Essay on Tavani 7

This week’s topic covered in Tavani Herman’s chapter 7 dealt mostly with cyber-related crimes. As I read through the chapter I noticed something about all of the various topics that were being brought up. It seems that some of the questions we are trying to find answers to in the cyber-world have already been answered in the non-technological world. Such questions as ‘hacking back’, piracy, trespassing and vandalism in cyberspace will be explored below.

Human beings as a species are at the most crucial point of our evolution in that we are in the midst of going from an age where people where isolated and resourceful to a time where virtually most of the humans on this planet are connected in some way and are very inquisitive about our environments.

Let’s look at the first topic of ‘hacking back’. The author describes this style of hacking as a preemptive strike against people who wish to do malicious things with technology. It is also described as counter hacking and often gets justified as being ‘self-defense’. Let’s take a look at history and see if we can’t find some similar situations. I think you know where I might be going with this, but, there has been a long, long debate on this very subject of is it justifiable to do harm to another person after they have done something to harm you. Now we all know this topic gets its famous origins in the stories of King Hammurabi who spokes words akin to, “an eye for an eye”. Back in his time, sure, that idea probably made a lot of sense. No real laws yet, and no real ways to enforce them. So you just make the generalization, ‘hey, you do something bad to someone, your going to get the same thing done to you’. Which is where the other side of this debate hops in and we look at the other side of this argument which is to say is it ever justifiable to attack an attacker. According to people like Gandhi who said, ‘an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind’, which is a legitimate point of concern and begs keeps the door on this question wide open.

Next on the list is Piracy, trespass and vandalism in cyberspace. This one is more straightforward I feel. I feel it is more straightforward because we already have laws for these criminal acts, just for real world applications. But I don’t think looking at these existing structures could hurt in the development of cyber protection. For example, copyright protection laws, while not perfect, have been doing an almost adequate job for a while now. Similarly, we have a pretty good sense of whether trespassing on others property is okay or not in the real world, so why not have a similar model online.

Obviously, it will take a little while for us to get used to being entirely connected as a single species with the power of technology. But I truly feel like if we apply ourselves to the internet the same way we do in real life, it could be a much better experience for a of us involved.