The Effects of Social Activity Online

What’s Your Social Network?

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Announcements

- After Image Surveys ... someone didn’t do it!
- HW

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Review from Last Time ...

- Digital information can be processed by machines
- Physical information is the presence or absence of a phenomenon at a specific place and time ... remember this as PandA
- Since Hollerith digitized census data in 1890 we’ve come a long way: computers, transistors and integrated circuits, PCs, Internet, WWW, and ... each had a huge effect
Once Upon A Time In Paradise...

- Recalling the “digitization lecture,” there was steady computing progress in last ½ of 20th C
- There are probably computer people who dream of the lost “online paradise” of the time
  - Few hundred computers
  - Internet had little traffic
  - No security ... everyone saw all
  - Collegial respect controlled behavior
- A time of Peace and Harmony
That “paradise” came to an end in either

- November 1988, with the “Morris Worm,” the first Internet virus
- March 1994, with the first SPAM sent by a lawyer trying to sell “green cards”

Since then “paradise” has gotten a lot better, but now we have risks and frustrations

We will cover Security later ... today, we discuss privacy and the social sphere
“Hello, World” – it’s the **WORLD** Wide Web

- Mostly we think of our small circle of friends & organizations when we’re online ... but really the whole world has access
- And, to some degree, we’re anonymous
- So ... we can behave however we like, right?
“Hello, World” – it’s the WORLD Wide Web

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NOT
“Offensensitivity”
“Offensensitivity”

1. Ya know... you penguin types offend me.
2. Hey... I'll tell ya what offends me... dirty words, that's what.
3. Polish jokes offend me.
4. Stereotypes offend me.
5. TV sex offends me.
6. Look! That sign is offensive!! I made that sign and I'm offended!
“Offensensitivity”
“Offensensitivity”
A good guideline for online behavior is [www.css-discuss.org/policies.html#offensensitivity](http://www.css-discuss.org/policies.html#offensensitivity)

Key points – when writing in online discussion

- Thousands of people will see it
  - You can easily and unintentionally offend them
  - They can easily and unintentionally offend you

- The collision comes from different cultures, social norms, backgrounds, assumptions, religions
  - You’re not wrong; they’re not wrong ... just different
  - They’re no more likely to change their thinking than you

- Tolerance, open-mindedness, patience needed
Technology Is Not At Fault

- For our online social problems one thing we can not blame is the technology ... it’s completely neutral
- *Blown To Bits* makes this point clearly
In preparation for our discussion of privacy, take a look at important examples of online posting ....
Two Familiar Past Videos

- Star Wars Kid
  - A/K/A Ghyslain Raza

- Numa Numa Guy
  - A/K/A Gary Brolsma
Two Recent Cases

- Tyler Clementi, a Rutgers student whose roommate recorded him during a sexual encounter and uploaded it to the Internet
  - Result: Clementi jumped off of bridge
- Two days later a college student’s phone accidentally dialed his buddies while he was engaged in sex; they uploaded it to the Internet
  - Result: Embarrassment

Associated Press found at least 12 cases in the U.S. since 2003 in which children and young adults between 11 and 18 killed themselves after falling victim to some form of "cyberbullying" - teasing, harassing or intimidating with pictures or words distributed online or via text message
Is there any case that can justify distributing surreptitiously obtained recordings?

“surreptitious: obtained, done, made, etc., by stealth; secret or unauthorized”

for us, information taken without knowledge of creator

Today’s assignment is to write about that question

One more input: “WikiLeaksthe Movie”

http://stopwar.org.uk/content/view/2192/27/
Privacy: A Definition

- **Privacy**: The right of people to choose freely under what circumstances and to what extent they will reveal themselves, their attitude, and their behavior to others.
  - It’s a human right – explicit in many countries
  - You do the revealing, no one else
  - You can’t live like a hermit; you must reveal
  - With strong privacy protections – the US has almost none – it’s OK to reveal, because the receivers of the information must keep it private
Even though we do the “revealing” we may be wise not to reveal “all”

People have lost jobs based over FB posts

Five Guidelines: Watch what you say about behavior, schedule, biases, employer, and the drama in your life
What you place on FB and Tweet can usually be widely accessed
- Grandmother (a FB user, too!), HR department, etc.
- Because of technical considerations, the info is not likely to go away ... even if you try deleting
- When people first meet you (a potential love interest, say), he/she will almost always check you out ... what sort of image do you want to present?
- You’re not really anonymous after all
Guidelines – Think Twice About …

- Behavior – text or photos on socially unacceptable behavior has cost people jobs
- Schedule – posting or tweeting where you are not – “Off to Hawaii” – is direct help to burglars
- Biases – “hating” others is easy enough to do, but is that how you want your public image?
- The boss may follow your thoughts on your job
- Drama – the drama in our lives often consumes us; it’s hard not to tweet, post about it, but it often reveals information about others
Assignment

- Considering today’s content
  - Star Wars Kid and Numa, Numa Guy
  - Tyler Clementi and the guys to tapped their buddy
  - Definition of Privacy
  - “WikiLeaks, The Movie”
- Write an essay on the topic, “Is posting surreptitiously gotten information on the Web ever justified?”