



Lecture 3-2

Networked Communications

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Participation Quiz

Which movie did you like best?

- A. Guardians of the Galaxy
- B. Captain America: the Winter Soldier
- C. The Lego Movie
- D. Transformers: Age of Extinction
- E. Maleficent



<http://boxofficemojo.com/yearly/chart/?yr=2014>

Forms of Direct Censorship

- Government monopolization of a communication medium
 - E.g., the government owns all television stations, or all printing presses, and so controls the message
 - Doesn't work so well with the Internet
- Prepublication review
 - Certain kinds of information must be reviewed before they can be published
 - E.g., nuclear/military secrets
- Licensing and registration
 - You can't operate a TV station without a license
 - Necessary because of limited bandwidth
 - Opens the door to regulation of content (as in Canada)

Self-censorship

- Most common form of censorship
- Group decides for itself not to publish
- Reasons
 - Avoid subsequent prosecution
 - Maintain good relations with government officials (sources of information)
- A “soft” form of self-censorship: ratings systems
 - Movies, TVs, CDs, video games
 - Nothing similar has happened on the Web
 - At least, not consistently.

Challenges Posed by the Internet

- Many-to-many communications
 - Hard for the government to shut down (but, Arab Spring)
- Dynamic connections
 - Computers coming and going all the time; hard to know who's who
- Huge numbers of Web sites
 - Hard to control access to online information
- Extends beyond national borders, laws
 - Governments may have limited authority to shut down sites
- Hard to distinguish between minors and adults
 - Important for initiatives that seek to restrict children's access

Ethical Perspectives on Censorship

- Kant opposed censorship
 - Product of the Enlightenment: reaction to institutional control
 - “Have courage to use your own reason”
- Mill opposed censorship
 1. No one is infallible: we may silence the truth.
 2. Even if not, an opinion may contain a kernel of truth.
 3. Even if not, the truth must be rationally tested and validated.
 4. Ideas are most persuasive if they’re tested rigorously.

Principle of harm: “The only ground on which intervention is justified is to prevent harm to others; the individual’s own good is not a sufficient condition.”

When, if ever, do you think censorship is justified?

Freedom of Expression: History

- De Scandalis Magnatum (England, 1275)
 - You could be imprisoned for weakening loyalty to the King
 - Not so different from lèse-majesty laws today, esp. in Thailand, Morocco, Jordan (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lese-majesty>)
- 18th century: freedom of the press in England
 - Anyone could print what they liked
 - Punishment for libel: publication causing harm, even if truth
- American states adopted bills of rights including freedom of expression
 - Freedom of expression in 1st amendment to U.S. Constitution: “Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press”

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

1. The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it **subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law** as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

2. Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- (a) freedom of conscience and religion;
- (b) freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication;**
- (c) freedom of peaceful assembly; and
- (d) freedom of association.



Freedom of Expression is not an Absolute Right

- Right to freedom of expression must be balanced against the public good
- Various restrictions on freedom of expression exist
 - e.g., Section 1 of the Canadian Charter is used to justify laws against hate speech, even though these limit expression

Which restrictions on freedom of expression do you think are justified?

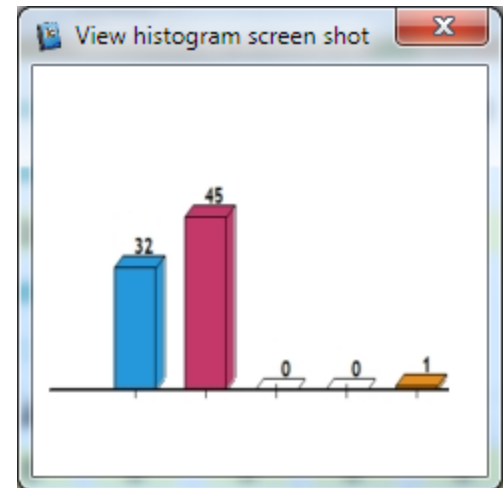
US Child Internet Protection Act

- 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 Accessing the Public Internet

At the beginning of the course, we asked:

“For the protection of children, all publicly accessible computers and wifi networks paid for with taxpayer money 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 we've studied 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?

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?*

Girl allegedly commits suicide after being bullied



A teenage girl who appears to have posted a YouTube video about being bullied is being mourned online after allegedly committing suicide. (YouTube)

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CTV British Columbia
Published Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 11:33AM PDT
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Online condolences and tributes are spreading on social media after a teenage girl who was allegedly bullied in Coquitlam committed suicide.

The Gleneagle Secondary School student posted a YouTube video in September flipping through index cards that tell the story of how she was bullied.

The cards describe how she was forced to move schools several times because of bullying, but the torment never stopped.

She said she was punched and naked pictures of her were cruelly posted online.

Vancouver area teen commits suicide after telling story of being cyberbullied (with video)

#RIPAmanda is trending as people post news and condolences for the teen, Amanda Todd

BY GILLIAN SHAW, VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 11, 2012 1:05 PM

A Vancouver area teen who told a heart-breaking story in a [YouTube video](#) of cyberbullying that led to an all-out schoolyard attack has committed suicide.

In stories and posts flooding Vancouver's social media networks, #RIPAmanda is trending as people post news and condolences for the teen, Amanda Todd. Amanda died in Coquitlam last night.

The young teen went to school in Maple Ridge but had changed schools and was living in Coquitlam. She joined YouTube on September 6 and posted her video September 7. Her last YouTube activity was when she added a Hunter Hayes music video to her favourites on YouTube.

On September 7, she also uploaded a presentation Cyber Bullying on Prezi in which she explains what cyberbullying is and gives advice on dealing with it.

In what could turn out to be her own very sad legacy, Todd urged people to stand up to bullies and to help their victims:

"If you see that someone is being bullied, don't be afraid to tell the bully to stop doing what they are doing. Make sure to tell them that it's wrong and that they shouldn't bully other kids."

To parents, Todd urged them "to always give your child emotional support" and help them if they are being bullied.

The Amanda Michelle Todd memorial Facebook page, posted early this morning, already has 2,000 people "liking" it.

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 the PayPal logo and navigation links for 'Sign Up', 'Log In', and 'Help'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with buttons for 'Welcome', 'Send Money', 'Request Money', 'Merchant Tools', and 'Auction Tools'. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main right section. The sidebar contains a 'Welcome' section with 'PayPal members' (LOG IN) and 'New user?' (SIGN UP) links, and a 'What's New' section with links for 'Sell with PayPal Seller Protection', 'Refer new merchants - Earn up to \$100.00 USD', and 'Community Spotlight'. The main section features a 'Dear Customer' message about credit card expiration, followed by a sign-up form. The form includes a warning box about address information, and 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. A security measure section requires a CAPTCHA (B518M JV7) to be entered into a box. A 'Log In' button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

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?

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

Do you believe that internet addiction is real?

Does society bear an ethical responsibility for it?