

CS280-001 Final 201510
D. Hepting
Tuesday, April 14, 2015 • 14h00 – 17h00 • ED230

This is a closed book exam. You must maintain the confidentiality of your examination; do not provide any opportunity for others to copy any of your work. Electronic devices are NOT permitted during the exam.

Choose 8 of the 12 questions to answer. All answers must be written in your exam booklet. As a guide to length, consider using 1 page side per question, so all answers should fit within 1 exam booklet. I have provided a second exam booklet for rough work. If you answer more than 8 questions, please clearly indicate which ones should be marked – because I will not mark more than 8.

You have 180 minutes to complete the exam, or approximately 22 minutes per question. Please plan your answers, favour quality over quantity, and do your best to write legibly.

Choose 8 of 12 x 6 marks each = 48 marks total.

1. Is there a role for computer professionals in defining social media? Should we be involved in deciding what is appropriate for posting? Should we provide only tools for analysis of postings that permit context to be considered?
2. Can public interest for computer professionals be summed up as: “Always prioritize humans over computers”?
3. Are there any ethical concerns in embracing the “sharing economy”, focused “collaborative consumption”? Explain.
4. What are the implications for society of the koan “It’s All Just Bits”?
5. Should data matching (to extend the amount of information that one has about citizens beyond what anyone is permitted to collect individually) be prohibited? The retailer Target, as discussed in class, is one user of this technique.
6. Is public shaming, in practice or in theory, something that is in the public interest?
7. Is there a need for creative commons? Explain.
8. A company is willing to reward you to create technology that would not be illegal but might give what others see as an unfair advantage to this company. How would you respond?
9. Argue for or against Edward Snowden being given the “Making A Difference” award from the ACM Special Interest Group on Computers and Society.
10. We have seen visions of the future where robots may take our jobs or come to assassinate us. How can computer professionals contribute to this conversation in the present?
11. Imagine that an organization that wants to reduce spam e-mail first tries to convince internet service providers (ISPs) in an East Asian country to stop the spammers by protecting their mail servers. When this effort is unsuccessful, the organization puts these ISPs on a blacklist used by ISPs in Canada. The result is a reduction in spam and tens of thousands of computer users in that East Asian country no longer able to send email to Canada. Analyse the actions of this anti-spam organization.
12. Is Facebook an example of a privately-owned public space, like those discussed in class? Should this affect how people use Facebook?
13. **Bonus** (1 mark): What was your favourite example of “laughing with me”?