neutrality:

The major advantage of net neutrality is that it creates an equality to the internet consumers. Until and unless the content is beyond the law, there will not be any strict regulations against it. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will not be allowed to restrict the data access to the consumers. The concerned body cannot interfere or take any severe actions towards the consumers unless the content is illegal. They treat all as equal.

Another pro, is regarding the freedom of speech and expression. This means, the internet consumer can be able to view and post their content without any disturbance and censor. There is not any censorship available as long as the content of the consumer go beyond the law. The ISPs can do nothing regarding this even if they do not prefer such contents or information.

Innovations would have been protected and appreciated easily because of net neutrality. Due to equal access of the internet, many personnel can should their innovative talents by the means of internet and since the scope and boundary of internet is unlimited so that it can reach globally and can create opportunities for such innovation.

Similarly, illegal activities which includes; illegal files and data sharing are also prevented as they are being monitored by the authorities like ISPs.

Finally, if net neutrality cues than internet can be also treated as the public needs or utility instead of luxury source. So if internet is classified as the essential need instead

of luxury needs, then due to net neutrality the tremendously increment of the internet price would slowly be degraded and finally eradicated.

Cons of Net Neutrality:

Since net neutrality indicates the equal access of internet to all but it can result in consumption of excessive amount of data without any compensation. Many consumers would be online for a lot of duration which may not be productive enough to do so. It may only lead in consumption of enormous data.

Globally there are certain number of business, companies and individuals who consume large amount of bandwidth. Absence of net neutrality would help such consumer to pay more for consuming more bandwidth. And these amount could be used for many effective purposes like infrastructure improvements, funding, charity and so on but due to net neutrality it is not possible.

Since net neutrality supports freedom of speech and expression because of which consumers can post and view some offensive contents as well. It can be regarding personal, professional, religious beliefs, legal pornography and so on which cannot considered to be an appropriate. We must remember that our consumers can also be the small children so it can be unsuitable for them. So it can be concluded as another cons of net neutrality.

Another disadvantage of net neutrality is the lack of payment for data usage. Since, ISP is the primary source of internet. If we desire to stream Netflix, Hulu and so on online then your ISP internet connection may alter. ISP may slow down our speed as it may be getting a better cut from rival service.

Lastly the con is that, there is inequality in the cost payment of the internet towards the consumers. The consumers who use low data have to pay equal to those who consume a high data. It is beneficial to the high data consumers like who plays games on Xbox live, spends most of the time on computer and internet but is the matter of headache for the low data consumers like who uses internet only for home purpose i.e. for checking email, messaging and so on.