

CSI 2911 Assignment 3

W2011 semester

Due Apr. 15, 2011

Submit via email: csi2911winter@gmail.com

20% of the course mark (marks are indicated in every question)

1. Digital rights management

Some people argue that digital rights management (DRM) violates the public's right to fair use. Discuss the following (max 200 words per answer for each of the questions):

- a. Should people or companies that create intellectual property have the right to offer it for sale (or license) in a form protected by their choice of digital rights management technology (assuming the restrictions are clear to potential customers)? – (2)
- b. Should people have a legal right to develop, sell, buy and use devices and software to remove digital rights management restrictions for fair use? – (2)

Companies selling music or movies can include digital rights management tools that cause files to self-destruct after a specified amount of time. Answer the following (max 200 words per answer for each of the questions)

- c. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this practice for both the company and the consumer? – (2)
- d. Do you think it is ethical for entertainment businesses to sell content with such a limitation? Why or why not? – (2)
- e. Tools to break DRM are available on the web. Discuss the ethical aspects of making such tools available. – (2)
- f. Are they legal? – (0.5)

2. Face recognition, safety and privacy

Suppose that Ottawa is considering setting up a camera and face-recognition system in the downtown area and in neighborhoods with high crime rates. You are asked to serve as a consultant to help design policies for use of the system. Consider a variety of aspects: for example;

who will have access to the system,

what databases of photos will be used for matching,

how long video will be stored,

who would operate the system (law enforcement agencies or private companies) and

any other factors you would consider important. Describe some of your most important recommendations and your reasons for them (no more than 500 words for the whole Question 2. Bullet style recommended). – (3.5)

3. Cell Phones and Privacy

Issue 1: Prepaid cell phone service can protect privacy. One can buy a phone for cash and pay cash in advance for service. There are no billing records, and records of calls made on the phone are not linked to the owner. Cell phone carriers and governments in a few countries (e.g. in Europe) require an ID which is registered at the time of purchase of a SIM. Discuss the follo.:

What are some legitimate uses for prepaid cell phones?

Should prepaid cell phones be banned or otherwise controlled by law (i.e. require cell phone users to register their prepaid cell phones so they can be tracked)?

Give your reasons. Max 300 words for Issue 1. Bullet style recommended. – (2.5)

Issue 2: Another issue of cell phones is video. Videos and pictures taken with cell phones are popping up on the Web and the news with increasing frequency. Often the subject of the video is unaware they are being recorded. With respect to cell phone videos,

should a person have an expectation of privacy when they are out in public?

What about if they are inside a retail store or bank?

Inside their own home?

What regulations, if any, would you recommend and why?

Give examples of situations whereby videos taken with a cell phone play a positive social role?

Max 500 words for Issue 2. Bullet style recommended – **(3.5)**