

**COMP 3520 / 4530 – Software Engineering**

## Assignment 7: Professional Ethics

## Due Date: Monday April 16th, 2018

**Topics Covered:**

* Computer Reliability and Ethical Issues
* Professional Ethics and the ACM / IEEE Software Engineering code of Ethics

**Introduction**

For this final assignment, you will assess a Professional ethical dilemma and provide an analysis of it in the context of the concepts covered in the last unit of the course.

**Problem:**

Security breaches and confidentiality of personal data are important considerations in modern system design. But we have all heard the saying that “knowledge is power”. With the collection, categorization and analysis of big data, companies can know more about its clients than the sum of its individual activities. The simple example of selling subscriber mailing lists has been dealt with, but what about mining transactions to create a custom profile of client trends and then selling this aggregate information. A company cannot pass on your personal information to another company, but can they pass on the Meta knowledge of all of the clients in the company? As an example can a company supplying Webhosting for ecommerce sites mine the transactions of the websites it is hosting and sell the aggregate information on traffic to competing companies? Search the literature and produce a report on the legal, moral and ethical considerations of this activity.

**Report:**

Create a formal report, including a cover page, table of contents, executive summary, body, conclusion and bibliography with references. Include page numbers, and figure references, etc. This report should be 6 to 10 pages in length.

**Key Questions:**

* Have you been able to effectively summarize the relevant materials about the legalities of the problem? (Yes, it is technically legal to do this)
* Has you been able to effectively summarize the relevant materials about the moral and ethical issues of the problem? (While technically legal it is not correct morally / ethically)

### Marking Rubric

The marking of this assignment requires the student to demonstrate knowledge of how to research and analysis a Professional ethical dilemma. To this end the assignment has three components that are allocated marks.

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| **Criteria** | **Requirements** | **Mark** |
| **Legal Analysis**  **35%** | Have you been able to effectively summarize the relevant materials about the legalities of the problem? (Yes it is technically legal to do this)  Typically a several pages in length. | **/35** |
| **Moral & Ethical Analysis**  **35%** | Have you been able to effectively summarize the relevant materials about the moral and ethical issues of the problem? (While technically legal it is not correct morally / Ethically)  Typically a several pages in length. | **/35** |
| **Report Format**  **30%** | Quality of the written report. | **/30** |
| **Total /100** | | |