Comp 210

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“A total of 20% of your course grade in COMP 210 is assigned to your contributions to the Learning Resources Conference and Supplemental Learning Resources – COMP 210 PowerPoint.

For each of the eight units in the course, you are required to choose TWO topics from the eText reading and then research those topics online with the specific goal of locating alternative learning materials that cover the chosen topics. The topics may be very specific or rather general, but they must relate directly to the content of that chapter of the eText.

The learning resources may be videos, websites, published PowerPoint presentations, articles, games or other interactive activities, podcasts of lectures or discussions, simulations, or dynamic models.

Every effort should be made to locate resources not already published in the Conference. Posts older than six months will be automatically removed to ensure currency and prevent the available material from becoming “mined out.”

Post the links to your supplemental learning resources here under a title that identifies the course unit they relate to and the topic they cover. A brief description of the contents and an explanation of the reasons they were chosen should accompany each posted link.

At the end of the course, you will collect all the posts you have made to the Learning Resources Conference and present them in a PowerPoint presentation, along with brief descriptions and reviews of resources posted by other students (one per unit).”

Unit 1 discussion topic: Brutalist typography in web design

I have been seeing this style of design on the web for the past few years and always thought it was very cool, and thought that all of the different new designs basically all inherit this similar underlying category of design and have only just realized it is called “Brutalist” design. I saw a trending post on tumblr that mentioned the words brutalist typography with some cool designs, I then searched it and found this article “https://www.typewolf.com/top-10-brutalist-fonts” and it clicked in my head that this is what I have been seeing for the past few years. I am looking to somehow download a font in this category and implement it into web design, hopefully without having to pay anything because most sites I have searched offer a variety of these fonts but none are actually free. The wording may be derived from “Brutalism”.

“Brutalism, also known as Brutalist architecture, is a style that emerged in the 1950s and grew out of the early-20th century modernist movement. Brutalist buildings are characterised by their massive, monolithic and ‘blocky’ appearance with a rigid geometric style and large-scale use of poured concrete. The movement began to decline in the 1970s, having been much criticised for being unwelcoming and inhuman.”(designingbuildingsuk,2022)

Brutalism. (2022). Retrieved 4 January 2022, from https://www.designingbuildings.co.uk/wiki/Brutalism

Unit 2 discussion: Nividia 3070 graphics card

I had requested a friends help to build a gaming PC about a year ago. He referenced me to this site “

[https://pcpartpicker.com/”](https://pcpartpicker.com/\”) where it compares all similar price points between products and can tell if they are compatible with one another, this was mind blowing to me coming from a laptop and being totally in the dark on gaming PC’s. At the time “Cyberpunk 77” was just coming out and I heard rumors you needed a very powerful graphics card to be able to play the game well even though the developers were still working through all the bugs. The one we had landed on was the Nividea Geforce 3070 “https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/geforce/graphics-cards/30-series/rtx-3070-3070ti/”

I managed to pick up a used one for a fairly reasonable price and I swear by this decision as being the most integral part of the parts picking experience, every game I play looks amazing and I can’t complain at all. The user experience of the desktop PC I have built ultimately made me sell my other gaming console the “Xbox One” which is a decision I have not looked back on since.

Unit 3: The internet/Oldweb

This unit inspired me to do some digging into the past where I can relieve the feeling of scrolling through older, what was then new, technology and being in absolute bliss. I still love the aesthetics of the old web better than new mainly and old video games vs new prefer older but I try not to polarize my opinions. I found this site that actually gives the experience of using an older Operating System “https://oldweb.today/?browser=ns4-win#19960101/http://geocities.com/” which is a major blast from the past. Although I only had from windows 98 onward it was pretty mind blowing either way to check out the linux systems and the like. “Many Old Web screencaps and gifs come from archived Geo cities websites made by amateur coders and animators. The limited nature of the internet contributed to old web graphics being a bit rough around the edges. Harsh website design choices, clunky animations, and pixel art are all defining traits of the old web aesthetic.”(aesthetics.fandom, 2022) The Geo-cities reference is present in the first links URL which brought me to this link for an explanation of this, as I have heard this name several times over the years but didn’t know it was a website hosting service, which makes me wonder how it is possible for that site to still have the tag attributed to Geo cities in the URL if it is no longer a website. Perhaps it means no one can any longer host a website on there but what has been posted will still remain?

Old Web. (2022). Retrieved 4 January 2022, from https://aesthetics.fandom.com/wiki/Old\_Web

Unit 4: incognito mode and internet security

Incognito mode is used by many when doing something on the internet they would prefer to keep private. Little do most people know your IP address is still clearly visible with incognito mode. It doesn’t really help you remain more private but just doesn’t log your activity into your history more so(hotbot, 2022). An alternative to this could be a VPN which will change your IP address to a different one somewhere else in the world. “A VPN (virtual private network) is the easiest and most effective way for people to protect their internet traffic and keep their identities private online. As you connect to a secure VPN server, your internet traffic goes through an encrypted tunnel that nobody can see into, including hackers, governments, and your internet service provider.”(expressvpn,2022). I personally don’t feel the need to hide much I do online but I know people who will only use “Whatsapp” messenger, which is a similar service but in cellular app form, to message people on their cellphones even though they aren’t doing anything illegal.

<https://www.hotbot.com/blog/privacy-tip-of-the-week-dont-use-incognito-mode/> [Accessed 4 January 2022].

VPN?, H., VPN?, W., legal?, A., to?, C., internet?, W., & battery?, D. et al. (2022). What Is a VPN? How a VPN Benefits You | ExpressVPN. Retrieved 5 January 2022, from https://www.expressvpn.com/go/what-is-vpn-1?category=VPN&subcategory=info&lang=en&gclid=Cj0KCQiA\_c-OBhDFARIsAIFg3ewmIGfKdZQ3JTophM0mb6FXtb3-B0SgTCBQAZCuojAjueVjcAXUUV0aAnsVEAL

Unit 5: software piracy

What is software piracy?“When you buy a software from a company, you are considered to be a “licensed user” and not the “owner” of that software. Let’s assume you buy an Office 365 software pack from Microsoft. You will be considered to be a licensed user of the Office 365 software and not the owner. There are several types of software piracy, they include counterfeiting, end user piracy, internet piracy, hard disk loading, client server overuse”(redpoints, 2022). I have a funny story relating to this as I never actually bought the windows operating system when I built my PC, although this isn’t piracy of their software they are trying in every way to make me purchase the full version. Everything on the computer was automatically saved onto Microsoft one drive, so reversing all of the the file storage to be local storage and not cloud storage took my friend (an IT specialist) literally 2 hours and he only was able to get some of my files to save to my computer and not one drive. The message that kept popping up was that the one-drive was almost full and it was time to buy the full version of windows for more storage, instead I downloaded free online alternatives to Microsoft word and office through a company called “WPS”. I could have also went about illegally downloading a full version of the operating system but I didn’t want to do that, and am glad I consulted with my IT specialist friend otherwise would not have realized there was free alternatives to all of Microsoft's built in programs!

<https://www.redpoints.com/blog/hard-facts-about-software-piracy/> [Accessed 5 January 2022].

Unit 6: Intellectual Property Rights

Intellectual property rights can be broken down into these categories patents, copyright, industrial design rights, plant varieties, trade marks, trade dress, trade secrets(lumenlearning,20220). The most famous case I can think of was involving Metallica and Napster streaming service. “Shawn Fanning, an 18-year-old whiz kid studying computer science at Northeastern University, created Napster, a peer-to-peer music sharing service that allowed users to download MP3s for free. A&M Records, part of Universal Music Group, a heavy hitter in the music industry, as well as several other record companies affiliated with the Recording Industry Association of America slapped Napster with a lawsuit.”(smithsonianmag, 2022). When Metallica were set to release a track on the up and coming “Mission Impossible 2” the track had leaked via Napster and was then being played on radio stations before it or the movie was even released. When Metallica got wind of this they were very angry and took it to court. This changed the way Metallica was viewed by the public as they were already very wealthy and successful artists, the fact that they were really this publicly upset definitely sparked controversy among fans. Ultimately there was a settlement made finally in 2001 between Napster and Metallica, and Metallica had doubled down that it was never about money but rather about creative control over the timing of the release and willingness to do business with that company(kerrang, 2022). Since then music streaming has become even more popular so its uncertain whether Metallica really made an impact on streaming music at all with this case.

Metallica vs. Napster: The lawsuit that redefined how we listen to music — Kerrang!. (2022). Retrieved 4 January 2022, from https://www.kerrang.com/metallica-vs-napster-the-lawsuit-that-redefined-how-we-listen-to-music

Magazine, S., & Gambino, M. (2011). Ten Famous Intellectual Property Disputes. Retrieved 4 January 2022, from https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/ten-famous-intellectual-property-disputes-18521880/

Reading: Intellectual Property | Introduction to Computer Applications and Concepts. (2022). Retrieved 4 January 2022, from https://courses.lumenlearning.com/computerapps/chapter/reading-intellectual-property/

Unit 7:

Ethical Issues in Online Virtual Worlds

Computers benefit the natural environment in many ways, because they are used to track detect and prevent disasters from occurring, and to share important information and discoveries instantaneously world wide. They themselves and their energy consumption and what it takes to make them aside. Without computers we would not even be aware of many natural problems that are occurring world wide. How would a scientist do their jobs without computers in this day and age? How would almost anyone do their jobs without computers in some way in this day and age? Even more important of a thought is trying to imagine our understanding of the natural environment without computers, as it is very hard picturing it being better in any way. Computers help with tracking water quality/pollution, cleaning up plastic in out ocean, cheaper wind energy, reducing urban energy consumption, and saving trees with drones(sciencenode, 2021). Whatever the problem, the solution will surely be in part made possible by a computers help. The cons of the computer creating or when being created causing environmental damage are a more obvious perspective to tackle if you think we should eliminate all technology and start living like neanderthals. “Electricity use from computers has emerged as a major financial and environmental concern for businesses. Large companies often have dedicated data centers that generate tremendous electricity demands, not only for running the equipment but also for dissipating the enormous amount of heat generated by running the computers, American City and County states”(smallbusiness.chron,2021). There are more and more work from home jobs becoming available for tech/programmers and I think jobs like this being on the rise so much combats this concern significantly.

<https://sciencenode.org/feature/5-surprising-ways-computers-are-greening-our-world.php>

#### The Environmental Pros & Cons of Using Computer Technology. (2021). Retrieved 19 December 2021, from https://smallbusiness.chron.com/environmental-pros-cons-using-computer-technology-41941.html

Unit 7 Discussion Reply:

"Electronic waste, or e-waste, accounts for nearly 5 percent of all solid waste worldwide"(Smallbusiness,2021), With such a small amount of all waist being attributed to computers its strange to take such a strong stance on something that you are using to type this document for one, and something that is helping save the planet in more ways than not. There are many ways that one can reduce their own personal carbon footprint with their at home computers and related devices and perhaps if we all chipped in it would lower the energy pollution associated with them. Things like knowing how to dispose of your old electronics when you are done with them, turning off phantom power, turning off all electronics connected to the PC that are not in use, power draining and making sure everything is off when shutting down(University I, 2022). I think that majority of people would agree that computers are the future and that on the long list of environmental concerns tackling the concept of E- waste is a bit of a miss in terms of what we could be spending our energy doing instead.

#### University, I. (2022). Minimize your computer's impact on the environment. Retrieved 1 January 2022, from https://kb.iu.edu/d/erth

#### The Environmental Pros & Cons of Using Computer Technology. (2021). Retrieved 31 December 2021, from https://smallbusiness.chron.com/environmental-pros-cons-using-computer-technology-41941.html

Unit 8:

There could be many changes to the personal computer in the future. For instance everything is becoming smaller lighter and more compact, some people theorize that this is the route things will keep going which will eliminate the need for a desktop computer entirely. However the power of the desktop computer will possibly always be something that will have use. For a cellphone to perform at a similar level that a desktop PC would it would have to rely heavily on cloud computing, and still wouldent have the aesthetic or usability values for things like gaming, coding, artist audio visual creation(techspot, 2022). For me I cannot imagine being without my desktop computer now that I have one, if I were to play games, record music or code from a cellphone or even laptop in some cases the experience would be compromised. This goes to show that the fact this trend is such a driving force is the average user is using their personal computer in the form of cell phone, laptop, or pad is not using it with these things in mind and that is why the trend is still moving forward at such a pace.

The Future of Tech: The Desktop PC. (2022). Retrieved 5 January 2022, from https://www.techspot.com/article/1832-the-future-of-the-desktop-pc/