

Contemporary Cyber Ethics and its Fundamentals

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PREFACE

This book was made to fulfill the requirements for my ITETHIC class in De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to my parents, whose unending love, care, and support molded me to where I am now. A part of my love, appreciation, and gratitude to you guys are expressed through the hard work I dedicated in completing this book. I love you guys.

To my relatives, especially Anibeth, you all have always been there to support and cheer me up, thank you.

To my high school batch mates and buddies for the special bond of friendship over the years. The competitive spirit formed during our school years, continues to motivate me to be better.

To my college friends and drinking buddies, whom I shared the nights with booze and the days when we hanged out anywhere just to have fun and get away from the cruelties of the world will always be memorable.

Finally, to the Supreme Being that gave me life in this world, to you be the highest of praises.

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ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

Anonymity

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/anonymity>

Quote: *“Protections for anonymous speech are vital to democratic discourse. Allowing dissenters to shield their identities frees them to express critical, minority views . . . Anonymity is a shield from the tyranny of the majority. . . . It thus exemplifies the purpose behind the Bill of Rights, and of the First Amendment in particular: to protect unpopular individuals from retaliation . . . at the hand of an intolerant society.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The different issues that involve anonymity in the net.
- The value of anonymity.

Review:

People are sensitive with regard their identity in the net especially on sites where information are quite sensitive.

Whistleblowers that leak information that their company would like to suppress, human right workers that raises legal issues, uses pseudonyms or they just go as “anonymous”. These methods save lives.

The United States of America Supreme Court has ruled that the right to anonymous free speech is protected under their First Amendment. In fact, the right to anonymous speech is even older than the United States. Three of the USA’s founding fathers wrote the Federalist Papers under pseudonyms, “Publius” and the “Federal Farmer”.

I believe that anonymity is a global privilege. The right to free speech may raise some brows to parties that may be offended.

What I learned:

- Anonymity is essential in protecting one’s identity when conducting free speech.
- Anonymity to free speech is protected by the USA’s First Amendment.

Integrative Questions:

- What is Anonymity?
- Who can enjoy anonymity?
- Why is anonymity important?

Bloggers' Rights

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/bloggers>

Quote: *"One of EFF's goals is to give you a basic roadmap to the legal issues you may confront as a blogger, to let you know you have rights, and to encourage you to blog freely with the knowledge that your legitimate speech is protected."*

What I expect to learn:

- The different blogger rights
- The difference of a blogger from a journalist.

Review:

Blogging is a trend nowadays. Different blogs exist, discussing different topics. Some of them tackle a sensitive idea, which is why the Electronic Frontier Foundation raised and defends the different blogger rights. Below are the different rights of a blogger:

- **Bloggers can be journalists (and journalists can be bloggers)** – EFF fights that anyone who engages in journalism should be considered a journalist with all the privileges and security.
- **Bloggers are entitled to free speech** – EFF protects bloggers from cyber bullies that claims copyrights and are bound to freeze a blogger's documented ideas.
- **Bloggers have the right to political speech** – bloggers are entitled to voice their opinions about the politics of the government especially during election.
- **Bloggers have the right to stay anonymous** – as mentioned above, anonymity is very important to anyone to protect to themselves.
- **Bloggers have freedom from liability for hosting speech the same way other web hosts do**

Blogging is very popular among Filipinos, so this issue that the EFF is fighting for is applicable in our country. The Philippines ranks among the worst places for journalism, as shown by the deaths of Filipino journalists.

What I have learned:

- Bloggers should possess the same rights and privileges of a journalist.
- Bloggers are journalists too.

Integrative Questions:

- What are the different rights of a blogger?
- Can a blogger be considered as a journalist? How?

CyberSLAPP

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/cyberslapp>

Quote: *“These cases all involve defending people's right to remain anonymous when they post comments on message boards, as well as making sure that anonymous speakers' due process rights are respected. These cases, plus more, are also described at the Cyberslapp.org website <http://www.cyberslapp.org/>, a joint project of Public Citizen, EFF, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Democracy and Technology and the Electronic Privacy Information Center.”*

What I expect to learn:

- What is CyberSLAPP?
- What are the objectives of CyberSLAPP.org?

Review:

CyberSLAPP is a lawsuit that overturns the freedom of anonymous online speech as well the freedom of expression. The targets of these lawsuits are people who posted anonymous online criticisms to companies or political issues. The victims of these lawsuits are issued a subpoena via their Internet Service Provider (ISP), and eventually threaten and silence them.

I haven't heard any case or similar to cyberslapp in the Philippines, so I think it isn't applicable yet.

What I have learned:

- CyberSLAPP is a lawsuit that threatens online users.

Integrative Questions:

- What is CyberSLAPP?
- What are the methods that CyberSLAPP contains?

No Downtime for Free Speech Campaign

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/ip-and-free-speech>

Quote: *“Whether you are quoting someone on your blog, inserting clips of CNN into your own video news report, or using a song sample in a musical parody, your free speech often depends on incorporating and referencing other people’s creations as part of your own. The courts call this “fair use”, and strong legal precedents exist to protect the limited use of copyrighted material in your work when you do so for expressive purposes.*

Unfortunately, copyright owners often object to these uses, and may look for ways to take them offline via the legal system. A copyright cease-and-desist letter to your webhost or ISP may be all it takes to make your online speech disappear from the Internet — even when the legal claims are transparently bogus.”

What I expect to learn:

- What is DMCA?
- What does DMCA do to “harass” online users?

Review:

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act is a US copyright that prosecutes any production or dissemination of technology, devices, or services that are intended to bypass measures that control access to copyrighted materials. Unfortunately, copyright owners continue to abuse this act. These claimants take down materials without any proof of copyright infringement. Service providers oblige to these demands to avoid hassles and monetary settlements at the cost of free speech and individual rights. The DMCA also abuses the anonymity in free speech. Not only copyright owners take advantage of the DMCA, but also trademark owners censor their critics that referencing their website is an infringement.

The Philippines do not have a strong law with regards to this issue, so I think that this is applicable to our country.

What I have learned:

- The DMCA is US copyright law.
- Not only copyright owners abuse the DMCA, but also, trademark owners.
- The misuse of the DMCA overpowers the anonymity in online speech as well as individual rights such as free speech.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the DMCA?
- Who are the people who often misuse the DMCA?
- What are the rights that are overpowered by the abuse of the DMCA?

The COICA Internet Censorship and Copyright Bill

URL: <https://www.eff.org/coica>

Quote: *"The "Combating Online Infringements and Counterfeits Act" (COICA) is an Internet censorship bill which is rapidly making its way through the Senate. Although it is ostensibly focused on copyright infringement, an enormous amount of noninfringing content, including political and other speech, could disappear off the Web if it passes.*

The main mechanism of the bill is to interfere with the Internet's domain name system (DNS), which translates names like "www.eff.org" or "www.nytimes.com" into the IP addresses that computers use to communicate. The bill creates a blacklist of censored domains; the Attorney General can ask a court to place any website on the blacklist if infringement is "central" to the purpose of the site."

What I expect to learn:

- What is COICA?
- What are the issues that are being raised by COICA?

Review:

The Combating Online Infringements and Copyrights Act is an Internet censorship bill that solely focuses on copyright infringement. The bill looks up the Domain Name System (DNS) and creates a blacklist of infringers that can be taken down any time.

If this bill is passed, websites such as *DropBox*, *MediaFire* and *RapidShare* are in danger of being taken down. They are said to be promoting piracy such as p2p.net and other file-sharing websites. In fact, if this bill was passed five to ten years ago, *YouTube* might not even exist today. There are enough laws and procedures to that covers the copyright act, but with the COICA, censorship and inclusion in the *blacklist* without sound justification and investigation may pass.

What I have learned:

- COICA stands for Combating Online Infringements and Copyrights Act.
- COICA is an internet censorship bill that focuses on copyright infringement.
- File-sharing websites such as DropBox and MediaFire are in danger of being taken down if this bill is passed.

Integrative Questions:

- What does COICA stand for?
- What is the main purpose of the COICA?
- What are some of the sites that can be taken down if the COICA bill is passed?

WikiLeaks

URL: <https://www.eff.org/wikileaks> / <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WikiLeaks>

Quote: *“One of the WikiLeaks activists owned a server that was being used as a node for the Tor network. Millions of secret transmissions passed through it. The activist noticed that hackers from China were using the network to gather foreign governments’ information, and began to record this traffic. Only a small fraction has ever been posted on WikiLeaks, but the initial tranche served as the site’s foundation, and Assange was able to say, “[w]e have received over one million documents from thirteen countries.”*

What I expect to learn:

- What is WikiLeaks?
- What does WikiLeaks contain?

Review:

Wikileaks is an international non-profit organization that leaks out sensitive, private, and secret documents to the public from anonymous sources. Its database claimed a 1.2 million documents in storage within their first year of existence. Wikileaks is owned by the Sunshine Press, and Julian Assange is their main spokesperson.

Wikileaks started on the 4th of October in 2006. The founders of Wikileaks have never been formally identified. They’re Wikileaks had been using EveryDNS’s services, which led to DDoS attacks on the host. The attacks affected the quality of service at EveryDNS, so the company withdrew their service from Wikileaks. Pro-Wikileaks supporters retaliated by launching a DDoS attack against EveryDNS. Due to mistakes in the blogosphere, some supporters accidentally mistook EasyDNS for EveryDNS and attacked it. The attacks caused both EveryDNS and EasyDNS to experience outages. Afterwards EasyDNS decided to provide Wikileaks its name server service. Main purpose is exposing oppressive regimes in Asia, the Middle-East.

What I have learned:

- Wikileaks is a non-profit organization.

Integrative Questions:

- What is WikiLeaks?
- Who founded WikiLeaks?

Accessibility for the Reading Disabled

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/reading-accessibility>

Quote: *“New technology has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of those with reading disabilities -- including the blind and profoundly dyslexic, and those with spinal injuries. Information in electronic formats can be made accessible using technologies like text-to-speech and refreshable Braille, opening up whole new worlds to people who have previously been unable to access information.”*

What I expect to learn:

- How do the disabled use technology?
- How are they being taken advantage of?
- What is DRM?

Review:

EFF believes that individuals in the disabled community, as those best placed to determine their own needs, should be free to transform copyrighted works into a form most suitable for their use, as well as to innovate new presentation forms which they can share with other members of the community.

Unfortunately, companies are now using copyright law and DRM to prohibit the use of helpful assistive technologies and stamp out innovative new technologies that could make copyrighted works universally accessible.

This page catalogs the ongoing efforts of EFF and many others to ensure that those with reading disabilities can take full advantage of these emerging technologies.

What I have learned:

- Groups of companies are restricting the innovation of technology for the disabled.

Integrative Questions:

- What is DRM?
- How do companies abuse the disabled thru technology?

Broadcast Flag

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/broadcast-flag>

Quote: *"Today, you can use any device you like with your television: VCR, TiVo, DVD recorder, home theater receiver, or a PC combining these functions and more. But if the broadcast flag mandate is passed, Hollywood and federal bureaucrats will get a veto over innovative devices and legitimate uses of recorded programming."*

What I expect to learn:

- What is a broadcast flag?

Review:

The mandate forces all future digital television (DTV) tuners to include "content protection" (aka DRM) technologies. All makers of HDTV receivers will be required to build their devices to watch for a "flag" embedded in programs by copyright holders.

When it comes to digital recording, it would be Hollywood's DRM way or the highway. Want to burn that recording digitally to a DVD to save hard drive space? Sorry, the DRM lock-box won't allow it. How about sending it over your home network to another TV? Not unless you rip out your existing network and replace it with DRM'd routers. And forget about using open source TV tools. Kind of defeats the purpose of getting a high definition digital signal, doesn't it?

Responding to pressure from Hollywood, the FCC had originally mandated the flag, but thanks to our court challenge, *ALA v. FCC*, it was thrown out. But that doesn't mean the danger is behind us. Hollywood has headed to Congress to ask for the flag again.

What I have learned:

- DRM and copyright owners have developed technologies where users are restricted only to viewing the media in the television.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a broadcast flag?
- What is the DRM?
- What is the FCC?

Coder's Right Project

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/coders>

Quote: "EFF's Coders' Rights Project protects programmers and developers engaged in cutting-edge exploration of technology in our world. Security and encryption researchers help build a safer future for all of us using digital technologies, yet too many legitimate researchers face serious legal challenges that prevent or inhibit their work. These challenges come from the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and state computer crime laws, among others. The Coders Rights Project builds on EFF's longstanding work protecting researchers through education, legal defense, amicus briefs and involvement in the community with the goal of promoting innovation and safeguarding the rights of curious tinkerers and hackers on the digital frontier."

What I expect to learn:

- The different rights of a coder.
- How is EFF protecting the rights of the coders.

Review:

If your access to the code or computer system you are studying is conditioned upon agreeing to any contractual terms (e.g. End User License Agreements (EULA), terms of service notices (TOS), terms of use notices (TOU), a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), developers agreement or API agreement), you are at greater legal risk if your research activities do not comply with their stated terms and conditions. You should talk to a lawyer before agreeing to any terms and before studying any software distributed with such terms and conditions, even if you have come into possession of that code without agreeing to anything.

It is extremely risky to disclose or use any information you obtained subject to an NDA or other negotiated contractual obligation of confidentiality.

It is legally risky to study software you do not possess legally.

It is legally risky to make any copies of software that have not been authorized by the copyright owner (such as by a license agreement).

A computer security researcher who has inadvertently violated the law during the course of her investigation faces a dilemma when thinking about whether to notify a company about a problem she discovered in one of the company's products. By reporting the security flaw, the researcher reveals that she may have committed unlawful activity, which might invite a lawsuit or criminal investigation. On the other hand, withholding information means a potentially serious security flaw may go unremedied.

What I have learned:

- There are risks in reverse engineering but they can be legally justified.

Integrative Questions:

- What are the risks in reverse engineering?

Digital Rights Management

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/drm>

Quote: *“Corporations claim that DRM is necessary to fight copyright infringement online and keep consumers safe from viruses. But there’s no evidence that DRM helps fight either of those. Instead, DRM helps big business stifle innovation and competition, by making it easy to quash “unauthorized” uses of media and technology. DRM has proliferated thanks to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998 (DMCA), which sought to outlaw any attempt to bypass DRM.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The things which the DRM controls what the consumers can do with their media.
- What made the DRM proliferate?

Review:

DRM (Digital Rights management) attempts to control and limit what you can do with the different entertainment media/hardware you purchased. Here are some in which their control may be demonstrated:

- Purchased an ebook but the reader is restricted to access the file.
- Purchased a Blu-Ray disc but can’t be copied to a portable media player.
- Restricted applications from service provider on a smartphone.

Also, the DMCA (Digital Millennium Copyright Act) bourgeoned the DRM. EFF is working to end the aforementioned issues and more to stop the harassment and greediness of corporate media.

What I have learned:

- DRM stands for Digital Rights Management
- DMCA helps the DRM flourish.

Integrative Questions:

- What is DRM?
- What is the DMCA?
- What are some of the things that the DRM restricts its consumers?

Net Neutrality

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/net-neutrality>

Quote: *“But how far can the FCC be trusted? Historically, the FCC has sometimes shown more concern for the demands of corporate lobbyists and “public decency” advocates than it has for individual civil liberties. Consider the FCC’s efforts to protect Americans from “dirty words” in FCC v. Pacifica Foundation, or its much-criticized deregulation of the media industry, or its narrowly-thwarted attempt to cripple video innovation with the Broadcast Flag. With the FCC already promising exceptions from net neutrality for copyright-enforcement, we fear that the FCC’s idea of an “Open Internet” could prove quite different from what many have been hoping for.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The definition of net neutrality

Review:

Network/net neutrality is a principle that advocates that no restriction on any internet access by the Internet Service Providers and governments on content, sites, platforms, and the modes of communication. It is a principle that if a user paid for a certain level of access then another user that paid for the same level of access, the two will be able to connect at the subscribed level of access.

What I have learned:

- Net neutrality is a principle intended for the users to have a better access to the internet.

Integrative Questions

- What is net neutrality?
- Why is net neutrality good?
- Who benefits from net neutrality?

Patents

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/patents>

Quote: *“There are many ways to promote better patent quality and a vibrant knowledge commons. One approach is to advocate for good legislation in Congress and proper interpretation of that legislation by the courts. Another is to promote enforcement efforts, such as the reexamination of bogus patents. EFF employs both approaches to protect the public interest while supporting innovation.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The definition of a patent.
- The different exploitations of a patent.

Review:

A patent is a set of exclusive rights granted by the government to an inventor in exchange for a public disclosure of the invention. In the United States, there is an abuse of patents. Wherein inventions are neither innovative nor useful, these “inventions” impede the growth of public domain of knowledge as well as discourage progress.

To prevent such bogus patents, here are some suggestions from the EFF to minimize/eradicate them:

- Advocate for proper legislation in the Congress and proper interpretation of the legislation by the courts.
- Promote enforcement efforts.

What I have learned:

- A patent is a set of exclusive rights granted to an inventor.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a patent?
- What are some approaches to minimize bogus patents?

Trusted Computing

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/trusted-computing>

Quote: *“Computer security is undeniably important, and as new vulnerabilities are discovered and exploited, the perceived need for new security solutions grows. “Trusted computing” initiatives propose to solve some of today’s security problems through hardware changes to the personal computer. Changing hardware design isn’t inherently suspicious, but the leading trusted computing proposals have a high cost: they provide security to users while giving third parties the power to enforce policies on users’ computers against the users’ wishes -- they let others pressure you to hand some control over your PC to someone else. This is a “feature” ready-made for abuse by software authors who want to anticompetitively choke off rival software.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The true meaning of trusted computing.

Review:

Trusted computing is a way to solve the different security issues in the internet whether its software or hardware. Although hardware changes may seem unsuspecting, they are pricey. They do provide security to the users but it may also give way to third-party software to modify and implement policies on the computer against the user’s desire. This is an abuse by software developers to prevent competition from its rivals.

What I have learned:

- Trusted computing do make the computer more secure, but it provides risk of policies that are against the user’s desire. It also gives way for software authors to outdo their competitors.

Integrative Questions:

- What is trusted computing?
- How does hardware change increases security but at the same time inherently becomes suspicious?
- What do software authors do to *anticompetitively* choke off their competitors?

Video Games

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/video-games>

Quote: *“Gamers are facing more threats to their freedoms than ever before. Sadly, it's routine for companies to force gamers to swallow updates that hobble their systems and routinely trap their users in restrictive, near-incomprehensible terms of service agreements and end-user licenses. But EFF continues to fight for the consumers who believe that if you bought it, your own it, and you should be able to put your games and hardware to unexpected and creative uses.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The value of the gaming community to the digital world.
- The different freedom-threats that the gamers face.

Review:

The gaming communities were one of the pioneers to realize the potential of the digital world. But since then, they have faced more threats as a gamer than ever before. Gamers should have the right to speak anonymously, the right to sell their games, as well as copy the games they've purchased. Also, companies are making it a routine for gamers to download updates that hobble up their systems/consoles, and trap the consumers to incomprehensible *Terms and Agreement Contract*.

What I have learned:

- The gaming communities were one of the pioneers in the digital world.
- Gamers should have right to copy the games they've purchased, etc.
- The gaming community is choked with different freedom-threats by the greedy corporate world.

Integrative Questions:

- What are the different freedom threats that the gaming communities face?
- Who were the other pioneers to realize the value of the digital world?

Broadcast Flag

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/broadcast-flag>

Quote: *“When it comes to digital recording, it would be Hollywood’s DRM way or the highway. Want to burn that recording digitally to a DVD to save hard drive space? Sorry, the DRM lock-box won’t allow it. How about sending it over your home network to another TV? Not unless you rip out your existing network and replace it with DRM’d routers. And forget about using open source TV tools. Kind of defeats the purpose of getting a high definition digital signal, doesn’t it?”*

What I expect to learn:

- The definition of a broadcast flag.
- The different restrictions that comes with a broadcast flag.

Review:

A broadcast flag is a set of bits sent into the data stream of a digital television program that indicates whether or not the broadcast can be recorded or if it contains restrictions if recorded. This flag would disable the ability to save programs into hard disks or it would provide the inability to skip over commercials.

Today, the DRM are mandating all future Digital TV tuners to include a “content protection”. The EFF has momentarily stopped the copyright owners to embed these flags into the programs.

What I have learned:

- A broadcast flag is a set of bits that are embedded in a digital stream to prevent users to save or copy TV programs onto a hard disk.
- The broadcast flag would disable the users to skip commercials as well as stream television programs over different media.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a broadcast flag?
- What are the restrictions does a broadcast flag inhibits?
- Why is broadcast flag a bogus?

Copyright Trolls

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/copyright-trolls>

Quote: *“When the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) declared an end to its litigation campaign against music fans who used peer-to-peer technology to share music, many people thought that would be the end of mass copyright litigation — after all, hadn’t the RIAA demonstrated that suing customers was no way to improve the bottom line?”*

Apparently, not everyone got the memo. In the past year, at least three groups have begun to experiment with using mass copyright litigation to extract settlements from individuals. These copyright trolls try to grow businesses out of suing Internet users — their tactics include targeting large groups of anonymous “Doe defendants,” improperly minimizing their court costs, and exploiting the massive damages in copyright law in order to pressure defendants into settling quickly.”

What I expect to learn:

- The role of RIAA.

Review:

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is the trade organization that supports and promotes the creative and financial vitality of the major music companies. Its members are the music labels that comprise the most vibrant record industry in the world. (<http://www.riaa.com/aboutus.php>)

There are lots of copyright trolls who exploit users by filing lawsuits. These trolls target anonymous *Doe defendants*.

What I have learned:

- The RIAA is an organization that promotes the different creative and financial vitality of major recording companies.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the RIAA?
- What are the roles of RIAA?

Digital Radio

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/digital-radio-restrictions>

Quote: *"The music industry does not want your fair use rights to develop in the digital age. Instead, they are asking federal bureaucrats to force innovators to hobble their products, leaving you with something no better than the cassette decks of the 1970s. According to the RIAA, new technologies should only give you "customary" capabilities. The RIAA says, for instance, that you shouldn't be able to record individual songs or move content to another player. And many novel uses will simply never be invented; after all, before you could hit record on your boombox or VCR, time-shifting broadcasted content wasn't "customary."*

What I expect to learn:

- The involvement of RIAA in the radio scene.
- The different technologies that would change the radio scene.

Review:

Satellite radios like XM or Sirius are all over in the United States, and HD Radio is just around the corner. HD radios will enable subscribers to record songs as well as stream it into their online devices. But the RIAA is forcing the Congress to pass a bill that all radios with a record button be embedded by a DRM and a host of restrictions.

With this move by the RIAA, this will hobble innovations and will force users to be stuck in a "stone age" in the radio scene.

What I have learned:

- The RIAA restricts users to record or stream radio music onto their purchased electronic devices.
- Satellite radios are popular in the United States.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the involvement of the RIAA in the radio scene?
- What are satellite radios?
- What is a HD Radio?

Digital Video

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/digital-video>

Quote: *"Already, DRM (aka copy protection) on DVDs restricts legitimate uses, like making back-ups or copying to a video iPod. Hollywood wants similar restrictions for TV as well. Today you can record your favorite TV show on a PC, burn it to DVD, send it to another device, email a clip to a friend, and much more. Tomorrow, government regulations and "inter-industry standards" may take away those freedoms. In fact, Hollywood's pushing Congress to slap restrictions on anything with a record button, including digital camcorders, TV tuner cards, and PVRs.*

What about devices you already own that aren't encumbered by DRM? Get ready to replace them. You may have invested thousands of dollars in HD displays and receivers, but restricted digital outputs will break compatibility. Your devices might rely on component analog connections instead, but Hollywood wants to be able to "down-rez" or disable those analog connections at their whim."

What I expect to learn:

- The different effects of DRM on Digital Video.

Review:

Digital video promises a new hope for innovations. A crystal clear picture as well as recording and copying onto a hard disk. But, Hollywood plans to put an end to this technology. As discussed earlier, DRM is again involved in this case. With DRM, it restricts making back-ups of your video or copying it into your iPod.

This case is not yet applicable in the Philippines as we don't have the technology that other countries have.

What I have learned:

- Digital video will pose a new avenue for innovative technologies.

Integrative Questions:

- What are the benefits of the Digital Video?
- What are the restrictions do the DRM implement on Digital Video?

DMCA

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/dmca>

Quote: *"In practice, the DMCA and DRM have done nothing to stop "Internet piracy." Yet the DMCA has become a serious threat that jeopardizes fair use, impedes competition and innovation, chills free expression and scientific research, and interferes with computer intrusion laws. If you circumvent DRM locks for noninfringing fair uses or create the tools to do so, you might be on the receiving end of a lawsuit."*

What I expect to learn:

- The definition of DMCA and its function.

Review:

The DMCA or Digital Millennium Copyright Act criminalizes production and dissemination of technology, devices, or services intended to circumvent measures (commonly known as digital rights management or DRM) that control access to copyrighted works. It also criminalizes the act of circumventing an access control, whether or not there is actual infringement of copyright itself. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Millennium_Copyright_Act)

According to the EFF, the DMCA in fact have done nothing to stop internet piracy. But, the DMCA also jeopardizes fair use and impedes innovative technologies.

What I have learned:

- The DMCA jeopardizes fair use among users and copyright owners.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the DMCA?
- What does the DMCA impede?

File Sharing

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/file-sharing>

Quote: *“The irrational war against P2P by misguided content owners and their representatives is not generating a single penny for artists. In fact, despite lawsuits and other attempts to stymie P2P providers and thousands of music and movie fans, file sharing is more popular than ever. What’s more, the entertainment industry has threatened innovation in P2P systems and many other tools that help you get more from your media. And it could get even worse -- the industry is pushing Congress to ratchet up civil and criminal sanctions for file sharing and to restrict innovation.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The effect of file sharing to the affected industry.

Review:

File sharing has been long been an issue over the internet. Some say it is right while copyright owners and artists say its bad and illegal. Actually, I believe that file sharing is a mixed bag. There should be a compromise wherein file sharing benefits both parties. In fact, most of the affected companies makes a ton of money off their products on the internet. Also, users should be responsible enough to support and buy the products that these companies sell.

What I have learned:

- File sharing is still a debatable topic.

Integrative Questions:

- What are the different media for file sharing over the internet?

No Downtime for Free Speech Campaign

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/ip-and-free-speech>

Quote: *"Whether you are quoting someone on your blog, inserting clips of CNN into your own video news report, or using a song sample in a musical parody, your free speech often depends on incorporating and referencing other people's creations as part of your own. The courts call this "fair use", and strong legal precedents exist to protect the limited use of copyrighted material in your work when you do so for expressive purposes.*

Unfortunately, copyright owners often object to these uses, and may look for ways to take them offline via the legal system. A copyright cease-and-desist letter to your webhost or ISP may be all it takes to make your online speech disappear from the Internet — even when the legal claims are transparently bogus."

What I expect to learn:

- Fair use and free speech, 24/7.

Review:

Bloggers or websites in general, link or post materials all over the internet into their sites; this is what we call fair use. And through the DMCA, copyright-claimants demand that these materials be taken down. ISPs fear that if they don't comply and eventually lawsuits will be filed against them, will take down these materials despite the principle of fair use and free speech. With the misuse and abuse of the DMCA, copyright claimants continue to harass users without any proof of infringement.

What I have learned:

- Copyright claimants abuse their rights and take down materials from sites without any proof of infringement.

Integrative Questions:

- How do copyright claimants abuse the ISPs and users?

Terms of (Ab)Use

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/terms-of-abuse>

Quote: *“Yet TOS agreements also raise a number of concerns for the consumer, as they can be a vehicle for abuse by online service providers. For starters, TOS provisions are usually written by the service providers themselves. As a result, they tend to end up being one-sided in the service provider's favor, and are often designed to be beyond any judicial scrutiny. Even more importantly, most users never even bother to read, let alone understand, these agreements, filled as they are with confusing legalese.”*

What I expect to learn:

- What is a ToS?

Review:

Every time we go online or purchase a software, we are presented with a Terms of Service (ToS). These terms actually are legal contracts between the user and the service provider, wherein the user does not have any right to negotiate and may be fully unaware of its existence.

Although these ToS presents a legal contract between the user and the online service provider, it may be biased as this terms are written by the service providers themselves, and they tend to favor the service providers. Also it is more even more important that users never bother to read these terms, most of the time.

What I have learned:

- Terms of Service are legal contracts between the online service provider and the user.
- Users don't even bother to read these ToS.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a ToS?
- Why are ToS biased and one-sided?

The COICA Internet Censorship and Copyright Bill

URL: <https://www.eff.org/coica>

Quote: *“The main mechanism of the bill is to interfere with the Internet's domain name system (DNS), which translates names like "www.eff.org" or "www.nytimes.com" into the IP addresses that computers use to communicate. The bill creates a blacklist of censored domains; the Attorney General can ask a court to place any website on the blacklist if infringement is "central" to the purpose of the site.*

If this bill passes, the list of targets could conceivably include hosting websites such as Dropbox, MediaFire and Rapidshare; MP3 blogs and mashup/remix music sites like SoundCloud, MashupTown and Hype Machine ; and sites that discuss and make the controversial political and intellectual case for piracy, like pirate-party.us, p2pnet, InfoAnarchy, Slyck and ZeroPaid . Indeed, had this bill been passed five or ten years ago, YouTube might not exist today. In other words, the collateral damage from this legislation would be enormous.”

What I expect to learn:

- Definition of COICA as well as its functions.
- The effect of COICA to the World Wide Web.

Review:

The Combating Online Infringements and Counterfeits Act main mechanism is to interfere with the Internet's DNS (Domain Name System) into the IP addresses. The bill then creates a blacklist of censored domains. The IP addresses included in the blacklist will then be monitored and surveyed closely to track if any of its activities involve infringement.

When this bill is passed, websites such as Mediafire, DropBox, and RapidShare may be taken down. If this bill was passed when the Internet was starting, YouTube might not even exist today.

What I have learned:

- The Combating Online Infringements and Counterfeits Act is a bill that would look up the Internet Domain System and would create a blacklist of sites that are considered to be doing infringements.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the COICA?
- How does COICA works?
- What is a Domain Name System (DNS)?
- What are the main targets of the COICA blacklist?

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/acta>

Quote: *“In recent years, major U.S. and EU copyright industry rightsholder groups have sought stronger powers to enforce their intellectual property rights across the world to preserve their business models. These efforts have been underway in a number of international fora, including at the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, at the G8 summit, at the World Intellectual Property Organization’s Advisory Committee on Enforcement, and at the Intellectual Property Experts’ Group at the Asia Pacific Economic Coalition. Since the conclusion of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Issues of Intellectual Property in 1994 (TRIPS), most new intellectual property enforcement powers have been created outside of the traditional multilateral venues, through bilateral and regional free trade agreements entered into by the United States and the European Community with their respective key trading partners. ACTA is the new frontline in the global IP enforcement agenda.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The definition and functions of ACTA.
- The importance and effect of ACTA.

Review:

The European Nations, USA, and Japan simultaneously announced that a new intellectual property agreement would be enforced, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), last October 2007. Australia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Mexico, Jordan, Morocco, Singapore, and the United Arab of Emirates have then joined the negotiations.

ACTA has significant potential concerns for consumers’ privacy and civil liberties, for the innovation and free flow of information on the internet, and for developing countries’ ability to choose policy options that best suit their domestic priorities.

Additionally, limited information has been made available to the public about the contents of the negotiations. This may pose a threat to the public, when released.

What I have learned:

- ACTA is negotiated by a number of countries like USA, Japan, Australia, and the European Community.
- ACTA may pose a potential concern for consumers’ privacy and civil liberties.

Integrative Questions:

- What is ACTA?
- Who are the nations who simultaneously announced ACTA?
- Who are the other nations who joined in the negotiation of ACTA?

Broadcasting Treaty

URL: https://www.eff.org/issues/wipo_broadcast_treaty

Quote: *"If that wasn't bad enough, some countries at WIPO have supported expanding the treaty to cover the Net. That means that anyone who feeds any combination of "sound and images" through a web server would have a right to meddle with what you do with the webcast simply because they serve as the middleman between you and the creator. If the material is already under copyright, you would be forced to clear rights with multiple sets of rightsholders. Not only would this hurt innovation and threaten citizens' access to information, it would change the nature of the Internet as a communication medium."*

What I expect to learn:

- The functions of a broadcast treaty.
- The involvement of WIPO in the broadcast treaty.
- The pioneers of broadcast treaty.

Review:

The Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Companies is a mask to hide the racket by middlemen in the TV and internet world. This treaty is created by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). If this treaty by the WIPO is embraced, broadcasters have 50 years of copyright-like control of their broadcasts, even if no copyright is held by the broadcaster. This treaty have been expanded over the Internet, if anyone is caught with a feed of a combination of "sounds and images" the broadcasters have the right to sue the owner of the web server. Proponents of this treaty believes that with this, they can control "signal piracy".

What I have learned:

- The Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Companies will give copyright-like control for broadcasters.
- WIPO was the proponent of this treaty.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the meaning of WIPO?
- What are the functions of WIPO?
- What is the Treaty on the Protection of Broadcasting Companies is all about?

Free Trade Agreement of the Americas

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/ftaa>

Quote: *“The U.S. government is employing a new strategy to effect the global entrenchment of overly restrictive copyright law: incorporating DMCA-like copyright provisions in its free trade agreements. Having failed to persuade nations worldwide to adopt U.S.-style copyright regulations via the WIPO Copyright and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaties, the government has included anti-circumvention obligations in its bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with Jordan (Article 4(13)), Singapore (Article 16.4(7)), Chile (Article 17.7(5)), Morocco (Article 15.5(8)), Australia (Article 17.4(7)), CAFTA (Article 15.5(7)), Bahrain (Article 14.4(7)) and Oman (Article 15.4(7)). It now seeks to include similar provisions in its current multilateral free trade negotiations with 33 countries in the Americas.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The FTAA and its members.
- The functions of FTAA.

Review:

The FTAA is a scheme to unite all free economies (excluding Cuba that is) of the Western Hemisphere, by eliminating tariffs and employing common investment and trade rules among the 34 member countries by 2005. FTAA members are: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & The Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. (<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/Free-Trade-Agreement-of-the-Americas-FTAA.html>)

What I have learned:

- FTAA is an agreement to unite all free economies in the western hemisphere.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the FTAA?
- Who are the members of FTAA?

International Privacy Standards

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/international-privacy-standards>

Quote: *“Privacy is a universal human right. Here is a list of international accords related to privacy that serve as the foundation for national laws, policy frameworks and international agreements throughout the world.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The different frameworks of privacy.

Review:

Here are some the international privacy frameworks:

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development – a forum of more than 30 countries that has a forward-thinking guidelines on the protection of privacy and transborder data flows.
- Council of Europe – has 47 members that drafted several agreements to advance citizens’ privacy rights.
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation – an inter governmental organization that requires no treaty obligations from its members.
- European Data Protection Directive – created to protect, the collection, use and disclosure of personal information in the private and public sector.
- International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners – guarantees data protection and privacy

What I have learned:

- There are different international frameworks for privacy, some of them are: OECD, Council of Europe, APEC, etc.

Integrative Questions:

- What is privacy?
- What are some of the international frameworks of privacy?

Mandatory Data Retention

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/mandatory-data-retention>

Quote: *“Law enforcement agencies throughout the world are pushing for invasive laws that force ISPs and telecom providers to log information about how users communicate and use the Internet. This obligation to log users' Internet use is usually paired with provisions that allow the government to obtain those records, ultimately expanding the governments' ability to surveil its citizens, damaging privacy, and chilling freedom of expression.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The goals of Mandatory Data Retention

Review:

A recent proposal developed by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) would require "each provider of Internet access services to retain records to permit the identification of subscribers to such services for appropriate law enforcement purposes." The proposal further states that "records shall . . . be retained for not less than one year after a subscriber ceases to subscribe to such services." Original reports suggested that the proposal would be offered as an amendment to a broad telecommunications bill in the House or as a stand-alone measure. However, the impetus for the legislation appears to be the combined influence of recently established broad data retention requirements in Europe and growing concerns about online child pornography in the U.S. Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex.) has been holding a series of hearing recently on "Sexual Exploitation of Children Over the Internet" where he has asked the Government whether or not such a measure would aid law enforcement in its investigations. Additionally, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales recently gave a speech where he declared that data retention by Internet service providers is an "issue that must be addressed." The United States Internet Service Providers Association has expressed concern about the impact of the proposal, emphasizing their intentions to continue to cooperate with law enforcement as part of child pornography investigations. (<http://www.educause.edu/node/645/tid/32757?time=1294604715>)

What I have learned:

- The Mandatory Data Retention will require ISPs to retain records for appropriate law enforcement purposes.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the Mandatory Data Retention?
- Who proposed the Mandatory Data Retention?

Global Network Initiative

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/global-network-initiative>

Quote: *“The Global Network Initiative is a coalition of information and communications companies, major human rights organizations, academics, investors and technology leaders to produce guidance and oversight for companies facing civil liberties challenges in the ICT industries. EFF has participated in the process since its inception, providing technical and policy advice together with other NGO in the human rights sector.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The Global Network Initiative.

Review:

In an effort to protect and advance the human rights of freedom of expression and privacy, a diverse coalition of leading information and communications companies, major human rights organizations, academics, investors and technology leaders today launched the Global Network Initiative.

From the Americas to Europe to the Middle East to Africa and Asia, companies in the information and communications industries face increasing government pressure to comply with domestic laws and policies that require censorship and disclosure of personal information in ways that conflict with internationally recognized human rights laws and standards.

The Initiative is founded upon new Principles on Freedom of Expression and Privacy – supported by specific implementation commitments and a framework for accountability and learning – that provide a systematic approach for companies, NGOs, investors, academics and others to work together in resisting efforts by governments that seek to enlist companies in acts of censorship and surveillance that violate international standards.

The Initiative was launched in the 60th Anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is founded on the internationally recognized laws and standards for human rights on freedom of expression and privacy set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (“UDHR”), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (“ICESCR”). (<http://www.globalnetworkinitiative.org/faq/index.php>)

What I have learned:

- The Global Network Initiative is an organization that is committed to protect and advance the human rights of freedom of expression and privacy.

Integrative Questions:

- What is the Global Network Initiative?
- Who are the members of Global Network Initiative?
- What are the principles of the Global Network Initiative?

WIPO

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/wipo>

Quote: *“Though WIPO has historically worked to create treaties that expand IP rights no matter the consequences to its developing country members, that has started to change. For instance, Brazil and Argentina, leading a group of 15 countries, have asked WIPO to adopt a “Development Agenda,” under which new treaties and all of WIPO’s work must consider the impact on international development. For the first time, WIPO member states are now discussing the importance of a rich public domain and the dangers of overbroad DRM laws. EFF is part of an international NGO coalition working at WIPO to ensure that intellectual property laws protect human rights like access to knowledge and access to medicine, even as some developed countries try to obstruct the Development Agenda at every turn.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The functions of WIPO.

Review:

WIPO is the UN agency that is responsible for treaties that involves copyright, patent, and trademark laws. WIPO is a force that promotes progressive change that helps the world take into account public interest and development needs.

As discussed above, the WIPO has begun considering a broadcast treaty that will give broadcasters, cablecasters and the like a 50-year copyright-like control over broadcast transmissions regardless of its copyright status. WIPO also requires countries to provide legal protection for broadcaster technological protection.

What I have learned:

- WIPO is a UN agency responsible for treaties that involve copyright, patents, and trademarks.

Integrative Questions:

- What is WIPO?
- What are the functions of WIPO?

CALEA

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/calea>

Quote: *“But now federal law enforcement agencies want to change that. On March 10, 2004, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) filed a joint petition with the FCC. The petition requested that CALEA’s reach be expanded to cover communications that travel over the Internet. Thus, Broadband providers would be required to rebuild their networks to make it easier for law enforcement to tap Internet “phone calls” that use VOIP applications such as Vonage, as well as online “conversations” using various kinds of instant messaging (IM) programs like AOL Instant Messenger (AIM).”*

What I expect to learn:

- The purpose of CALEA.
- The involvement of FCC.
- The dangers of wiretapping.

Review:

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) was passed by the Congress of the United States in 1994 to make it easier for law enforcers to wiretap digital networks. CALEA forced different telephone companies to redesign their network architecture to support and to make it easy for wiretapping. It expressly did not control data stream over the Internet.

Wiretapping is easy but it doesn’t mean that just because the technology is there it should be done out of nowhere. Also, the cost of CALEA will be passed on to its consumers.

What I have learned:

- CALEA is an act that was passed in 1994 to enable wiretapping of digital networks by the law enforcement.

Integrative Questions:

- What is CALEA?
- What are the different negatives brought by CALEA?
- What are the positive things by CALEA?

Cell Tracking

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/cell-tracking>

Quote: *“This issue came to light in August 2005, when the first judge to publish a decision on the issue—Magistrate Judge Orenstein in the Eastern District of New York—publicly denied a government request that lacked proof of probable cause. In doing so, Judge Orenstein revealed that the Justice Department had routinely been using a baseless legal argument to get secret authorizations from a number of courts, probably for many years. Many more public denials followed from other judges, sharply rebuking the government and characterizing its legal argument as as “contrived,” “unsupported,” “misleading,” “perverse,” and even a “Hail Mary” play. But the government continues to rely on the same argument in front of other judges, most often in secret and sometimes successfully.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The issues with cell-tracking.

Review:

What I have learned:

Integrative Questions:

Digital Books

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/digital-books>

Quote: *“But readers should also be concerned, because recent events demonstrate that the forces making digital books and digital readers a reality routinely fail to respect the kinds of rights and expectations that have been built and defended over generations of experience with physical books. The first round of mainstream digital book services, products, and applications -- Google Book Search, the Amazon Kindle, the Barnes and Noble Nook -- all offer a much riskier way to own and read books compared to our experiences with traditional books.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The current state of digital books.

Review:

Books are now going digital. With the increasing and improving technology for digital media, books are joining the ranks of music and video to be portable. Digital books have not been perfected yet, so caution when reading it online should be observed.

What I have learned:

- The increase influx of digital books in the online world is due to the increasing technology of portable media.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a digital book?
- Is digital book, good or bad?

Locational Privacy

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/location-privacy>

Quote: *“Modern communications mean most Americans today walk around with a beacon that transmits their location. Mobile phones register to a nearby tower as the owner moves through space and the phone company can collect that data in real time or retrospectively to physically place the phone with varying degrees of accuracy. Companies can also determine the owner of every handset within range of a particular tower. GPS enabled phones enable far more precise location placement. Many cars now have GPS devices installed, some of which transmit the vehicle’s location to a centralized service. As the devices get cheaper and smaller, law enforcement agencies can more easily attach GPS trackers to cars and individuals, enabling precise round-the-clock surveillance without ever leaving the precinct. Location-based services, including maps of nearby restaurants, friend finders and other social networks collect location data as part of providing the service, or for contextual advertising.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The new technology of tracking people.
- GPS and its capabilities.

Review:

In this modern world that we living in, it is almost impossible not to track or know where someone is in the globe, thru Global Positioning System (GPS) the exact location of a person is able to be extracted and shared to almost everyone with an internet connection. Although this technology helps people in every way possible, it should be used properly and with respect to the privacy of others.

What I have learned:

- Global Positioning System (GPS) is a space-based global navigational satellite system that pin points an exact location anywhere in the globe.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a GPS?
- What are the benefits of a GPS?
- How does a GPS works?

National Security Letters

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/national-security-letters>

Quote: "Of all the dangerous government surveillance powers that were expanded by the USA PATRIOT Act, the National Security Letter (NSL) power under 18 U.S.C. § 2709 as expanded by PATRIOT Section 505 is one of the most frightening and invasive. These letters, served on communications service providers like phone companies and ISPs, allow the FBI to secretly demand data about ordinary American citizens' private communications and Internet activity without any meaningful oversight or prior judicial review. Recipients of NSLs are subject to a gag order that forbids them from ever revealing the letters' existence to their coworkers, to their friends, or even to their family members, much less the public."

What I expect to learn:

- The purpose of national security letters.

Review:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation sends out national security letters to demand data about ordinary American people's private communication and Internet activity without meaningful oversight or prior judicial review. This is an invasion of privacy, and the US government gets away with it with lame excuses like for security purposes.

What I have learned:

- The FBI issues this national security letters to demand information on a person's private communication and Internet activity.

Integrative Questions:

- What are national security letters?
- Who issues and sends these national security letters?

Search Incident to Arrest

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/search-incident-arrest>

Quote: *“Applying this exception to laptops, cell phones, and other digital devices makes little sense. Officers can seize these devices and then seek a warrant to search for relevant information if they have probable cause. Yet we see an increasing number of cases where law enforcement indiscriminately rummages through these devices without a warrant, and then seeks to justify the intrusion as a search incident to arrest.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The right of smartphone users.

Review:

During an arrest, a person has the right to withhold any information to the police unless accompanied by a lawyer. Also, it should be noted that persons who use smartphones that carry personal information such as e-mails, photos, and videos should have the right to refuse the submission of their gadgets to police officers.

What I have learned:

- The right to withhold any smartphone by an arrested person to the police.

Integrative Questions:

- Why should a person refuse to give their smartphone to a police officer during an arrest?

Social Networks

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/social-networks>

Quote: *“Sites like Facebook and Twitter provide users with a place to share personal information with friends, family, and the public — an activity that's proven to be hugely compelling to Internet users. In response to the demand, technology is evolving to encourage the disclosure of information that was formerly discreet (like location), and to enable the sharing of information even when not sitting in front of a traditional computer (like from mobile phones).”*

What I expect to learn:

- The different responsibilities of a social network to privacy.

Review:

People use Facebook everyday, it is part of their daily lives already. Users put personal information on their profiles that privacy is sensitive. The Electronic Frontier Foundation have been advocates of keeping the privacy of users in a social network. Here are some of their works:

- EFF has gone toe-to-toe with the government to uncover hidden details about how they use social networking sites for investigations, data collection, and surveillance.
- EFF works to expose issues with social networks as soon as they emerge, from the leaking of information to advertisers or the policies of the sites themselves.
- EFF helps savvy users better understand how to strengthen their privacy online and opt out of information sharing.

What I have learned:

- Social networks are part of everyone's lives.
- The EFF is fighting to protect the social networks users' privacy.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a social network?
- What are examples of a social network?
- What are different moves that the EFF makes to protect the users' privacy in social networks?

Travel Screening

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/travel-screening>

Quote: *“Before you get on an airplane, the government wants to sift through the personal details of your life. If the data analysis says you’re a security risk, too bad -- you may have no way of challenging the error. Worse still, that black mark could follow you for the rest of your life, and there may be little stopping the government from using your data for purposes far outside of travel screening.*

The privacy invasions don't stop there. When you cross the U.S. border to come home, you could be singled out for a random, invasive search. A recent court decision allows border agents to search your laptop or other digital device and copy the contents without limitation.”

What I expect to learn:

- The functions of an Automated Targeting System (ATS)

Review:

The government thoroughly searches a person’s identity and his records before boarding an airplane. If the data analysis went wrong, it could hurt your personal record for the rest of your life.

The ATS creates an instant, personal and detailed dossier on you that Customs and Border Protection officers use to decide whether you get to enter the country, or will be subject to an enhanced (and potentially invasive) search. Before major media reports picked up the story, EFF sounded the alarm and submitted formal comments opposing ATS.

What I have learned:

- ATS is a system that helps the Customs and Border Protection filter people entering the US.

Integrative Questions:

- What is an ATS?
- How does an ATS work?

Online Behavioral Tracking

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/online-behavioral-tracking>

Quote: *“New web technology has created many unexpected ways for corporations to track your web activity without your knowledge. Countless advertising networks are able to secretly monitor you across multiple websites and build detailed profiles of your behavior and interests.”*

What I expect to learn:

- Different online tracking tools.

Review:

There are new technologies out in the web that tracks a user’s online activity without his knowledge. An example of this is the “super-cookie” like Adobe’s *Local Shared Objects* or Microsoft’s *User Data Persistence*.

What I have learned:

- There are new technologies wherein anonymous users can track another user’s online activity.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a super-cookie?
- What are examples of super-cookie?
- How do these super-cookies work?

RFID

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/rfid>

Quote: *“Libraries, schools, the government, and private sector businesses are adopting radio frequency identification tags, or RFIDs — a technology that can be used to pinpoint the physical location of whatever item the tags are embedded in. While RFIDs are a convenient way to track items, they are also a convenient way to do something far less benign: track people and their activities through their belongings. EFF is working to prevent the embrace of this technology from eroding privacy and freedom.”*

What I expect to learn:

- The technology behind the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

Review:

RFID is a technology that uses communication via radio waves to exchange data between a reader and an electronic tag attached to an object, for the purpose of identification and tracking. Some tags can be read from several meters away and beyond the line of sight of the reader. The application of bulk reading enables an almost parallel reading of tags.

Radio-frequency identification involves interrogators (also known as readers), and tags (also known as labels). (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radio-frequency_identification)

What I have learned:

- RFID uses radio waves to exchange between a reader and an electronic tag attached to an object.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a RFID?
- How does RFID work?

Search Engines

URL: <https://www.eff.org/issues/search-engines>

Quote: *“Google, Yahoo, MSN, AOL and other search engines record your search queries and maintain massive databases that reach into the most intimate details of your life. When revealed to others, these details can be embarrassing and even cause great harm. Would you want strangers to know where you or your child work or go to school? How about everyone seeing searches that reference your medical history, financial information, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation?”*

What I expect to learn:

- The technology behind a search engine.

Review:

A web search engine is designed to search for information on the World Wide Web and FTP servers. The search results are generally presented in a list of results and are often called hits. The information may consist of web pages, images, information and other types of files. Some search engines also mine data available in databases or open directories. Unlike Web directories, which are maintained by human editors, search engines operate algorithmically or are a mixture of algorithmic and human input. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Search_engines)

What I have learned:

- Search engines are designed to search for information of the World Wide Web.

Integrative Questions:

- What is a search engine?
- What is the technology behind a search engine?

John Arthur: Religion, Morality, and Conscience

Review Questions:

1. According to Arthur, how are morality and religion different?

Morality and Religion are two completely different philosophies. John Arthur describes morality to be the different attitudes towards various forms of behavior. These behaviors convey the different perceptions of rules, rights, and obligations. Religion, on the other hand, *involves prayer, worship, beliefs about the supernatural, institutional forms, and authoritative texts.*

2. Why isn't religion necessary for moral motivation?

I believe in this argument and I strongly believe that people are born good, the change in their personalities and attitudes are caused by their upbringing and environment. Most humans are brought up to be decent and be mindful of others as well as themselves. A decision to the right thing always lingers even he/she is a criminal that have done bad things. The satisfaction and the urge to the right thing is what fuel the moral motivation of men. And when it really comes down to making a decision for the benefit of the self and others, religion isn't really considered.

3. Why isn't religion necessary as a source of moral knowledge?

Religion is a classification of different philosophies and ideologies wherein a belief in a god/s governs how society must act. But, really, which of these religions are true and real that will bring a person *eternal salvation*? We can't really tell. We are humans that possess an inferior knowledge and understanding of the different things that exist in this world.

If morality is based on revelation, how can it be justified that these explanations are morally right wherein they are constricted by the different boundaries of religion? Arthur made use of the *Revelation* in Christianity. It is true that the Bible is a sacred and important artifact, as well as the Koran, but still, it should be interpreted. All of the scriptures in the Bible are believed to be the *Word of God*, wherein spirits possess the evangelists and interpret what God wants us to know.

Therefore, if religion and revelation are used as a source of moral knowledge, then it is subjective on the interpreter's moral views, thus there may be inconsistencies and discrepancies in views and interpretations.

4. What is the divine command theory? Why does Arthur reject this theory?

The divine command theory is the belief where religion is necessary for morality because God is the foundation wherein morality is grounded. According to Bishop R.C. Mortimer: " *God made us and the entire world.*

A Theory of Justice by John Rawls

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what the principles behind the theory of justice are.

Quote:

“In justice as fairness the original position of equality corresponds to the state of nature in the traditional theory of the social contract. This original position is not, of course, thought of as an actual historical state of affairs, much less as a primitive condition of culture. It is understood as a purely hypothetical situation characterized so as to lead to a certain conception of justice.”

Review:

The author in this article points out and discusses two principles in justice which is liberty and wealth. The first principle which is liberty states that each person is to have an equal right to the most extensive total system of equal basic liberties compatible with a similar system of liberty for all. This means that every person regardless of his/her social status is entitled to equal rights, any abuse to his/her right is subject to judicial action. The second principle of justice which is wealth states that social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both: (a) to the greatest benefit of the least advantaged, consistent with the just savings principle, and (b) attached to offices and positions open to all under conditions of fair equality of opportunity. The second principle for me supports what is being stated in the first principle of Liberty. Any living person is entitled to live freely without any treat or abuse. The social and economic status in reality tells a lot about a person because of the influence and power, money can give, but this should not in any way influence improper implementation of justice. Equality amongst the people should always be upheld by the governing state because it is through equality that peace and harmony is achieved.

What I have learned:

Equality brings peace to a nation.

Integrative questions:

- 1) What is the principle behind the theory of justice?
- 2) How does wealth influence a person's standing in society?
- 3) How does wealth affect the implementation of justice?
- 4) What is equal basic liberty?
- 5) How can it be exercised?

Egoism and Moral Scepticism by James Rachels

What I expect to learn:

I expect to learn what the principles of Egoism are, “what is it?” and “what does it do?” are just some of the questions I expect to answer after I read the essay. Also, I expect to deepen my understanding on Moral Scepticism and be able answer my question, “why it is mentioned in the title of the essay?”

Quote:

“Now Abe, where does selfishness come in this little episode?” Abe Lincoln: “Why, bless your soul, Ed, that was the very essence of selfishness. I should have had no peace of mind all day had I gone on and left that suffering old sow worrying over those pugs. I did it to get peace of mind, don’t you see?”

Review:

The essay talks about Egoism (particularly that of ethical and psychological), the views of different egoist (such as Glaucon) regarding how a specific person thinks and acts. The author James Rachels contradicts the doctrines of psychological and ethical egoism with her beliefs on moral scepticism and Altruism. Psychological egoism is the view that all human in nature are selfish and that all actions made by men are motivated by self-interest. In line with psychological egoism, ethical egoism is the view of how a person or human should act. In an egoist point of view, humans have no obligation for the wellbeing of others except for their own self-interest. James Rachels opposed these principles by stating two arguments, the first being that people never does things voluntarily except for what they want to do. This supports the egoistic point of view that people actions are motivated by self interest alone. James Rachels stated that there are two classes of actions made by us humans. One are the actions we might not want to do, but still we are forced to do because we want to achieve something in the end; a good example of this is doing assignments, for (some) students assignments are very exhausting but because of the desire to earn good grades, students are forced to exert effort in doing their assignments, this clearly supports the egoistic point of view on selfishness. The second class are the actions we humans do, not because we want to do it, nor even because there is an end result that will be an advantage, but rather we do because we feel there is an obligation why we need to do them. The example mentioned above supports this action. The student who is forced to do an action (do assignments) he didn’t want to do in the first place. The fact that the student did his assignments even if he doesn’t want to, is not an act of selfishness. People’s actions are not always of self interest, there are actions that prioritize the welfare of others and it is only human to help others because as the saying goes, “no man is an island” people need each in order to survive.

What I have learned:

I have learned that Egoism is a false point of view. I cannot fully appreciate its concept of self interest because personally some of my actions as person, a son, a classmate and boyfriend clearly oppose it.

Integrative questions:

- 1) Is it in human nature to help others?
- 2) Can a person survive alone?
- 3) Is self interest a good or bad thing?
- 4) Are all actions of men motivated by self interest alone?
- 5) Is Altruism a good or bad thing?

FIRESHEEP and BLACKSHEEP

- Firesheep is an extension for the Firefox web browser developed by Eric Butler. The extension uses a packet sniffer to intercept unencrypted cookies from certain websites (such as Facebook and Twitter) as the cookies are transmitted over networks, exploiting session hijacking vulnerabilities. It shows the discovered identities on a sidebar displayed in the browser, and allows the user to instantly take on the log-in credentials of the user by double-clicking on the victim's name.

The extension was created as a demonstration of the security risk to users of web sites that only encrypt the login process and not the cookie created during the login process. It has been warned that the use of the extension to capture login details without permission would violate wiretapping laws and/or computer security laws in some countries. Despite the security threat surrounding Firesheep, representatives for Mozilla Add-ons have stated that it would not use the browser's internal add-on blacklist to disable use of Firesheep, as the blacklist has only been used to disable spyware or add-ons which inadvertently create security vulnerabilities, as opposed to attack tools (which may legitimately be used to test the security of one's own systems).

- BlackSheep, also a Firefox plugin is designed to combat Firesheep. BlackSheep does this by dropping 'fake' session ID information on the wire and then monitors traffic to see if it has been hijacked. While Firesheep is largely passive, once it identifies session information for a targeted domain, it then makes a subsequent request to that same domain, using the hijacked session information in order to obtain the name of the hijacked user along with an image of the person, if available. It is this request that BlackSheep identifies in order to detect the presence of Firesheep on the network.

Source:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Firesheep>

<http://www.zscaler.com/blacksheep.html>

FILIPINO IT PROFESSIONALS: CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble:

I will use my social knowledge and skills for the benefit of the public. I will serve employers and clients with integrity, subject to an overriding responsibility for the public interest, and I will strive to enhance the competence and prestige of the professional. By these, I mean:

- I will promote public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of information technology;
- I will consider the general welfare and public good in the performance of my work;
- I will advertise good or professional in a clear and truthful manner; I will comply and strictly abide by the intellectual property laws, patent laws and other related laws in respect of information technology;
- I will accept full responsibility for the work undertaken and will utilize my skills with competence and professionalism;
- I will make truthful statements on my areas of competence as well as the capabilities and qualities of my products and service;
- I will not disclose or use any confidential information obtained in the course of professional duties without the consent of the parties concerned, except when required by law;
- I will try to attain the highest in both the products and services I offer;
- I will not knowingly participate in the development of Information Technology System that will promote the commission of fraud and other unlawful acts;
- I will uphold and improve the IT professional standard through continuing professional development in order to enhance IT profession.

Source: <http://cics.uc.edu.ph/file.php/1/ITcodeOfEthics.pdf>

The Reproductive Health Bill

Reproductive health bill: Facts, fallacies

By Rep. Edcel Lagman

Philippine Daily Inquirer

THE BILL IS NATIONAL IN SCOPE, COMPREHENSIVE, rights-based and provides adequate funding to the population program. It is a departure from the present setup in which the provision for reproductive health services is devolved to local government units, and consequently, subjected to the varying strategies of local government executives and suffers from a dearth of funding.

The reproductive health (RH) bill promotes information on and access to both natural and modern family planning methods, which are medically safe and legally permissible. It assures an enabling environment where women and couples have the freedom of informed choice on the mode of family planning they want to adopt based on their needs, personal convictions and religious beliefs.

The bill does not have any bias for or against either natural or modern family planning. Both modes are contraceptive methods. Their common purpose is to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

The bill will promote sustainable human development. The UN stated in 2002 that “family planning and reproductive health are essential to reducing poverty.” The Unicef also asserts that “family planning could bring more benefits to more people at less cost than any other single technology now available to the human race.”

Coverage of RH. (1) Information and access to natural and modern family planning (2) Maternal, infant and child health and nutrition (3) Promotion of breast feeding (4) Prevention of abortion and management of post-abortion complications (5) Adolescent and youth health (6) Prevention and management of reproductive tract infections, HIV/AIDS and STDs (7) Elimination of violence against women (8)

Reproductive health bill: Facts, fallacies

Counseling on sexuality and sexual and reproductive health (9) Treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers (10) Male involvement and participation in RH; (11) Prevention and treatment of infertility and (12) RH education for the youth.

Strengthening of Popcom. The existing Population Commission shall be reoriented to promote both natural and modern family planning methods. It shall serve as the central planning, coordinating, implementing and monitoring body for the comprehensive and integrated policy on reproductive health and population development.

Capability building of community-based volunteer workers. The workers shall undergo additional and updated training on the delivery of reproductive healthcare services and shall receive not less than 10-percent increase in honoraria upon successful completion of training.

Midwives for skilled birth attendance. Every city and municipality shall endeavor to employ an adequate number of midwives and other skilled attendants.

Emergency obstetrics care. Each province and city shall endeavor to ensure the establishment and operation of hospitals with adequate and qualified personnel that provide emergency obstetrics care.

Hospital-based family planning. Family planning methods requiring hospital services like ligation, vasectomy and IUD insertion shall be available in all national and local government hospitals.

Contraceptives as essential medicines. Reproductive health products shall be considered essential medicines and supplies and shall form part of the National Drug Formulary considering that family planning reduces the incidence of maternal and infant mortality.

Reproductive health education. RH education in an age-appropriate manner shall be taught by adequately trained teachers from Grade 5 to 4th year high school. As proposed in the bill, core subjects include responsible parenthood, natural and modern family planning, proscriptio and hazards of abortion, reproductive health and sexual rights, abstinence before marriage, and responsible sexuality.

Certificate of compliance. No marriage license shall be issued by the Local Civil Registrar unless the applicants present a Certificate of Compliance issued for free by the local Family Planning Office. The document should certify that they had duly received adequate instructions and information on family planning, responsible parenthood, breast feeding and infant nutrition.

Ideal family size. The State shall encourage two children as the ideal family size. This is neither mandatory nor compulsory and no punitive action may be imposed on couples having more than two children.

Employers' responsibilities. Employers shall respect the reproductive health rights of all their workers. Women shall not be discriminated against in the matter of hiring, regularization of employment status or selection for retrenchment. Employers shall provide free reproductive health services and commodities to workers, whether unionized or unorganized.

Multimedia campaign. Popcom shall initiate and sustain an intensified nationwide multimedia campaign to raise the level of public awareness on the urgent need to protect and promote reproductive health and rights.

* * *

Smear offensive

Rep. Edcel C. Lagman

THERE IS A CONTINUING campaign to discredit the reproductive health bill through misinformation. Straightforward answers to the negative propaganda will help educate and enlighten people on the measure.

The bill is not antilife. It is proquality life. It will ensure that children will be blessings for their parents since their births are planned and wanted. It will empower couples with the information and opportunity to plan and space their children. This will not only strengthen the family as a unit but also optimize care for children who will have more opportunities to be educated, healthy and productive.

The bill does not interfere with family life. In fact, it enhances family life. The family is more than a natural nucleus; it is a social institution whose protection and development are impressed with public interest. It is not untouchable by legislation. For this reason, the State has enacted the Civil Code on family relations, the Family Code, and the Child and Youth Welfare Code.

The bill does not legalize abortion. It expressly provides that “abortion remains a crime” and “prevention of abortion” is essential to fully implement the Reproductive Health Care Program. While “management of post-abortion complications” is provided, this is not to condone abortion but to promote the humane treatment of women in life-threatening situations.

It will not lead to the legalization of abortion. It is not true that all countries where contraceptive use is promoted eventually legalize abortion. Many Catholic countries criminalize abortion even as they vigorously promote contraceptive use like Mexico, Panama, Guatemala, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Paraguay and Ireland. The Muslim and Buddhist countries of Indonesia and Laos also promote contraceptive use yet proscribe abortion. According to studies, correct and regular use of contraceptives reduces abortion rates by as much as 85 percent and negates the need to legalize abortion.

Contraceptives do not have life-threatening side effects. Medical and scientific evidence shows that all the possible medical risks connected with contraceptives are infinitely lower than the risks of an actual pregnancy and everyday activities. The risk of dying within a year of riding a car is 1 in 5,900. The risk of dying within a year of using pills is 1 in 200,000. The risk of dying from a vasectomy is 1 in 1 million and the risk of dying from using an IUD is 1 in 10 million. The probability of dying from condom use is absolutely zero. But the risk of dying from a pregnancy is 1 in 10,000.

The bill will not promote contraceptive mentality. The bill does not prohibit pregnancy. Critics are mistaken in claiming that because contraceptives would be readily available, people would prefer to have no children at all. Couples will not stop wanting children simply because contraceptives are available. Contraceptives are used to prevent unwanted pregnancies but not to stop pregnancies altogether. Timed pregnancies are assured.

The bill does not impose a two-child policy. It does not promote a compulsory policy strictly limiting a family to two children and no punitive action shall be imposed on parents with more than two children. This number is not an imposition or is it arbitrary because results of the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey show that the ideal of two children approximates the desired fertility of women.

Sexuality education will neither spawn “a generation of sex maniacs” nor breed a culture of promiscuity. Age-appropriate RH education promotes correct sexual values. It will not only instill consciousness of freedom of choice but also responsible exercise of one’s rights. The UN and countries which have youth sexuality education document its beneficial results: understanding of proper sexual values is promoted; early initiation into sexual relations is delayed; abstinence before marriage is encouraged; multiple-sex partners is avoided; and spread of sexually transmitted diseases is prevented.

It does not claim that family planning is the panacea for poverty. It simply recognizes the verifiable link between a huge population and poverty. Unbridled population growth stunts socioeconomic development and aggravates poverty. The connection between population and development is well-documented and empirically established.

UN Human Development Reports show that countries with higher population growth invariably score lower in human development. The Asian Development Bank in 2004 also listed a large population as one of the major causes of poverty in the country.

The National Statistics Office affirms that large families are prone to poverty with 57.3 percent of families with seven children mired in poverty while only 23.8 percent of families with two children are poor. Recent studies also show that large family size is a significant factor in keeping families poor across generations.

Family planning will not lead to a demographic winter. UP economics professors in their paper “Population and Poverty: The Real Score” declared that the threat of a so-called demographic winter in the Philippines is “greatly exaggerated, and using it as an argument against a sensible population policy is a plain and simple scare tactic.”

The National Statistical Coordinating Board projected that a replacement fertility of 2.1 children per couple could be reached only by 2040. Moreover, despite a reduced population growth rate, the effects of population momentum would continue for another 60 years by which time our total population would be 240 million.

Humanae Vitae is not an infallible doctrine. In 1963, Pope John XXIII created the Papal Commission on Birth Control to study questions on population and family planning. The Commission included ranking prelates and theologians.

Voting 69 to 10, it strongly recommended that the Church change its teaching on contraception as it concluded that “the regulation of conception appears necessary for many couples who wish to achieve a responsible, open and reasonable parenthood in today’s circumstances.”

However, it was the minority report that Pope Paul VI eventually supported and which became the basis of Humanae Vitae.

Even 40 years ago when the encyclical was issued, theologians did not generally think that it was infallible. Monsignor Fernando Lambruschini, spokesperson of the Vatican at the time of its release, said “attentive reading of the encyclical Humanae Vitae does not suggest the theological note of infallibility... It is not infallible.”

Five days after the issuance of the encyclical, a statement against it was signed by 87 Catholic theologians. It asserted that “Catholics may dissent from ... noninfallible Church doctrine” and that “Catholic spouses could responsibly decide in some circumstances to use artificial contraception.”

Source: <http://opinion.inquirer.net/inquireropinion/talkofthetown/view/20080803-152296/Reproductive-health-bill-Facts-fallacies>

Critiques on the RH Bill

No place for the RH bill in our law by Francisco S. Tatad:

The point of this bill is not to remove the “vibrant and dynamic” population of this country. The point is if, in the first place, the parents and the government can ensure that the millions of children born each year can be made “vibrant and dynamic” through sufficient resources. And we know for a fact that majority of the children here is born to poverty-stricken families that can barely support themselves.

On the RH bill being unnecessary, I beg to disagree. Yes, it is a free market, and yes, there is a 50% prevalence rate of contraceptives without any law. But what has been disregarded is that most people in the country will instead buy food than contraceptives; and RH bill isn’t only about contraceptives; it is also about proper education of people who haven’t even heard of the egg cells and sperm cells.

On the RH bill being unconstitutional, it even promotes the opposite. Why? Because the bill upholds human rights. The bill promotes the people’s freedom of choice: on whether to use natural or artificial contraception, on whether to get pregnant this year or next year or never, etc. by educating people about human sexuality, parenting, and all methods of contraception. It does not aim to control what people do in their bedrooms, it aims to let parents know what options they have if ever they decide not to have more children without sacrificing their ~~bedroom fun (Hahaha)~~ needs.

The Smoldering Poker by Amelia Ylagan

Ylagan’s The smoldering poker poses a huge query whether the highly controversial HB 5403, more commonly known as the Reproductive Health Bill, truly serves its purpose of rewarding women with the empowerment to reproductive health, responsible parenthood, and family planning services. In this day and age, pro-choice Filipinos seem to be blinded by the large picture of a looming population boom in the country, which, for them, is highly correlated with poverty and other societal issues shouldered by the government. Ylagan actually has a point that the bill is like the forbidden apple in the Garden of Eden—tempting and taboo. It is an attempt to alleviate the social and demographic realities that not only women but also we, the Filipinos, face, most especially the poor and the powerless. In the end, proper debate and deliberation must be done with regards to this endeavor, considering not only the empowerment of women to wisely and responsibly employ their inviolable freedom, but also objective moral theories intertwined in this issue so as not to cause the “loss of the deep human essence of life”.

Should You Support Reproductive Health Bill #5043? Take This Simple Test to Find Out

by Couples for Christ Foundation for Family

Certain things like women empowerment on responsible parenthood has been a carry over thrust of the government, significance of impact has not been carefully sustained thus depriving the economic objective of alleviating poverty of the many, the poor struggle for betterment of their standard of living. Yes, the Bill is totally unnecessary!

The Filipino family's morality still matters even to this day; strong family values abhor unwanted relationships. Collaboration in labor and resources is always a ready escape to face adversities. We always triumph with pride that Filipinos can always end up survivors.

Spending Billions for Birth Control Pills by Fr. Cecilio Magino

Definitely No.

Again, this is a big slash of the national budget but a big wastage.—providing all the child bearing age women with birth control pills would only provide the avenue for the “money makers” in the government to be even more richer. The poor women take no serious want for the 28 day regular pills as supply from the Rural Health Units often come late and to most cases are inadequate for the women included in the program.

A poor woman starving would not opt to take the pills religiously as her mind would be focused on earning for their sustenance. And in lots of cases, the pills are either offered to barter for a kilo of rice plus other basic needs of a family with growing children.

Population Bogey: A Scapegoat by Sonny Coloma

The Philippine population is getting out of control. Our population is exponentially rising. The critique stated that it is a myth. Have he ever taken the MRT? Unwanted pregnancy especially among teenagers are one of the causes of overpopulation in our country, hence the poverty. Imagine if the Philippines have controlled the population boom, and at the same time maximize the manpower, our country would be a better place.

It's Satan's Semen, Stupid by Minyong Ordonez

His critique is with the morality of the bill. If the bill is passed, it would implicitly impose a superiority complex to men over women. Also, if this bill is passed, our women may just be treated as people who will be impregnated and will carry the babies.

Crucial Questions on the RH Bill by Atty. Jose Sison

In his lengthy critique, he mentioned that laws and bills are being created almost everyday, and why this bill should be treated different. Sison is against the bill, and I am also against it. The implications of the consequences are horrible. The RH Bill should be cancelled.

Contraceptives Harmful to Women's Health by Dr. Bernardo Villegas

His arguments are right on point. Contraceptives may be advertised as non-harmful, but is still is chemically produced. For now, maybe side-effects won't show, but the body has different mechanisms to adapt and reject foreign substances. Hormone manipulation is quite critical. We have enough diseases to solve, let's not have another disease that's produced by these contraceptives.

Oversimplification of Economists by Dr. Bernardo Villegas

Oversimplification by economists is false. Poverty is caused by overpopulation and we all know that. Sometimes idealism is harmful, get real people! It's said that numbers don't lie, but numbers don't tell the whole story. Overpopulation is not a myth, it is real.

Philippines Threatened by Two-Child Policy by Genevieve Pollock

I think that having a two-child policy is good for our country, (or with three being the maximum number for the number of children in a family). Our society is not getting any better. The slums are crowded with unemployed adults and children and babies cramped up in a *barong-barong*. If only the government knows how to fully maximize the manpower in our country, we would be nearly as progressive as China.

Artificial Birth Control is Fascist by The Varsitarian

To start things off, let me define what *fascism* and a *fascist* is. Fascism is a radical and authoritarian nationalist political ideology. Fascists believe that a nation is an organic community that requires strong leadership, singular collective identity, and the will and the ability to commit violence and wage war in order to keep the nation strong. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism>) I would definitely agree that the RH Bill is fascist. It is a moral war.

Falsehoods in the Lagman Bill by Emil Jurado

The HB 5043 is most definitely pro-choice. The representatives are pushing it hard yet, the study on it wasn't enough. If they would like for this bill to be passed, they should amend it wherein morality and the Filipino culture is respected and observed.

Just Asking by Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz

Archbishop Cruz made his critique funny yet right on the money. Enough said.

The ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Appendix A. ACM Code of Ethics and Professional

Conduct

A.1. Preamble

Commitment to ethical professional conduct is expected of every member (voting members, associate members, and student members) of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

This Code, consisting of 24 imperatives formulated as statements of personal responsibility, identifies the elements of such a commitment. It contains many, but not all, issues professionals are likely to face. Section B.3 outlines fundamental ethical considerations, while Section B.4 addresses additional, more specific considerations of personal conduct. Statements in Section B.5 pertain more specifically to individuals who have a leadership role, whether in the workplace or in a volunteer capacity such as with organizations like ACM. Principles involving compliance with this code are given in Section B.6.

The Code shall be supplemented by a set of Guidelines, which provide explanation to assist members in dealing with the various issues contained in the Code. It is expected that the Guidelines will be changed more frequently than the Code.

The Code and its supplemented Guidelines are intended to serve as a basis for ethical decision making in the conduct of professional work. Secondly, they may serve as a basis for judging the merit of a formal complaint pertaining to violation of professional ethical standards.

It should be noted that although computing is not mentioned in the imperatives of Section

B.3, the Code is concerned with how these fundamental imperatives apply to one's conduct as a computing professional. These imperatives are expressed in a general form to emphasize that ethical principles which apply to computer ethics are derived from more general ethical principles.

It is understood that some words and phrases in a code of ethics are subject to varying interpretations, and that any ethical principle may conflict with other ethical principles in specific situations. Questions related to ethical conflicts can best be answered by thoughtful considerations of fundamental principles, rather than reliance on detailed regulations.

A.2. Contents and Guidelines

1. General Moral Imperatives.
2. More Specific Professional Responsibilities.
3. Organizational Leadership Imperatives. 4. Compliance with the Code.

A.3. General Moral Imperatives

As an ACM member I will

A.3.1. Contribute to Society and Human Well-Being

This principle concerning the quality of life of all people affirms an obligation to protect fundamental human rights and to respect the diversity of all cultures. An essential aim of computing professionals is to minimize negative consequences of computing systems, including threats to health and safety. When designing or implementing systems, computing professionals must attempt to ensure that the products of their efforts will be used in socially responsible ways, will meet social needs, and will avoid harmful effects to health and welfare.

In addition to a safe social environment, human well-being includes a safe natural environment. Therefore, computing professionals who design and develop systems must be alert to, and make others aware of, any potential damage to the local or global environment.

A.3.2. Avoid Harm to Others

Harm means injury or negative consequences, such as undesirable loss of information, loss of property, property damage, or unwanted environmental impacts. This principle prohibits use of computing technology in ways that result in harm to any of the following: users, the general public, employees, employers. Harmful actions include intentional destruction or modification of files and programs leading to serious loss of resources or unnecessary expenditure of human resources such as the time and effort required to purge systems of computer viruses.

Well-intended actions, including those that accomplish assigned duties, may lead to harm unexpectedly. In such an event the responsible person or persons are obligated to undo or mitigate the negative consequences as much as possible. One way to avoid unintentional harm is to carefully consider potential impacts on all those affected by decisions made during design and implementation.

To minimize the possibility of indirectly harming others, computing professionals must minimize malfunctions by following generally accepted standards for system design and testing. Furthermore, it is often necessary to assess the social consequences of systems to project the likelihood of any serious harm to others. If system features are misrepresented to users, coworkers, or supervisors, the individual computing professional is responsible for any resulting injury.

In the work environment the computing professional has the additional obligation to report any signs of system dangers that might result in serious personal or social damage.

If one's superiors do not act to curtail or mitigate such dangers, it may be necessary to blow the whistle to help correct the problem or reduce the risk. However, capricious or misguided reporting of violations can, itself, be harmful. Before reporting violations, all relevant aspects of the incident must be thoroughly assessed. In particular, the assessment of risk and responsibility must be credible. It is suggested that advice be sought from other computing professionals. (See imperative B.4.5 regarding thorough evaluations.)

A.3.3. Be Honest and Trustworthy

Honesty is an essential component of trust. Without trust an organization cannot function effectively. The honest computing professional will not make deliberately false or deceptive claims about a system or system design, but will instead provide full disclosure of all pertinent system limitations and problems.

A computer professional has a duty to be honest about his or her own qualifications, and about any circumstances and might lead to conflicts of interest.

Membership in volunteer organizations such as ACM may at times place individuals in situations where their statements or actions could be interpreted as carrying the weight of a larger group of professionals. An ACM member will exercise care to not misrepresent ACM or positions and policies of ACM or any ACM units.

A.3.4. Be Fair, and Take Action not to Discriminate

The values of equality, tolerance, and respect for others and the principles of equal justice govern this imperative. Discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or other such factors is an explicit violation of ACM policy and will not be tolerated.

Inequities between different groups of people may result from the use or misuse of information and technology. In a fair society all individuals would have equal opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, the use of computer resources regardless of race, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or other such similar factors. However, these ideals do not justify unauthorized use of computer resources nor do they provide an adequate basis for violation of any other ethical imperatives of this Code.

A.3.5. Honor Property Rights Including Copyrights and Patents

Violation of copyrights, patents, trade secrets, and the terms of license agreements is prohibited by law in most circumstances. Even when software is not so protected, such violations are contrary to professional behavior. Copies of software should be made only with proper authorization. Unauthorized duplication of materials must not be condoned.

A.3.6. Give Proper Credit for Intellectual Property

Computing professionals are obligated to protect the integrity of intellectual property.

Specifically, one must not take credit for other's ideas or work, even in cases where the work has not been explicitly protected, for example, by copyright, patent, etc.

A.3.7. Respect the Privacy of Others

Computing and communication technology enables the collection and exchange of

personal information on a scale unprecedented in the history of civilization. Thus there is increased potential for violating the privacy of individuals and groups. It is the

responsibility of professionals to maintain the privacy and integrity of data describing

individuals. This includes taking precautions to ensure the accuracy of data as well as

protecting it from unauthorized access or accidental disclosure to inappropriate

individuals. Furthermore, procedures must be established to allow individuals to review

their records and correct inaccuracies.

This imperative implies that only the necessary amount of personal information be

collected in a system, that retention and disposal periods for that information be clearly

defined and enforced, and that personal information gathered for a specific purpose not

be used for other purposes without consent of the individual(s). These principles apply to

electronic communications, including electronic mail, and prohibit procedures that

capture or monitor electronic user data, including messages, without the permission of

users or bona fide authorization related to system operation and maintenance. User data

observed during the normal duties of system operation and maintenance must be treated

with strictest confidentiality except in cases where it is evidence for the violation of law,

organizational regulations, or this Code. In these cases, the nature or contents of that

information must be disclosed only to proper authorities.

A.3.8. Honor Confidentiality

The principle of honesty extends to issues of confidentiality of information whenever one

has made an explicit promise to honor confidentiality or, implicitly, when private

information not directly related to the performance of one's duties becomes available.

The ethical concern is to respect all obligations of confidentiality to employers, clients, and users unless discharged from such obligations by requirements of the law or other principles of this Code.

A.4. More Specific Professional Responsibilities

As an ACM computing professional I will...

A.4.1. Strive to Achieve the Highest Quality, Effectiveness, and Dignity in Both the Process and Products of Professional Work

Excellence is perhaps the most important obligation of a professional. The computing professional must strive to achieve quality and to be cognizant of the serious negative consequences that may result from poor quality in a system.

A.4.2. Acquire and Maintain Professional Competence

Excellence depends on individuals who take responsibility for acquiring and maintaining professional competence. A professional must participate in setting standards for appropriate levels of competence, and strive to achieve those standards. Upgrading technical knowledge and competence can be achieved in several ways: doing independent study; attending seminars, conferences, or courses; and being involved in professional organizations.

A.4.3. Know and Respect Existing Laws Pertaining to Professional Work ACM members must obey existing local, state, province, national, and international laws

unless there is a compelling ethical basis not to do so. Policies and procedures of the organization in which one participates must also be obeyed. But compliance must be balanced with the recognition that sometimes existing laws and rules may be immoral or inappropriate and therefore must be challenged.

Violation of a law or regulation may be ethical when that law or rule has inadequate moral basis or when it conflicts with another law judged to be more important. If one decides to violate law or rule because it is viewed as unethical, or for any other reason,

one must fully accept responsibility for one's actions and for the consequences.

A.4.4. Accept and Provide Appropriate Professional Review

Quality professional work, especially in the computing profession, depends on professional reviewing and critiquing. Whenever appropriate, individual members should seek and utilize peer review as well as provide critical review of the work of others.

A.4.5. Give Comprehensive and Thorough Evaluations of Computer Systems and Their Impacts, Including Analysis of Possible Risks

Computer professionals must strive to be perceptive, thorough, and objective when evaluating, recommending, and presenting system descriptions and alternatives.

Computer professionals are in a position of special trust and therefore have a special responsibility to provide objective, credible evaluations to employers, clients, users, and the public. When providing evaluations the professional must also identify any relevant conflicts of interest, as stated in imperative B.3.3.

As noted in the discussion of imperative B.3.2 on avoiding harm, any signs of danger from systems must be reported to those who have opportunity and/or responsibility to resolve them. (See the guidelines for imperative B.3.2 for more details concerning harm, including the reporting of professional violations.)

A.4.6. Honor Contracts, Agreements, and Assigned Responsibilities

Honoring one's commitments is a matter of integrity and honesty. For the computer professional this includes ensuring that system elements perform as intended. Also, when one contracts for work with another party, one has an obligation to keep that party properly informed about progress toward completing that work.

A computing professional has a responsibility to request a change in any assignment that he or she feels cannot be completed as defined. Only after serious consideration and with full disclosure of risks and concerns to the employer or client, should one accept the assignment. The major underlying principle here is the obligation to accept personal accountability for professional work. On some occasions other ethical principles may

take the greater priority.

A judgment that a specific assignment should not be performed may not be accepted.

Having clearly identified one's concerns and reasons for that judgment, but failing to

procure a change in that assignment, one may yet be obligated, by contract or by law, to

proceed as directed. The computing professional's ethical judgment should be the final guide in deciding whether or not to proceed. Regardless of the decision, one must accept

the responsibility for the consequences.

However, performing assignments against one's own judgment does not relieve the

professional of responsibility for any negative consequences.

A.4.7. Improve Public Understanding of Computing and its Consequences

Computing professionals have a responsibility to share technical knowledge with the public by encouraging understanding of computing, including the impacts of computer systems and their limitations. This imperative implies an obligation to counter any false views related to computing.

A.4.8. Access Computing and Communication Resources Only When Authorized to

Do So

Theft or destruction of tangible and electronic property is prohibited by imperative B.3.2:

Avoid harm to others. Trespassing and unauthorized use of a computer or communication

system is addressed by this imperative. Trespassing includes accessing communication

networks and computer systems, or accounts and/or files associated with those systems

without explicit authorization to do so. Individuals and organizations have the right to

restrict access to their systems so long as they do not violate the discrimination

imperative (see B.3.4). No one should enter or use another's computing system, software,

or data files without permission. One must always have appropriate approval before using

system resources, including communication ports, file space, other system peripherals,

and computer time.

A.5. Organizational Leadership Imperatives

Background Note: This section draws extensively from the Draft IFIP Code of Ethics, especially its sections on organizational ethics and international concerns. The ethical obligations of organizations tend to be neglected in most codes of professional conduct, perhaps because these codes are written from the perspective of the individual member. This dilemma is addressed by stating these imperatives from the perspective of the organizational leader. In this context leader is viewed as any organizational member who has leadership or educational responsibilities. These imperatives generally may apply to organizations as well as their leaders. In this context organizations are corporations, government agencies, and other employers, as well as volunteer professional organizations.

As an ACM member and an organizational leader, I will...

A.5.1. Articulate Social Responsibilities of Members of an Organizational Unit and Encourage Full Acceptance of Those Responsibilities

Because organizations of all kinds have impacts on the public, they must accept responsibilities to society. Organizational procedures and attitudes oriented toward quality and the welfare of society will reduce harm to members of the public, thereby serving public interest and fulfilling social responsibility. Therefore, organizational leaders must encourage full participation in meeting social responsibilities as well as quality performance.

A.5.2. Manage Personnel and Resources to Design and Build Information Systems That Enhance the Quality of Working Life

Organizational leaders are responsible for ensuring that computer systems enhance, not degrade, the quality of working life. When implementing a computer system, organizations must consider the personal and professional development, physical safety, and human dignity of all workers. Appropriate human-computer ergonomic standards should be considered in system design and in the workplace.

A.5.3. Acknowledge and Support Proper and Authorized Uses of an Organization's

Computing and Communications Resources

Because computer systems can become tools to harm as well to benefit an organization, the leadership has the responsibility to clearly define appropriate and inappropriate uses of organizational computing resources. While the number and scope of such rules should be minimal, they should be fully enforced when established.

A.5.4. Ensure That Users and Those Who Will be Affected by a System Have Their Needs Clearly Articulated During the Assessment and Design of Requirements;

Later the System Must be Validated to Meet Requirements

Current system users, potential users, and other persons whose lives may be affected by a system must have their needs assessed and incorporated in the statement of requirements. System validation should ensure compliance with those requirements.

A.5.5. Articulate and Support Policies that Protect the Dignity of Users and Others Affected by a Computing System

Designing or implementing systems that deliberately or inadvertently demean individuals or groups is ethically unacceptable. Computer professionals who are in decision-making positions should verify that systems are designed and implemented to protect personal privacy and enhance personal dignity.

A.5.6. Create Opportunities for Members of the Organization to Learn the Principles and Limitations of Computer Systems

This complements the imperative on public understanding (2.7). Educational opportunities are essential to facilitate optimal participation of all organizational members. Opportunities must be available to all members to help them improve their knowledge and skills in computing, including courses that familiarize them with the consequences and limitations of particular types of systems. In particular, professionals must be made aware of the dangers of building systems around oversimplified models, the improbability of anticipating and designing for every possible operating condition, and other issues related to the complexity of this profession.

A.6. Compliance With the Code

As an ACM member I will... A.6.1. Uphold and Promote the Principles of This Code

The future of the computing profession depends on both technical and ethical excellence.

Not only is it important for ACM computing professionals to adhere to the principles expressed in this Code, each member should encourage and support adherence by other members.

A.6.2. Treat Violations of This Code as Inconsistent With Membership in the ACM

Adherence of professionals to a code of ethics is largely a voluntary matter. However, if a member does not follow this code by engaging in gross misconduct, membership in ACM may be terminated.

This Code and the supplemental Guidelines were developed by the Task Force for the Revision of the ACM Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct: Ronald E. Anderson, Chair, Gerald Engel, Donald Gotterbarn, Grace C. Hertlein, Alex Hoffman, Bruce Jawer, Deborah G. Johnson, Doris K. Lidtke, Joyce Currie Little, Dianne Martin, Donn B. Parker, Judith A. Perrolle, and Richard S. Rosenberg. The Task Force was organized by ACM/SIGCAS and funding was provided by the ACM SIG Discretionary Fund. This Code and the supplemental Guidelines were adopted by the ACM Council on October 16, 1992.

LAWRENCE LESSIG

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Prior to returning to Harvard, Lessig was a Professor of Law at Stanford Law School (where he was founder of Stanford's Center for Internet and Society), Harvard Law School (1997-2000), and the University of Chicago Law School. Lessig clerked for Judge Richard Posner on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals and Justice Antonin Scalia on the United States Supreme Court.

For much of his academic career, Lessig has focused on law and technology, especially as it affects copyright. He is the author of five books on the subject — *Remix* (2008), *Code v2* (2007), *Free Culture* (2004), *The Future of Ideas* (2001) and *Code and Other Laws of Cyberspace* (1999) — and has served as lead counsel in a number of important cases marking the boundaries of copyright law in a digital age, including *Eldred v. Ashcroft*, a challenge to the 1998 Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, and *Golan v. Holder*.

His current academic work addresses the question of "institutional corruption" — roughly, influences within an economy of influence that weaken the effectiveness of an institution, or weaken public trust. His current work at the EJ Safra Lab oversees a 5 year research project addressing institutional corruption in a number of institutional contexts.

Lessig has won numerous awards, including the Free Software Foundation's Freedom Award, and was named one of *Scientific American's* Top 50 Visionaries. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

Lessig serves on the boards of Creative Commons, MAPLight, Brave New Film Foundation, Change Congress, The American Academy, Berlin, Freedom House and iCommons.org. He is on the advisory board of the Sunlight Foundation. He has previously served on the boards of the Free Software Foundation, the Software Freedom Law Center, Electronic Frontier Foundation, the Public Library of Science, Free Press, and Public Knowledge. Lessig was also a columnist for *Wired*, *Red Herring*, and the *Industry Standard*.

Lessig earned a BA in economics and a BS in management from the University of Pennsylvania, an MA in philosophy from Cambridge, and a JD from Yale. He has received honorary degrees from The University of Amsterdam, Athabasca University, and The Georgian-American University.

Source: <http://www.lessig.org/info/bio/>

The Pirate Bay case: Not necessarily a victory for Hollywood

By Tom Sullivan

Last week's conviction of the founders of The Pirate Bay did not shut down the filesharing website. Instead, it has boosted the ranks of its supporters and raised awareness of an ideological and legal battle for control of how the Internet is used.

'Pirate Bay' founders convicted by Swedish court

The court ruling handed down one-year jail sentences to each of the four men and assessed \$3.6 million in criminal damages. The global entertainment giants that brought the case, including Warner Bros., Fox Movies, Sony Music, and EMI, claimed it as a major victory.

But even as the founders were being sentenced, 10 million Internet users were busy downloading music and movies via their website. And the verdict has been appealed, meaning that the website may remain unaffected for years – and become a standard-bearer for those who argue for a free flow of media and information over the Internet, unfettered by state and corporate control.

"There is a growing social movement around this issue in Sweden. It goes beyond filesharing and downloading free music and movies," says Daniel Johansson, a music and Internet analyst at Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology. "It includes people who are concerned about surveillance laws and who feel the Internet is being developed by governments and corporations instead of the common man.

"The Pirate Bay," he adds, "has a lot of sympathy right now."

Within three days of the ruling, the Pirate Party – which campaigns for copyright reform – gained more than 15,000 new members, doubling in size to become the country's fourth-largest political party. Several Internet service providers (ISPs), including Telia Sonera, the country's largest, said they would not block The Pirate Bay website and would no longer keep records of any sites visited using their networks, thereby protecting their customers from potential lawsuits.

Why Sweden?

Sweden developed a reputation as a haven for online piracy after it invested in high-speed broadband in the late 1990s and its reluctance to tackle filesharing became clear. The presence of The Pirate Bay, one of the world's largest, most brazen file-sharing operations – its founders held lectures titled "How To Dismantle A Multibillion Dollar Industry As A Hobby" – made the accusation hard to deny.

Until recently, politicians and police chiefs did little to enforce Internet copyright laws, says Jan Rosén, chairman of the Swedish Copyright Association.

"There was a laissez-faire attitude and the main political parties have been very reluctant to take a stance," he says.

That stance may be related to the tradition of openness in the country, he says. "The Internet has been seen as a media that is open and free. Politicians were reluctant to challenge that view. But eventually, criticism from overseas became too embarrassing and the government began to act more forcefully."

Pressure from the global recording industry, as well as the US and Hollywood, led to police raids in 2006. The Pirate Bay's servers were seized, yet the site was back in business within days, using other servers located in the Netherlands. The ensuing publicity doubled the number of users, which eventually reached about 25 million, including more than 3 million registered members.

Ruling being appealed and resisted

Last week's ruling was intended to send a strong signal, says Peter Danowsky, the lawyer representing the recording industry association, IFPI, in a case that sought nearly \$14 million in compensation for lost revenue to artists. "The Pirate Bay is one of the most devastating operations from a rights-holder's perspective, not just because of the number of users but also because they are so clearly building and creating [public] opinion in favor of filesharing," he said.

Mr. Danowsky believes the verdict will help turn the tide of public opinion.

'Pirate Bay' founders convicted by Swedish court

"Until now, many disputed whether the website was illegal. Some compared it to a car manufacturer, which cannot be held responsible if drivers don't follow traffic rules," he said.

The Internet providers' refusal to block the website from their networks is tantamount to "siding with the Pirates," argues Danowsky, adding that recording studios may consider further lawsuits to force them to act. Yet as long as an appeal is pending, it is unclear whether they can succeed.

Still, downloaders are facing at least a few more constraints.

Sweden's Internet battles opened on a wider front earlier this month when a tough new law came into force obliging ISPs to reveal the identities of customers suspected of uploading or downloading illegal content.

The day after the law came into force, Internet traffic dropped by a third, and in the months preceding it, tens of thousands began signing up for anonymizing services that hide computers on the Internet. The ISPs' recent decision to stop saving Internet traffic data is a response that will no doubt please many customers.

'A fight for the control of knowledge and culture'

Critics of new Internet legislation reaching statute books across Europe – Ireland recently introduced a "three strikes and you're out" law, banning repeated copyright offenders from the Internet, and France is debating a similar approach – claim that the measures pose a growing threat to personal integrity and will hamper development of the Internet.

"To find out whether people are downloading copyrighted material, you need to control the Internet and sift through all communications," says Rick Falkvinge, leader of The Pirate Party, who refers to the verdict as his party's "ticket to the European Parliament" in next June's elections.

"The establishment and politicians have declared war against a whole generation," he says. "This is a fight for the control of knowledge and culture."

Magnus Eriksson, a spokesman for the Swedish file sharing lobby group Pirate Bureau, a driving force behind The Pirate Bay, echoes that sentiment. "The freedom of the Internet is threatened now in a very real way," he says. "The danger is that the Internet will be turned into just a marketplace for copyright industries and the whole cultural and economic dynamic will be lost."

"Verdicts like this can scare people off developing new Internet networks and services because, if they contain links to copyrighted files, the owners could wind up in court."

Daniel Johansson, at Stockholm's Royal Institute of Technology, says that selling copies of music and movies is outdated in a digital age, and that the future of the entertainment industry lies in selling access over the Internet. He cites the example of bands such as Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails, which have successfully cut out the middle man and sold their music directly to fans.

Stricter law enforcement may even accelerate moves to new models.

"More people are getting scared of downloading illegally now, and they are signing up for paying online services," he says. "We're at the start of a major format shift that will probably last 10 years. New legal services are coming online all the time, and verdicts like this will increase pressure on the industry to start working with them and making content available."