ITP 125 – Homework 01

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Deadline

1 minute before the next class.

Objective

We’re going to learn more about the legal issues on information security. In addition, you will be practicing more with uploading with sftp.

Questions

1. Is personal privacy important? Why or why not. Explain. What do you think about people who say “I have nothing to hide”?

Everybody has their own boundaries for privacy, therefore to a certain extent they should have the rights to protect their own privacy, and thus important. However this does not grant someone to not yield information they should release as long as the party requesting the information doesn’t cross personal boundaries, which varies from person to person. Those who say “I have nothing to hide” has a smaller personal boundary, therefore comfortable with sharing information about themselves, but only applying in general terms; these people still have things they wish to remain private, just not something others usually ask for.

1. Take a look at the following lab that was passed in California:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB25>

Based on reading it, what does the law intends to do? Do you agree with the law? Look at it from a perspective from an employee and employer.

To help answer this question, in case reading the law was confusing, check out the following link:

<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/03/stand-headline-social-media-blog-post>

The law states that private employers are prohibited from having employees or applicants disclose their social media username and/or passwords. In my opinion, professional employment should be kept mutually exclusive from social media; prior to the popularity of social media, an employer would not request the employee or applicants to describe their social life and/or request samples of their letters, phone call conversations etc. I believe the reason why this has been a problem lately is because of the ambiguous line between social & professional environments: people now use Facebook at work to socialize, and conversely use Facebook for professional use such as discussions and arranging events. However a person’s social environments should still be kept distinctly exclusive from their professional environments.

1. With the recent changes in medical insurance, what is HIPPA? How does it protect the privacy of the patient? Does it have anything to do with computer security? Do you think it does enough?

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_Insurance_Portability_and_Accountability_Act>

To help better understand HIPAA you can check out the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2Cw0ARJVDM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTjZ7GokQw4>

The last time you went to a doctor’s office, did you notice if they were following HIPAA? Explain. You can also answer by not knowing.

The HIPPA effectively protects a patient’s medical records and other health related information from private and public institutions unless it is enforced by law officials or other exceptions the HIPPA notes. Since most data are stored digitally instead of using analog means, a breach of security or compromise of such renders the HIPPA useless. Perhaps a damage recovery act should be put into place in case such a situation arises. At the doctor’s office, the patient’s information are always kept confidential beyond digital means.

1. Read the following post of mass surveillance:  
     
   <https://np.reddit.com/r/india/comments/3csl2y/wikileaks_releases_over_a_million_emails_from/csyjuw6>

What are you thoughts on the post? Did it change your thoughts on surveillance? Do you agree or disagree with the author?

I believe mass surveillance is not as serious of a situation as people portray it to be. As long as someone is sensible in their actions and do not break any federal laws, why should someone be concerned with a government or law agency surveilling their actions? As long as there are laws in place to keep the surveilling powers in check, there should not be significant risks for the average person. I believe that mass surveillance is more beneficial than what the harm seems to be.

Submission

After you are done with answering the questions, name the file **hw1.docx** then encrypt the file using **7zip or Keka**, and. Upload the file to your **itp125 folder** on the web hosting. Set the password to be **password**.

Make sure you can see the file by publicly accessing the URL using any web browser of your choosing.

Refer to lab 1 if you are having any issues.