Computer System Security – Homework 1

We know that the border police is authorized to randomly inspect all electronic devices. Therefore it might be good if we could try to avoid letting the police know that our employees are in fact our employees. Another possibility might be keeping the software somewhere online, that is not on our computers, and download it when we have gotten through customs or maybe demonstrate it online if that is possible. Bribing a customs officer is of course a very serious crime and in fact we really should talk to the police about this. However, we do not really know the integrity of the police of the Duchy of Grand Fenwick. In fact, the army of the Duchy of Grand Fenwick does not use any weapons more modern than the longbow, so the inhabitants of this country seem rather peculiar. And also this is just a rumour after all, nothing substantial to go the police with.

One rather outlandish idea might be printing out all the code and importing it in binders. That should at least customs but typing it up again would be cumbersome. The border police does not seem to have the authority to investigate some papers so this should be safe.

I think that the best way would be keeping the software somewhere online where we are confident that our competitors can not reach it, and demonstrate it either online or download it there. If that is not a possibility, we should just take the risk. After all, we are heading to the Duchy of Grand Fenwick and we should really expect some weird things to happen. First though, we should maybe go to the media with this. We could tell them what kind of software we are making and that we think that our Grand Fenwickian¹ competitor is trying to steal it. This would kind of debilitate our competitor if they manage to steal it, or at least make it harder for them to use it, because people would perhaps know that they had stolen it.