CS 4873 Computers, Society, and Professionalism

Spring 2021

**Section Discussion Guide**

Week 8

Topics:

* Privacy and the Government

I. Questions

* Remember each class to bring a question, observation or relevant news item for discussion. (Everyone doesn’t have to share every week, volunteer if you have something you’d like to discuss.)
* Things to think about regarding personal privacy, to inform your discussions below
* Are you worried about your privacy?
* Is new technology threatening your privacy?
* What do you wish policy makers would do?

II. The Government’s Role in Privacy

* Background:
* European Union and its Supreme Court have taken a very different approach to privacy from the U.S. The EU embeds privacy into its Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU
  + Article 8 reads
    1. Every has the right to the protection of personal data concerning him or her.
    2. Such data must be processed fairly for specified purposes and on the basis of the consent of the person concerned or some other legitimate basis laid down by law. Everyone has the right of access to data which has been collected concerning him or her, and the right to have it rectified.
    3. Compliance with these rules shall be subject to control by an independent authority.
* The U.S. has taken a “sectorial” approach to privacy: laws that cover various sectors/industries (e.g., HIPAA for health, FERPA for higher education)
* The result is that EU citizens have more privacy rights than US citizens
  + Is this good or bad for individuals? Why? Think about both intended and unintended consequences.
  + Is this good or bad for businesses? Why? Think about both intended and unintended consequences.
  + What are the trade-offs involved? How might the EU or US systems be changed for the better?
* The approach to privacy in the EU and US are very different that the Social Credit System in China. How would you compare these three systems?

III. National ID Cards (time permitting)

* Review the reasons for and against from Quinn before class
* Do you think the US should have a “national ID card”?  Why or why not?

IV. Introduce the readings for next class