Lecture 13
Intellectual Property;
Privacy Intro

Participation Quiz

- If you choose an answer to this question at random, what is the chance you will be correct?

    A. 25%

    B. 50%

    C. 33.3%

    D. 25%

Midterm Recap

- Feedback on the midterm…
  - Curve: $(\text{your grade}/80)^{0.9} + 2/80$
  - Mean 72% after curve (67% before)
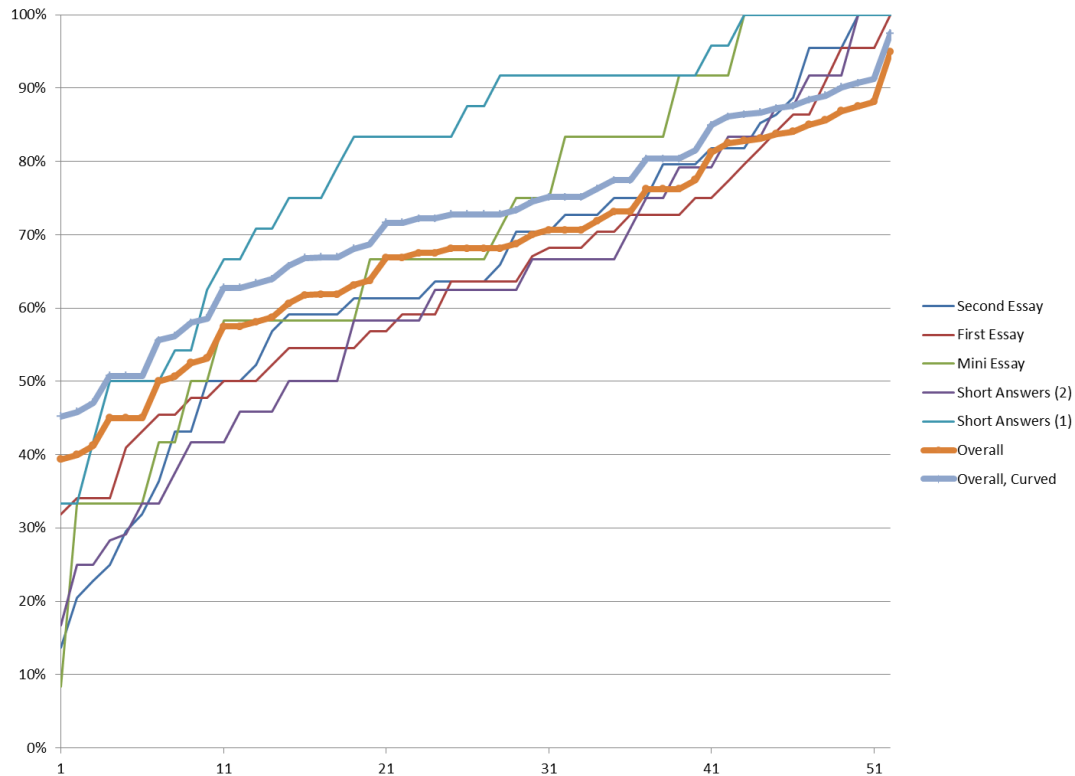
Let's discuss the midterm

- What makes a good essay?

- What makes a good outline?

…notice that reading the blog can help

…from looking at the grades, coming to class also helps

Legitimacy of IP Protection for Software

- Software licenses typically prevent you from making copies of software to sell or give away
  - Software licenses are legal agreements
  - Not discussing morality of breaking the law
- Discussing whether society should give intellectual property protection to software

What do you think?

- Break into groups; discuss and debate.

Intellectual Property

"The producers of software should have the right to prevent others from copying the software they produce."
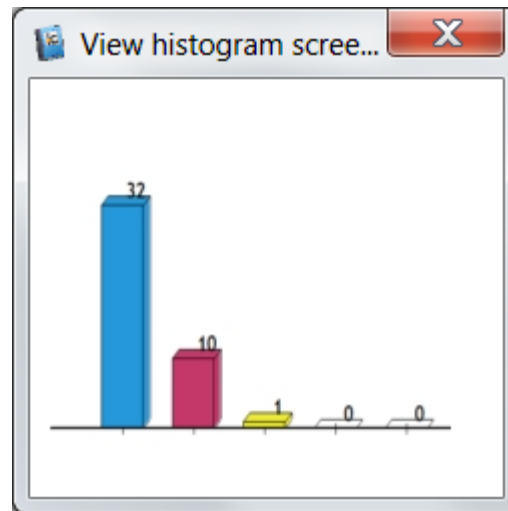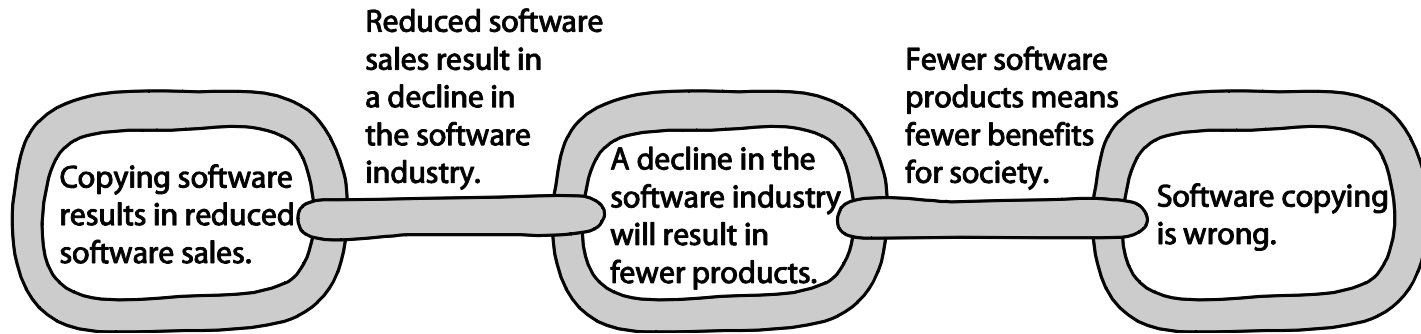
Rights-based Analysis

- "Just deserts" argument
  - Programming is hard work that only a few can do
  - Programmers should be rewarded for their labor
    - Mixing my labor with something implies ownership
- Criticism of "just deserts" argument
  - Why does labor imply ownership?
    - Mixing my labor with something means I lose my labor?
    - Pour a can of tomato juice into the ocean: I don't own the ocean.
  - A society in which all labor went to common good could be just
  - Intellectual property not like physical property
    - I cut logs: I own the logs
    - I write a book: I get to restrict other people from copying the book
- What do you think about this argument?

Utilitarian Analysis

- Argument against copying
  - Copying software reduces software purchases…
  - Leading to less income for software makers…
  - Leading to lower production of new software…
  - Leading to fewer benefits to society

Copying software results in reduced software sales.

Reduced software sales result in a decline in the software industry.

A decline in the software industry will result in fewer products.

Fewer software products means fewer benefits for society.

Software copying is wrong.

- Each of these claims can be debated
  - Not all who get free copies can afford to buy software
  - Open-source movement demonstrates many people are willing to donate their software-writing skills
  - Hardware industry wants to stimulate software industry
  - Difficult to quantify how much society would be harmed if certain software packages weren't released
- What do you think about this argument?