

MPU33213 COMPUTER ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

OCTOBER 2018

GROUP ASSIGNMENT

Group Size:	4-5 students per group
Contribution to Final Grade:	20%
Submission Due Date:	Week 7 Monday (26th November 2018), hand in a written report and upload a softcopy of the report at WBLE

TASKS:

For this assignment, you will investigate and report on some issues related to the **social, legal, or ethical aspects of computers or computing technology (issues in Malaysian context are preferable)**.

Search and select a prominent event or issue related to computer technology that has been covered extensively in social or traditional media. This event or issue should ideally be lengthy, controversial and generating active debate in the computing as well as wider community. This event or issue must have taken place anytime from 2000 onwards (the more recent, the better).

- a) Write a brief summary of this event or issue (no longer than 1 page) [10 marks]
- b) For this event, identify and describe in detail all the salient issues that have ethical implications; either computer-related or otherwise. There should at least be 3 computer-related ethical issues (more is fine). If you are not able to identify these 3 issues, then select another event related to salient issues technology and analyse it so that you can identify at least 3 ethical issues from both these events combined together. There is no minimum for the number of non-computer ethical issues, but ideally there should be more computer related ethical issues. [15 marks]
- c) Select at least 2 (can be more) ethical theories that you are familiar with. Using these theories, provide arguments to support/permit **AS WELL AS** deny/prohibit the actions that were taken in the issues identified in **part (b)**.
 - You do not need to explain the ethical theories. Just name them.
 - You may select the same ethical theory to argue for and against a given action simultaneously.
 - You may select multiple ethical theories to argue for and/or against a single action
 - You should attempt to use as wide range of ethical theories as possible, instead of focusing only on one or two.[15 marks]

- d) For each of the issues identified in **part (b)**, select the appropriate principles/rules (ACM/IEEE-CS Software Engineering Code of Ethics and Professional Practice) that apply. Based on these selected rules, comment on whether you feel the actions in the issues were appropriate or not. If not, suggest an alternative action that they could have pursued in line with the spirit of these principles/rules.
[15 marks]
- e) Do a short survey of the various laws or legal frameworks (either local or international) and identify 2 or 3 that cover the issues identified in **part (b)**. Analyse these particular articles of law and comment what the legal actions should be in this event (if any).
[15 marks]
- f) Comment on whether you think the legal actions you identified or not are ethically appropriate or not for the case of this event (for e.g. you might feel the punishment is too strict or too lenient).
- If you feel it is appropriate, justify why.
 - If you think it is not appropriate, suggest a possible amendment to the law to take into account your ethical considerations and the special circumstances of this case. Justify why you feel your modification is appropriate and can arbitrate fairly for all future occurrences of events that have this issue.
- [10 marks]

Guidelines or Specifications for the Assignment

1. This is a group assignment and you need to form in **groups of 4 to 5 (max. 5)**. If you are not able to find members, inform one of the lecturers by **Week 2 Friday**.
2. The focus on the project is to be able to analyse the events or situations properly to come up with conclusions, and to provide justifications for these conclusions. Marks will be awarded according to the quality of analysis done and the ability to provide strong arguments to support the conclusions you have reached.
3. You must appropriately reference all the sources of information that you use in your report. Harvard referencing format should be used. Also, do remember to include in-text citation in your report.
4. All group members will get the same mark. If there is any plagiarism detected, all groups involved in the plagiarized content will be given **zero (0)** mark.
5. To prevent replication and copying of each other's work, there will be a maximum limit of 4 on the number of groups allowed to select identical topics for this group assignment. For example, a possible topic is the NSA spying scandal. There can be up to 4 groups who can use these topics separately, other groups will then have to find different topics. The topics will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. To keep track of which topics have already been taken up by which groups, please note these down in the **Google Docs spreadsheet** at:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1SOax9hR6xYzNxV2JZQeHU81slsaPiTUSMkOvff0ysNo>

6. Marks will be awarded based on the following criteria:

Grading Criteria	Marks allocated (marks)
Brief summary	10
Description of salient issues	15
Ethical arguments	15
Analysis with code of ethics	15
Analysis of laws or legal frameworks	15
Justification of legal actions	10
Quality of report writing	10
References	10
Total	100

7. Group assignment submission must be done both in **HARDCOPY** and **SOFTCOPY**, by the stipulated deadline. Softcopies should be uploaded at WBLE by **ONLY ONE** of the group members.
8. The cover page of your hardcopy report must be in this specified format as shown next page.

MPU33213 Computer Ethics and Professional Responsibility

October 2017

Group Assignment (20%)

Group members

Student Name	Student ID	Tutorial Group
1. xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	Tx
2. xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	Tx
3. xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	Tx

Grading Criteria	Marks allocated	Comments
a) Brief summary		
b) Description of salient issues		
c) Ethical arguments		
d) Analysis with code of ethics		
e) Analysis of laws or legal frameworks		
f) Justification of legal actions		
Quality of report writing		
References		
Total		