**Name:** Davy Nolan

**Student Number:** 17330208

**Team name:** A1 – The E-Ratic Dreamers

**Subject matter:** 12. Legislation and the Internet. “Judge Frank Easterbrook has said that just as there is no need for ‘law of the horse’ there is no need for a ‘law of the cyberspace’. Spinello Chaper1.

***Individual Contribution***

I was a member of the group A1 – The E-Ratic Dreamers for the “TEDd” presentation. Our subject matter was “Legislation and the Internet”. I was a part of the questions and answers section of our “TEDd” presentation. To prepare myself for the inevitable selection of questions that could be asked on this topic, I made sure I had an extensive knowledge of “Legislation and the Internet”, especially Judge Frank Easterbrook’s point of view on the subject matter. I researched cyberlaws such as The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and the recently popular topic of Net Neutrality just in case the Dragons asked questions on these matters. Once I had most aspects of the subject matter covered, I began to construct a wide variety of questions that could be asked in the Q&A and I also wrote out personalised answers to these questions. It was imperative that I had substantial knowledge of my teammates’ speeches as the dragons may bring up previously mentioned propositions in their questions.

***Point Elaboration***

One of the points made in the pitch that I found especially interesting was “the ever-growing nature of the internet”. This point was originally pitched to show the true difficulty of creating cyber-laws while the internet continues to grow every day. The internet is an infinite source of information. As new information is discovered, and new websites are made, the internet grows.

The question surrounding our subject matter is whether we believe there is a need of “the law of the horse” for cyberlaws. We as a group agreed with Judge Frank Easterbrook as he stated that there is no need for cyberlaws. “The law of the horse” compares a horse to the internet in terms of applying laws. One cannot write up one general law for the horse similar to how one cannot write up one general law for the internet and cyberspace. Easterbrook stated that:

“*...the best way to learn the law applicable to specialized endeavours is to study general rules. Lots of cases deal with sales of horses; others deal with people kicked by horses; still more deal with the licensing and racing of horses, or with the care veterinarians give to horses, or with prizes at horse shows. Any effort to collect these strands into a course on 'The Law of the Horse' is doomed to be shallow and to miss unifying principles.”*

Cyberspace is even a more challenging case than a horse as it is ever-growing so there will be infinite cases for rules to be created for. Lawyers would have to keep up with the drastic rate of growth which is close to impossible.

Since the internet is ever-growing, it is wide-spread across the whole planet, every continent has access to the world wide web. With laws, comes jurisdiction. Jurisdiction is the extent of the power to make legal decisions and judgements due to location borders. For example, laws specifically put in place for the UK don’t affect the Republic of Ireland due to the UK’s jurisdiction. If cyberlaws were to be created for cyberspace, how would this work when the internet ignores country borders? The answer is that it simply wouldn’t function, the internet is infinitely growing and too wide-spread worldwide for general laws.

I found this point to be the most interesting part of our presentation and I am happy that I had the chance to elaborate on it.