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Ethics 289
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Assignment #5

5.9

I think that technically hacking a site should have the same punishment as breaking and

entering, however culturally it is not the same and will never be enforceable. I say this because

breaking into someone's home is very private. You could come across items that were not

meant to be seen by anyone. The home is a private sanctuary for people to rest and drop their

guard. The web, however, contains information that people willingly supply to businesses,

social media sites, etc. I've always believed if you don't want something public, you shouldn't

put it on the internet. The difference between what "home" is and an internet site are very

different, leading me to believe the punishments should be different.

5.16

Supporting a law to ban writing and publishing computer viruses has the possibility of

discouraging new people from experimenting with viruses. On the other hand, illegalizing

viruses would simply make it a more "underground" business. There is a lag in lawmaking

compared to technological advances. Viruses have been around for so long that any opportunity

of eliminating them with a law has passed.

5.21

Sites storing details of customer's visits would be a violation of privacy because some

customer's would not like the things they buy online recorded. Customers can buy awkward or

embarrassing products they don't want displayed or recorded. Unless there is a limit of time the

details are recorded, it is definitely a violation of privacy.

6.14

A joke on a social media page does not always necessarily reflect the true character of a

person. Social media sites are known for getting "hacked" by friends, which could be

misconstrued. A job interview is straight from the source (the interviewee). A job interview

would be pointless if it was based off of assumptions not offered by the interviewee. With that taken into consideration, it is the responsibility of the person being interviewed to make sure their web profile is private so they don't give a bad impression.

6.18

The factors I would consider when examining if the firing was reasonable would be if the customer heard of the complaint or if the complaint was visible to a large group of people. If the customer heard the complaint, it would lead to poor recommendations for the restaurant and could cause business problems. If it was visible to a large group of people, it may insinuate the company does not respect or take care of their customers. Otherwise, I would not find the firing reasonable.

6.24

When considering this agreement, I would be happy I could use my phone. It would be simpler to not have multiple phones. Unfortunately, erasing my entire phone would be a pain. I would lose all my contact information and pictures. Also, I wouldn't like to constantly be connected with work when I'm at home. In the end I would reject the agreement and just use a different method of communication.

7.6

It is not an ethical obligation of the site operators to ensure that votes are not bought and sold, however it is a good business policy. The purpose of the site is to provide interesting, top-listing stories for people to read and they find interesting. If people began paying for votes on stories that were not interesting, people would stop visiting the site and the company would lose business. It is in their interest to make sure votes are not bought but it is not an ethical requirement.

7.12

The disadvantage of losing languages due to increased communication is a loss of culture. Languages are intimately linked to people's way of life and their traditions. On the other hand, a loss of a language means people are becoming more mainstream. As people come

together, communication across cultures increases. I don't think it matters if a language is lost or not because there isn't much anyone can do about it.

7.19

Online colleges allow students in all locations to get degrees. This is a huge advantage because otherwise, these students wouldn't be able to get a degree. The disadvantage lies in a students learning ability. Some students have difficulty applying themselves without someone to be physically accountable to. Also, this eliminates the possibility of learning effective group work, which is necessary in many work environments.

8.8

One very important policy that should be implemented is to make sure their databases match up codes. A lot of times in computer data warehousing, the facts included in the tables can include very different codes. The school system needs to run off the same codes OR go through some type of translation process when the data crosses over systems. Similarly, students should have access to their records. It is not fair to punish a student without the student understanding why.

8.15

Voting from a website could be incredibly complex. One large category that should be taken into consideration is the security of the website. Without a secure site, a website to vote would be highly vulnerable. On the positive side, more people may be able to vote easily. With a website to access, people may become more informed about politics and have a greater interest.

8.28

If I lost my cell phone for one day I would live. It really depends on the day. If I was planning a party, I would probably revert to using my Facebook for updates and communication. Generally, when I lose my cell phone I just revert to using other forms of technology.