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CS 3001

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Studio Discussion Questions

Software as IP:

1. Treating software as IP involves recognizing copyright protection for the inherent structure of software (such as source and object code). Software can be patentable for similar reasons that anything else would be patentable, because it is innovative (and original) and useful.
2. Personally, I don’t view them in a positive light. Patents are intended to protect the ideas of people, so that they can benefit from the work they put into designing or inventing that product or idea. However, companies buying many ideas from others doesn’t bode well with me. However, I do realize that they shouldn’t be called patent trolls because for some people they don’t intend to pursue their idea any further and would just want to benefit from it now with a sum of money.
3. Accidental use of GNU-licensed code may lead to non-compliance with open-source licenses.

Discussion on Computer Warranties

1. You should not be able to sue if MS Word corrupts your document. As with any technology there are risks you will have to take when using them. If your document is that important that you would want to sue if it was lost, then it should definitely be the responsibility of the user to ensure that the document is backed up properly, even in non Word document formats, such as txt or pdf files.
2. Some of the consequences of holding companies accountable may lead to better increase in quality of products across the board, however, since they would need to put more effort and development resources into bettering those products, they would then need to spend more money, meaning they would also charge more and prices would overall increase.
3. Yes, for instance health and safety critical software have much more importance and value to society, so they should definitely be prioritized with regard to warranties over other not as important software such as video games.
4. Overall, I believe that this practice does work well. In general, people value products that work well and make their lives easier, facilitating the goal that they want to accomplish with that technology. However, sometimes people buy or indulge in certain technologies for other reasons, such as by peer pressure (a popular example is iPhones), so this may not always be the case.

Term Paper Proposals:

1. I have discussed my proposal topic several times now in our discussion section and have already submitted a thorough topic proposal, so I will emit this section.
2. As a brief reminder though, I will be writing about racial bias in healthcare algorithms.