Ian Lim Ee Khai

P21013175

4001CEM

Task 5 - Ethical Issues

4001CEM 2021 Assignment

There are several parts of my book trading software that could pose ethical issues in a number of different areas. A primary problem is a lack of privacy for users regarding their address, as a delivery system would require a specific address. A user could easily find out the address of another user just through trading books with them. This would also be a hacking concern but ideally sensitive user information would be encrypted. The website also offers a way for user to meet locally to trade books. This poses another problem as it could potentially put users at risk of physical harm. This can be somewhat alleviated by implementing a trust rating for users, but will not solve the problem entirely. An account could be hacked to trick someone into meeting for a trade, and it would be difficult to stop users from selling accounts. Even if all these were solved, someone who is determined enough could pose as a trustworthy user by legitimately trading books.

Another problem is that the site could be used by people who want to sell illegal copies of books, i.e. photocopies. A reporting system could be implemented to ban users who take part in illegal activities.

The social impacts of the website are potentially more positive. It allows users to purchase books that they otherwise might not if they had to buy them at full price, giving them access to a larger collection of books. It could also help users build connections with other users with the same hobby or interests.