Homework #4: Computer Ethics Essay

Issued: Monday, March 6
Due: Monday, March 27

Purpose

This assignment asks you to research and present a contemporary topic related to ethics and computing. Your presentation is given in two formats: written and oral. This homework assignment is the written presentation. Oral presentations are given during the last weeks of lecture and the final-examination period.

Compose your written presentation as an essay:

> **essay** *n* ··· **3 a:** an analytic or interpretive literary composition usu. dealing with its subject from a limited or personal point of view ···

Your essay should contain a summary of the topic and an analysis of the ethical issues. Try to form a personal opinion and defend it. Recognize that many of these questions have no universally/absolutely correct answer. Use material from our textbook to support your argument. If the topic involves legal or financial issues, try to assign legal responsibility and financial liability. You are encouraged to incorporate your own related experiences.

You will be graded on the quality of your argument and composition, not on your personal opinions.

Please prepare your essay with an eleven-point or twelve-point font, and allow room for comments by double-spacing the lines. I expect most essays to fill three to five pages of paper.

You are encouraged to choose your own topic. Some sources are suggested below. If you would like to discuss the suitability of your topic, please visit office hours.

- The *Association for Computing Machinery* (ACM) has a *Special Interest Group in Computers and Society* (SIGCAS): `http://www.sigcas.org/ethics`. Look at the section on case studies.

- The online newspaper *The Register* often has articles with ethical content: `http://www.theregister.co.uk`.