CIS 490/590
Computer Ethics
Spring 2013
Final Projects
Developing a Case Study for a Computer Ethics Topic

Group project (teams of 2-5)
DUE Tuesday, June 11, 1:00 p.m. (Scheduled exam)
Proposals Due: Thursday, 9 May, in class.

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. More details on the format will be given in the future. I will also provide suggested topics.

Here are some examples of web-based cases:
"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>

"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>

We will split the class into project groups of either undergrads or grads. You may choose your own group members and topics. Each group will submit a one-page project proposal by the end of week 6, *Thursday, 9 May*, indicating a topic and providing a list of supporting references to be used. This will provide a month to prepare the final project. The topic can be any issue falling within the broad scope of the course - ethical issues and social impacts of computing and networking with particular attention to the technological aspects of the design. *Proposals Due: 9 May, in class.*

Deliverables:

1. **Annotated web page(s)**, consisting of an essay with links to relevant resources

available on the web regarding the topic. The essay will present a general analysis of the social, technical and ethical issue(s) addressed by your project.

2. A **printed copy** of each web page to hand in to Professor Douglas. Your essay will be 5-10 pages in length, if printed.

3. A **ten-minute presentation** to be given during the time for the final exam (Tuesday, 11 June, 1:00 pm). The presentation will be in the form of a debate. One group member will act as moderator and introduce the topic,including general background for the issue, the specific scenario to discuss and the ethical questions(s) to be addressed by the debate. The other members of the group will be split into two sides, expressing opposing points of view based upon use of our ethical theories through a "staged" debate. Leave a couple of minutes for questions/comments from the "audience" at the end.

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.