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Cyber Ethics Paper

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The case that I analyzed was the third case involving the use of a school website wherein both students and educators were violating the acceptable use of technology in many different ways. The Melborne City School system created a website that allowed anyone to create a website and it would be linked to the main school website and all the created websites were also hosted on the same server. Single license webpage creation software was shared on the server so that others could use it to make their own websites and even some professional photographer’s work was used without consent on some teacher’s pages. These are all cases where “an individual's possessions must never be taken without his/her consent”[[1]](#footnote-1). Everything can be considered a possession, even if it is in digital form, including music, software, and images. Everything is created by someone or a group of people and improper use, even if it is ignorant, can be the same thing as stealing from someone. Sharing music that has not been license as free is the same as helping someone steal from another person. The problem here is that if educators do not educate the younger people then “teenagers witness behavior in which if we don't get caught, it is acceptable”[[2]](#footnote-2) and then it will seem that pirating software or software misuse is alright and it will spread throughout the community. The responsibility falls first on the creators of the system, this time being the Melborne City School system to educate the faculty and staff on acceptable use, then in turn it is the responsibility of the educators to educate the students. In this particular case, Andrew Fuller realizes this course of action but not until a lawsuit is knocking on his front door. Everyone, including Andrew Fuller the superintendent was unaware of the potential misdeeds or lack of knowledge in using the new system. In case number 3, we needed “educators need to inform students and colleagues of the difference between sharing material and stealing material that is copyrighted”[[3]](#footnote-3) since being allowed to share digital information and outright stealing is a very thin line that can be crossed easily whether or not a person knows they are doing it. The superintendent in this case chose to educate from the top to the bottom so that everyone is aware of cyber ethics and acceptable use of software, but the problem still remains that even if people know right from wrong, will they still commit direct acts of misuse and bring the school system more lawsuits? Having education in regards to the acceptable use policy will fix ignorance in the matter, but this case does consider whether or not people will continue to abuse the system. To stop intentional misuse requires proactive steps in securing the system itself to prevent intentional misuse or else there will be more lawsuits at some point in the future.

1. Bates, J., Engle, B., Halasi-Kun, G., Kiaschko, J., Mickley, T., Norman, J., Norman, L. *Code of Computer Ethics for Educators* http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/mickley/ethicsnew.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Bates, J., Engle, B., Halasi-Kun, G., Kiaschko, J., Mickley, T., Norman, J., Norman, L. *Code of Computer Ethics for Educators* http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/mickley/ethicsnew.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Bates, J., Engle, B., Halasi-Kun, G., Kiaschko, J., Mickley, T., Norman, J., Norman, L. *Code of Computer Ethics for Educators* http://lrs.ed.uiuc.edu/students/mickley/ethicsnew.htm [↑](#footnote-ref-3)