# *Lab 4 – Information Ethics and Privacy*

Date assigned: Tuesday, March 21, 2016

Date due: **Tuesday, March 21, 2016, 10:00 a.m.**

**Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this lab exercise, the student will be able to:

* Explain what information ethics is and its importance in the workplace
* Identify information privacy issues and analyse a case study
* Reflect on ethical issues encountered by Computer Science students

To do:

**Part 1 – Information Privacy Issues**

1. Read about [Hospital privacy violations](http://www.thespec.com/news-story/4949690-hospital-privacy-violations-rife-in-ontario/) and answer the following questions: **(10 marks)**
   1. Are a person’s medical records expected to be private? Who should be able to access this information?

Yes, a person’s medical records are expected to be private. They should be accessible by only themselves and people who are expected to take care of them as their direct patient.

* 1. What steps do the hospitals take to detect privacy violations?

Whenever a file is accessed it leaves an electronic finger print on the file and every so often there’s an audit to see who has seen what files. And if the permitted access on a file doesn’t meet up with everyone who’s touched it, an investigation is done.

* 1. If you were a health care professional with access to see your boy/girl-friend’s new partner’s condition, should you look up the information (assume the patient is not yours)? Why or why not?

No, probably not. If you have access to your ex’s current partner’s files, you shouldn’t look at them. If they’re your patient, you should go to someone and request that someone else take them as a patient.

* 1. Identify at least two consequences for an employee caught in violation of the code of conduct and privacy policy.

“These willful breaches of hospital policies and medical codes of conduct have resulted in staff members being disciplined, suspended without pay and some sacked”

* 1. At the hospital, can technology alone guarantee that information is kept secure? Why or why not?

No, because even if only certain doctors have access to certain files, their system can still be broken into if people really want to find the records.

**Part 2 – Information Ethics**

1. Read the case study: ***Life on the Grid*** (from handout provided) and answer the following questions: **(10 marks**)
   1. From a technical perspective, if you turn off your cellular and GPS, how does the smart phone know where you are while you’re surfing at school or at the coffee shop?

They don’t track you, but they can figure out where you are based on the Wi-Fi you’re connected to. They can see the IP and MAC addresses of whoever is connected to the network and based on the MAC address and device name you can be found.

* 1. Why do mobile phone manufactures (Apple, Google) want to track where customers go?

Mostly marketing reasons, allow them to direct ads to you better if they can figure out where you are. It can also be used to tell your friends where you are or for safety reasons so that you can broadcast your location in an emergency situation.

* 1. Do you think most mobile phone users realize they are being tracked? Should you be able to opt in or out of being tracked?

No, most people probably don’t realize that they are. I think it should be something that your phone tells you and you should be able to turn off tracking when setting up a new device.

* 1. Is mobile phone tracking a violation of a person’s privacy? Why or why not?

Yes and no. You should be tracked so that you can chose to broadcast your location but the information of where you are never goes anywhere until you tell it to go somewhere. Companies shouldn’t be able to just watch your every step.

* 1. What steps did the Supreme Court in the US take to limit the ability for law enforcement to get tracking information from phones? Why did they do this?

**Part 3 – Student Ethics**

1. Find the Heritage Student Code of Conduct (“Policy #24, Concerning Standards of Student Conduct”). **(12 marks)**
   1. Where is the Code of Conduct (provide URL)

[**http://www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca/Institution/About\_Heritage\_College/PoliciesRegulations.htm**](http://www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca/Institution/About_Heritage_College/PoliciesRegulations.htm)

* 1. What is the purpose of the Code of Conduct and who does it apply to?

**The purpose is so that everyone knows what is expected of them and to know what rules to abide by. If someone happens to be breaking a rule that they claim they “didn’t know existed”, it holds them liable for having not read the student code of conduct.**

* 1. Why does the Code of Conduct exist at the College?

**It holds people liable for breaking any rules. People can’t claim that they didn’t know it was a rule if everyone has access to documents with all of the rules.**

* 1. Who has the responsibility to intervene when there’s an infraction?

**Everyone who witnesses an infraction is expected to intervene, should it be safe for them to do so. If not, they are expected to report it to school administration.**

* 1. Are you in violation of the Code of Conduct if you witness a misconduct? Who would you report it to?

**If you fail to report the misconduct, then you’re in violation. You would report it to a member of the school administration or an appropriate school staff member.**

* 1. Prior to today, had you read the Code of Conduct?

**No**

1. Copying text from another source in your English essay without referencing it is plagiarism. Most students understand that. Using code that you have copied from an online source is no different, yet many students think it is acceptable to use copied code. In a paragraph, describe why copying code in your assignment is unethical. **(4 marks)**

**Because if you’re copying code then you’re attempting to pass it on as your own and that’s unethical. Taking credit for work that someone else did.**

1. In your opinion, how should the Computer Science department handle the ethical issues of: **(4 marks)**
   1. Two assignments handed in that are identical, other than changed variable names.

**The teacher should make the assumption that either the students copied off each other or found the code online and contact the students to tell them that they’ve violated their academic integrity and the situation should be dealt with accordingly with a deduction of marks or a total loss of credit for the assignment.**

* 1. The use of “contract cheating” or outsourcing to complete assignments.

**If a student gets caught doing so, they should be given a 0 for taking credit for the work of another person and be given a warning to not do it again. If they continue, then the situation should be dealt with appropriately.**

**Part 4 – Your Online Identity**

Have a look at your Facebook account (if you didn’t do this the first week of class), and make sure that your privacy settings are set so that only your friends can see the content on your page. This is particularly important now that you are starting to look for a professional job. Many employers will look at Facebook to try and see what kind of person their prospective employees are.

* Go to Privacy Settings, Who can see my posts, and make sure it is “Friends”
* Make sure Your Limit the audience for past posts is set to “Limit Past Posts”

**To submit**

* Upload the answers to this lab to Moodle. Remember to upload only one document per team.