



Lecture 10

Networked Communications

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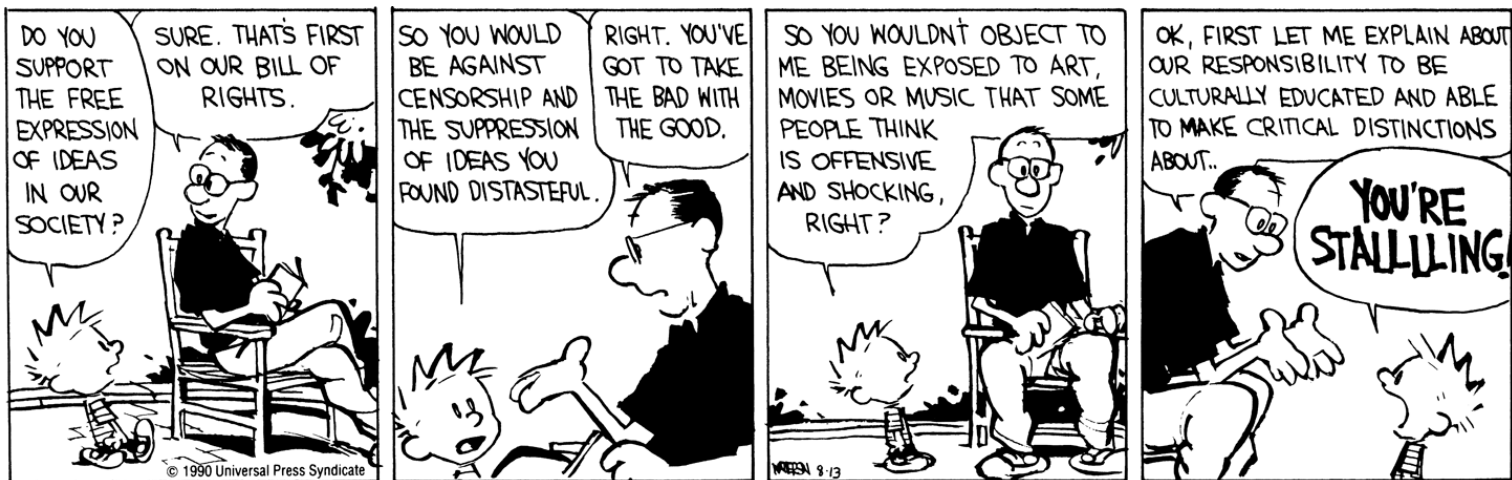
Participation Quiz

Which movie do you like best?

- A. Lion King II: Simba's Pride
- B. Star Trek Inception
- C. Shawshank Redemption
- D. Citizen Kane
- E. Star Wars: in 3D
- F. Lion Kin I: Simba's Downfall

Web Filters

- Web filter: software that prevents display of certain Web pages
 - May be installed on an individual PC
 - ISP may provide service for customers
- Methodologies
 - Maintain “black list” of objectionable sites
 - Examine content for objectionable words/phrases



US Child Internet Protection Act

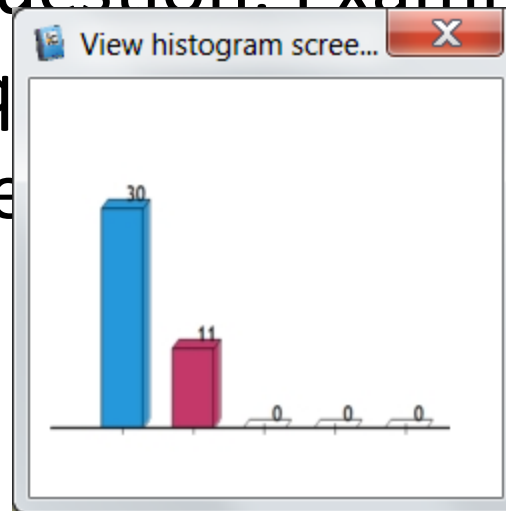
- Libraries receiving federal networking funds must filter pages containing obscenity or child pornography
- U.S. Supreme Court ruled CIPA did not violate 1st Amendment guarantees
(6-3 decision in June 2003)

Children in Libraries

At the beginning of the course, we asked:

“For the protection of children, computers in libraries should be configured to block objectionable content.”

Let's revisit this question. Examine it in groups, and then discuss the question from the perspective of the ethical theories you have learned so far.



Sexting

- Definition: sexually suggestive text messages or emails with nude or nearly nude photographs
- In a 2009 survey, 9% of U.S. teenagers admitted to sending a sext, 17% admitted to receiving a sext
- Case of Jesse Logan
 - killed herself after ex-boyfriend shared pictures
- Case of Phillip Alpert
 - just turned 18; sent pictures of his 16 year-old girlfriend.
 - sentenced and registered as a sex offender for child pornography
- Case of Ting-Yi Oei
 - principal kept a copy of a picture as evidence
 - angry parent sued him
 - lost job over child pornography charges
- How should society respond to sexting?

Identity Theft

- Identity theft: when a person uses another person's electronic identity
- More than 1 million Americans were victims of identity theft in 2008 due to their online activities
- Phishing: use of email to attempt to deceive people into revealing personal information

The screenshot shows the PayPal website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the PayPal logo and links for Sign Up, Log In, and Help. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with buttons for Welcome, Send Money, Request Money, Merchant Tools, and Auction Tools. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Welcome:** A section with a 'Welcome' header, a 'PayPal members' link, a 'LOG IN' button, a 'New user?' link, and a 'SIGN UP' button.
- What's New:** A section with a 'What's New' header and three links: 'Sell with PayPal Seller Protection', 'Refer new merchants - Earn up to \$100.00 USD', and 'Community Spotlight'.
- Payment Methods:** Logos for VISA, MasterCard, and American Express.
- Dear Customer:** A message stating: 'Your credit card will expire soon. To avoid any interruption to your service, please update your credit card expiration date by following the steps below. If you do not update your credit card expiration date you will no longer be able to fund payments with this card.'
- Your Address Information:** A warning box stating: 'You may only enter English characters during Sign Up. This does NOT include characters with accents. Please enter your name and address as they are listed for your credit card or bank account. Your primary currency is the currency in which you are expecting to send and receive the majority of your payments.'
- Registration Fields:** A series of input fields for: E-Mail #, Re-Enter E-Mail #, Password #, Re-Enter Password #, Full Name #, Full Address #, State #, Zip #, Credit Card #, Exp.Date(mm/yy) # (with Month and Year dropdowns), ATM PIN (4 digits) #, and Re-enter ATM PIN.
- Security Measure:** A section with the text: 'Security Measure: This must be completed to sign up for a PayPal account. Enter the characters as they are shown in the box below. This will further increase the security of your account and the PayPal network. This is not your password. Help'. Below this is a grid of characters: B S 8 M J V 7 and an input field.
- Log In:** A 'Log In' button at the bottom right.

Chat-Room Predators

- Chat room: supports real-time discussions among many people connected to network
- Instant messaging and chat rooms replacing telephone for many people
- Some pedophiles meeting children through chat rooms
- Police countering with “sting” operations

Are chatroom “stings” ethical?

False Information

- Quality of Web-based information varies widely
- Other media also have information of varying quality
 - The New York Times v. The National Enquirer
 - 60 Minutes v. Conspiracy Theory
- Google attempts to reward quality
 - Ranking uses “voting” algorithm
 - If many links point to a page, Google search engine ranks that page higher

Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying: Use of the Internet or phone system to inflict psychological harm
- In a 2009 survey, 10% admitted to cyberbullying, and 19% said they had been cyberbullied
- Case of Ghyslain Raza “the Star Wars kid”
 - videotape fell into the wrong hands, shared online, went viral
 - harassed at school, eventually dropped out
- Case of Megan Meier
 - 13 yr old girl met 16 yr old boy on myspace, flirted online
 - then he broke up: “you are a bad person and everyone hates you”
 - she killed herself
 - the boyfriend didn’t exist: 2 neighborhood girls and their mom
 - there was no law against what they did; no charges
- Megan Meier Cyberbullying Prevention Act
 - penalties for “communication intended to coerce, intimidate, harass, or cause substantial emotional distress to another person using electronic means to support severe, repeated, hostile behaviour”
 - What do you think of this law?

Is Internet Addiction Real?

- Some liken compulsive computer use to pathological gambling
- Traditional definition of addiction:
 - Compulsive use of harmful substance or drug
 - Knowledge of its long-term harm
- Some people spend 40-80 hours/week on the Internet, with individual sessions lasting up to 20 hours



Is Internet Addiction Real?

- Kimberly Young created test for Internet addiction
 - Sample question: “Have you repeatedly made unsuccessful efforts to control, cut back, or stop Internet use?”
 - Patients who answer “yes” to at least 5 of 8 questions may be addicted
- Others disagree, noting
 - Computer use is generally considered a positive activity
 - Excessive use does not lead to criminal activity
 - More accurate to call excessive use a compulsion

Discuss: do you believe that internet addiction is real?

Does society bear an ethical responsibility for it?