

Final Assignment

Computer Ethics is a field that covers many diverse and relevant topics. In order to anchor our skills, each student is to become a “local expert” in one particular branch of Computer Ethics.

Your assignment is to

1. Select a topic or focus area,
2. Locate and read selected articles, discussions, and case studies,
3. Formulate the ethical issues and analysis, policy needs, and moral grounds, and
4. Contribute your specialized knowledge to class discussions.

Your focus area could be any one of the following

- one wide area of Computer Ethics
(regulation, privacy, security, property, professionalism)
- one specialized, fairly narrow topic
(digital signatures, electronic voting, wire tapping, public encryption)
- one particular person or group
(Deborah Johnson, Lawrence Lessig, CPSR, EFF)
- one particular dilemma or case study
(software copying, gender bending, protection for minors, spamming)

You do *not* have to prepare a paper, talk, or presentation of your selected topic. You will be expected to contribute knowledge, opinion, analysis, current status, and other aspects of your topic during class discussion throughout the quarter.

Each class meeting will emphasize some particular aspect of Computer Ethics. Each student is expected to be able to discuss connections between their focus area and any other topic at any time during the quarter. When the class is focussed on a topic which is in your field of concentration, you will be expected to contribute more information and analysis than usual.

Students may bring in case studies, discussion topics, questions, analysis and/or opinions for class discussion at any time.