

**CIS 490/590**  
**Computer Ethics**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Final Projects**  
**Developing a Case Study for a Computer Ethics Topic**  
**MORE DETAILS on HAND-INS**

Group project (teams of 2-5)

**DUE Tuesday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. (Scheduled exam)**

The purpose of this final project is to develop a web-based set of resources that allow a person to investigate at greater depth a particular ethical issue related to computing and information technology. The framework used will be a *case study* based on a real situation posing an ethical question. The project will contain resources documenting the case as well as a narrative analysis. The goal is to present the case in such a way that other people will be interested in exploring the ethical ideas. You will present the ethical questions and possible answers while giving them access to information about the case so that they can make up their own minds.

Deliverables:

1. **Annotated web page(s)**, consisting of an essay with links to relevant resources available on the web regarding the topic. These resources will usually link to other essays or source materials that document the case such as a newspaper article, definitions, opinions on the topic, etc. Your essay will present a general analysis of the social, technical and ethical issue(s) addressed by your project. Each area of analysis can be separate web pages linked by a home page that presents an abstract. The case itself should be presented in as unbiased way as possible. For example, the abstract and a narrative description of the social and technical issues should stick to the facts and avoid comments that are directly oriented toward a particular ethical conclusion.
2. Please provide **the URL where the website can be accessed** by Professor Douglas.
3. A **printed copy** of each web page to hand in to Professor Douglas. Your essay will be 5-10 pages in length, if printed.

EXAMPLE WEBSITES of Cases:

“Therac-25 Case”, ComputingCases.org, NSF grant developed website, Accessed: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

<[http://computingcases.org/case\\_materials/therac/therac\\_case\\_intro.html](http://computingcases.org/case_materials/therac/therac_case_intro.html)>

“It’s All the Same”, WebGURU, Guide for Undergraduate Research, NSF grant developed website, Accessed: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

<<http://www.webguru.neu.edu/professionalism/case-studies/its-all-same>>

"The David LaMacchia Case" Online Ethics Center for Engineering 3/7/2006 National Academy of Engineering, Accessed: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

<<http://www.onlineethics.org/Resources/Cases/lamindex.aspx>>

“Machado Case”, ComputingCases.org, NSF grant developed website, Accessed: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

<[http://computingcases.org/case\\_materials/machado/machado\\_case\\_intro.html](http://computingcases.org/case_materials/machado/machado_case_intro.html)>

“Apps and Privacy – A Case Study”, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University, Accessed: Tuesday, April 23, 2013

<<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/technology/internet/app-case.html>>

**Policy on Graduate Student Grading:** Since this is a combined undergraduate/graduate class, graduate student answers on exercises and discussions will be held to higher expectations of quality.

**Policy on Late Assignments:** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date due. Since we will discuss the assignments at that time, you must be present in class to receive credit. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you think you have a legitimate reason to argue for an exception from this rule, make sure that you communicate it *prior* to the due date.

**Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:** Assignments constitute a large part of evaluation; hence it is crucial that they reflect your individual or group work. Any traces of plagiarism, i.e. copying someone else’s work, will be dealt with according to the University regulations. On the other hand, I encourage you to share ideas and discuss the material in the lectures and textbook with other members of the class.